



## Chief Executive's Management Report – April 2021

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

Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

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

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

Members of the public continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at [www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/](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 Level 5 COVID19 restrictions continuing, access to our public offices is restricted to appointment only and should be limited to urgent and necessary business. In accordance with Public Health advice staff are working remotely as much as possible and work is continuing to enable staff to deal with queries online and by phone on their laptops. All meetings are held online on Microsoft TEAMS. Some staff are required to attend the offices to carry out tasks that cannot be done remotely but this is being kept to a minimum.

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

You can continue to conduct business online at [www.kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildarecoco.ie) or email [customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie) or Phone 045 980 200.

Our range of online services can be viewed here:

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

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



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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

### St Patrick's Day

Kildare turned green for St. Patrick's day (see page 80 and 81)



The Ball (photo credit @NaasBall)

### Kildare County Council Welcomes Intel Jobs Announcement

Kildare County Council welcomes the announcement by Intel to create 1,600 new jobs (see page 94).

### Kildare County Council welcomes expansion of Hewlett Packard Enterprise Operations in Leixlip

Kildare County Council is delighted to welcome the significant jobs announcement by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) (see page 94).

### Opening of New Sallins Bypass

The new Sallins Bypass opened to traffic on Friday 09 April. The bypass, which commences at Naas Distributor Road at Millennium Park, includes the new Junction 9a Osberstown



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Interchange, a new Sallins Roundabout and terminates at the Clane Road. It is the second phase of the overall project to be delivered (see page 59).

**The Royal Canal Greenway Officially Launched on 24 March** (see page 85).



### **Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)**

The council's new CRM system went live on 06 April (see page 8).

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Three projects were allocated the remaining funding under Leader 2014-2020 (see page 82).

### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme Funding**

The council received confirmation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the 'Built Heritage Investment Scheme funding (see page 29-30).

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

The aim of the SBASC Scheme is to provide support to individual independent hospitality and tourism businesses (see page 97-98).

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 70 separate Green Kilometres have been established (see page 46).

### **Energy Bureau**

Kildare County Council is working with the adjoining counties of Wicklow, Meath and Louth as well as the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland (SEAI) to establish an Energy Bureau for this sub -region (see page 56).



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### **Energy Management Team**

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team has been re-established and held its first monthly meeting on 24 February (see page 55-56).

### **Risk Management**

The Corporate Risk Register has been finalised (see page 49).

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

The SBASC scheme was announced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on Thursday the 11 March and is now open for applications (see pages 11 and 97).

**COVID-19 Business Supports** (see page 103).

## **Diary/Calendar**

### **Women and Diversity in Local Government**

A citizenship course has been developed and is due to commence on 16 April (see page 9).

### **New Application form for Social Housing Support**

A new National Social housing support application form will be introduced from 19 April 2021 (see page 17).

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

The closing date for receipt of applications for the initial grant is 21 April 2021 (see pages 11 and 97).

### **€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 (see page 99).



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### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

A request has been made to the elected members to forward potential projects which could be developed to apply for this grant scheme. The closing date for receipt of proposals is 30 April (see page 93).

### **Beyond the Book Festival**

The Beyond the Book Festival takes place from 17 to 29 May (see page 86).

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

The 2021 Self Help Scheme has been advertised on the council's website and in the local press with a closing date of 14 May 2021 (see page 19).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 44).

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

The Chief Executive's Report will be submitted to the elected members of the council (and published online) before 02 of May 2021(see page 25).

### **Athy LAP**

A Special Meeting has been arranged to discuss the Chief Executive's Report and the Draft LAP on Friday 23 April (see page 25).

### **Naas LAP**

The Draft Naas LAP will be on public display for 6 weeks until 21 April 2021(see page 25).



Today < > **May 2021**

Dublin ▾

Today  
52° F / 34° F

Tomorrow  
52° F / 36° F

Saturday  
52° F / 43° F

Month ▾

| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday     |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--------------|
| 25 Apr | 26<br>09:00 Draft Kildare Town Transport Str...<br>13:00 Finance Committee<br>15:00 Kildare County... | 27   | 28<br>11:30 County Twinning Committee                                    | 29   | 30   | <b>1 May</b> |
| 2      | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6<br>11:30 Local community and Culture SPc<br>14:00 Housing SPc<br>14:30 Transportation Safety and Emerge... | 7<br>10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly meeting     | 8            |
| 9      | 10<br>14:30 Protocol Committee  | 11<br>15:30 Naas MD Monthly meeting  | 12<br>10:00 Climate Action SPc<br>14:30 Environmental and Water Services | 13   | 14   | 15           |
| 16     | 17<br>10:00 Athy MD Monthly meeting   | 18   | 19<br>10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly meeting                         | 20<br>09:20 County Development Plan (Full Council) EM Workshop on Pre-draft Chief Executive Report ; ...     | 21<br>10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD Monthly meeting | 22           |
| 23     | 24<br>14:00 CPG   | 25<br>09:20 County Development Plan (Full Council) EM Workshop on Pre-draft Chief Executive Report ; ... | 26<br>10:00 LCDC   | 27   | 28<br>15:00 Decade of Commemoration              | 29           |
| 30     | 31<br>15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly meeting  | <b>1 Jun</b>   | 2  | 3<br>10:30 LTACC   | 4<br>10:00 Clane Maynooth MD                     | 5            |



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## Corporate Services

### Customer Services

#### Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)

The council's new CRM system went live on 06 April. This project also includes a new customer portal on our website integrated with our CRM to receive and refer customer contacts to the relevant department as quickly as possible. [See here.](#)

The project also comprises a new Elected Members Representation Portal to facilitate the submission of representations in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and to enable members to track and report on the progression of same. Subject to final development work and testing phase this project is likely to go live during May.

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

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/>



## Freedom of Information

### Data Requests and Ombudsman

|                                  | <b>Total received Quarter 1, 2021</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Freedom of Information requests  | 34                                    |
| Freedom of Information appeals   | 0                                     |
| Information Commissioner Appeals | 0                                     |
| Data Access Requests             | 8                                     |
| Ombudsman                        | 10                                    |

## Members Services

### Meetings

Council meetings continued to be held online in March with the press and public in attendance. The members of the Municipal District Committees adopted their revised Standing Orders for the Municipal Districts in March which come into effect for their April meetings.

## Women and Diversity in Local Government

Following our successful application for funding under this initiative, and in consultation with Ms Carmel Cashin in the Community Section, an 8 week Community Development and Active Citizenship course has been developed and is due to commence on 16 April. A total of 24 places were made available and the course was advertised through the Community workers in the council and community groups such as Women's Sheds, Kildare Traveller Action and Migrant women through the County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP).



All places have now been filled, with every Municipal District represented.

The 24 Women from all across Kildare represent groups advocating on behalf of people with disability and older persons. We have many women who want to get involved in their community and local level and wish to upskill via their training.

The course also covers gender roles and activism. The council has engaged with the CKLP and Maynooth University to provide information on week 8 of potential progression paths for the women.

**Outcome** - Women gain knowledge and confidence in areas of community development and Active Citizenship through leadership and peer education. Create awareness and understanding regarding the importance of the political landscape in Ireland and the role Women play in it.

**FREE 8 Week Introduction to Community Development and Active Citizenship**

A community engagement program to support Women and Diversity in Local Government Starting Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm online via zoom



Would You like to learn more about Community Development, and how it can be used to support Women and Diversity in local politics.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore the key principles of community Development.</li> <li>• To look at the different models of community Development.</li> <li>• To examine what is meant by active citizenship.</li> <li>• Gender Roles</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy, activism, and lobbying.</li> <li>• To identify different types of leadership and facilitation styles.</li> <li>• Causes of oppression and what it means to be oppressed.</li> <li>• Equality and Diversity</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

For all information contact Carmel Cashin on 087-7212966 or email [ccashin@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:ccashin@kildarecoco.ie)





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## **Finance and Information Technology**

### **Financial Reports**

#### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2020 is listed on the agenda for the full council meeting on 26 April.

Kildare County Council made a surplus of €163,364 for the year 2020 which has further reduced the cumulative revenue account deficit to €171,440. This is in line with the key strategic objective of reducing and eventually eliminating the deficit which peaked at €10.8 million in 2004.

#### **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. The council launched a dedicated on-line appeal portal for businesses who are not eligible for the waiver. Up to 12 April 2021, 38 appeals have been received.

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

The Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) is intended to help businesses who do not qualify for the COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners, to cover operating costs.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 21 April 2021. Up to 12 April 2021, 152 applications have been received which the relevant team are currently processing.



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## **Monthly Management Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).

### **Motor Tax**

Motor Tax continues to provide a full suite of services during Level 5 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 March, with 1,486 Microsoft Teams meetings held during the month of March. Usage of remote working technologies is now embedded in the organisation.



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## Housing

### Homeless Services

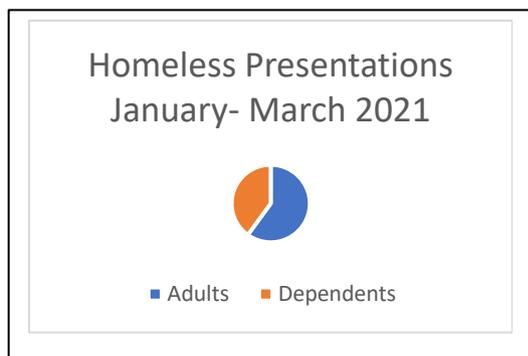
The National Homeless Lead meeting was held in March and there are currently no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county. Fortnightly meetings continue with the Department and subsequently with the HSE, Meath and Wicklow to monitor any COVID-19 developments in the region. The rollout of the PASS 2 Homeless system is expected in mid-April and data cleansing as well as training is ongoing in the regions to ensure successful implementation.

The Mid-East Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2024 was approved at a special meeting of the Housing

Strategic Policy Committee and Corporate Policy Group on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, having been considered by the regional Homelessness Statutory Management Group on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The action plan will now be presented to the CPG, in advance of being brought before Full Council, in each of the three counties in the region [Kildare, Meath, Wicklow] in April.



**Figure 1: Homeless Presentations**



**A total of 93 adults and 62 dependents presented as homeless between January and March 2021**

**Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 March 2021**

| Duration       | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults    | Dependents |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 0 - 6 Months   | 14                                | 18        | 24         |
| 6 - 12 Months  | 16                                | 20        | 18         |
| 12 - 18 Months | 5                                 | 5         | 4          |
| 18 - 24 Months | 13                                | 20        | 28         |
| 24 - 30 Months | 5                                 | 11        | 11         |
| 36 Months +    | 3                                 | 4         | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>56</b>                         | <b>78</b> | <b>91</b>  |



### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2021

| Duration       | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults    | Dependents |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 0 - 6 Months   | 1                                 | 2         | 1          |
| 6 - 12 Months  | 0                                 | 0         | 0          |
| 12 - 18 Months | 1                                 | 1         | 4          |
| 18 - 24 Months | 2                                 | 5         | 4          |
| 24 - 30 Months | 2                                 | 3         | 7          |
| + 36 Months    | 4                                 | 7         | 10         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>10</b>                         | <b>18</b> | <b>26</b>  |

### Homeless Presentations

| 2020         | Cases       | Unique | Repeats |
|--------------|-------------|--------|---------|
| Total        | 1179        | 348    | 831     |
| 2021         | Total Cases | Unique | Repeats |
| Quarter 1    | 204         | 83     | 121     |
| Quarter 2    |             |        |         |
| Quarter 3    |             |        |         |
| Quarter 4    |             |        |         |
| <b>Total</b> | 204         | 83     | 121     |

### Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

| 2020      | Adults | Dependents |
|-----------|--------|------------|
| Total     | 390    | 316        |
| 2021      | Adults | Dependents |
| Quarter 1 | 93     | 62         |



## Social Housing Assessment 2020

The social housing needs assessment was carried out on 02 November 2020 to count the number of households qualified for social housing support.

The net need is defined as the total number of households qualifying for social housing support whose social housing need is not being met.

Households currently living in local authority rented accommodation, voluntary/co-operative accommodation, accommodation provided under the Housing Assistance Payment, Rental Accommodation Scheme or under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme are not included.

The assessment was recently published by the Housing Agency and a full copy of the report can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/970ea-summary-of-social-housing-assessments-2020-key-findings/>

Some of the key findings of the report include:

- In total, 61,880 households were assessed as qualified for housing support as of 02 November 2020. The number of households on the waiting list decreased by 6,813 (9.9%) compared to the previous assessment in June 2019.
- In Kildare a total of 3,104 households were assessed as qualified for housing support as of 02 November 2020, a decrease of 282 (8.3%).
- The majority of those qualified for social housing support are unemployed.
- Single person households are the predominant household grouping in need of social housing support.

| Kildare                               | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Number of qualified households</b> | 5,572 | 5,103 | 3,962 | 3,386 | 3,104 |



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## New Application form for Social Housing Support

A new National Social housing support application form will be introduced from 19 April 2021 and the amendments are provided for in the Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

The new application form will include all the municipal districts and named towns within as areas of choice enabling applicants to select their three preferred areas. The main changes introduced as part of these regulations provide for the new application form and the removal of the cap on percentage increases on the income eligibility threshold in respect of each household member aged less than 18 years. The percentage increase for additional household members less than 18 years being subject to a maximum increase of 10% will largely eliminate the anomaly whereby a large family solely in receipt of social welfare payments exceeds the income thresholds.

## High Level Summary of the Main Changes to the Application Form

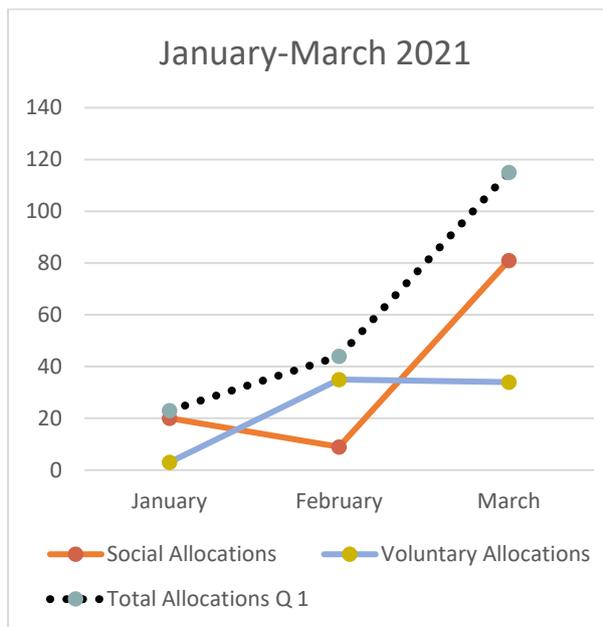
- A new Medical and/or Disability form (replaces the requirement for a consultant's letter).
- Removal of the requirement to have a HPL 1 form.
- A new requirement for LPT checker.
- Form structure – the flow and sequencing of the various parts of the application form have been altered to make more logical sense.
- Information provided to ensure applicants are aware of their rights under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Compliance with the principles relating to the processing of personal data – data minimisation, necessity and proportionality have been factors in both the collection of additional data and the removal of certain data elements.

**Note:** It should be noted that as of the commencement date, 19 April only the use of this new application form will be permissible.



## Number of Allocations

182 allocations were made in Quarter 1, 2021. These allocations included social housing and voluntary allocations, Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) and several transfers were facilitated. All allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19.



## Inspection of Private Rented Properties

In accordance with guidance issued from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), the physical inspection of occupied properties is suspended during the

current Level 5 lockdown. The Inspection Team has commenced carrying out virtual inspections and continue to carry out inspections of properties for inclusion in the leasing scheme.

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

The Residential Tenancies Act 2020 (RTA 2020), which applies to AHB's and private tenancies, introduced a prohibition on tenancy terminations during an emergency period whereby travel restrictions outside a 5km radius of home are in place. There are limited exceptions to this prohibition on terminations. As the 5km travel limit was lifted on 12 April, the prohibition on tenancy terminations ended. The RTA imposed a 10-day grace period and as a result the earliest date a person can be made to leave a property is 23 April.

## Traveller Community

Traveller accommodation continues to demand significant resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is very high with a notable increase in issues



throughout the county. The social work team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

### Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

The 2021 Self Help Scheme has been advertised on the council's website and in the local press with a closing date of 14 May 2021 for receipt of applications. The application form and details will also be uploaded to the Members Information Portal (MIP).

### Capital Programme

| Location  | No. of Units   | Updated Status  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Approval Stage 4</b>                                       |  |   |
| Athgarvan Village   | 18 units   | Report on Tenders complete and Stage 4 ready for submission to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for approval week of 12 April 2021.  |
| <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. | CCTV investigation complete to foul and surface water drainage and awaiting engineers updated design (expected week 12 April 2021). On receipt the engineer's design will be issued internally for consideration prior to submission to the DHLGH for Stage 2 approval. Launch of the Part 8 will follow. |
| 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 DHLGH during April 2021.  |
| Ardclough Road, Celbridge   | 37 units                         | Architect Lead Design Team tender assessment concluded. Result letters issued and standstill period concluded. Tender recommendation report approved. The Chief Executive Order and Letter of Acceptance to follow.                              |
| 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 DHLGH Quarter 2, 2021.  |
| <b>Approval Stage 1</b>     |                                  |  |
| Old Greenfield, Maynooth    | Volumetric Framework<br>65 units | Approval in principle received from the DHPLG for revised scheme of 65. Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Tender competition for site clearance advertised. Confirmation and validation of survey and design in progress by the Design Team. |
| Ambassador Site, Kill       | 33 units                         | Architect Lead Design Team tender assessment concluded. Result letters issued and standstill period concluded. Tender recommendation report approved. The Chief Executive Order and Letter of Acceptance to follow.                              |
| Caragh Road, Naas           | 73 units                         | Stage 1 submission to the DHLGH being prepared for development of 73 units.  |



### 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.  |

### PPP Schemes

| Location            | No. of Units | Updated Status  |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| Nancy's Lane, Clane | 77 units     | Completion expected Quarter2/Quarter 3, 2021. Revised programme to be advised due to COVID-19 restrictions. Phase 1 identified for early delivery of 17 units subject to Irish Water connection.  |
| Andrew, Athy        | 74 units     | Design Team appointed and initial design proposal for 74 units presented to the DHLGH and awaiting DPER approval 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<br>Flinter's Field, Athy | 35 units  | MDY Construction appointed and will mobilise on site with restrictions lifted.   |
| Tuath HA<br>Castlefen, Sallins      | 28 units  | Contractor commenced in March 2020. Completion now likely to be Quarter 1, 2022.   |
| Cluid, ESB site<br>Leixlip          | 24 units  | Design Team tender issued.   |
| Cluid<br>Rathasker Road,<br>Naas    | 70-100 units<br>(depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department) | Consideration is being given to incorporating the adjacent site under the control of an Approved Housing Body (AHB) as a joint proposal to maximise the potential of the site and to offset the cost of remediating the site and to provide a greater range of unit types. Cluid tendering for appointment of the design team. |



### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

| Approved Housing Body           | No. of Units                                   | Updated Status   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| KARE                            | 3 Units<br>Craddockstown                       | Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 09 March.   |
| Camphill Communities of Ireland | 4 units at<br>The Bridge, Kilcullen            | Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.   |
| Homeless Care CLG               | 12 Apartments at<br>Jigginstown House,<br>Naas | Completed January 2021. Engagement with TUSLA and Tiglin underway.   |
| Sofia Housing                   | 35 units<br>St. John's Convent<br>Rathangan    | Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 35 units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning assessment and feedback issued to Sophia Housing. |
| Cluid                           | 29 units<br>Dominican Lands<br>Athy            | Design proposals in progress.  |
| The Peter McVerry Trust         | 4 units<br>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                   | 3              |
| Housing Turnkeys      | 39                   | 81                   | 107                  | 3              |
| Part V Acquisitions   | 30                   | 67                   | 41                   | 2              |
| <b>Total complete</b> | <b>255</b>           | <b>379</b>           | <b>187</b>           | <b>8</b>       |

| Acquisitions by Municipal District                       | Athy | Celbridge-Leixlip | Clane-Maynooth | Kildare-Newbridge | Naas |
|--|------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------|
| Acquisitions in 2021                                     | 0    | 0                 | 4              | 3                 | 1    |
| Properties Leased Quarter 1, 2021 (includes AHB leasing) | 6    | 1                 | 0              | 7                 | 51   |



### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

|                         | 2019        | 2020  | 2021 to date                                   |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|--|
| <b>Total Approved</b>   | €19,692,336 | €7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)     | €1,895,600 (includes 2020 applications)        |
| <b>Total Drawn Down</b> | €10,160,922 | <b>€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)</b> | <b>€549,945 (from 2019 and 2020 approvals)</b> |

| 2021 | Approval No. | Approval Amount | Approval Drawdown No. | Approval Drawdown Amount | Expired No. | Expired Amount |
|------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Jan  | 0            | 0               | 0                     | 0                        | 0           | 0              |
| Feb  | 4            | €787,300        | 0                     | 0                        | 0           | 0              |
| Mar  | 9            | €1,895,600      | 0                     | 0                        | 0           | 0              |

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

| 2020         | Applications Received | Ineligible | Approvals Issued |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | 33                    | 6          | 5                |
| 2021         | Applications Received | Ineligible | Approvals Issued |
| Quarter 1    | 12                    | 0          | 0                |

### Grants

|                       | Housing Adaptation Apps Recd | Housing Adaptation Grants Approved | Mobility Aids Apps Recd | Mobility Aids Grants Approved | Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd | Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>2020</b>           | 410                          | 254                                | 0                       | 0                             | 320                                     | 209  |
| <b>2021-Quarter 1</b> | 96                           | 78                                 | 0                       | 0                             | 109                                     | 71   |

### Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

| Year                  | LA Rents | LA HAP | LA HAP Review |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| <b>2020</b>           | 1,078    | 607    | 562           |
| <b>2021 Quarter 1</b> | 214      | 142    | 103           |



### Social Housing Applications

| 2020            | Existing Housing file updates | Transfer Requests | New valid Applications | Mortgage to Rent Apps | Refusals |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Total           | 237                           | 75                | 705                    | 8                     | 171      |
| 2021            | Existing Housing file updates | Transfer Requests | New valid Applications | Mortgage to Rent Apps | Refusals |
| Quarter 1, 2021 | 18                            | 17                | 181                    | 2                     | 26       |

### HAP Applications

| 2020            | Applications Received | Applications Rejected | Applications Approved |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total           | 586                   | 134                   | 682                   |
| 2021            | Applications Received | Applications Rejected | Applications Approved |
| Quarter 1, 2021 | 134                   | 20                    | 88                    |

### Housing Maintenance

| 2020            | Vacant House Turnarounds | New House Purchases Upgrades | Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged | Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed | Number of Self Help Grants Offered |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Total           | 97                       | 108                          | 6,939  | 6,733   | 80                                 |
| 2021            | Vacant House Turnarounds | New House Purchases Upgrades | Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged | Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed | Number of Self Help Grants Offered |
| Quarter 1, 2021 | 29                       | 29                           | 2,109  | 1,660   | 0                                  |



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

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

The statutory public consultation period for the pre-draft stage of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 closed on 08 of March 2021. 320 no. submissions were received in response to the Issues Paper and 305 no. photographs were received in response to the Youth Photographic Competition.

The preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on issues raised during the public consultation period is now underway. This report will be submitted to the elected members of the council (and published online) before 02 of May 2021. The members will then have 10 weeks to consider the report and to make directions on the content of the Draft CDP.

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

#### **Athy LAP**

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 was presented to the Athy Municipal District Committee on 19 March 2021. Two workshops have since been held with the elected members and a Special Meeting has been arranged to discuss the Chief Executive's Report and the Draft LAP on Friday 23 April.

#### **Naas LAP**

The Draft Naas LAP was published on 09 March 2021 with 7 accompanying documents. The Draft LAP will be on public display for 6 weeks until 21 April 2021. Public consultation is aligned with public health restrictions. All documents are available on the website and on the council's consultation portal.



The elected members should note that the Draft Naas LAP 2021-2027 must be considered by the full council, in accordance with the Local Government Reform Act, 2014

(Schedule 14A, Part 2), as there are proposed land use zonings which straddle the boundary with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area.

| Planning applications received: |      |     | Residential Units Granted | Applications decided: March 2021 |     |
|---------------------------------|------|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| Mar                             | Year |     | No.                       | Total Granted:                   | 104 |
| 2019:                           | 151  | 338 | 680                       | Retention:                       | 15  |
| 2020:                           | 138  | 341 | 1,133                     | Extension of Duration:           | 3   |
| 2021:                           | 191  | 425 | 204                       | Total Refused:                   | 25  |

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

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

|          |   |         |  |     |            |
|----------|---|---------|--|-----|------------|
| 21309087 | 3 | Debussy | 192 units at Western side of Millicent Road and Southern side of Prosperous Road, Clane. | 192 | 27/04/2021 |
|----------|---|---------|--|-----|------------|



| <b>Significant Applications</b> |                                     |   |                     |                      |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Ref No</b>                   | <b>Applicant</b>                    | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Status</b>       | <b>Comment</b>       |
| 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. | Valid               | 17/05/2021           |
| 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               | 16/05/2021           |
| 21/345                          | Orchard County Residential Services | 72 No. residential units at Coneyburrow, Carlow Road, Athy.   | Valid               | 13/05/2021           |
| 21/156                          | High Degree Developments            | Phase 2; 47 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 1.99 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Court) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth.                          | Further Information | Requested 31/03/2021 |
| 21/155                          | High Degree Developments            | Phase 1; 58 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 2.18 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Park) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth.                           | Further Information | Requested 31/03/2021 |
| 21/117                          | Johnstownbridge Spire Ltd           | 68 residential units at Johnstownbridge.  | Refusal             | 29/03/2021           |
| 21/84                           | Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd               | 5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at   | Refusal             | 18/03/2021           |



|         |                                  |   |                     |  |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
|         |                                  | Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area.   |                     |  |
| 20/1143 | Musgrave Ltd                     | Extension and to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted. | Valid               | Further Information<br>26/11/2020        |
| 20/1403 | Bernard Moran                    | 94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous .   | Valid               | NIS requested in accordance with 177T(5) |
| 20/1284 | Ballymore Newbridge Developments | Increase the number of units from 385 to 395 at Roseberry, Newbridge.   | Grant               | 11/03/2021                               |
| 20/1338 | Ballymore Naas Developments      | Retention and completion of temporary construction site entrance and access road off the R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas at Bellingsfield residential development, Pipers Hill.                     | Further Information | Requested<br>02/03/2021                  |
| 20/1418 | Elgin Energy Services            | Solar Farm- 10.8Ha at Kerdiffstown and Monread, Naas.   | Further Information | Requested<br>26/01/2021                  |



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## Historic Planning Registers

The Historic Planning registers are now available to view online at <https://eSearch.informa.ie/kildare/>. Users are required to register to use the system. This project carried out by the Planning Department and the IT Department will make planning searches easier with the indexes and mapping dating back to 1964 available to view without the need to visit the Planning Department. Planning searches on more recent applications are available on the online planning system at: <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/public/planningsearch/171>.

## Section 254 Licences

The waiver of fees in respect of tables and chairs outside of qualifying businesses has been extended for the period that Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Only 10 businesses have availed of the waiver and these licences will now be extended. To date, 16 businesses have applied for and received licences.

Breakdown of the current licences issued by MD/towns as follows:

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

## Conservation Update

On 01 April the council received confirmation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the 'Built Heritage Investment Scheme' funding as follows:



|  |
|--|
| Thatch Cottage, Walterstown, Nurney - €10,000              |
| Kilkea School House, Kilkea - €2,500                       |
| Harristown House, Brannockstown - €3,500                   |
| Maudlins Mausolea, Naas - €2,500                           |
| Thatch, Stickens, Caragh €8,000                            |
| Collegiate Chapel, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth €11,000 |
| Gothic Hall, Thomastown €7,000                             |
| St. John The Evangelist, Monasterevin €3,000               |
| Grattan Family Vault, Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge €3,300 |
| Abbeylands House, Clane €7,000                             |
| Finlay's Public House, Monasterevin €6,000                 |
| Riverstown House, Kildangan €9,000                         |
| Burtown House, Athy €9,000                                 |
| St. David's Castle, Naas €13,000                           |
| <b>Total</b> <b>€94,800</b>                                |

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

The deadline for applications for the position for Architectural Conservation Officer closed on 08 April. The submitted applications are currently being reviewed and a shortlisting

exercise may be undertaken in advance of interviews being arranged to fill this post.

### Heritage

#### Funding 2021

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

- Community Monuments Fund (3 funding streams)



- National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund (2 funding streams)

Funding was announced by the Heritage Council:

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

### Successful Funding

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

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

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 (BAP's):  
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

### KFM Virtual Heritage Walks

Kildare County Council is 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. All National Museum paperwork regarding licence applications completed. Awaiting the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions for site visit in Kilkea.

### Community Heritage Grants Scheme

2021 Community Heritage Grant Scheme form and guidelines revised to take consideration of COVID-19



restrictions. This scheme was advertised and closed on 16 March.

### Vacant Sites

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

Having considered each of the surveyed sites against the 'tests' as set out in the Urban Regeneration and

Housing Act 2015 (as amended), a total of 34 Section 7(1) notices were issued to landowners. Of the 34 notices issued, 15, 7(3) notices (formally placing sites on the Vacant Sites Register) were issued in December 2020. Landowners had an opportunity to appeal any 7(3) notices to An Bord Pleanála.

To date, the decision by Kildare County Council to enter 15 sites on the Vacant Sites Register has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála for 8 sites as follows:

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

The list of sites deemed to have qualified for inclusion on the Public Register of Vacant Sites for County Kildare on the Vacant Site Register (VSR) which are not subject to an

appeal to An Bord Pleanála are currently being referred to the appointed professional valuation services provider to commence with placing a market value on these sites.



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### **Rural Housing Policy and Rural House Design Guide**

A Draft Rural Design Guide was presented to the Economic Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on 25 March. This was well received. The draft will be updated to have regard to input received from the SPC. Illustrations and images will be finalised before bringing the Design Guide back to the SPC in June.

Work is ongoing in relation to a Small Towns and Villages Strategy, which will inform the review of the County Development Plan (CDP), having regard to the statutory requirements of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

### **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 CDP 2023-2029.

#### **Department of Education and Skills**

Ongoing consultations are taking place between Kildare County Council and the Department of Education and Skills with respect to the provision of schools in the county. A meeting took place on 03 March with senior officials from the Department of Education and Skills (DOES) in relation to educational capacity and demands over the period of the emerging CDP to 2029. A submission has now been received from the DOES as part of the pre-draft stage of the review of the Kildare CDP 2017-2023.



**Public Realm Funding Applications and Other Items**

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

**Round 2**

The following are almost complete:

| <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,<br>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 Town and Village Grant Funding Requested for this Project</b> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Leixlip Town Centre                                    | €45,000                             | €40,000  |
| Celbridge Town Centre                                  | €45,000                             | €40,000  |
| Newbridge Town Hall<br>Environs and George's<br>Street | €45,000                             | €40,000  |
| Main Street, Naas and<br>Environs                      | €60,000                             | €40,000  |



|   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| Main Street, Maynooth and Environs        | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council | €11,000 | €10,000 |

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

| Location  | Proposal                                     | Total Project Cost | Funding Requested | Comments  |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Ardclough | Heritage Centre Phase 2                      | €97,000            | €87,300           | Ardclough Heritage Centre Providing Match Funding |
| Clane     | Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre | €250,000           | €200,000          | Clane Maynooth LPT Match Funding                  |
| Athy      | Enterprise Centre Improvements               | €99,000            | €89,100           | Enterprise Centre to provide match funding        |
| Sallins   | Healthcheck and Town Renewal Plan            | €70,000            | €63,000           | Naas LPT Match Funding                            |

**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 and Cultural Quarter  | €4,662,000         | €3,490,000      | Consultant to be procured. |
| Maynooth | Town Centre Masterplan to include Main Street and adjoining laneways, Carton Avenue, Courthouse Square, Harbourfield and environs. | €2,545,000         | €1,900,000      | Consultant to be procured. |



**Special Projects and Public Realm Team  
Updates in Pink**

**Concept**

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

**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Tender published to have a hydrological survey carried out.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Collaboration with AE on design of Academy Street.

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

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

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

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

**Part 8**

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published April/May 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.



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

**Tender Consultants and Design**

**Athy/Kildare-Newbridge** - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works have commenced with almost 11km of the 48km before Christmas. Works have recommenced at Lowtown and in Laois on public safety grounds.

**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.



**Clane-Maynooth** – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Public consultation to commence in the coming weeks.

**Clane-Maynooth** - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued.

**Clane-Maynooth** – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process

#### **Tender Consultants**

**Athy** - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Research underway.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. The Paul Hogarth Company appointed and project inception meeting held on 26 June. Joint site visit took place on 02 September. Public consultation has commenced with over 1,700 submissions received to date.

**Naas** - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in mid-2021 and will take 9 months to complete.

**Athy**- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.

#### **Tender Works**

**Athy** – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Part 8 and detailed designed being prepared.



|   |
|---|
| <b>Design</b>   |
| <b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.  |
| <b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.  |
| <b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan - 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 April 2021.  |
| <b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element. |
| <b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.  |
| <b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 to be published in April 2021. Included in successful URDF application.  |
| <b>Detailed Design</b>  |
| <b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for local authority led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) application.   |
| <b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Contractor appointed. Commencement date to be agreed subject to restrictions.   |
| <b>On Hold</b>  |
| <b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.   |



|   |
|---|
| <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 December 2020.</p>                                     |



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## 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 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/Quarter 3, 2021. Consultants have been appointed to progress the longer-term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

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

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



## **Water Networks Management Projects**

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

As Kilcock has been deemed as an area for development under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)/ Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites Scheme (MUHDS), an extension of the water main infrastructure is now required to facilitate the planned housing development demands in this area. This project involves the construction of 755 metres of a new watermain. Works commenced on 22 February 2021, with an 8-week construction programme to completion of the project. To date, approximately 720 metres of new water main has been constructed as part of this project.

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

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

Works commenced on this scheme on 01 March 2021. It is expected that the project will be completed within 6 weeks. All known service connections have since been transferred from the old cast iron main to a HPPE main. Permanent road reinstatement works commenced on 06 April 2021 and it is expected that all work will be completed by 16 April 2021.

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

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

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



### **Kildare Town Watermain**

#### **Rehabilitation Works -**

#### **Lourdesville BYSS**

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme.

The decommissioning of the existing cast iron mains in Lourdesville is now expected to commence in Quarter 2, 2021.

#### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

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

#### **Assumpta Villas BYSS**

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

### **Rowanville BYSS**

There is currently 1 property remaining within this scheme whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained.

Decommissioning works have yet to commence. This work will commence once consent from the final customer has been provided and the properties service connection is installed.

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

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

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

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

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

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of these clinics.



## Environment Services

### 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 can be 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

The increase in glass tonnage at recycling banks has continued from last year. In March 2020, 432 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered in the month from the recycling banks. This year, for the same month, the figure is 571 tonnes – an increase of 33%. Staff and contractors continue to service existing sites, but the co-operation of the public remains vital in this regard.

## 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 April - volunteers are encouraged to carry out a litter pick or community clean up with 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. Over 160 clean-ups have been registered by the start of April.

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 70 separate Green Kilometres have been established and 27 tonnes of litter and dumped materials were collected during the 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 educational talks and events are suspended until further notice in the interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. Information and services normally provided are referenced at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

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

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

### **Litter Management Plan**

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



## New Initiatives

### Civic Amenity Site North

The Part 8 has been approved by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee. The process of procuring a consultant, subject to funding, is being progressed. The Tender Assessment Board has met online, and the Tender Assessment Report is being finalised 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 defense 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/OPW Steering Group has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme.



### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Kerdiffstown**

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park. The contract period is for 54 months but Kildare County Council is working with the contractor to deliver the project sooner. Works are proceeding with great pace, with most areas of the 80-acre site being utilised by the contractor.

The tenders for the Percent for Arts are currently being assessed.

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

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

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

The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at:

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

### **Cemeteries**

#### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

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



### **Newbridge Cemetery**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

#### **Rathangan, Newbridge, Crookstown and Celbidge**

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. A review of the council's policy is now scheduled. It is expected that the updated Departmental Risk Registers will be presented to the Audit Committee on a rota basis.

### **Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)**

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

### **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021**



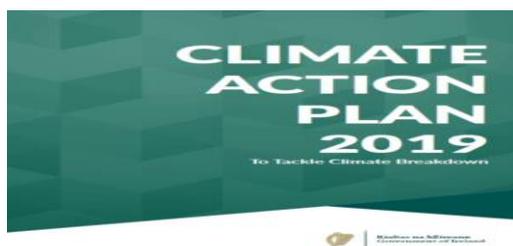
An Bille um Ghníomhá ar son na hAcráide agus um Fhorbairt Ísclahearbóin  
(Leasú), 2021  
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021  
Máir a bhreicteáiní  
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The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 was published on 23 March 2021 and will amend the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, to strengthen the framework for governance of Climate Action by the State to realise national, EU and international climate goals and obligations.



Within 18 months of enactment of this Bill, the Minister must request local authorities to prepare, within 12 months, individual Climate Action Plans including both mitigation and adaptation measures. Local authorities will also be required to consult with the Public Participation Networks and liaise with neighbouring authorities. The CARO is currently working with Climate Ireland and others to develop guidance to assist local authorities through this process, as was developed to assist with the adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in September 2019.

### Decarbonizing Zones



Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 requires each local authority to identify and develop plans for a 'Decarbonising Zone' (DZ). DZ's are defined as spatially identified area(s) which promote and maintain a range of climate mitigation measures that co-

exist to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs.

A circular from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) issued to local authorities on 10 February 2021, requiring that a candidate DZ in each county is identified by 30 April 2021. The local authority is required to provide a broad outline of projects which could be implementable and potential outcomes which contribute to a 7% carbon emission reduction per annum. The candidate DZ will act as demonstrator or test bed for future initiatives and implementation plans will need to be developed for the candidate DZ by the end of Quarter 4, 2021. The selected zone will also be included in each local authority's Climate Action Plan, to be developed following the enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The criteria set out by the DHLGH is that the DZ's should either cover (i) urban areas and agglomerations with a population not less than 5,000



persons, or (ii) rural areas with an area of not less than 4km<sup>2</sup>.

While the selection of the DZ's are a matter for each individual local authority, the CARO have outlined a scorecard methodology using key characteristics to rate potential areas for consideration and the key role of Climate Action Teams, where energy baseline, carbon footprint or energy emission data may not be available.

### Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action



Research into Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Action in partnership with the School of Business in Maynooth University and results of the survey of local authority enterprise sections and Local enterprise Offices (LEO's) have been presented to the project steering group, chaired by Ms Delaney, Chief Executive, Offaly County Council.

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

research into Local Government activity in this area internationally, awareness raising training for local authority staff, including the LEO, examination of how Local Government can engage policies and actions to exploit these opportunities and an annual conference in collaboration with the project partners. It is also intended to hold a workshop for senior local authority staff in mid-end May with a national conference to be arranged for mid October.

### Capacity Building



The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, to implement training for all elected members and local authority staff. Details of the training programme, which includes 6 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 and will be rolled to other sub-regions as the year progresses.

- **Online Training**

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online training programme is ongoing; to date approximately 1,600 Grade 7 and technical equivalents have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities and the rollout has now cascaded to Grade 6 and equivalents.

- **Thematic Training**

The following additional programmes and events are being developed under the Actioning Policy pillar:

- The CARO is collaborating with the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), the DHPLG and others to develop a training programme for local authority planners as they embark on Development Plan reviews.
- The CARO is collaborating with Age Friendly Ireland to develop climate action awareness training for local authority Older Persons Councils.
- The CARO is also working with Procurement Officers to develop Green Procurement training.

- **Outdoor Staff and Behavioral Change**

Additional training modules for outdoor staff and specific training to encourage behavioral change have been developed but are designed to be delivered in person, so have been negatively impacted as a result



of COVID-19. It is hoped to commence delivery of these modules as restrictions are lifted.

### Sub-Regional Energy Projects

The CARO are working with local authorities in each of the 4 sub-regions to develop regional energy bureaus or regional energy efficiency projects.

The South East Sub-Region is working with the CARO and the 3CEA (3 Counties Energy Agency) to progress development of a Regional Energy Bureau. The Midlands Sub-Region is working with the CARO and members of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA), to progress discussions with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The Mid-East Sub-Region, led by Wicklow County Council, is working with the CARO and the SEAI to progress the development of a Regional Energy Bureau. The Border Sub-Region is working with the CARO and the SEAI to explore options to capitalise on regional energy efficiency opportunities.

### Alternatives to Herbicides Project



The CARO are working with Ms O'Rourke, Climate Action Officer, Kildare County Council to promote and progress a project on alternatives to herbicide use in the maintenance of amenity public open spaces. There are a number of collaborators involved, including UCD, Maynooth University and Teagasc. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has committed to aligning research to this area.

The project is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for the maintenance of open spaces in the temperate zone using alternatives to pesticides that are efficient, labour saving and environmentally sustainable while providing value for money.



The project which has potential to be of huge benefit to local authorities, will consist of 2 phases over 4-6 years, starting Quarter 1, 2021. Through the CARO, local authorities have received a detailed presentation on the project, details of associated costs and an invitation to partner at this early stage.

### **Climate Conversation – Climate Action Plan Public Consultation**

As part of the recently launched public consultation process, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications launched a national portal on 23 March 2021, for citizens to make submissions in relation to the development of the 2021 Climate Action Plan. Citizens are encouraged to submit their views, on the Government's climate action and how it can support them to take action in their own lives. These submissions will also form part of the wider National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA). The consultation portal remains open until 18 May 2021 and submissions can also be 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 met on 01 April and was joined by Mr Carey, Chief Executive. The Thematic Group 5, Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure presented the thematic actions and progress to date. Also, on the agenda was the finalised research on community funding sources for potential climate action projects. The information is to be disseminated to community groups shortly via established linkages.

**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). A brief is being finalized to procure a consultant(s) to prepare the Counties SECAP/CAP and this will significantly inform the thrust of our next Climate Action Plan.

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

Under action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 'To Tackle Climate Breakdown' councils have been requested to nominate a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) by the end of April. The selection process will continue to be advanced at the April Climate Action SPC's.

**Energy**

**Energy Management Team**

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team has been re-established and held its first monthly meeting on 24 February. There are currently 8 members on the team which represents high energy usage sections of Kildare County Council.



The priority areas which the Energy Management Team are focused on are, creation of a new register of opportunities (areas of potential energy savings), identification of top twenty energy users in Kildare County Council, a possible energy week for Kildare County Council Quarter 4, 2021 and the possible adoption of a standardised energy management system/ISO 50001, all of which is aimed at mainstreaming good practice. Training initiatives are being explored to encompass; bills analysis, energy map, energy audit skills, confidence and capacity building, specific technical training, and leadership. The Energy Management Team will also be looking at ways which the team can help to shape the action plan relating to the selected decarbonising zone.

### **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. The Energy Bureau discussions are being assisted by the CARO and it is proposed the bureau will, in turn, attract significant

SEAI grant funding [also called 'pathfinder'] and will facilitate the delivery of projects of scale across the region. The main aims of the bureau is to drive energy efficiencies across each of the local authorities by rolling out regional energy reduction projects and initiatives from one central body, thus reducing time spent on design, procurement, and delivery. The Pathfinder Programme (SEAI) will also be able to provide support funding to the projects. Discussions on the Energy Bureau are currently at 'Position Paper' stage and it is hoped this stage will be finalised by the end of April.

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

As previously reported, Kildare County Council has made good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. Three further SEC's in Kildare have, in recent months, registered with the SEAI. This brings the total number in Kildare to 21 registered SEC's. Not all of these have applied for partnership support with Kildare County Council.



Currently Maynooth and Clane SEC's are most advanced with their Energy Masterplans, both having received final draft plans for adoption. COVID-19 restrictions are still impacting on SEC progress and the momentum gained pre-COVID-19. It is hoped this can be reinvigorated as Ireland's restrictions start to lift in the coming months.

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

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

A call for proposals has issued by the Climate Action Office (CARO) using the Consultation Portal, in an innovative move to reduce paper applications.

Applications under the scheme have been assessed by the Climate Action Officer in collaboration with the Community Section. The proposed award will be brought to the April Celbridge-Leixlip meeting for approval, after which the applicants will be notified of the results. It is hoped that other municipal districts will follow this initiative.

### **Forestry**

The council has commenced identification of a number of sites across the county on the Property Interest Register (PIR) potentially suitable for the Woodlands on Public Lands Funding Scheme. A long list is being drafted and each site will subsequently be assessed by a qualified forester. Template tender documents for procuring the different elements of this scheme are currently being drawn up by a CARO Working Group and these will be available for use by all local authorities. This project is in response to an item on the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Works Programme.

### **Ezine**

The Climate Action Office has published an Ezine with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool. Edition 2 of 2021 is to issue in May and will feature examples of mainstreaming Climate Action work practices.



To enhance mainstreaming further the Climate Action Office is working with Corporate Services by providing editorial content for the 'Climate Corner' to be published in the proposed Kildare County Council's bi-monthly Newsletter. The first edition is to be published in May.

### **Partnerships**

The Climate Action Office is delighted to be invited on to the Creative Kildare Team and the Age Friendly Alliance to assist in streamlining Climate Action through their work. The council look forward to working them all in a creative and accessible manner.



### **GAA/County and City Management Association (CCMA) Partnership for Sustainable Communities**

In a follow up to the official launch of the GAA/CCMA Green Clubs Programme, on 09 December 2020, clubs have met with their expert partners and are working to progress their designated theme.



## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### Opening of New Sallins Bypass

The new Sallins Bypass opened to traffic on Friday 09 April. The bypass, which commences at Naas Distributor Road at Millenium Park, includes the new Junction 9a Osberstown Interchange, a new Sallins Roundabout and terminates at the Clane Road. It is the second phase of the overall project to be delivered. The first phase, the M7 widening, was completed and opened to traffic on 19 November 2019. The opening of the Sallins Bypass will provide greater accessibility to and from the M7 to Naas, Sallins and environs.

The opening does not include the new link road from the Sallins Bypass to Sallins Village which is expected to open later this year.

The M7 widening and Sallins Bypass Scheme is funded by the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and Kildare County Council and constructed by the Siac/Colas joint venture. During the height of the construction phase-over

350 people were directly employed on the project.

The new Sallins bypass has approximately 1.7 kilometres of dual carriageway and 1.85 kilometres of single carriageway with seven structures constructed including a structure under the Dublin Cork Railway Line and bridges over the M7 at Osberstown, Grand Canal and River Liffey.

Active Travel infrastructure is a significant part of the new Sallins Bypass which includes an additional 2.5km of shared cycle and pedestrian pathways and 2.3km of segregated cycleway and pedestrian foot paths in the Naas/Sallins area and connecting of the Grand Canal cycle track/footpath to the Naas Distributor road and Sallins Bypass.

The opening of the new road is expected to take significant traffic out of the village of Sallins creating a safer travel environment particularly for vulnerable road users within the village and surrounding area. Recent National Transport Authority (NTA) funding for traffic calming, active travel



measures and public realm initiatives will combine to enhance the village in tandem with the removal of traffic. Lower traffic volumes will improve public transport accessibility and particularly improve access to and from Sallins train station.

### **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's mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. Arup have been appointed as technical advisors to support the delivery of the project through Phases 1 to 4.

These phases include:

- Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) which will determine if an intervention (project) is required and if an intervention is feasible.

- Phase 2 (Option Selection) will examine feasible options for intervention that could address the aim of the project.
- Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will develop the design of the preferred option from Phase 2 for further assessment including evaluation of environmental impacts; and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes) includes 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 stage. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.



### **Athy Distributor Road**

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

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

Tendering for the main contract is ongoing and the first stage is now complete with six contractors short listed for tendering. The consultants have completed the Stage 2 tender documents which were submitted to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and the Minister for Transport. The DTTAS has recently granted approval to proceed with the Stage 2 Tender process, subject to

amendments. The Stage 2 tender process is ongoing and will close on the 17 May 2021. It is expected to have a contractor on site in Quarter 4, 2021.

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

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

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

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

An Enabling Works contract comprising earthworks, drainage and boundary treatments is currently on site with works are being undertaken by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. Due to



COVID-19 restrictions contractors have moved off-site until further notice. Tender documents are currently being prepared for the main contract works. The equipment contract has gone to tender which closed on 09 April 2021. 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 contractor on site by Quarter 4, 2021.

#### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **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 will facilitate the 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 KCC receiving €10,237,500 for this project (75% Funding, KCC to contribute 25%). This will facilitate the development of this project to construction stage.

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

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

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

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

An Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) Call 2 application for funding for the Great Connell to Athgarvan Road section, including a new bridge over the River Liffey has been unsuccessful and the council is currently awaiting feedback from the URDF regarding this application.



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

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

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by Cairn Developments Plc. 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 open the street 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 completed.

This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed, which is due to

go to public consultation on 15 April 2021.

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

The Final Naas/Sallins Transport Strategy has been published.

### **Kildare Town Transport Strategy**

The Draft Transport Strategy for Kildare Town is currently being finalised. It is anticipated that a Phase 2 non-statutory public consultation will commence on 15 April 2021, after which the strategy will be finalised.

### **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 Local Area Plan (LAP) Process.

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy**

A brief and tender documentation has been prepared to facilitate the appointment of consultants for the development of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. The tender process has commenced and it is expected that an appointment will be



made in Quarter 2, 2021. Once the consultants are appointed it is expected to take 6 months to complete. This will facilitate the development of the Maynooth LAP going forward.

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**

Kildare County Council received funding for 2021 from the DTTAS for bridge rehabilitation works at 6 locations. Design works and tender documentation is being prepared at present and it is expected to deliver these works during Quarter 2/Quarter 3, 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

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

### **Newhall Junction Improvement**

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

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

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

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. The relevant Kildare County Council departments have been notified of the Part 8 process associated with this project.



A briefing meeting with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee was held before their March statutory meeting, to discuss the scheme. Affected landowners are being consulted at present.

The Part 8 process commenced on 13 April 2021 with submissions to be returned by 26 May 2021.

### **Royal Canal Greenway – Maynooth to Moyvalley**

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

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

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

Kildare County Council is currently engaging with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on this project and has secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8.

The tender process to appoint a consultant is currently ongoing with a closing date of 26 April. It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 4, 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Broadband Connection Points**

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

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

### **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

Tree trimming works commenced in January in Naas Municipal District. Surveying has been completed in the Athy Municipal District.



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

## Road Safety

### TikTok Mic Drop (Social Media Event)

Kildare County Council participated in a cross-county online campaign with nine other local authorities to promote road safety among teenagers using the social media app, TikTok, in association with the Regional Youth Station, iRadio. People entered a competition to win prizes for their 'TikTok Mic Drop' road safety dance or song. The competition was received very well and received a good interaction from young road users on social media.

### Athy Municipal District March 2021

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

- Moone School works- preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of the works are complete. Lining of the car parking outside the school has been completed. Surveys are

being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages.

- Castledermot School works - Phase 1 works are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside the school, including red thermoplastic coloring on ramps has been completed. A survey is being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. Linkage between the new playground and footpath infrastructure is being looked at.
- Crookstown School – Phase 1 works are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside the school, including red thermoplastic coloring on ramps has been completed. A survey is being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village.



In the above cases the Roads Section is liaising the Public Realm Team to see if there are any areas of mutual interest. For Castledermot the Roads Section is liaising with the Parks Section with a view to upgrading project.

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

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

### **Bus Shelters**

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

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

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

1. Blackcastle.
2. Knocknagee.
3. Ballaghmoone.
4. Crooket.
5. Castlermittell.
6. Ardscull.

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

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

### **Drainage/Grading works**

- R448 – Castledermot/Kilcullen Road.
- R-415 – Fontstown/Crookstown Road.
- R-418 – Athy/Kilcullen Road.
- R-418 -- Castledermot/Tullow Road.



- R-417 – Athy/Monasterevin Road.
- L-4016 – Castledermot/Baltinglass Road.
- Relieving localised floods around the municipal district.
- Relieving flooding at Johnstown, Castledermot.
- Relieving flooding at Ard a Laoi, Castledermot.
- Relieving flooding at Balkinstown.
- Relieving flooding at Gormanstown.
- Replacing gullies and manholes (at night) on N-78 throughout Athy.

### **Signage works**

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

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

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

#### **Newbridge**

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

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

Works on Drogheda Street and Main Street, Monasterevin are continuing throughout lockdown. The final section of this phase is being completed, ramps, iron works and the completion of road markings.

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

The 2021 programme of works was presented at the March municipal district meeting.



### **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 March 2021**

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

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

- Roseville, Naas – at construction.
- 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 are currently on hold as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The locations are as follows:

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

Construction of a toucan crossing and associated work at Main Street, Kill is now complete. The signalled controlled crossing is awaiting an ESB connection and will then be fully operational. It is hoped that the ESB connection will be completed in early April, 2021.



## Bus Shelters

The Naas Municipal District Office 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.

It is planned to bring these bus shelter schemes through a Section 38 process in the coming weeks.

## Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

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

The Naas Municipal District has awarded a tender for the Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works Scheme 1 -2021 at the following locations.

It is hoped to progress these works to construction stage subject to COVID-19 restrictions:

- L2022 - Eadestown.

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

The Naas Municipal District has issued a tender for the Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works Scheme 2 – 2021 at the following location:

- 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 prepared in advance of the commencement of the 2021 surface dressing season.



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

The LPT/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).

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

The crews are currently undertaking routine maintenance works including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching and sign clearing.

### **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**

All 6 Restoration Improvement contracts have been tendered and awarded. Due to deteriorating road surfaces the following projects were progressed during the month of March.

### **Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 6km**

- R158 Summerhill Road, Kilcock – complete.
- R402 Kilshanroe – complete.
- L7081 Mylerstown Cross, Robertstown – overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing.
- L5046 Connelly's Bridge to Sweeney's Bend – overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing.
- L10193 - Coil Dubh National School – complete.
- L50283 Ballycaghan – overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing.
- L50341- Clonshambho – overlay complete, awaiting surface dressing.

The Municipal District Office will be progressing more of these projects over the coming month.



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

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

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

- L1009 - at Donadea Forest Entrance.
- L10091- Dunmurraghil
- L50711- Giltown Lane

The Municipal District Office will be progressing more of these projects over the coming month.

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

- Old Greenfield, Maynooth – footpath repairs.
- Carton Court, Maynooth – footpath repairs.

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

Designs for improvement works at Robertstown, Killina and Derrinturn National Schools are ongoing.

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

- A replacement fence was installed along Meadowbrook Stream at Old Greenfield, Maynooth.

Identification of additional footpath works are ongoing and tender documents are being prepared for identified projects.

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

The Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District has undertaken following works in March 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 (NTA).

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

The Municipal District Engineer and his team have completed the pedestrian and cycle facility works.



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

The DTTAS 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 (Galvin’s Cross) - tenders returned.
- L1016 - Kearneystown Upper to Newtown.
- L 5056 Green Lane, Leixlip - completed.
- L1015 Shaughlens Glen, Leixlip.

## **Surface Dressing Works**

Planned works for the summer of 2021

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

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

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

The members at the February municipal district meeting approved the LPT funding for 2021 and the Municipal District Office is currently

working through a programme for the delivery of these projects.

## **Kildare Civil Defence – March 2021**

Kildare Civil Defence as a Voluntary Emergency Service has been working to support the response of the local authority and the HSE as requested and where the requests fall within the Civil Defence’s ability and training to deliver. The Civil Defence has been involved in a missing person’s search in Athy from 28 February to 06 March inclusive in Athy with An Garda Síochána. Kildare, Dublin and Laois assisted during the week with an average of 35 volunteers per day and Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford City also assisted on the Saturday which brought the number up to 80 volunteers.

There was a number of Civil Defence inflatable boats, Swiftwater and Flood First Responder (SRT) rafts and teams, search dogs and drones involved.

The Civil Defence completed assistance requests from the Irish Blood Transfusion Service from 22-25 March inclusive.



## Fire Service

| Operational Calls |                     |                                    |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Station           | Total Calls<br>2020 | Total Calls<br>2021 (to end March) |
| Newbridge         | 429                 | 91                                 |
| Naas              | 389                 | 86                                 |
| Athy              | 194                 | 51                                 |
| Maynooth          | 280                 | 58                                 |
| Monasterevin      | 151                 | 34                                 |
| Leixlip           | 203                 | 26                                 |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1,842</b>        | <b>346</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> | 35                           |



## Building and Development Control

### Building Control (Figures to the end of March 2021)

| <b>Commencement Notices</b>                            | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Total Number of Commencement Notices Received          | 461         | 81          |
| Number of Valid Commencement Notices Received          | 454         | 81          |
| Number of Invalid Commencement Notices Received        | 7           | 0           |
| No. of Inspections Carried out on Commencement Notices | 199         | 67          |

| <b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>               | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total Number of Certificates Received                         | 426         | 173         |
| Number Valid  | 425         | 173         |
| Number Invalid  | 1           | 0           |
| Awaiting Processing<br>Additional Information                 | 0           | 0           |
| Number of Inspections Carried out on Compliance on Completion | 196         | 93          |

| <b>Disability Access Certificates</b>                   | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total Number of Disability Access Certificates Received | 124         | 28          |
| Number Granted:   | 137         | 23          |
| Number Refused:   | 0           | 0           |
| Number Invalid  | 2           | 1           |



|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Inspections Carried out on Disability Access Certificates | 66          | 27          |
| <b>Building Control Active Sites</b>                                | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
| Number of Units Inspected   | 2,067       | 225         |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Development Control Active Sites</b> | <b>2021</b> |
| Number of Active Sites                  | 100         |

### Health and Safety

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

- 14 COVID-19 compliance inspections.
- Lead Worker Representative Meetings.
- Business Continuity Meeting.
- Safety Committee Meeting.
- A Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Webinar - Championing Health and Wellbeing at Work.
- Meeting with HR Training Section to look at all Health and Safety training for 2021.
- Working group to look at the possibility of implementation of Staff App to aid communication.
- Accident and Incident Reports and Investigations.
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments.
- Pregnancy Risk Assessments.
- Online Remote Worker Visual Display (VDU) assessments.
- Development of COVID-19 Framework Infographic for outdoor workers.
- Worked closely with HR on the management of all possible and confirmed COVID-19 cases.



## Accessibility

### Meetings:

#### Local Access Groups:

- Celbridge 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 held.

#### Additional:

- Presentation on Accessibility to:
  - The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

- Disability Awareness Training as per National Disability Inclusion Strategy delivered to 20 library staff.
- Social Media Training delivered to local access groups.
- Workshop with the DFI (Disability Federation of Ireland) on Access to the Built Environment.
- Autism Awareness Webinar
- Attended COVID Community Response Forum.
- CKAN Workshop on Awareness Initiative.
- Survey of all libraries completed for suitability for Changing Places.
- Initial survey and discussions ongoing about possibility of Changing Places in K-Leisure Newbridge.



## Economic Community and Cultural Development

### St Patrick's Day

Kildare turned green for St. Patrick's Day. Along with the many tourism sites including St. Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare shown below, local industry and groups working with Kildare Fáilte, Kildare County Council buildings at Aras Chill Dara, Newbridge Town Hall and the Naas Ball turned green to celebrate St Patrick's day. Joining in were many towns who turned their main streets and bridges green including Naas, Kilcullen, Athy, Sallins and many more.



St. Brigid's Cathedral Kildare

Greetings and best wishes were sent on behalf of the Council to our friends in the Kildare Association New York and to the Sister Cities Commission in Lexington Kentucky by the Chief Executive who wished them well in

their celebration of the day and looked forward to representatives of Kildare County Council being able to visit them again in the years ahead to renew our friendship and strengthen our bond in person.

Mayor, Linda Gorton of Lexington (below) was just one of our twinning partners wishing us well on the day.



“Wishing everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. And, for our friends in County Kildare, Ireland, one of Lexington's four Sister Cities, we are wishing you the best of health on this day dedicated to Ireland's patron saint. Although parades and gatherings were not happening this year, we could still celebrate by wearing our green and enjoying traditional Saint Paddy's day food and beverage.



Sláinte!” While one of our Welsh Twins was keen to point something out “St David's have kindly remembered their Irish twinning partners on 17 March by displaying the Naas flag

(below right) on the village flagpole - while reminding us that Patrick was of Welsh origin!”

All these stories were carried on our Kildare Community Stories facebook page along with others including family poster competitions and a virtual tour of the County showing the efforts of our communities to make St Patricks day special even though we could not celebrate it together as normal.

## Community Grants

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

Details of all grants awarded in 2020 are listed above. The policy on Community, Festival and Resident’s Associations Grant Schemes was formally adopted by the council on 29 March. Online applications for

Community Section Grants Schemes closed on 07 April. The Community Section has commenced assessing all applications. It is hoped to present draft lists of awards to the members at the May municipal district meetings.



## **Local Community Development Committee April 2021**

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

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

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 23 meetings to date via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID-19 support helpline was established on 30 March by Kildare County Council. The Response Forum has representation from key statutory and voluntary organisations across the county. Mr Carey, Chief Executive chairs the forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most vulnerable are responded during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **COVID Round 2 Funding**

The LCDC have oversight responsibility for the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) funding available to community and voluntary groups to support responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic. €57,940 was made available to Kildare. The application process was widely advertised and closed on 26 February. In total 98 applications were received within the deadline to the value of €277,829.47- 5 times the amount of funding available.

At the last meeting of the LCDC 32 applications were approved. All applicants have been notified of the decision. Unsuccessful applications are being kept on a file should further funding to respond to COVID-19 become available.

### **Rural Development LEADER**

Three projects were allocated the remaining funding under Leader 2014-2020.



**KLD114700 Kildare Youth Services -  
€123,000**

This funding will be used towards the renovation of the KYS (now InSnyc) Canal Stores building in Naas including repair, replacement and insulation work.

**KLD111041 St. Kevin's GAA Club -  
€46,624.83**

This funding will aid the construction of a perimeter walkway for community use at their GAA grounds.

**KLD 111858 Narraghmore  
Development Company – The Old  
Hardware €20,173.41**

This grant aid will be used to purchase kitchen equipment for “The Old Hardware” community shop and tea-rooms/café in Narraghmore.

Recent announcements of transitional funding were made by Minister Humphries. This will make funding

available for projects for 2021/2022 until the next EU programme is agreed. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are finalising a promotional strategy and further information can be obtained by contacting CKLP:

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

**Social Inclusion Programme  
(SICAP)**

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 26 May 2021.



## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

As part of the Tourism Ireland Global Greening Campaign, Kildare Fáilte illuminated the Hill of Allen.



Kildare Fáilte collaborated with the industry, tourism sites and groups around the county who also took part and shared the activity from around Kildare with Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland. Sites who joined in the Global Greening included St Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower, the Keep at Barberstown Castle, Killashee Hotel, Kildare Village, Ardclough Visitor's Centre, Castletown House, the Curragh Racecourse, Kilkea Castle, the K Club, the Westgrove Hotel and the Glenroyal Hotel.

Kildare Fáilte assisted in promoting a number of the community activities which took place, including the greening of Naas, virtual Irish dancing, competitions and virtual parades.

The monthly Shackleton Museum Project meeting took place, of which Kildare Fáilte is on the Marketing Steering Group. Kildare Fáilte attended meetings with the Newbridge Tourism Development Group to look at ways to support the development of tourism in the town and with relevant stakeholders to discuss the support and promotion of Punchestown Festival and the Derby Festival – both which will be held virtually.

Following the appointment of a new Press Officer to Kildare County Council, an introductory meeting took place to discuss ways of working together, sharing information and supporting the promotion of the county.

Kildare Fáilte presented to the participants of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Barrow Blueway Programme, highlighting the importance of tourism to the county and ways which they can be supported by Kildare Fáilte in their new endeavours.



On behalf of Kildare County Council, Kildare Fáilte attended Reimagine: Making Place Better a workshop for local authorities which topics include the development of outdoor spaces and Public Realm works in destination towns.

At the Tourism Ireland Virtual Industry Event, the latest consumer sentiment research was presented, along with the key changes to travel from Great Britain as a result of Brexit. This will allow the tourism industry devise marketing plans for key markets. Kildare Fáilte continues to communicate and collaborate with Fáilte Ireland to share plans and activities with monthly calls. A call also took place with Tourism Ireland to identify ways in which they can support Kildare with visibility overseas, as one looks forward to the country reopening.

The Royal Canal Greenway officially launched on 24 March.



Mr Carey, Chief Executive Officer, Ms Mangan, Chief Executive Officer, Kildare Fáilte, Councillor Stafford, Cathaoirleach and Mr Mongey, Chair, Kildare Fáilte (from right to left).

In advance of the launch, Kildare Fáilte organised a photoshoot with tourism and hospitality businesses along the route and Kildare County Council to create promotional content to support the launch and promote the new trail.

A Visitor Experience Working Group has been set up to oversee the ongoing development of the Royal Canal Greenway, which held its first meeting in March. Kildare Fáilte is part of this group and will work alongside Waterways Ireland, Kildare County Council and the other local authorities to undertake a co-operative approach to the development and promotion of the Greenway.



Kildare Fáilte facilitated a seminar for tourism and hospitality businesses in the county, with guest speaker Mr Eoghan Corry. Mr Corry, who is a journalist, travel writer, industry expert and member of the Government Tourism Recovery Taskforce, presented his thoughts on the recovery of the tourism industry and challenges to be overcome. Ongoing calls were made to the industry through the month by Kildare Fáilte to share new programme opportunities and funding available.

Visitor engagement across all social media channels grew in March with an increase in engagement and followers. The most popular content was the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway and Kildare Going Green. In addition to the Royal Canal Greenway and St Patrick's Day, content across digital channels included inspirational posts showcasing the fantastic scenery, walking routes and hidden gems as well as a blog post for Mother's Day which highlighted the offers available around the county. The message, We Care in Kildare, and support local continues to be a key priority.



## Library and Arts Service

“Libraries are not a destination. They are the transportation. The Grand Central Station of every great city and town.”

– Unknown

### Beyond the Book Festival 2021

Plans for this year’s Beyond the Book Festival are currently being finalised.

The committee has a fantastic selection of events lined up for schools and families to inspire a love of reading and creativity. All events will take place online, via Zoom, and on Vimeo. The festival will include visits from writers Mr Kieran Fanning, Ms Muireann Ní Chíobháin, Ms Louise Shanagher, and illustrators Ms Bex Shelford and Ms Jen Farley. Following warm and enthusiastic feedback for events run by library staff, look out for special events hosted by Kildare Library Service’s own Book Champions. The Beyond the Book Festival takes place from 17 to 29 May, featuring events for children of all ages.

### Library eService’s Roadshow

Just after Easter our eService’s Team will begin a series of workshops and demonstrations of all our Library eService’s. This began on 12 April with the Library Service’s Team demonstrating how to use the Borrow Box app to download eBooks or eAudiobooks. Kildare library members have access to over 50,000 eBooks and 37,000 eAudiobooks.

On 13 April there was workshop on Universal Class which offered over 500 online training courses. The next day, 14 April the Library Service’s Team demonstrated Press Reader which gives you access to local, national and international newspapers and magazines online via the app or on a website. The following week demo workshops will continue with RB Digital eMagazines on 19, Freegal music streaming on 20 and Transparent Language Online on 21 April.

All of these events are free with registration on our Eventbrite and the Library Service’s Team will deliver the training over Zoom. Alongside this the eService’s Team are making



instructional video guides on all of these eService's which will be available after the eService's Web show.

## Reader Services

### Right to Read - Spring into Storytime

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It currently includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy, in addition to local programming. The Right to Read Programme incorporates both children and adult programming. The first national Right to Read Programme of the year, Spring into Storytime began on 01 April and will continue 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 through the Kildare Library Service's social media channels throughout the months of April and May and also on the Library

Service's Vimeo Spring into Storytime Channel

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

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

Newbridge Library hosted some very exciting events as part of the Kildare Librarie's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) Programme for Primary Schools this month with a Giraffe Habitat Challenge with Dublin Zoo to celebrate Engineers' Week. They also had a family talk with Professor Luke O'Neill called 'Vaccines, Viruses and the Immune System' where he spoke to primary school children and their parents all about the real science behind COVID-19. The talk was followed by a Q&A and it was a fantastic opportunity to ignite conversation in households around the country around the science behind the virus. A total of 215 attended.



## Capital Projects

### Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Duggan Lynch, main contractor for Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project commenced works in December. Under the Public Health Restrictions due to COVID-19 works ceased and the contractors closed the site on Friday 08 January. Level 5 restrictions have now been extended for non-residential construction works until 05 May and the site will remain closed until they are lifted.

### 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 Library Service is currently working with the Public Realm Team on the tender documents for a Design Team to progress the project to Part 8 planning. The tender for the Design Team will be run in the next couple of months.

### New Clane Library

The Library Service is currently working with the Architects Department, Kildare County Council on drawings and reports in preparation for the Part 8 planning application.

### Kildare Library Service Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

Kildare Library Service are busy implementing the new national Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme. The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), Libraries Development Unit and Age Friendly Ireland partnered to launch the programme earlier this year. It aims to support older people accessing online library resources, primarily BorrowBox, which is the library app used to download books and audiobooks to phone, tablet, or laptop.

14 library staff have taken on the roles of Digital Ambassadors and provide online or phone training to older people in Kildare. The training sessions guide trainees through the process of getting on the internet and downloading library apps which will offer a whole new digital world of



online activities, workshops, and classes.

In the challenging times we now live in, this training is a lifeline for many older people to connect with others and improve digital literacy skills.

### **Grow It Forward in Your School**

As part of the Government's Keep Well Programme, the #GrowItForward campaign is designed to help the nation eat well by inspiring and supporting people to grow some of their own food at home while connecting with friends and family to join them. 50,000 free food growing kits will be given away and participants will be asked to use the kits to share the experience with nine people. This will enable half a million people across Ireland to enjoy the wide range of benefits that come from growing food at home.

Kildare Library Service is inviting your school to participate in this campaign by supplying a starter pack which contains five seed packs, a growing guide and gift tags to grow it forward. This will provide an ideal opportunity to introduce young people to the advantages of growing your own, and

to foster a sense of achievement and cooperation. The seeds could be planted in your school garden and/or potted indoors for the students to bring home.

You can request a starter pack from Kildare Library Service at

<https://forms.office.com/r/4sr5zZEvWs>

It is one pack per request submitted but if you would like more than one please submit a request form for each pack. If you require a larger amount of packs or if you have any questions contact Ms Trina Coyne at

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

The packs will be posted or delivered to your school.

[Check out our GIF & Healthy Ireland](#)

[eBooks here](#) - New titles include Grow, Cook, Eat and GIY's Know-It-Allmanac. Further information and resources can be found at [www.giy.ie](http://www.giy.ie)

Join in and #GrowItForward.

@LibrariesIre, @HealthyIreland,

@LGMAIreland @giyireland



## **Kildare Arts Service**

### **Arts Grants and Bursary Opportunities**

Over 160 applications were submitted during the application window for the Arts Act Award and 13 other schemes. 53 successful applications were awarded grants (€71,550) which have been forwarded to each of the five Municipal Districts for formal approval at the April meetings. In addition, submissions for the Short Grass Film Commission and Kildare Decade of Commemorations Short Grass Film Commission 2021 are currently being assessed.

### **Murmurations**

#### **A Song Cycle Goes Live**

Murmurations is a 3-part song cycle created by Sharon Murphy and Sadhbh O'Sullivan reflecting and drawing upon the breadth and depth of loss experienced by older people and those living in residential care. Supported by Kildare County Council's Arts Service and the Irish Hospice Foundation as part of the dementia musical support programmes in the county, the project title refers to heightened feelings of empathy and the synchronisation of the collective

experience since March 2020. With an introduction written by psychologist and author Niamh Fitzpatrick, the three pieces was launched as digital recordings on 15 April.

### **Award for Kildare Young Filmmakers**

Kildare Young Filmmakers, who are supported by Kildare County Council's Arts Service, have been awarded the Best Group award for their film "The Inspector" at the Fresh International Film Festival's Young Filmmaker of the Year Senior Awards 2021, at an announcement which took place virtually on 26 March. Fresh International Film Festival invites young people from Ireland and overseas, aged 7 to 18 years, to create, exhibit and share films. The festival provides an opportunity for young filmmakers to have their work seen on a cinema screen for the first time and to compete for the title of Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year.



**New Arts Service Team Member**

Ms Eláine Donnelly recently took up her role as Assistant Arts Officer. Most recently Ms Donnelly was General Manager with Irish Theatre Institute, a

national resource organisation for the professional theatre sector. Prior to this she worked in venues, festivals and arts organisations in Galway, Roscommon and abroad.



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## **Parks**

### **Moat of Ardscull**

The expansion of the wildflower meadow will be completed before the end of the month. The remaining works to complete are the installation of seating, signage and bollards which should be complete by the summer.

### **Kilkea Village**

A contractor has been appointed to construct and plant 3no raised beds in the village. This will be completed once works restrictions are lifted.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

A request has been made to the elected members to forward potential projects which could be developed to apply for this grant scheme. The closing date for receipt of proposals is 30 April. Subject to staff resources and

existing commitments it is hoped to progress projects to applications.

If it is not possible to progress the projects this year then the aim is that they can be progressed in subsequent years. The co-operation and input of other departments may be required depending on the location and nature of potential projects.

### **Celbridge Outdoor Teen Facility**

A meeting was held with various stakeholders to discuss the development of an outdoor teen facility in Celbridge. The next stage is to form a Project Steering Group from interested stakeholders to progress the project through consultation to design and construction.



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## Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

### **Kildare County Council Welcomes Intel Jobs Announcement**

Kildare County Council welcomes the announcement by Intel to create 1,600 new jobs and expand their manufacturing space at its base in Leixlip, County Kildare.

The technology company already employs 4,500 in county Kildare and today's announcement comes as part of its global expansion plan.

As part of the planned expansion, an investment of \$7 billion in the Irish business over three years was confirmed, part of which includes expansion of its base in Leixlip in a major project, which will also create a further 5,000 construction jobs during that phase.

As a significant employer in the county, Intel is an integral part of Kildare's local economy and the creation of thousands of new, highly skilled jobs in the Leixlip base is vital for future economic development in the county."

### **Kildare County Council welcomes expansion of Hewlett Packard Enterprise Operations in Leixlip**

Kildare County Council is delighted to welcome the significant jobs announcement by Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), which will see the creation of new highly skilled jobs at the company's Kildare site in Leixlip. The announcement confirmed that HPE will be recruiting experienced candidates for 150 roles in cybersecurity, R&D, software development and cloud consulting in Kildare as well as the company's other Irish operations in Galway over the next two years.

Kildare County Council is committed to continuing to encourage and facilitate business development and growth in County Kildare and believe that commitments such as this from HPE and the recent Intel jobs announcement are significant endorsements of our county."



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/Discover-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.

## Entrepreneurship Support Services

### Kildare LEO Operating Full Services Remotely

In the interest of public health and safety, Kildare LEO must operate its services remotely however, **the Kildare County Council LEO remains open and continues to offer supports to the local business community.** Brexit supports, business advice and e-commerce funding and training are just some of the supports available. Please advise your constituents that all business supports are available on our website at [localenterprise.ie/Kildare](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare). For all other queries email:

[localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](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 Advice and Mentoring

Free of charge one to one business advice and mentoring are available



from the Kildare LEO. Please advise constituents to email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie) to set up a one-to-one session with a business advisor.

### **E-commerce Funding and Support**

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

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

The first step in applying is to attend an information seminar. The next seminar is taking place 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/>

- 3. Shop County Kildare** was established by Kildare County Council to cater to the needs of businesses throughout the pandemic. The website continues to operate and remains open to Kildare



businesses in need of an alternative route to generating sales. Please encourage constituents to register for Shop County Kildare at [www.shopcountykildare.ie](http://www.shopcountykildare.ie)

### **New Financial Support for Businesses**

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

The SBASC scheme was announced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on Thursday the 11 March and is now open for applications. The grant, which is available as a contribution towards fixed costs to assist a business to keep operational for an eventual re-opening, is available to an applicant operating from a rateable property.

Please advise constituents to apply for the scheme

here: <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/%20>

Details of eligibility of the scheme and the online application form can be accessed through the above link.

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

The aim of the SBASC 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 SBASC Scheme will only be open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafés, public houses or other establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises. Applicants can apply to the Local Authority for a grant of up to €4,000 (for up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed).

This is a doubling of the previous Street Furniture Grant Scheme which was implemented by some local authorities in 2020. Successful applicants who received a grant under this scheme in 2020 can apply for the



additional €2,000 (subject to the same conditions). Expenditure must be incurred between 01 April 2020 and 30 September 2021 and payment will be made by local authorities to approved applicants on submission of receipts and photography of furniture in situ.

The SBASC scheme will be administered economic. All applicants will be required to comply with planning Section 254 codes, legislative requirements and other compliance requirements. The following is a list of eligible expenditure:

- Tables
- Chairs
- Umbrellas
- Electric heaters
- Screens/windbreaks
- Plant stands
- Wooden Platforms

The SBASC Scheme will be open from the 12 April 2021 for applications. Applicants will apply through their relevant local authority. The scheme will close on the 30 September 2021.

Email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie) for more details

### **Tech Accelerator Programme**

On 25 March, the Global Ambition Tech Accelerator Programme took place. This programme is run in association with MERITS tech hub and is for early-stage and scaling Digital and Tech businesses. 14 tech start-ups began the 10-week programme. It is expected that these businesses will take up membership in the MERITS hub when it opens later this year.

### **Amazon Workshop**

On Tuesday 13 April, the LEO in association with Enterprise Ireland and Amazon hosted a two-day Amazon Bootcamp to provide Kildare businesses with free training and guidance to support with increasing online sales and reaching new customers. The programme also provided businesses with the tools to sell products on amazon.

### **#JoinIn Virtual Coffee Break Series**

Following the success of the series in 2020 and the demand to continue the initiative, the Join In Virtual Coffee Break Series takes place every Monday. The objective of the series is to provide Kildare business owners



with the opportunity to communicate with peers experiencing similar Covid related issues, share ideas and discuss topics of interest.

The next session takes place on Monday 19 April. For more information and to book your place, follow the link: [https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Wednesday-Wisdom-for-Leaders-With-Gerry-Duffy.html)

### **Lunchtime Lessons with Leaders**

March saw the final session of the eight-week lunchtime series Lunchtime Lessons for Leaders with one of Ireland's foremost keynote speakers, Mr Gerry Duffy. The workshops took place on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. where Mr Duffy delivered a module that focuses on transforming Kildare individuals and businesses to achieve a greater focus and set clearer goals.

The total number of Kildare business owners in attendance at these sessions across the series was 629.

Mr Duffy is hosting a second, six-week series from 21 April to 26 May. Spaces on this programme are limited. Please advise constituents to book a place

here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Wednesday-Wisdom-for-Leaders-With-Gerry-Duffy.html>

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

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

From Monday 12 April – Friday 16 April, Kildare LEO provided sector specific Green for Micro information briefings to provide businesses with information on the benefits of completing the programme. Sectors included; craft, manufacturing, architect and tourism and hospitality.

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



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

### **Student Enterprise Programme**

The county final of the Student Enterprise Programme took place on Thursday 25 March where Ms Roshanna Houlihan from Newbridge College took home the top prize.

1,050 students from across 14 secondary schools in Kildare took part in the annual programme and attended the county final on Thursday 25 March 2021 which was held virtually.

Ms Houlihan will represent Kildare at the national final in May 2021, in the senior category of the competition on 14 May.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Newbridge-Student-Wins-County-Final-of-Student-Enterprise-Programme.html>

### **Economic Support Services**

#### **County Kildare Diaspora Strategy**

Facilitated by Ms Sally Murphy of Murphy Communications, Kildare County Council are seeking to create linkages and networks that create and

maintain relationships, share experiences, create opportunities and deliver on further investment and economic activity for our county.

Currently at the stakeholder consultation/information gathering stage with some influential contacts identified for further consultation and engagement. Public consultation piece open until 23 April 2021.

Consultation and facilitation phase from January – April - good working draft copy of the strategy due the end of May/June 2021.

### **Business and Tourism**

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

Kildare County Council LEO engaged with these projects that are being coordinated by Waterways Ireland by offering business advice and mentoring services to those businesses wishing to capitalize on the economic benefits of these developments and in the roll out of bespoke Start Your Own Business Programmes for the sector too.



## Economic Development – Capital Projects

### MERITS – Innovation Hub

Latest information suggests that construction will recommence 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. The MERITS Programme Manager, Ms Eshna Gogia, joined on 05 April and will take an active role in programme delivery, marketing and public relations for MERITS.

### Equine Tech Innovation Hub

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



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

Following the completion of the tendering process, a design team led by Ms Bluett O'Donoghue has been appointed. The project team have held weekly meetings with the design team and a programme schedule has been approved.

Work has advanced considerably on the detailed design and Part 8 planning process following a pre planning meeting with the various departments in Kildare County Council. A food consultant has recently been appointed to work with the project team on the detailed design of the building. The project team have fully briefed the Athy Municipal District

councillors on the project. The Part 8 planning consultation process commenced on the 23 February and submissions closed on 06 April. The project and design team will work closely with Kildare County Council to present the Part 8 for approval to the Athy Municipal District Committee in the coming weeks.

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



## Appendix: 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><br>The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.   | <a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html</a>   |
|                           | <b>Enterprise Support Grant –</b><br>is available to assist self-employed recipients who are exiting the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) scheme. This will provide owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to re-start their business | <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/">https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f9b1f-enterprise-support-grant-now-available-to-small-business-owners-and-school-meals-scheme-to-be-extended-into-summer/</a> |



|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Restart Grant –</b><br/>for registered rate payers. Direct funding relating to rates paid to Kildare County Council in 2019 (delivered through the council's Rates Department.) <b>Note:</b> Applications closed 31 October</p> | <p><a href="http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/">http://www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Finance/ReStartGrant/</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Generate Revenue with Online Sales</b></p>                        | <p><b>Shop County Kildare –</b> new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way</p>   | <p><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></p>   |
|   | <p><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>.</p>                                  | <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage</b></p> | <p><b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme</b></p>  | <p><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></p> |
| <p><b>Advisory:</b></p>   |   |  |
| <p><b>Expert Strategic Mentoring</b></p>                                | <p>Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors</p>  | <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE</a></p>   |



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Health and Safety Guidance</b></p>                            | <p>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</p>  | <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines</b></p> | <p>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</p> | <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE">https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing</b></p>       | <p><b>Re-Designing Businesses Programme</b> - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing</p>  | <p>Email <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> to apply</p>   |
| <p><b>Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales</b></p> | <p>Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating</p>  | <p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a></p> |
| <p><b>Communications:</b></p>                                       |  |  |
| <p><b>Frequent Updates Regarding the</b></p>                        | <p>The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of</p>  | <p>Head of Enterprise<br/><b>Note:</b></p>   |



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

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