



## Chief Executive's Management Report – July 2021

### Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



#### Getting ready to welcome you back

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

#ThePathAhead



#### Access to Public Offices

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

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

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

All non statutory meetings are held online on Microsoft TEAMS. Since the Council AGM in June most statutory meetings are now being held in person and this will continue in July.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text KILDARE to 50555.

Community calls are handled by Customer Services.

**Current opening hours are**

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

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



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## News Items

### **Your Council Day 2021**

Your Council Day 2021 took place on Thursday 01 July and local authorities across the country showcased their work (see page 7).

### **New Contact Us Portal**

A new online contact system has been launched by Kildare County Council (see page 7).

### **Annual General Meeting of Kildare County Council**

Annual General Meeting of Kildare County Council took place on Friday 25 June in Newbridge Town Hall (see page 9).

### **Annual Meetings of the Municipal District Committees**

The Annual Meetings of the Municipal District Committees took place in July (see page 10home).

### **Homeless Services**

On 21 June, the Minister for Housing signed the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (see page 14).

### **Decision by An Bord Pleanala - Ballyshannon Kilcullen**

Report on Recent Decision by An Bord Pleanala at Ballyshannon Kilcullen (see page 28).

### **Event Licence**

Application received on 10 June 2021 for Forever Young 2021 to be held at Palmerstown House Estate (see page 29).

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 127 separate Green Kilometres have been established (see page 43).



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### **Just Transition**

The Municipal Districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 (see page 56).

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

The Greenway from Maynooth to Moyvalley is now substantially complete and operational (see page 64).

### **Kildare Civil Defence**

Assisted Covid Support Desk with transport requests for vaccination centres requests to Punchestown and the Aviva in Dublin (see page 74).

### **Community Development Work**

The Community Department have worked with the Housing Department to expand the team of Community Workers so that the council now have a dedicated Community Worker for each municipal district (see page 80).

### **Naas Heritage Trail signage**

Following a collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte are excited to present the newly refurbished and designed Naas Heritage Trail signage. (see page 84).

### **MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre**

The application process for tenancy within the MERITS building is now open and the team will select suitable companies to occupy the building from its opening in September. The MERITS website is now fully functioning and available at [www.merits.ie](http://www.merits.ie) (see page 96).



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## Diary/Calendar

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

The scheme went live on the 10 June 2021. The closing date for receipt of applications is 21 July 2021 (see page 12).

### **2020 Audit**

The audit of the 2020 Annual Financial Statements will commence on 27 July 2021 (see page 12).

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

The deadline for completion of approved work under the Scheme has been extended to 31 January 2022 (see page 17).

### **Naas Local Area Plan**

It is proposed to commence public consultation on the proposed material alterations on the 23 July for four weeks (see page 25).

### **Water Services - Contract 2B (Network)**

In Naas, the Monread Road is closed until the 08 August to cater for pipeline works (see page 38).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 41).

### **Climate Leadership training**

Training under this module is due to take place in Kildare on 24 September (see page 48).

### **Into Kildare Website**

Work continued on a new website for Into Kildare to promote tourism in the county and this will launch on 22 July (see page 83).



Today < > September 2021

Dublin - Today 70° F / 57° F Tomorrow 70° F / 57° F Friday 70° F / 55° F Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Aug	30	31	<b>1 Sep</b>	2 10:30 LTACC 14:30 Transport Safety and Emergency Services SPC	3 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly meeting	4
5	6 15:00 County JPC	7	8 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services and Water SPC	9 09:30 Integration Strategy Implementation Steering Committee 14:30 Housing SPC	10	11
12	13 13:00 Finance Committee 14:30 CPG	14 15:30 Naas MD	15 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD	16	17 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD 15:30 Decade of Commemoration Committee	18
19	20 10:00 Athy MD 15:00 Full Council ??	21	22	23 10:00 Economic Enterprise and Economic SPC	24	25
26	27 15:00 Full Council ??	28 14:30 Audit committee	29 10:00 LCDC	30 14:30 Protocol Meeting	<b>1 Oct</b> 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting	2



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## Corporate Services

### Communications



### Your Council Day 2021

Your Council Day 2021 took place on Thursday 01 July and local authorities across the country showcased the work of our committed and passionate employees who make a difference to the lives of the people in our communities.

Across its social media channels, the council highlighted the essential work of Kildare County Council and its employees as well as the role the local authority has and will continue to play in our county's social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council would like to thank all the staff who took part in its campaign to highlight this great work. You can catch up on all of the Your Council Day 2021 content on Facebook (Kildare County Council) and Twitter (@KildareCoCo).

### Customer Services



### New Contact Us Portal

A new online contact system has been launched by Kildare County Council.

It can be used 24/7 by customers to notify the Council of any query, service request or complaint in relation to any of our services.

The new portal can be accessed on the Council's website through the "Contact Us" icons or directly at this link:

<https://kildaremembers.powerappsportals.com/report-it-frm/>



Users can opt to block or allow their location on their devices when using the Portal.

Allowing location will enable customers to use mapping functions on the portal to pin-point locations, which is especially useful if customers are reporting a location-specific issue.

Users can also upload attachments/documents on this portal, with a 20mb individual filesize limit.

On submitting their issue, customers will see an on-screen confirmation of receipt, with their case reference number.

This case will be assessed in our Customer Relationship Management system, during normal working hours, and assigned to the correct service area.

Customers will then receive an email identifying the name of the Department and Section dealing with the matter, or, for more routine matters, a response to their enquiry.

Customers are asked to always use their Case Reference Number in their communications with the Council.

### **Appointments system:**

Kildare County Council has facilitated over 60,000 appointments in the last year using its Online Appointment system launched in July last year.

To avoid waiting times and have an efficient experience if attending in person for services in our Libraries or Offices, customers are encouraged to use the Council's Appointment Booking System:

<https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/>



## Freedom of Information

### Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2021	Total received Quarter 2, 2021	Total 2021
Freedom of Information requests	34	42	76
Freedom of Information appeals	0	0	0
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	8	6	14
Ombudsman	10	9	19

## Members Services

### Meetings

#### Full Council



The Annual General Meeting of Kildare County Council took place on Friday 25 June in Newbridge Town Hall, where Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil was elected as Cathaoirleach and Councillor Carmel Kelly was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleah. The members and the executive wished them both well in their new roles and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Mark Stafford and Leas-Cathaoirleach Councillor Tim Durkan for their work over the previous term.



**Clane-Maynooth** – Councillor  
Brendan Wyse appointed  
Cathaoirleach, Councillor Daragh  
Fitzpatrick appointed Leas-  
Cathaoirleach



### Municipal District Committees

The Annual Meetings of the Municipal District Committees took place in July with the following appointments made:

**Celbridge-Leixlip** – Councillor Joe  
Neville appointed Cathaoirleach,  
Councillor Vanessa Liston appointed  
Leas-Cathaoirleach

**Naas** – Councillor Seamie Moore  
appointed Mayor, Councillor Evie  
Sammon appointed Deputy Mayor.





**Athy** – Annual Meeting takes place on Monday 19 July

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Annual Meeting takes place on Wednesday 21 July

The members of each Municipal District received a presentation from the Mr Peter Mulhern, Energy Efficiency Officer and which will be available on the Members Information Portal.

Each Municipal District Committee also discussed the Capital Programme 2022-2024 relevant to their municipal district.

### **Protected Disclosures**

The annual report on protected disclosures to 30 June 2021 has been published on the website. There was 1 protected disclosure and it was dealt with in accordance with the policy on receipt of protected disclosures which is available on the website. The policy on receipt of disclosures on financial reporting and other financial matters adopted by the audit committee is also available on the website.



## **Finance and Information Technology**

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

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

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

launched and 41 appeals have been received.

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

As part of the Government's Economic Recovery Plan on 01 June SBASC for Quarter 2 scheme was announced. The scheme went live on the 10 June 2021. The closing date for receipt of applications is 21 July 2021. SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and microenterprises can apply for a grant of €4,000 for those with turnover above €50,000 and €1,000 for microenterprises with a turnover of between €20,000 and €49,999, This scheme has been extended to include those businesses that are operating from non-rateable premises such as a home office or hot-desk. To date 40 new applications and 50 applications for renewals for second payments have been received.

### **2020 Audit**

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2020 Annual Financial Statements on 27 July 2021. Elected members were



emailed with the confirmed date earlier in June.

### **Motor Tax**

Motor Tax is continuing to provide a full suite of services during restrictions.

Direct customer contact is by appointment only and times are restricted. Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). If they are not in a position to use the online facility, the council are accepting and continue to process postal applications.

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

### **Monthly Management Reports**

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



## Housing

### Homeless Services

On 21 June, the Minister for Housing signed the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness. The declaration acknowledges that homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of social exclusion, negatively affecting people's physical and mental health, well-being, and quality of life, as well as their access to employment and access to other economic and social services. It is also acknowledged that the phenomenon of homelessness affects all member states and has increased substantially over the last decade in the EU.

National, regional and local authorities, will:

- promote the prevention of homelessness, access to permanent housing and the provision of enabling support services to the homeless;
- welcome the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of these policy measures;
- support the council's policy measures with adequate funding and, when appropriate, make use of EU funding as a lever to improve the way the council addresses homelessness; and
- share the council's good practices in combatting homelessness.

### Update from National Homeless Lead Meeting

The National Homeless Lead meeting was held on the 06 July and there continues to be no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county and a very low volume nationally. Advice from the HSE and the Department of Housing is to keep existing units reserved for isolation purposes for the short to medium term until further advice is received.

The Homeless team has been strengthened in recent months with the



appointment of Outreach Officers, Tenancy Sustainability Officers and Homeless Support Officers facilitating significant improvement to work in relation to Homeless Prevention measures that were previously not achievable.

### **Outreach Work Quarter 2:**

#### **Move Ons**

18 exits from emergency accommodation. 27 male Cold Weather Initiative beds reduced to 10 beds. Eight female Cold Weather Initiative beds reduced to five beds.

#### **Treatment**

Four successful interventions to residential treatment for homeless individuals.

#### **Housing First**

Three Housing First tenancies created. Nine active tenancies and an additional six tenancies pending.

#### **Rough sleepers**

Ongoing streetwork completed with rough sleepers across Kildare. Each of the five municipal district areas targeted once a week on a rolling basis, leading to more positive engagement with homeless rough sleepers and more accurate data collection.

### **Tenancy Sustainment Quarter 2**

The Tenancy Sustainment Service assists tenants with:

- Settling into accommodation including home visits
- Providing ongoing post-settlement supports
- Ensuring tenants are fully briefed on services available to them from external agencies
- Providing support and advice on finances, benefit entitlements, health and education.

### **Tenancy Sustainment**

Exits from Emergency Accommodation:

- Seven Family Units comprising eight adults and ten children.



There are now 34 family units being supported with Tenancy Sustainment.

12 family units are also being supported within the Athy and Prosperous Family Hubs.

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	14	23	18
6 - 12 Months	10	12	14
12 - 18 Months	7	9	16
18 - 24 Months	6	8	6
24 - 30 Months	6	11	15
36 Months +	3	5	7
	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>76</b>

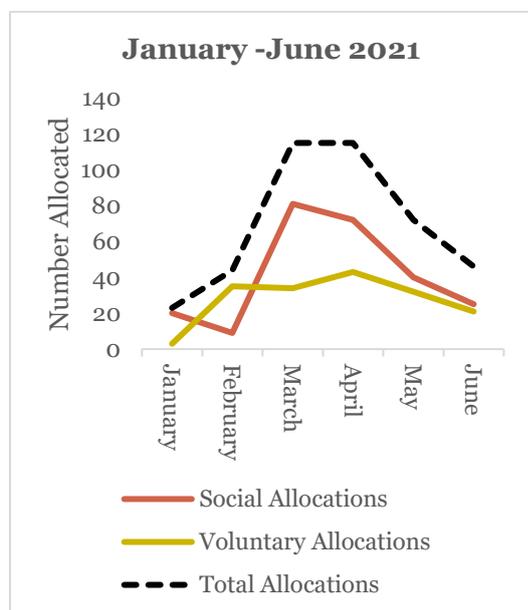
### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2021

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



## Number of Allocations

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



## Inspection of Private Rented Properties

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

## Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

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

## Traveller Community

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

## Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

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

87 successful applicants have been notified. Due to current COVID-19 related restrictions, the deadline for completion of approved work under the



Scheme has been extended to 31 January 2022 and successful applicants have been notified.

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	The preferred tenderer withdrew their tender at pre-contract stage. Assessment has commenced on the second lowest tenderer who has advised they will stand over their tender price. Revised Stage 4 application to be submitted to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval and revised notice letters to issue to tenderers.
<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.	Stage 2 Cost Plan reviewed and Stage 2 application being prepared for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval to proceed to Part 8.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Detailed design process and detailed pre-tender cost check complete. Recommendation to submit Approval Stage 3 issued to Director 13 July 2021 for endorsement and submission to the Department to follow.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Design team meetings, surveys, investigation and design development progressing. Existing house vacated and securing of property in hand. Social and affordable units to be developed on this site.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultants tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 application for approval for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Quarter 3 2021.
<b>Approval</b>		



Stage 1		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Design team meetings, surveys and investigation progressing.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Design team meetings, surveys and investigation progressing.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Stage 1 submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage being prepared for development of 73 units [to include 15no. affordable units].

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3 2021.
Narraghmore	4 units	Part 8 withdrawn due to lack of wastewater capacity. Feasibility of on-site treatment currently under way, site investigation complete and awaiting recommendations from Site Investigation results.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3 2021.
Patrician Ave, Naas	1 new + 1 refurb	Single stage approved 06 July 2021. Preparation of Part 8 progressing in house. Preparation of tender for Architect Lead Design Team progressing in house.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for single stage approval for new unit being prepared for submission to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and ICR funding sought for refurb of existing units.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Completion expected Quarter 3 2021. Irish Water have commenced works in Collegewood Manor to allow connection of foul and mains water.
Andrew, Athy	74 units	Section 85 approved at June meeting. Briefing to Athy Municipal District members held on 12 July. Target to launch Part 8 in September.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Construction recommenced on site 12 April 2021 and progressing well.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Contractor commenced in March 2020. Completion programmed for March 2022.



Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Further design development required to address ESB mobile mast and access for future maintenance. Revised design received and being assessed. Awaiting feedback from Planning Department.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naa	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Significant site remediation cost identified. Architects to review report received from Cluid and investigate potential for funding site remediation costs.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 09 March 2021.
Camphill Communities of Ireland, Kilcullen	4 units	Planning application approved. Stage 3 being prepared.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	28 units	Revised proposal to increase development from 28 to 34 older person units received from Sophia Housing. Proposal submitted for pre-planning in December 2020 and feedback issued to Sophia Housing. Recommendation is that proposal is reduced to 28 units on this site.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	31 units	CAS 2 application received from Cluid – Review to follow.
The Peter McVerry Trust Sallins	4 units	Revised proposal for four units submitted for review in March 2021 and discussed with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage technical staff. Pre-planning meeting to follow.

### Homeless Presentations

2020	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1179	348	831
2021	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	204	83	121
Quarter 2	121	73	48
Quarter 3			
Quarter 4			
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>169</b>

### Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2020	Adults	Dependents
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Total	390	316
<b>2021</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	93	62
Quarter 2	87	77

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	6
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	7
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	40
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>53</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2021	0	21	6	10	16
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	7	1	1	7	51

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

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove; Tender return 29 June 2021 (EOT given). Tender under assessment.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	19	Phase 2 Ashbrook; tender assessed successful/unsuccessful letters to be issued.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	26	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurry View; tender return extended to Thurs 08 July 21
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	12	Phase 4 St Evins' Park; out to tender, return extended to 07 July 21.



Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First five units contract ready, remaining five units scheduled.
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	TBC	Documentation/surveys close to completion, final numbers to be confirmed. Expect tender to issued 08 July 21.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	TBC	Documentation/surveys close to completion, final numbers to be confirmed. Further residents have shown interest and availing of scheme, now at 39 No Units. Tender issued 06 July 21.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	TBC	A number of vacant units will be included as part of the Retrofit Programme. These units are presently being assessed and scheduled.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021 to date
<b>Total Approved</b>	€7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)	€8,502,759 (includes 2020 applications)
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)	€2,011,754 (€1,661,245 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €350,500 from 2021 approvals)

2021	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No (2021 apps)	Approval Drawdown Amount (2021 apps)	Expired No (2021 apps)	Expired Amount (2021 apps)
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	4	€787,300	0	0	0	0
Mar	9	€1,895,600	0	0	0	0
Apr	5	€869,200	0	0	0	0
May	13	€2,956,589	0	0	0	0
June	9	€1,994,070	2	€350,500	0	0

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

2020	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
TOTAL	33	6	5
2021	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Quarter 1	10	0	0
Quarter 2	12	0	8



## 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- Q1</b>	96	78	0	0	109	71
<b>2021- Q2</b>	109	84	0	0	88	68

## Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

Year	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
<b>2020</b>	1078	607	562
<b>2021 – Q1</b>	194	143	108
<b>2021 - Q2</b>	318	108	84

## Social Housing Applications

<b>2020</b>	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	237	75	705	8	171
<b>2021</b>	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Quarter 1 2021	18	17	181	2	26
Quarter 2 2021	39	24	241	1	31

## HAP Applications

2020	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	586	134	682



<b>2021</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>	<b>Applications Rejected</b>	<b>Applications Approved</b>
Quarter 1	134	20	88
Quarter 2	130	30	145

## Housing Maintenance

<b>2020</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Offered</b>
Total	97	108	6,939	6,733	80
<b>2021</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed</b>	<b>Number of Self Help Grants Offered</b>
Quarter 1	29	29	2,109	1,660	0
Quarter 2	18	7	1,940	1,883	87
Total	47	36	4,049	3,543	87



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

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

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

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

A meeting to consider the Chief Executive's report and member's directions on the CDP Issues Paper

took place on the 29 June. Work to prepare the draft plan is ongoing.

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

#### **Athy**

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Proposed Material Alterations was circulated to the elected members of the Athy Municipal District on the 02 July. A special meeting of the Athy Municipal District is scheduled for the 03 August at which the Chief Executive's Report and proposed material alterations will be considered and the plan adopted.

#### **Naas**

A special meeting of the council was held on 29 June at which the Draft Local Area Plan and the Chief Executive's report on submissions received to the Draft Naas LAP were considered. It was resolved at that meeting to place the proposed material alterations on public display. It is proposed to commence public consultation on the proposed material



alterations on the 23 July for four weeks.

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: June 2021	
June	Year	No.	Total Granted:	108	
2019:	124	746	1,234	Retention:	16
2020:	143	695	1,614	Extension of Duration:	5
2021:	196	962	387	Total Refused:	20

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

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

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
21/828	Aidan Henry	Revision of existing planning permission Ref. 17/711(for provision of a creche), to create a new convenience unit, to include new revised entrance position, and other associated works at Callenders Mill, Celbridge,Co. Kildare.	Valid	02/08/2021
21/582	Value Retail Dublin Ltd	Development at this site of c. 2.47 hectares located to the north of St. Brigid's Primary School's existing sports ground, south of "Abbey Villa", Monasterevin Road and north-east of the Kildare Tourist Outlet Village; at Kildare Tourist Outlet Village, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare.	Valid	29/07/2021
21/732	Liffey Bridge Homes Ltd	Construction of 65 No. residential units at Collinstown Townland, Junction R449 and Green Lane, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.	Valid	20/07/2021
20/1296	DoES Gaelscoil	2-storey eight classroom Primary School Building (Roll Number	Valid	19/07/2021



	Ruairi Maynooth	20527F), including a two classroom SEN Base, hall and ancillary accommodation. associated car parking, access road, pedestrian and bicycle at Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.		
20/1329	Noel Lawlor Sand & Gravel	20 year permission for infilling of an existing and future quarry void (Ref 07/723 & 17/1107), with inert soil and stone to return the land to use (agri) an are of cica. 18.95ha in Portersize and Timolin Townlands, Ballitore, Co Kildare	Valid	14/07/2021
21/692	North City Builders	Demolition of onsite buildings, construction of a new 16 unit apartment scheme at Cois Abhainn, Liffey Lodge, Clare, Co Kildare	Valid	13/07/2021
21/618	Kilsaran Concrete	Application area c39.5ha. Continued use of existing permitted development and works; extension to works area c11.4ha; restoration of entire site; proposed operational period 10 years, plus two years for restoration; EIAR and NIS prepared. Ballysaxhills Townland, Kilcullen	Refusal	01/07/2021
21/608	Strategic Power Projects Ltd	Battery storage compound for 76 units on c.4,089ha; new entrance off L6044; extend site access road and ancillary works at Dunnstown, Co Kildare	Refusal	30/06/2021
21/370	Glenveagh Homes	Mixed residential and commercial development with a total gross floorspace of c20,023sqm and a single level basement carpark of c8,153sqm at Parson Street, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 14/05/2021
21/156	High Degree Developments	Phase 2; 47 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 1.99 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Court) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021
21/155	High Degree Developments	Phase 1; 58 dwellings out of a total 105 on a 2.18 ha site adjoining existing lands at (Rockfield Park) Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	Further Information	Requested 31/03/2021
21/117	Johnstownbridge Spire Ltd	68 residential units at Johnstownbridge	Refusal Appealed 26/04/2021	30/08/2021



21/84	Ummeras Wind Farm Ltd	5 No. 169m high wind turbines and associated works at Ummeras, North Monasterevin Area	Refusal Appealed 14/04/2021	17/08/2021
20/1143	Musgrave Ltd	Extension and to distribution centre at Boycetown, Kilcock, an increase of 12,785 sqm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted	Grant	01/07/2021
20/1403	Bernard Moran	94 Dwelling units plus creche at Curryhills, Prosperous	Valid	NIS submitted 02/08/2021
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.	Grant Appealed 09/06/2021	12/10/2021

**Report on Recent Decision by An Bord Pleanala**

**Planning Register Reference:**  
**19/1097 (ABP PL09.306297)**

**Applicant:** Kilsaran Concrete

**Proposed Development:** Permission for new sand and gravel extraction on c.32.3 hectares at Racefield, Ballyshannon, Kilcullen

**Application received by Kildare County Council:** 03 October 2019

**Notification of Decision to Refuse Permission made by Kildare County Council:** 27 November 2019

Permission refused for inter alia the 4 no. following reasons:

- Substandard roads.
- No consent in place to improve roads to required standard.
- Proximity to residential dwellings impinging on environmental quality, visual and residential amenity.
- Did not demonstrate that SAC will not be adversely affected.

**Decision Appealed to An Bord Pleanala:** 02 January 2020

**Planning Permission Granted by An Bord Pleanala:** 09 June 2021

Permission granted subject to 11 no. conditions.



The decision to grant planning permission by An Bord Pleanála is currently being reviewed and assessed. Once this assessment is complete the elected members will be further briefed in this regard.

### **Event Licence**

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

### **Section 254 Licences**

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

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

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

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

Licences have been granted providing 158 tables and 502 chairs for outdoor seating, with 31 further applications in progress. To date, five applications have been refused - some because they are on private property.

### **Conservation Update**

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

### **Heritage**

### **Funding Applications**



Second call National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund (€15,000):  
Funding applied for Himalayan Balsam survey of the River Liffey banks in Kildare with University College Dublin.

### **Planning**

Planning Files completed in 2021 to date - 109 applications.

### **Geophysical survey of Old Kilcullen**

Project has not commenced.

### **Online biodiversity workshops/mentoring and pollinator and Citizen Science workshops**

Project has not commenced.

### **Kildare Invasive Species Actions 2021 (American Skunk Cabbage control) with University College Dublin**

Control is almost completed.  
Consultants will begin to develop management procedure and educational video over the coming months.

### **Habitats and ecosystem services video Project**

Consultants appointed.

### **Heritage Week 2021**

Preparations for a mainly online event has been begun.

### **Irish Walled Town Network**

Funding secured for two interpretation projects in Castledermot and Kildare.

### **Holy Wells of County Kildare Audit**

Archaeology Plan have been appointed to conduct the survey on holy wells in Kildare. Public campaign will begin in July 2021.

### **Know your locality Course**

Course 2 ran from 01 June with 30 participants. To date 57 participants have attended the course with course 3 and 4 scheduled to run in the Autumn.

### **Biodiversity Infomercials**

A series of Biodiversity infomercial will run from May to September on a number of biodiversity themes.



### **Kilkea Stone Table**

Conservation Letterfrack has been liaising with owners of Kilkea Castle regarding removal of plinth. The plinth has now been removed to Dublin for conservation and the table has been removed from the National Museum for conservation. The site at Kilkea Castle was reinstated. All National Museum paperwork regarding licence applications completed.

### **Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2021-2031**

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

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

Application for inclusion on the Irish Tentative list has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with five other local authorities.

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

Consultants appointed.

### **Passlands Graveyard - Monasterevin**

Assessment of conservation requirements underway.



## Public Realm

### Public Realm Funding Applications and other items

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

The following are almost complete;

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Grant Awarded
Ballymore Eustace	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000.00
Punchestown, Eadestown	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000.00
Castledermot	Cycle Cafe	€27,500.00	€25,000.00

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 3

Design work has commenced on the following projects, with physical works implemented at Poplar Square, Naas;

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



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

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 & Town Renewal Plan	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding

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

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Funding Awarded	Comments
Naas	Town centre Masterplan & 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	€2,545,000	€1,900,000	Consultant to be procured.



	Square, Harbourfield and environs.			

**SPECIAL PROJECTS and PUBLIC REALM TEAM**

<b>Concept</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence after the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Consultant appointed to carry out a hydrological survey which will inform design options.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan - URDF Application successful.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Maynooth-Town Branding and Signage – included in successful URDF application.
<b>Naas</b> - Lantern Building -Yet to commence.
<b>Naas</b> - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Design has commenced on NTA funded interim traffic management measures.
<b>Part 8</b>
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published June 2021.



**Kildare-Newbridge** - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking underway. Temporary closure of Market Square carp ark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.

**Kildare-Newbridge** – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13 April 2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on 19 May 2021.

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

### **Tender Consultants and Design**

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

**Athy** – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.

**Athy** - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.

**Celbridge-Leixlip** – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.

**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.



<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage- Poor response received to public consultation. Additional consultation being considered.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage -Tender for detailed design to be issued. .</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held.</p>
<p><b>Tender Consultants</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Research underway.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b> - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in mid 2021 and will take nine months to complete.</p>
<p><b>Athy</b>- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
<p><b>Tender Works</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>



<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Tender responses being assessed.</p>
<p><b>Design</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Public consultation has commenced.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Work commencing on tender for Part 8 plans for the library element.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street</b> - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting to be scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 to be published in June 2021. Included in successful URDF application.</p>
<p><b>Detailed Design</b></p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. 5 no. tenders received. Contractor appointed and works have commenced. Playground to be temporarily relocated during construction works.</p>
<p><b>On Hold</b></p>



<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.
<b>Construction</b>
<b>Naas</b> - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works almost complete.
<b>Naas</b> – MERITS - Duggan Lynch appointed as contractors. Works will recommence once current restrictions are lifted.
<b>Complete</b>
<b>Athy</b> - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December.

## Water Services

### Infrastructural Projects

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

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

#### Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works on the Clane and Sallins rising mains are complete and both rising mains have gone live in Quarter 1, 2021. In Naas, the Monread Road is closed until the 08 August to cater for pipeline works to the Kill rising main and the Monread gravity sewer network. In Newbridge, pipeline works have been completed on the R445 towards Langton's Cross / McLoughlin's Oil junction. Pipeline works have also restarted on the



Moorefield and Standhouse Roads and works are substantially complete in the Páirc Mhuire housing estate. Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins Pumping Stations.

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

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Operate (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning of the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant is continuing. The Exelys Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) is intended to be fully operational by end of Quarter 3 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 in 2021. Consultants have been appointed to



progress the longer-term pumping solution at the buffer tank site.

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

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

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

### **Water Networks Management Projects**

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

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

(LIHAF) and the Major Urban Housing Delivery Sites Scheme (MUHDS), an extension of the water main infrastructure was required to facilitate planned housing development demands in this area.

This project involved the construction of 755 metres of a new watermain. All works have now successfully been completed as part of this scheme.

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

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

To date, all planned service transfer works have been completed as part of this scheme. An additional package of work has since been identified and is required to allow for the full decommissioning of the cast iron water mains in this area. Additional funding has been allocated and works commenced in May 2021 which involve the installation of approximately 250 metres of new



watermain together with associated assets along School Lane, within Suncroft Village. All additional works on school lane were completed in June 2021. All decommissioning works identified under the Suncroft Village Service Transfer scheme have now also been successfully completed.

### **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.

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

#### **Lourdesville BYSS**

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. Prior to the decommissioning of the existing Cast Iron watermains throughout Lourdesville, further investigational works are required to ensure all properties are connected to the new supply. It is now expected that these works will be completed in Quarter 3 of 2021.

#### **Campion Crescent BYSS**

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

#### **Assumpta Villas BYSS**

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

#### **Rowanville BYSS**

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



### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

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

26 July – 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

29 November – 1.00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of these clinics.

### **Environment Services**

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

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

#### **Civic Amenity Facilities**

The two civic amenity sites continue to operate as normal.

### **Recycling Banks**

In June, the decrease in glass tonnages at recycling banks continued from the previous month. In June last year, 563 tonnes of glass and cans were recovered. This year, for the same month, the figure is 499 tonnes.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2021**

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

- Waste Enforcement
  - Illegal waste activities,
  - C and D Activity,
  - ELV and Waste Metal, and
  - Household and commercial waste.
- Water Priorities
  - WFD Monitoring,
  - Private water supplies,
  - Farm inspections,
  - Septic tank inspections,
  - Section 4 license compliance,
  - River Basin Management Plans consultation.
- Air Priorities



- Build capacity with local groups,
- Promote compliance,
- Solid fuel regulations,
- Air monitoring prog,
- Noise directive,
- Air / noise complaints

### **Burial Grounds**

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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

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

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. Domestic waste collectors have however been granted permission by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) to carry out collections outside of their conditioned waste collection hours due to COVID-

19 restrictions. For details of approved operators, check the NWCPO website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)

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

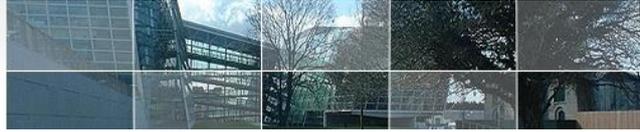
The National Tidy Towns competition will proceed this year, with the adjudication being done remotely.

The Environment Department is supporting the entrants by providing grants to facilitate works, as well as offering advice on the wide range of areas covered by the competition.

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

### **Green Kilometre Scheme**

This scheme continues to grow. Over 127 separate Green Kilometres have



been established and 42 tonnes of litter and dumped materials were collected to date this year.

This is a huge amount to be gathered by hand and Kildare County Council support these groups by providing clean up equipment and collecting the waste in a timely fashion.

### **Environmental Education**

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

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

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

### **New Initiatives**

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

The process of procuring a consultant, has being progressed and the consultant is expected to be appointed shortly

#### **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.

Anti-Dumping Initiative funding secured from the Department of the Environment, Communication and



Climate to the tune of €69,440 for seven separate projects county-wide.

### **Catchment Flooding**

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

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

#### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

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

#### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

#### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Topographical and drainage survey will be completed in July. Further details of the scheme can be found at: [www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/)

#### **Kerdiffstown**

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park.

The capping of the site is progressing well. The construction of the site compound is continuing.



The Percent for Arts contract has been awarded to Mr. James Winnet.

The project has been registered by the contractor with The Considerate Contractors Scheme. In line with the Scheme's Code of Considerate Practice, registered contractors commit to care about appearance, respect the community, protect the environment, secure everyone's safety and value their workforce.

<https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/>

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 works.

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

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

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

### **Kildare Town Cemetery**

A tender has been awarded for the renovation of the front wall and gates, the removal of the old bunker and the resurfacing of many of the internal roads and pathways. Works commenced in early January but



stepped down due to the level 5 restrictions. Works are due to be completed by middle of July.

### **Newbridge Cemetery Carpark**

It is intended to re-advertise a new tender in Quarter 3 2021.

### **Ballymore Eustace Cemetery**

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

### **Risk Management**

A presentation was made to the Audit Committee encompassing the following: updated corporate risk register, updated risk policy, departmental risk register and minutes of risk advisory group. A very constructive discussion ensued wherein there was broad satisfaction expressed regarding the Council's stewardship of this matter. It was agreed that each Directorate would attend before the Audit Committee on a rota basis to discuss respective departmental registers



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

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



This project aims to determine how local government can engage policies and actions to exploit opportunities arising from climate action. Following the successful webinar on this theme which took place on Thursday 20 May 2021, the next phase of the project has commenced. This phase will see research into the role of local government internationally being undertaken by Dr. Seán O'Riordáin and the LGiU. In addition, a national conference building on the success of



the conference on the same theme held in October 2019 is in development, with speakers being finalised at present. The conference will take place on 12 and 13 October 2021.

### Capacity Building:



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



### Elected Members/Senior Staff

The Climate Leadership training for senior staff and elected members has

been delivered to a total of 497 participants in 13 local authorities to date, with a further 12 scheduled to year end. The remaining 6 counties will be completed in early 2022.

Training under this module is due to take place in Kildare on 24 September. Feedback on this training to date has been excellent.



### Climate Action Teams

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI, the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, is aimed at members of local authority Climate Action Teams. It commenced with participants from the Midlands sub-regional counties, moving on to the Atlantic Seaboard North CARO region and is currently underway in the Dublin Metropolitan CARO region. It is scheduled to be rolled to remaining counties (including Kildare), in the Eastern & Midlands CARO and Atlantic Seaboard South CARO regions later this year.



### Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online training programme is ongoing; To date, a total of 4,255 staff at Grade 7, Grade 6 and technical equivalent level have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities. The LASNTG have worked closely with local authority Training Officers to rollout the course to Grade 5 and equivalents over a six-week period to 02 July, with 2,388 participants, an attendance rate of 70% being achieved.



### Thematic Training

In the first training course of the Actioning Policy training pillar, the Planning for Climate Change training has been rolled out to local authority planners of all disciplines. Through eight specifically focused modules, set out over four half days, this course supports the target training group in

their role and responsibilities, to embed and implement climate action considerations across the forward planning and development management dimensions of the regulatory planning function of the local authority. This training course further supports Part 3 (n) of the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

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

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



### Outdoor Staff

Training for outdoor staff remains under design and development with delivery informed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) are working with a number of local authorities to identify suitable candidates to deliver the training within each local authority setting. A pilot training programme will take place for two nominated persons from five local authorities (Carlow, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary & Waterford), with the aim of ensuring the training is relevant, accessible and user friendly, as well as informing the final course content before rollout to all local authority nominees later this year.



### Frontline Staff

Training for front line or community engagement staff remains under design and development with the

Institute of Public Administration with delivery to be informed by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.



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

The Eastern and Midland CARO working in partnership with the EPA / Climate Ireland have recently commenced work on the development of Guidelines for Local Authorities on preparing their Local Authority Climate Action Plans. An expected deadline of the end of October 2021 for completion of the guidelines is anticipated. As per the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021, each local authority will be required to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan containing mitigation measures and adaptation measures, to be adopted by the local authority. The guidelines are an expressed provision of the Amendment Bill also. These guidelines will support local authorities in terms of both the content and the process of making their own Climate



Action Plans, when formally directed to do so, by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.



### **Sub-Regional Energy Projects:**

The CARO are working with local authorities in each of the four sub-regions to develop regional energy bureaux or regional energy efficiency projects. In the Mid-East (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, Louth): A position paper for pathfinder support has been developed and is currently under review by SEAI. The three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) are meeting regularly and it is hoped to progress this further before the end of the summer.

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building energy efficiency report for the three local authorities went to tender, with Codex Energy being appointed. CARO have prepared three applications for the SEAI Project Assistance Grant (PAG) for the

respective local authorities and if successful, this grant may cover up to 50% of the costs of the report.



### **Decarbonising Fleet:**

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. A working group is being established under the stewardship of the CCMA Climate Change, Transport and Networks Committee and will include representatives from the CCMA Committee, the LGMA, the Eastern & Midlands and Atlantic Seaboard South CAROs, the SEAI and Local Authority representatives from counties Cork, Kilkenny, Dublin City, and Donegal, as well as the Dept. of Transport and the OGP.

As well as realising the vision of this project, the group may also identify areas for further possible interventions at national level to support the



transition in local authority fleet, or identify other potential interventions, such as fleet rationalisation and driver behaviour, in support of the transition.

### Kildare County Council Climate Action:



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

### Climate Change Adaption Strategy (CCAS)

The Climate Action Team (CAT) are the main drivers of action under the CCAS.



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

participants to engage for five minutes a day to reduce their carbon footprint by 30kg week through behavioural change in their daily activities. The CAT members have finished their trialing of the programme and anecdotally found it to be fun and informative. A report from Vyra is to follow.

### 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 five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). The tender competition has closed, and tender evaluations have concluded with a successful tenderer outcome. The awarding of the contract is being processed.



## Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee



The Climate Action Office, while awaiting the guidelines from the Department, is progressing the likely needs of the challenge ahead to decarbonize by 7% per annum between 2021 and 2030. To this end the team is considering collaborations within and outside the council, assessing funding opportunities, business opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach.

### Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The committee met on the 12 May and progressed through a full agenda. The highlight was an overview by the

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

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

## Energy

### Energy Management Team

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team has been meeting monthly since its re-establishment in February 2021. The team is currently progressing several key areas, including the development of Kildare's register of opportunities (projects, initiatives for energy savings), analysis of Kildare's top twenty energy users and potential areas for reducing their energy consumption. The Team is also agreed in strengthening its number of members to include other representatives of high energy usage sections in the Council; Libraries, Fire Service and Leisure Facilities. ISO 50001 a recognized energy management standard is under



consideration with the Team and routes towards this certification.

A sub-group of the Energy Management Team has finalized a proposal to hold a Climate and Energy week event in October of this year. The group has presented the proposal to the Energy Management Team and hopes to submit to senior management for consideration in July.

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

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

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

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

### **Energy Bureau**

Progress is ongoing regarding the formation of an Energy Bureau to provide energy related services and projects at a regional level through SEAI's pathfinder grant funding. The group representing each of the Local Authorities with support from CARO met with SEAI on 28 May and is currently awaiting feedback to progress the Bureau. Louth County Council has withdrawn its interest in the Bureau which leaves Kildare, Wicklow and Meath Local Authorities's leading this initiative. Kildare's Energy Efficiency Officer is also assisting with a sub-group of the Bureau to develop tender documentation to procure a suitable consultant to drive this project.



## Sustainable Energy Communities

(SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. There are currently 22 SEAI registered SEC's in County Kildare, with four of these nearing the end of their energy master plan stage which will allow them to move to the action phase. After previous meetings with the four most advanced SEC's and their common requirements for a community engagement piece to be included in their energy master plans, we have met with the consultant to action this piece.

It is expected that three other established SEC's in Kildare are considering applying to Kildare County Council for support in delivering their energy master plan.

## Fleet Electrification



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

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



## Forestry

The finalised document 'Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme' was released on 28 May 2021.

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara, with the respective functional areas of the council being notified of the potential sites being considered in each municipal district. It is proposed to make a presentation to the Senior Management Team meeting in July to seek support to advance the establishment of woodlands on public lands in response to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Works Programme. Template tender documents for procuring the different elements of this scheme are currently being drawn up by a CARO Working Group and these will be available for use by all local authorities. The CARO is seeking clarifications to inform the application process.

## Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The Climate Action Office published its second edition of the year during the

week ending 13 June with a view to



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

circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool.

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

## Graduate LGMA



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

## Just Transition



Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais  
Office of Government Procurement

The Municipal Districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to develop and prepare a 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare'. Two bids have been returned on foot of the advertised tender on eTenders. The tenders have been assessed and a preferred bidder identified.

### **Alternatives to Herbicides Project**

The Parks/Climate Action Office's project including scientific research together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces.

The Parks Department and Community Section have contributed enormously regarding their expertise, time, and financial contribution.

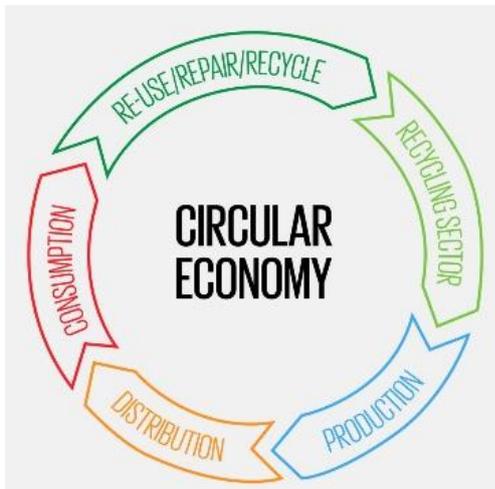
Cork City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon and Fingal Councils have confirmed their

partnership. Responses are awaited from three other councils. Irish Water is supportive and are considering their assistance capabilities.

Sophia Couchman commenced the Master's position in NUI Maynooth on the 08 June. Sophia has been familiarising herself with the sites and is setting up experiments and citizen science proposals to advance the research.

Community Stories profiled Sophia on Facebook in June and is continuing to roll out monthly updates and profile posts of those involved in the background.

Work on a circular economy model with regard to disposal of grass not suitable for use as fodder is advancing and has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of maintenance works



## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

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

These phases include:

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



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

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

### **Athy Distributor Road**

An Bord Pleanála's approval issued on 11 October 2017. A Notice of Confirmation for the Athy Distributor Road was published in the Nationalist

and Leinster Leader on 28 November 2017. No objections/Judicial Reviews were received by the deadline on 23 January 2018.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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

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



(LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the CPO going ahead.

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

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

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

## **Funding**

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

## **Services**

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

## **Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road**

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



over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection stage. A four-week virtual Public Consultation on the route corridor options has been completed and submissions have been compiled. This is facilitating the ongoing development of the project to emerging preferred route stage.

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

### **Newhall Junction Improvement**

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

An Options Selection Report to determine the most appropriate junction type to replace the existing

arrangement was completed in June 2020. This report determined that a roundabout was the preferred option. A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Documentation associated with the Part 8 process have been completed and discussions have taken place with the Planning Department. Kildare County Council Departments have been notified of the Part 8 process associated with this project.

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

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

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport



Authority on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Kildare Town Transport Strategy**

The draft Transport Strategy for Kildare Town is currently being finalised.

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy**

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

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

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme**

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

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

Monasterevin bridge is progressing through the approval process with An



Bord Pleanala and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2021.

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

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

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

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

The process to procure consultants for this project has commenced and a

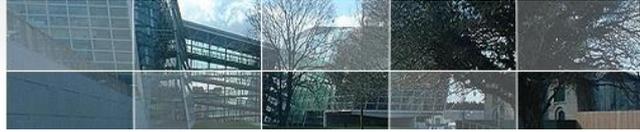
brief is being prepared to appoint consultants and bring the project through to planning stage. It is expected that consultants will be appointed in October.

### **Maynooth Inner Relief Street**

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by the Cairn Developments Plc. The Kildare County Council Roads Planning Section is engaging with the developer on the opening of the street to traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. The road safety audit stage 3 is being carried out on the completed works. It is proposed to be opened in Quarter 3 2021, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

The Route Selection Report is substantially complete. This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed.



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

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

The Greenway from Maynooth to Moyvalley is now substantially complete and operational. A stage 4 safety audit and snags are now being completed for this project.

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

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

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

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

### **Broadband Connection Points**

Kildare County Council is progressing the Broadband Connection Points

(BCPs) in Kildare. These sites will provide high speed broadband to the public until the NBI fibre broadband is available:

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

### **NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout**

Kildare County Council are reviewing S254 licence application from NBI to install poles and overhead fibre in the Castledermot area. This will be the first installation works in Kildare.

### **Athy Municipal District June 2021**

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

- Moone School works. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Phase 1 of works are



complete. Lining of the car parking outside school has been completed. Surveys being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the villages. Area outside the Piers Café has been granted permission to use the section of new footpath for tables/chairs for outdoor dining.

- Castledermot School works Phase 1 are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school, including red thermoplastic colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete design for the village. Looking into linkage between new playground and footpath infrastructure.
- Crookstown School works phase 1 are complete. Preparatory drainage works are complete. Lining outside school, including red thermoplastic colouring on ramps has been completed. Survey being carried out at the present time with a view to a complete

design for the village. No update.

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

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

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

### **Bus Shelters**

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



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

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

1. Blackcastle.
2. Knocknagee.
3. Ballaghmoone.
4. Crooket.
5. Kildoon.
6. Peelhall.
7. Nicholastown.

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

- Ardscull R-418.
- Castlemitchell R-428

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

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

**Restoration Maintenance Surfacing works**

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

**Signage works**

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

**Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District June 2021**

**Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021**

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

L70721 Eascanrath Lane

L6047 Coughlanstown

L6045 Flemingstown

L6068 Green Avenue



L-7089 Raheens, Caragh

L-7027 Loughbrown

L-7038 Roseberry

Bracknagh Road, Rathangan

L-7087 Blacktrench to Paddy's Bridge

### **Surface Dressing Works**

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

L7012 Ballykelly Cross

L7001 Rathangan

L7006 Punchersgrange

L7032 Pollardstown

L7023 Pollardstown

R414 Rathangan to Shee Bridge

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

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

Works in Avondale commenced –  
Footpaths

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

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

### **Miscellaneous Works:**

Verge cutting across all areas of the municipal district

Footpath repairs in Newbridge and Kildangan

Pothole repairs across the municipal district

General Maintenance – Water Cuts, Patching and Gully Cleaning

### **Naas Municipal District June 2021**

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

The Naas Municipal District is continuing footpath improvement works (FP3) from 2020. These works had been delayed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

- Roseville, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – Complete



- Woodlands, Naas – Works Nearing Completion
- Friary Road, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- Sallins – R407 opposite Chapel Lane
- Naas – Dublin Road – Odeon Cinema

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

Works are the following locations (Scheme 1) are now complete:

- L2022 Eadestown – Complete
- L2022 Nunsland – Complete
- L6021 Bishops court – Complete
- L6026 Coolahocka – Complete
- L6029 Cupidstownhill – Complete
- L6054 Tipperkevin – Complete

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

- L6030 Hempstown (Slate Quarries) - Complete

Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works (Scheme 3) – 2021

A tender has issued for works at the following location:

- L2019 Arthurstown

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

The locations are as follows:

- Main St., Kill - Complete
- Elmwood, Naas – Complete
- Osberstown Rd., Sallins – Complete
- Monread Rd., Naas – On hold pending completion of Irish Water works

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

### **Bus Shelters**

Construction works and installation of bus shelters has been completed at the following locations:

- Kill Village – Main Street



Naas Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works (Scheme 4) – 2021

A tender has issued for works at the following locations:

- L60671 St. Michaels Terrace Naas
- L2993 Railway Terrace Naas
- L3012 / L29937 Monread Rd. / Monread Avenue Junction

### **Surface Dressing Works**

Surface Dressing works were completed in June at the following locations:

- R410 Blessington Rd. (Naas to Beggar's End)
- R411 Naas to Ballymore Eustace
- L2026 Ardinode to Perrystreet Cross
- L5043 Broadleas
- L2010 Bodenstown
- L60161 Killeenmore

Surface Dressing will continue in July at the following locations (subject to favourable weather conditions):

- L6011 Sherlockstown

- L6021 Blackchurch / Castlewarden
- L2014 Kill Interchange to Blackchurch
- L6047 Coughlanstown
- L6051 Dowdenstown

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

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

- Woodlands, Naas (footpath upgrades) –Nearing Completion
- Elmwood, Naas (footpath upgrades) – Complete
- Morell Avenue (raised uncontrolled crossing) – Complete

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

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

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

- L2007/L2008 Clownings



- L2026/L6059 Kerrys Cross  
(Ballymore Eustace)

Designs for works at these locations are currently being developed.

### **Drainage**

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

Works have commenced at the following locations:

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

### **Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)**

A tender has issued for road resurfacing works at the following locations under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS):

- Kill Celtic, Kill
- Haynestown

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

The crews are currently undertaking routine maintenance including opening inlets, clearing drains and gullies, patching and sign clearance. The verge cutting at strategic junctions and locations throughout the municipal district has commenced and is ongoing. They have also commenced the preparatory works on the remaining Restoration Maintenance schemes including patching, cleaning and opening inlets.

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

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

### **Restoration Improvement**

The following works were undertaken in May

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

- L5013 Doogary Mucklon – Complete
- L5006 Cadamstown to Moyvalley – Complete



- L5081 Malones Way. Allenwood  
– Complete awaiting Surface Dressing

### **Restoration Improvement (Overlay)**

#### **– Approximately 1.5 km**

- L5005 Cadamstown – Complete awaiting Surface Dressing
- L5015 Rahan Wood – Complete awaiting Surface Dressing

The final agreed project in the square Kilcock is due for completion in July 2021. On completion of all projects the Municipal District Office will review all costs and if savings have been achieved progress additional projects in August and September.

### **Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing) – Approximately 22km**

Round 1 of the surface dressing programme commenced on June 1st and seven days surface dressing was undertaken, completing 17 projects.

- R406 Barberstown towards Maynooth
- R408 Betaghstown to Borehole
- R408 Ladychapel towards Rathcoffey

- R403 Allenwood towards Derrinturn
- L2002 Liffey Bridge towards Millicent
- L1007 Corcoranstown
- L50311 Ballycannon
- L5028 Kilbride
- L50301 Tirmoghan (Mucky Lane)
- L1004 Dunfeirt Road
- L5014 Cadamstown
- L1003 Blackwater Cross
- L1008 Newtownhortland
- L1009 Donadea
- L10091 Dunmurraghill
- L1017 Cologmartin
- L1019 Timahoe

Note: Round 2 is due to commence on 08 July with four days of works scheduled to complete eight projects. There will be local road closures and disruption and the Municipal District Office would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding.



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## **General Works:**

### **Footpaths**

The Municipal District Office is progressing the identified footpath projects.

They have all been tendered and awarded and are currently agreeing a programme with the contractors. The works have commenced in Parklands and Castleridge with Moyglare Abbey to follow on. It is hoped to complete the initial project list during Quarter 3 2021 and identify additional footpaths to progress during Quarter 4 2021.

### **Drainage**

The Municipal District Office has completed drainage improvements on the R403 at Richardstown in the past month. We are currently finalising a tender document for a number of drainage measures for completion in Quarter 3 2021.

### **Lining**

The Municipal District Office is currently surveying all junctions to develop a lining renewal programme for Quarter 3/Quarter 4 2021. Subject

to available funding this will be a multi annual programme.

### **Signing**

The Municipal District Office is currently surveying all signage to develop a sign renewal programme for Quarter 4 2021. Subject to available funding this will be a multi annual programme.

### **LPT Funding**

The Municipal District Office is currently examining the LPT projects with an intention to progress these projects during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2021.

### **Climate Adaptation and Resilience**

The Municipal District Office was successful in securing funding for climate adaptation and resilience measures. It is hoped to progress these measures in Quarter 3 2021.



## **Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District**

### **June 2021**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- R403 Youngs Cross, Celbridge (Completed)

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

### **Surface Dressing Works**

The following roads were surface dressed on Monday 31 May.

- L6018 Pluckstown, Ardclough
- L5067 Ardrass, Straffan

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

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

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



### Kildare Civil Defence – June 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.

transportation to Doctors Surgeries as required.

Assisted Covid Support Desk with transport requests for vaccination centres requests to Punchestown and the Aviva in Dublin. Also

### Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end June)
Newbridge	429	211
Naas	389	188
Athy	194	101
Maynooth	280	123
Monasterevin	151	75
Leixlip	203	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>772</b>

### Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
<b>2019</b>	75	72



<b>2020</b>	33	31
<b>2021</b>	4	4

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

	<b>No. Fire Safety Certificates</b>
<b>2019</b>	179
<b>2020</b>	204
<b>2021</b>	104

## Building and Development Control

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

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Commencement Notices:</b>		
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	266
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	263
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	3
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	172

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Certificates of Compliance on Completion</b>		
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	341
Number Valid	425	341
Number Invalid	1	0



Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	146

<b>Disability Access Certificates:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	69
Number granted:	137	53
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	2
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	32

<b>Building Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of units inspected	2067	988

<b>Development Control Active Sites:</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of Active Sites	107

### Health and Safety

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

- 33 COVID-19 Compliance Inspections.
- 3 Pregnancy Risk Assessments
- 38 Online VDU Assessments
- New Chapter 8 Traffic Management Guidance Training
- ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Training completed- focus on auditing.
- Meetings:



- Lead Worker Representative Meeting
- Staff App Meeting
- Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
- COVID 19 Seniors Meeting
- Safety Committee Meeting

- Audit completed of Athy Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Liaised with Planning Dept on return to workplace for additional staff to meet current workload
- Accident & Incident Reports and Investigations
- Compilation of data from Remote Working Self Assessments

**Accessibility**

Meetings:

Local Access Groups:

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

County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):

- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Meeting

National:

- National Access for All Meeting with Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI)

Training:

- Disability Awareness Training as per National Disability Inclusion Strategy delivered to councilors- 2 sessions held with one additional to be held to capture those who could not attend.

Additional:

- Attended COVID Community Response Forum
- Working with IT on updating Accessibility Section of the council Website
- Meeting with Parks Department re Sensory Garden, St Catherine's Park Leixlip.
- Access Network Group Workshop on advanced digital skills



- Meeting with NOW Org on the implementation of JAM (Just a Minute) Card to the council

JAM Card allows people with a learning difficulty, autism or communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.

## Economic Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2021		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	117	€172,250
Festival Grants	55	€41,455
Local Property Tax	304	€529,740
Private Estates Res. Assoc.	300	€111,517
Local Authority Res. Assoc.	71	€44,573
Drehid Grants	28	€201,697
Community Enhancement Programme	0	€0
Education Bursaries	0	€0
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>€1,101,232</b>



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

### **2021 grants schemes**

Community, festival and residents' associations grants have been assessed. Award letters are issuing to successful applicants and payments are being processed.

### **Local property tax grants**

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

### **Community Enhancement Programme**

The Community Enhancement Programme 2021 grant scheme will be advertised in the coming weeks. This will be an online application process. The total funding available under this programme for Kildare is €148,013. This funding is aimed to support community and voluntary sector groups towards small scale capital projects.

### **Education Bursaries**

These schemes have been advertised.

### **Community Development Work**

The Community Department have worked with the Housing Department to expand the team of Community Workers so that the council now have a dedicated Community Worker for each municipal district. As restrictions lift the Community Workers will be getting to know the communities in their areas. The team are as follows;

Lisa Ennis – Naas Municipal District

Doreen Daly – Clane-Maynooth  
Municipal District

Valerie Devaney – Celbridge-Leixlip  
Municipal District

Carmel Cashin – Kildare-Newbridge  
Municipal District

Laura Whelan – Athy Municipal District



## Local Community Development Committee July 2021

The recent meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 07 July 2021.

### COVID -19 Community Response Forum

The Kildare COVID-19 Community Response Forum have had 26 meetings to date via Teams. The purpose of the Forum is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience. A dedicated COVID-19 support helpline was established on the 30 March 2020 by Kildare County Council. The Response Forum has representation from key statutory and voluntary organisations across the county. Peter Carey Chief Executive chairs the Forum and high levels of collaboration to ensure the most vulnerable are responded during the COVID-19 pandemic. The last meeting discussed the vaccination roll out and an update on responses from members.

## Rural Development LEADER

Three projects were approved by the LCDC/LAG on 07 July for a total of €31,210.12

1. Newbridge Family Resource Centre was grant aided €9,132.75 towards a new strategic plan to cover the period 2022 to 2027.
2. Angelina Foster Studio was grant aided €7,461.37 towards two pieces of specialist equipment.
3. Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association were grant aided €14,616 towards a feasibility and design study for the successful development of a community multi-user facility.

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

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



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

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

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

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

The LCDC meeting reviewed the mid term performance of SICAP in Kildare. Using defined targets, the LCDC approved this review which will be submitted to Pobal.

For further information on the programmes and supports on offer please contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership – [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

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

Projects continue to implement health and wellbeing initiatives funded under

this programme across the county. Progress reports are due for submission to Pobal in July for the period 01 July 2020 - 30 June 2021.

Interviews took place recently for the Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post.

### **Community Enhancement Programme 2021**

The Community Enhancement Programme 2021 grant scheme will be advertised in the coming weeks. This will be an online application process. The total funding available under this programme for Kildare is €148,013. This funding is aimed to support community and voluntary sector groups towards small scale capital projects.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 September 2021.

### **Kildare Fáilte**

There was good news for the tourism and hospitality industry as accommodation businesses reopened for the first time since late December, and outdoor dining was permitted giving a much needed boost to the industry in Kildare.



As numbers attending outdoor events also increased, the Curragh Racecourse held its first meeting with open doors on Saturday 26 June – the Irish Derby.

Kildare Fáilte continued their collaboration and communication with monthly calls in particular with a focus on content for the Fáilte Ireland Keep Discovering campaign. Kildare will feature in national press in July every Thursday and on national radio Monday to Wednesday. Plans for promoting Kildare as a destination across all media channels continues and due to commence in September, following the funding Fáilte Ireland received on behalf of Kildare last August.

Kildare Fáilte represented Kildare at a seminar arranged by CCMA (County and City Management Association), New Challenges: Fresh Opportunities – the role of local authorities in stimulating sustainable tourism development in a post-covid era.

Kildare Fáilte also represented Kildare at a Fáilte Ireland trade event meeting and had one-to-one virtual meetings

with over 30 international tour operators.

The monthly Shackleton Museum Project meeting took place, of which Kildare Fáilte is on the Marketing Steering Group. Kildare Fáilte also attended a meeting with Julie O'Brien regarding this project. Meetings of the Thoroughbred Country Committee were also attended by Kildare Fáilte and meetings took place with Tipperary Tourism.

The Royal Canal Greenway Marketing Group, made up of representatives from each county tourism board and Waterways Ireland, met to discuss promotions and activity taking place over the summer to encourage visitors to use the Greenway. While meetings continue on the development of the Grand Canal Greenway and Barrow Blueway, attended by Kildare Fáilte.

A Thoroughbred Country Executive was recruited and Kildare Fáilte supported induction, set up of a phone, laptop and email and communicating the roles and responsibilities of the Executive who is based at the Curragh Racecourse.



KPMG Future Analytics, who have been engaged by Kildare Fáilte to develop a tourism strategy for the county, in line with the County Kildare Development Plan, commenced interviews with stakeholders and issued surveys to receive input from visitors, workers and residents of Kildare.

Work continued on a new website for Into Kildare to promote tourism in the county and this will launch on 22 July. To complement this, a new tourism brochure is also in development.

Kildare Fáilte supported the promotion of the Derby Festival in June in collaboration with the Kildare Derby Festival Committee. A press release was issued to promote the festival, along with June Fest and secured coverage in regional and national press. Other press releases included staycations to support the accommodation and activity/attraction businesses and family activities.



Following a collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte are excited to present the newly refurbished and designed Naas Heritage Trail signage. The revised creative is engaging and consistent with the Athy Heritage Trail – both promoting the rich heritage in Kildare as part of Ireland’s Ancient East.

Media coverage in June encouraged visitors to take their staycation in Kildare this summer. This was supported by a double page spread, including advert and editorial, placed by Kildare Fáilte in the Discovering Ireland Summer 2021 supplement across 14 titles.

Social media content in June focussed on family activities, Father’s Day, outdoor walks and picnic spots and outdoor dining, in addition to



supporting the events taking place as part of Cruinniu na nÓg, the Kildare Derby Festival and June Fest.

Visitor engagement across all social media channels remains strong with users engaging heavily in discovering the lesser known Kildare attractions and outdoor dining inspiration. The Digital Officer highlighted the experiences available by posting content on picnics and the Irish Derby at the Curragh – both were very well received by social media followers. The message, We Care in Kildare, and support local continues to be a key priority.

## Library and Arts Service

To build up a library is to create a life. It's never just a random collection of books.

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, took place on Saturday 12 June. Events took place both virtually and in person where possible within social distancing guidelines. Virtual events were showcased through the

Kildare Arts YouTube channel. There was a wide range of cultural and creative activities for everyone to enjoy.

Workshops varied from Treasure Hunts along the canal in Sallins, children created 'Canal Creatures' from recycled materials. They were given clues as to where to find treasure along their walk. Griese Youth Theatre presented "Fionnuala MacCool and the Men of Deeds" in an adaptation of a Fionn Mac Cumhaill tale performed by a cast of nine and ten year-olds from Griese Youth Theatre.

Kildare Derby Festival Kites this workshop was led by international artist Lia Laimbock, who is based on the Curragh. Teenagers aged 15-17 years created bright, bold kites designs from silkscreen. Many beautiful kites were seen flying on the Curragh on Saturday 12 June. There were many other events showcased on the day and can be viewed through the following link

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>

Kildare's overall audience and attendance for Cruinnú na nÓg reached 3,869 young people.



### **TTT Programme 2021**

The TTT Programme is taking a break over the Summer after an extremely successful Spring 2021 Programme. Over 40 events took place online, and facilitators used mixed media to deliver their talks/ workshops via Zoom and our own social media platforms. Talks and Workshops included ASD-Friendly Sensory Story Time Sessions, Sibshop Seminars and Workshops, a Webinar Series with Occupational Therapist Dr. Dorothy Armstrong on helping neuro diverse teenagers who struggle in a number of areas, a Get Autism Active (ASD Training Programme), Speech and Language Therapy Webinars and Music Therapy Talks. Over 1,000 attendees have taken part in the programme already this year, and the Autumn series is due to launch in September and will run through to November.

### **Irish Language Programming**

As part of the Library Services' online Irish Language programming for Kildare libraries in June, Richie Conroy ran Dúshlán Dúlra workshops in conjunction with our local primary schools. These interactive workshops taught children all about the wonderful wildlife that exists in their locality.

The workshops included wildlife diaries (Dialann Dúlra) illustrated by Don Conroy and they proved so popular that we reprinted additional copies with the assistance of Creative Ireland funding. These diaries will be given out free in our libraries over the Summer months and can be used by all the family and are suitable for all ages. The dialann act as a detective pack that can be used to log how many different species you spot. As well as noting where and when the birds were spotted and what the weather conditions were like at the time, you can also learn how to draw the birds and their environs step by step for your own personal record.

### **Naas Photography Club Canal Walk**

On Saturday 10 July Craig from Naas Library lead a group of budding photographers along the canal, starting outside Naas Library.

This is the first walk organised by Craig and he has had an enthusiastic response from the group.

Craig created a risk assessment and walkability study in advance of the meeting and refreshments and discussion at the end of the walk outside Naas Library – all Covid Compliant.



## Reader Services

### Kildare Readers' Festival

A date for your diary, Kildare Readers' Festival returns from 01 to 17 October 2021. Guests this year will include John Bowman, Lynn Buckle, Ryan Dennis, Oisín Fagan, Ronan Hession, Deirdre Sullivan and many more. Keep an eye on [www.kildarereadersfestival.ie](http://www.kildarereadersfestival.ie) for more information.

### Little Library Book Bags

The Little Library Book Bags are now available to borrow from all the Kildare Libraries. The bag includes five lovely titles in English or Irish and literature on reading with young children.

The First 5 Little Library Bags initiative is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth and the Department of Rural and Community Development to build on the relationships between the Early Learning and Care centres and libraries as part of the First 5 Government Strategy for babies and children and the public libraries Right to Read Programme.

## Summer Stars 2021

The national reading challenge is now in full swing. Children are encouraged to read up to eight books over the summer months. Along with great online events organised throughout July and August, Kildare Libraries have a weekly book review competition where children can win a book token every week. There is a national short story competition with three age categories catering to children between the ages of 6 and 18 years which is being judged through the LGMA. More information is available here: [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie)

## Capital Projects

### Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Duggan Lynch, main contractor for Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project are progressing works as per contract programme. Demolition and piling works are now all completed. Substructure and ground floor works have begun.

### County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

This Capital Project received Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) under Category B as part of



the Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter. The tender for the Design Team is now completed, letters have been issued to the successful and unsuccessful applicants and we are currently in the stand still period until 21 July after which we expect to appoint the Design Team.

### **New Clane Library**

The tender for the Architect led Design Team is now published on the eTenders portal with a closing date of 05 August.

### **Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives**

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

### **Kildare Decade of Commemoration Centenary of The Truce**

The centenary of the Truce that signalled the end of military conflict during the Irish War of Independence took place on 11 July. A video, commissioned by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, was produced featuring reflections of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil and Chair of the Decade of the Commemorations Committee, Councillor Pádraig McEvoy reflecting on this historic event. As part of the Decade of Commemorations Programme, ten granite benches will be installed in the grounds of Áras Chill Dara in the coming months. These benches have been created using granite from the Old Military Barracks in Naas and will provide a space for the citizens of County Kildare to sit, meet and reflect. This video can be found on the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations YouTube Channel and Facebook Channel.

**Planes, Trains and The Postman's Bicycle: The Stacumney Ambush, Celbridge, Co. Kildare 02 July 1921.**  
02 July 2021 was the centenary of a



significant incident during the War of Independence that took place at Stacumney, near Celbridge. An attempted attack on British forces by members of the Kildare and Meath I.R.A. was foiled by the unexpected appearance of a much larger British force in the form of lorries and aeroplanes. The Decade of Commemorations Committee has supported the publication of a booklet on this episode by local historian and teacher Seamus Cummins. Copies will be available for free in libraries in County Kildare, including in Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and Clane branches.

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

Copies of the timeline booklet highlighting significant social, military and political developments in County Kildare during the 1912-23 period has been distributed widely, including to all branch libraries. The booklet is available to download through [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory) also.

### **Remembrance the World War I Dead of Co. Kildare**

A new book with a detailed listing of the 750 men and three women from County Kildare who died because of World War I has just been published by County Kildare Decade of Commemorations. It was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Councillor Mark Stafford, on Thursday 19 June during an Irish Military Seminar event featuring Irish Times journalist and historian Ronan McGreevy. Copies will be available for loan in all Kildare library branches, with copies of this publication also available for purchase in several independent bookshops throughout County Kildare.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Creative Places Athy receives €450,000 funding**

The Arts Council recently announced €3 million investment in the nationwide Creative Places Programme, including €450,000 for Creative Places Athy - a three-year programme to develop and sustain new creative opportunities for all age groups. Kildare County Council with partners in Athy local community



development organisations successfully applied for funding for this new programme which will build upon existing cultural strengths in the town. It aims to ensure that more people can take part in and benefit from brilliant arts experiences. Athy has been named as one of nine areas from across the country who will be part of the expanded national Creative Places programme, which includes small towns, inner cities, rural and island communities.

Creative Places is a programme for places around Ireland that have not had opportunities to benefit from sustained investment in the arts and creativity. Creative Places Athy will be managed by Kildare Arts Service. Over the coming months the programme will be getting established, a Co-ordinator will be appointed and conversations with the community will get underway.

### **Culture Night Commissions/Call Out**

Kildare Arts Service has recently published a call out for several opportunities for individuals and the community to get involved and participate in Culture Night 2021 (17 September):

### **Culture Night Mural Project**

Commissioning a number of mural projects in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District area.

### **Culture Night Commission:**

Support for a number of public facing projects, across art forms to coincide with the county's Culture Night celebrations.

### **Open Call for Expressions of Interest:**

A broader call to Kildare-based artists, performers, organisations or community groups to submit their proposals for this nationwide celebration. The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest was Wednesday 14 July 2021. Culture Night is an annual island-wide public event that shines a light on all aspects of culture, creativity, and the arts. On that night, venues and events are available to the public free of charge.

### **Words Ireland National Mentoring**

Kildare Arts Service is supporting the Words Ireland National Mentoring Programme to enable at least one writer or poet from Kildare to benefit



from a literature mentoring relationship.

The opportunity is open to poets, fiction writers, children's writers, and creative non-fiction writers from Kildare. The mentoring process features one-to-one virtual and in person meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen professional writer over a six to eight month period. The deadline for applications is 22 July.

Kildare Arts Service is pleased to announce the appointment of Sheena Malone as Kildare's Culture Night Co-Ordinator. Sheena is an arts practitioner with fifteen years' experience in the cultural sector. Initially studying art history, her focus turned to contemporary practice during her six years at The Douglas Hyde Gallery in Trinity College which she followed with a Masters in Curating at Stockholm University.

The Arts Service has thanked Federica Petronilli who stepped down as Kildare Culture Night Co-Ordinator after six years in the role.

## Parks

### Play Day 2021

National Play Day 2021 in conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth took place from the 03 July to 10 July with the aim of promoting play and recreation opportunities for children and young people all over Ireland. This year's theme was 'Playful Communities'.

Kildare's Play Day event has been scheduled for Saturday 10 July 2021.

1,000 free play packs were distributed to the public through the library network and to families identified by our Community Workers, Homeless Section and Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee and other partners.

Play packs were made available for collection at Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge and Monasterevin branches.

Each play pack contained A3 colour sheets, a tennis ball, coloured chalk, Twistable crayons, stickers, and a set of dice with a total retail value of €10.



A competition was held in conjunction with the distribution of the play packs. The entrants were required to use at least three of the items in the pack to create something playful to use outside – an outdoor game, activity, or art project. Entrants then submitted a photo of their creation. Cash prizes of €100 have been awarded to three age groups 1-5, 6-12 and 13-18 year olds.

### Allenwood Playground

Further to last months report the objective is to have a tender ready by the end of the year and for construction to take place in 2022.

### Tree Works Programme

Works have been completed on the Naas works programme. Works have started on the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District works programme

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From January – 13 July 2021		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	72	€128,814

and work is due to start on the Maynooth Municipal District works programme before the end of July.

### Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme

Applications for funding Measure 1 for Small Scale Repairs/ Development Promotion and Marketing have been submitted. The projects submitted were

1. Brochure for Tow Path Trails for the county
2. Map of Green and Blue Trails for the county.
3. Greenway and Ardclough Ancillary Trail Infrastructure
4. Kilcullen Walking and Cycling Trail
5. St Catherines Park – Cycle Parking

Shopfront Grant	35	€69,848
Outdoor Seating & Accessories Grant	57	€184,646
Export Marketing Grant	6	€12,675



<b>Start-up/ Expansion/Pri ming/ Export Marketing Grants</b>	33	€644,876
<b>Agile Innovation Fund</b>	2	€167,269

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 Brexit and Export support, email

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

For all other queries

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

or call 045980838.

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

### **Supporting the Reboot of Kildare Businesses**

Kildare LEO continue to provide an extensive variety of supports to Kildare businesses. Expert mentorship and business advisory supports, grand aid, funding opportunities and a range of e-commerce funding and capacity building supports are available to businesses across all sectors in Kildare.

Please advise constituents to:

1. Register query or request to speak to an advisor:  
<https://leokildare.submit.com/show/113>
2. See full list of business supports available:  
[www.localenterprise.ie/kildare](http://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare)

### **Autumn Schedule of Training and Development Programmes**

Kildare LEO provide an extensive range of training programmes for business owners and their employees



in county Kildare. Each programme is lead by an industry expert, ensuring exceptional content and expertise.

Significantly subsidised, Kildare LEO are currently designing the Autumn 2021 schedule of courses, which will be launched in August 2021.

Please advise constituents that new programmes can be accessed here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/>

**Funding Opportunity: Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses – EXPANSION to support**

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

\*Originally only available to hospitality establishments where food is produced and sold for consumption on the premises, in June 2021, it was announced that this grant scheme

is now open to include non-food serving pubs.

Applications are open until the 30 September 2021.

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

**Circular Economy Business Opportunities – National Webinar Success**

On Thursday 30 June, Kildare LEO hosted 150 Irish businesses at the National Circular Economy Webinar.

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

The event came as part of the wider €100,000 Green for Micro' Funding Initiative, launched to help businesses across county Kildare to prepare for the low-carbon economy. Businesses in county Kildare can avail of two full days of consultancy costs worth €1,800, a unique opportunity to cut harmful emissions and make



significant energy, waste, water and other savings through this programme.

Following the event's nationwide success, the demand for Green for Micro Vouchers has increased, with 33 Kildare businesses completing the programme to date.

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

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

### **3 Kildare Food Producers Accepted to National Food Academy with Bord Bia and SuperValu**

Janet Miley O' Neill of Killinane Dairy Farm, Edel Bergson of The Truly Balanced Vegan Ltd and Rhona Brennan (business name to be confirmed) selected to participate in the competitive National Food Academy.

The Food Academy is a training programme aimed at supporting and nurturing start-up food businesses.

The Local Enterprise Offices work with Bord Bia and SuperValu on this initiative to provide a consistent level

of food marketing knowledge to new and early-stage food business owners.

### **Economic Support Services**

#### **Economic Strategy 2025 Launched**

On Tuesday 06 July, Kildare County Council and Kildare Local Enterprise Office launched the Kildare Economic Strategy 2025 with the Kildare Chamber of Commerce.

The launch event featured Peter Carey, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council and economist Jim Power.

The five year plan is the culmination of a lengthy consultation process with key stakeholders as part of the Kildare Economic Forum. It has identified eight key focus points which will contribute to the future economic success of Kildare.

To see the Economic Strategy 2025 document, follow the link below:

[https://issuu.com/kildareleo/docs/kildare\\_2025\\_economic\\_strategy\\_64pp\\_036dd2537e63a6](https://issuu.com/kildareleo/docs/kildare_2025_economic_strategy_64pp_036dd2537e63a6)

### **MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre,**

Great strides have been made with the construction since the site re-



opened. The main contractor is almost finished with final testing and commissioning taking place. The Practical Completion Certificate should issue next week allowing for handover of the building to County Kildare Community Network (CKCN). This will allow internal fitout and furnishing to take place during July and August. The building is finished to a very high standard – it will be a flagship for such projects in Ireland. The application process for tenancy within the MERITS building is now open and the team will select suitable companies to occupy the building from its opening in September. The MERITS website is now fully functioning and available at [www.merits.ie](http://www.merits.ie).



### **Equine Tech Innovation Hub**

Through the structure of CKCN, the Business unit of Kildare County

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

Construction commenced on site on the 31 May at the Irish National Stud. A site visit took place on Tuesday 29 June and considerable progress has been made to date. It is expected that the programme of works will be completed in September.

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

A food consultant has been appointed to work with the project team on the detailed design of the building and work is ongoing to prepare the detailed design and construction tender documents. The design team have also submitted the Fire Safety and Disability Access certificate applications and a decision on those will be made in August.

The team submitted a funding application for under RRDF Category 1 to the Department of Rural and



Community Development to provide for construction works associated with the renovation of the hub however the application was not successful. The team will be pursuing other funding streams once they reopen in the coming weeks.

### K-Hub Network

The public and private co working and innovation space owners/managers have been meeting on a monthly basis and have formed the K-Hub network. The network leverage economies of scale in research, collaboration, training and funding applications and is

supported by the economic development unit in Kildare County Council. A number of members have already made an application to the Department of Rural's Connected Call funding stream to renovate and upgrade their facilities. Kildare County Council have also tendered for the development of a hub strategy for the county. This strategy, when completed, will adopt an evidence-based approach to hub development and investment in the county. Once the tendering process closes on the 09 July, it is expected that a consultant will be appointed to develop the strategy shortly after.

### COVID-19 Business Supports

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

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

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

Objective	Support	Link
<b>Financial</b>		
<b>Support Purchasing Outdoor Seating</b>	<b>Grant Scheme for Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses</b>	<a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Outdoor-Seating-Accessories-Grant/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Outdoor-Seating-Accessories-Grant/</a>



<p><b>Funding to businesses who are not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes.</b></p>	<p><b>Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid [SBASC]</b></p>	<p><a href="https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/">https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/</a></p>
<p><b>Immediate Cashflow</b></p>	<p><b>MFI COVID-19 Business loan</b> – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.</p>	<p><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></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><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/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html</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</b></p>	<p><b>Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-</a></p>



<p><b>Outdoor COVID-19 Signage</b></p>		<p><a href="#">by-Sector/Retail-/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessability-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</p>	<p><a href="https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/">https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/</a></p>



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

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