



Chief Executive's Management Report – November 2021

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



Access to Public Offices

The Council's COVID-19 Team working with the Council's Business Continuity Group continue to support Management Team to apply the relevant public health advice in relation to the management of COVID-19 in our workplaces while continuing service delivery in a safe and sustainable manner across Council facilities/premises.

As outlined in *Reframing the Challenge: Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting*, important and necessary public health guidance will remain in place after the 20 September and until the 22 October, 2021. This includes the requirement for physical distancing, the wearing of masks and appropriate ventilation along with the continued requirement for self-isolation / restricted movements for those with symptoms. These requirements remain as a core component of our response to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The situation will be reviewed in line with decisions of government and public health advice post 22 October 2021.

With restrictions and remote working continuing through the current phase of *Reframing the Challenge: Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting* access to our public offices is by appointment only.

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



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 three 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 or email 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.

Kildare Community Call Helpline Freephone 1800 300 174

Email 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.



News Items

Kildare County Council Wins at Excellence in Local Government Awards

Winners of the 'Sustaining the Arts' Category and four other Kildare County Council projects shortlisted (further detail to follow).

Women and Diversity in Local Government

On 13 October Kildare County Council hosted 'Women and Diversity in Local Government' (see page 9).

Kildare Climate and Energy Week 2021

Kildare's first ever Climate and Energy Week took place from 26 to 29 October (see page 10).

Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 Published

Kildare County Council published the Draft 2022/2023 Register on 01 November 2021 and it is currently available for viewing (see page 11).

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

The new customer portal and app for Rent and Rates Customers currently has 1,800 rent customers and 760 rates customers signed up for the service (see page 14).

Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Agency has issued a call for proposals to Approved Housing Bodies for a Cost Rental Equity Loan Scheme (see page 15).



Private Tenancies

The government has given approval to cap rent increases at 2% in Rent Pressure Zones (all of Co. Kildare) (see page 15).

Anne Street Community Facility

The council has been awarded €30,000 from the Social Investment Fund from the Housing Finance Agency to assist in the delivery of a community facility at Anne Street (see page 19).

Conservation Update

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (see page 26).

Community Composting

Three green waste composting facilities were installed in October (see page 37).

Tidy Town Results

The results for county Kildare (see page 38)

- Endeavour Award – Kildare Town
- County Awards – In first place was Kill, in second place was Straffan and in third place Naas
- Medal Winners -
 - Bronze Medal Winners – Clane and Rathangan
 - Silver Medal Winners – Ballymore Eustace, Celbridge and Newbridge
 - Gold Medal Winners – Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Straffan



Kildare Climate and Energy Week (26 October to 29 October)

After six months of development, planning and execution Kildare's first Climate and Energy Week was delivered on 26 to 29 October (see page 50).

Roads Highlights

- NTA's Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme – public consultation has commenced (see page 54).
- NTA's Draft Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy has been published (see page 55).
- DART+Southwest second consultation has commenced (see page 56).

Kildare County Council hosts Pride in Your Place Awards Ceremony 2021

Prize-winners gathered at the Westgrove Hotel in Clane on Thursday evening, 04 November (see page 77).

Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan

Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and Tipperary County Council launched the Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) on Wednesday 10 November (see page 80).

New Library Website

After six months of work our new Library website went live on 26 October (see page 83).



Diary/Calendar

Amendments to the Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023

Forms must be submitted to Kildare County Council by 25 November 2021 at the latest (see page 11).

Budget 2022 Meeting

Statutory Budget Meeting will be held online on Monday 22 November 2021 (see page 12).

Traveller Community

The next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) will take place on 02 December 2021 (see page 18).

Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

Due to current COVID-19 related restrictions, the deadline for completion of approved work under the Scheme has been extended to 31 January 2022 (see page 18).

Naas Local Area Plan

The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted at a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on the 21 October and the plan will come into effect on the 01 December 2021 (see page 25).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Schedule of upcoming clinics in 2021 (see page 36).



New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

The main contract is at tender stage, with tenders to be returned by the 29 November 2021 (see page 57).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The guidelines for the next Local Economic Development Plan were received on 11 November. An online briefing event is scheduled for 09 December (see page 79).

Newbridge Playground

An online survey has been launched on <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/surveys>. The survey will run until Friday 17 December (see page 89).

MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre



The grand opening is scheduled with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar for the end of January 2022 (see page 92).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 Nov	29 15:00 Full Council	30	1 Dec 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:00 Environmental and Water Services SPC	2 10:30 LTACC	3 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD
5	6 19:00 County JPC	7 14:30 Audit Committee	8	9 09:30 Integration Strategy Implementation Steering Committee 14:30 Housing SPC	10
12	13 14:00 CPG	14 15:30 Naas Municipal District Monthly meeting	15 10:00 Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Monthly meeting	16 10:00 Economic Development Enterprise and Planning SPC	17 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip Municipal district Monthly meeting
19	20 10:00 Athy Municipal District Monthly meeting 15:00 Full Council Monthly Meeting	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31



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Corporate Services

Customer Services

Communications



Women and Diversity in Local Government

On 13 October Kildare County Council hosted 'Women and Diversity in Local Government', an online panel discussion of inspiring conversations with a panel of leaders from local government and political life. This was the first event of its kind to be held by Kildare County Council. Hosted by Professor Mary Corcoran, Maynooth University, the discussions explored the inspiring careers of the panel members as well as the challenges and opportunities of starting or sustaining a career in local government.

As Ireland works towards balanced participation and representation in

political life, our panel discussed access to opportunities for aspiring leaders, students or anybody unsure about how to approach a career in Local Government.

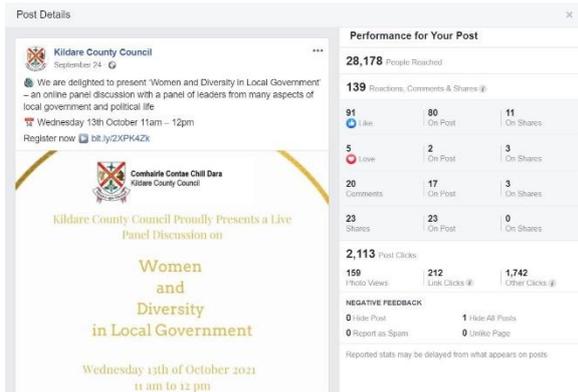
The event was held in the council chamber and had over 120 online registrations. Over 60% of those registered, logged on to watch the event live, including secondary schools from across the county, so the actual audience is understood to be much greater, with classes of students joining. The recording of the event was also made available online after the event for those who couldn't join on the day.

The panel comprised of:

- Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cathaoirleach of the county of Kildare
- Councillor Angela Feeney, Member of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee
- Councillor Chris Pender, Deputy Mayor of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee
- Alison Cowzer, Chairwoman, Women for Election



- Sonya Kavanagh, Interim Chief Executive, Kildare County Council
- Celina Barrett, Chief Fire Officer, Kildare County Council

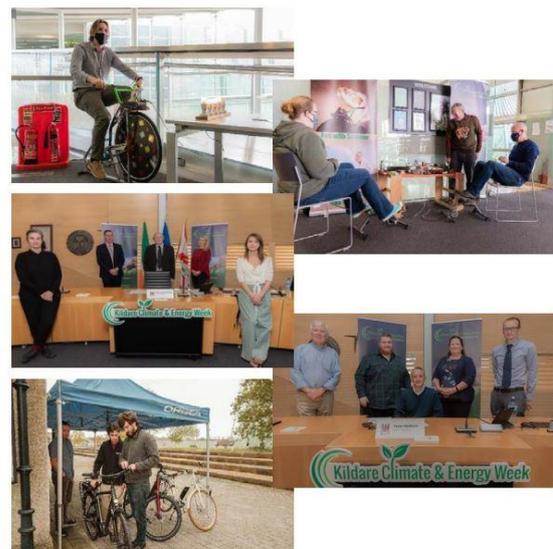


Kildare County Council reached out to schools across Kildare and used networks such as PPN as well as a comprehensive social media campaign to promote the event. The social media campaign ran from 24 September introducing the event, the important topics that it would cover as well as introducing the participants. The two-week campaign reached over 75,000 people across Facebook alone.



Kildare Climate and Energy Week 2021

Kildare's first ever Climate and Energy Week took place from 26 to 29 October. The action-packed week comprised of multiple events on each day covering important topics such as demystifying energy, biodiversity, innovation, our communities and more. In addition to the online schedule of events, there were lots of demonstrations and challenges for staff to get involved with during the week throughout the Áras. These included electric bikes and scooters, a pedometer scalelectric challenge, robot mowers, electric vehicles and much more.



Kildare Climate and Energy Week was launched at the beginning of October with a photocall and press release



issued to media, staff and councillors to raise awareness and promote the event. A dedicated web page was developed to highlight details of all of the online events and details of how people could join. A total of 11 online events took place across the four days, seven of which had instant captions available to ensure they were as accessible as possible. Three events were hosted and broadcast live from the Council Chamber.

A comprehensive social media campaign was undertaken in the build up to the event and Kildare County Council's social media channels were almost solely focused on Kildare Climate and Energy Week content for the duration of the week itself. The events were covered extensively in local press.



Register of Electors

Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 Published



Kildare County Council published the Draft 2022/2023 Register on 01 November 2021 and it is currently available for viewing:

- Online: www.checktheregister.ie
OR
- [By appointment](#) at Kildare County Council offices and at your local Library
OR
- In your local Post Office or Garda Station.

If you wish to make an amendment to the Draft register (either a correction/addition/deletion) RFA1 Forms must be submitted to Kildare



County Council by 25 November 2021 at the latest.

The RFA1 Form is available in English and as Gaeilge on Kildare County Council's Website here

<https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/Forms/RegisterofElectors/>. You also may

obtain a paper copy of the form from the council offices at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, at the Council's Customer Services Point in Athy, or in the council libraries or at Garda Stations and Post Offices.

Please phone our offices at 045 980201 or e-mail register@kildarecoco.ie with any queries.

Meetings

Municipal District Committees

Municipal District Committee meetings continued in October with each committee required to approve its Draft Budget Plan 2022. Discussions around LPT allocations and funding in the upcoming Draft Budget, were raised and considered by the members in adopting these Municipal District Budget Plans.

Full Council

The Statutory Budget meeting takes place online on Monday 22 November at 3:00 p.m. with the monthly meeting of Full Council scheduled to take place online on Monday 29 November at 3:00 p.m.

An online budget briefing for the members was scheduled for Monday 15 November.

Book of Condolence opened by the Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach opened an online Book of Condolence on the 10 November in memory of the late Austin Currie R.I.P.



Finance and Information Technology

Budget 2022 Meeting

Statutory Budget Meeting will be held on Monday 22 November 2021.

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 till end September 2021.

As part of Budget 2022, a targeted commercial rates waiver to support certain sectors was announced by the Government, for the final quarter of 2021. This three-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate standalone waiver scheme.

Kildare County Council has implemented these schemes as follows:

Scheme	Broad Categories Covered	Number of Properties in Receipt of Waiver	Value of Waiver Applied
Rates Waiver Q1, Q2 and Q3 2021	Retail, Leisure, Hospitality, Health	2,421	€13.6m
Targeted Rates Waiver Q4 2021	Hospitality, Leisure	598	€1.4m

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, the

council accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045 980 920.



Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting www.motortax.ie. Alternatively customers can email motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

The new customer portal and app for Rent and Rates Customers currently has 1,800 rent customers and 760 rates customers signed up for the service. Over €200,000 of payments have been processed through the service each month since it's launch in August 2021. The link to this portal is on <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>

Monthly Management Reports

Revenue Account Summary (see Appendix 1).



Housing

Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Agency has issued a call for proposals to Approved Housing Bodies for a Cost Rental Equity Loan Scheme which will be used to fund the delivery of Cost Rental properties.

The Cost Rental model is intended to promote an increased supply of affordable homes in the areas where there is a high demand for housing. Rent is charged at an amount which covers the capital cost and the ongoing management and maintenance expenses. Budget 2022 set aside €70 million for the delivery of cost rental properties and this call for proposals is aimed at delivery in 2022.

The allocation of properties is managed by the Approved Housing Body and in order to qualify for a property the net income of a household cannot exceed €53,000.

The Approved Housing Body must be in a position to achieve rents which are at least 25% less than the prevailing market rent. The Housing Agency will engage with local authorities regarding the suitability of the location of proposed units.

Cluid Housing Agency recently launched a Cost Rental Scheme of 56 houses in Barnhall Meadows, Leixlip. It is anticipated that properties will be available by year end. They are providing a mix of two and three bedroom houses, with rents starting at €900 per month. This scheme is the result of an earlier call for proposals.

Private Tenancies

The government has given approval to cap rent increases at 2% in Rent Pressure Zones (all of Co. Kildare). A bill is expected to be published this month, with urgent enactment thereafter. The 2% rent cap will only apply when the general rate of inflation is greater than 2%. This is a modification of changes made in July 2021, which provided that rent increase must be in line with Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices.

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations remain high and family presentations continue to remain high.



Update from National Homeless Leads Meeting

The National Homeless Leads COVID-19 meeting was held on the 19 October and there are no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county.

The cold weather Initiative is being exercised nationally and the Peter McVerry Trust will continue to operate this on behalf of Kildare County Council.

Emergency Accommodation

The homeless section sought expressions of interest from Proprietors of Guest Accommodation for inclusion in a list of retained Emergency Accommodation providers. This was advertised on the Kildare County Council website and Social Media platforms. Closing date for receipt of submissions was 05 November and submissions will be assessed in the coming weeks.

Tenancy Support

There are currently 52 active TSO cases.

There were two discharges for the month of October.

15 new cases were taken on in October.

Homeless HAP (HHAP)

There were five new HHAP tenancies for the month of October.

HHAP Officer has been in contact with 30 families who have NTQs (Notice To Quit).

A significant slow-down in the availability of properties for HHAP is currently being experienced in the County.

Homeless Outreach Update

- 10 Exits from Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) Hostel accommodation.
- Three clients referred to treatment.
- Seven Housing First Tenancies pending to be completed in November.
- Homeless Clinic established in Newbridge Family Resource Centre – monthly on a trial basis.
- Two placements increased in Jiginstown Facility (eight in total).



Outreach / Street work carried out in three municipal district areas for October (Athy, Naas and Kildare-

Newbridge) – 16 clients engaged and supported.

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	15	20	26
6 - 12 Months	5	6	8
12 - 18 Months	9	13	17
18 - 24 Months	3	3	3
24 - 30 Months	5	7	10
36 Months +	5	10	12
	42	59	76

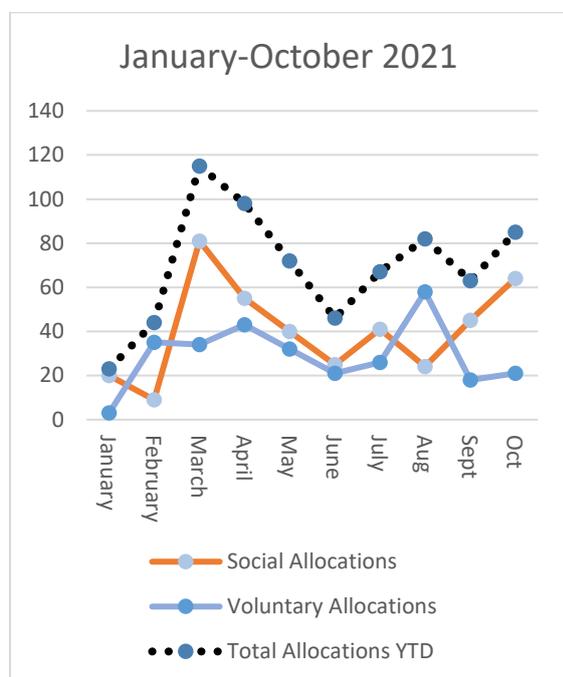
Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 October 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	2	1
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	4	5	8
+ 36 Months	6	11	17
	11	18	26



Number of Allocations

Allocations continued in October 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.



Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

A total of 408 tenancies have been signed up this year to 08 November last.

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.

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 has commenced (Quarter 4 2021).

The next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) will take place on 02 December 2021.

Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

164 applications were received under this scheme. Of this number, 87 applications were successful and were 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 the successful applicants have been notified of this. Payment of grants, where work has been completed and details submitted, has commenced.



Anne Street Community Facility

The council has been awarded €30,000 from the Social Investment Fund from the Housing Finance Agency to assist in the delivery of a

community facility at Anne Street, Prosperous. It is anticipated that work will commence on this project in 2022. Costs over and above this will be borne by the council.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	The 8 th tenderer has withdrawn from the project, a report is being prepared for the DHLGH. Likely that the project will be re-tendered.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Approval Stage 2 submitted to DHLGH on 15 October 2021 for approval to launch Part 8.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Stage 3 approval received July 2021 with conditions. Response to conditions issued to Department on 1 October 2021 for approval before tender will be approved for advertising.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Concluding stage 2 application for submission by end of November 2021.
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 DHLGH Q4 2021. Acoustic consultants appointed to conduct acoustic report and recommendation on current design proposal.
Approval Stage 1		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 application for approval for submission to DHLGH Q4 2021. Part 8 to follow.



Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Review of approval ongoing.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Q1 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Q4 2021.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Finalising preparation of Part 8 documentation for launch Q4 2021.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for stage 1 and 2 approval for new unit being prepared for submission to DHLGH.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Completion expected November 2021. Irish Water have completed wastewater and mains water connection works in Collegewood Manor.
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Pre-Part 8 pack received September and currently being reviewed. Community building added to scheme to provide social infrastructure within the development. Target to launch Part 8 by end November 2021.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Expected completion mid-June 2022.



Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Completion programmed for March 2022.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Cluid are finalising a Design Team Tender for an Architect Lead Design Team. Site excludes footprint of ESB mast site. Discussions regarding relocation of mast ongoing.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Meeting held with the DHLGH November 2021. Current calculations of abnormal costs risk the viability of the project. Increasing density to be explored.

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 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by Kildare County Council.
Camphill Communities of Ireland, Kilcullen	4 units	Application withdrawn by applicant November 2021.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia at end of August. Proposed unit numbers reduced to 27.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	31 units	CAS2 application submitted to the Department October 2021; awaiting response.
The Peter McVerry Trust Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed.

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	13
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	27



Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	70	
Total complete	255	379	187	110	
Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District		Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
	Athy				
Acquisitions in 2021	0	21	47	14	17
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	9	62	2	11	110

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove: Letter of Acceptance issued. Awaiting Contractor to confirm commencement date.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	Phase 2 Ashbrook: Works progressing well; circa 12 of 18 houses complete.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurry: Expect to commence Q1 2022.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	Phase 4 St Evins' Park: Expect to commence Q4 2021
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units contract ready, remaining 5 units scheduled.
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Expect to commence Q1 2022
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Expect to commence Q1 2022
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	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
Total Approved	€7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications)	€10,058,356 (includes 2020 applications)



Total Drawn Down	€3,240,568 (includes 2019 approvals)	€3,116,045 (€2,594,545 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €521,500 from 2021 approvals)
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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
August	0	0	0	0	1	€288,000
Sep	3	€561,697	0	0	5	€1,105,100
Oct	0		0	0	2	€418,000

Housing Maintenance

2020	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Total	97	108	6,939	6,733	80
2021	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter 1	29	29	2,109	1,660	0
Quarter 2	18	7	1,940	1,883	87
Quarter 3	18	10	1,825	1,299	0
Quarter 4 to date	7	1	1,083	626	0
Total	72	47	6,957	5,468	87



Planning and Strategic Development

County Development Plan (CDP)

Work is ongoing with respect to the Functional Urban Area Analysis/Rural Housing Report, Housing Needs Demand Assessment with the support of AIRO in Maynooth University. Survey work has now been completed for all non LAP small towns, villages, rural settlements and nodes (56 in total) to inform the County's Settlement Hierarchy in accordance with NPO 18b of the NPF, which will in turn inform the review of the CDP.

The Rural Housing Design Guidance document has been finalised and presented to the SPC. The draft Wind Energy Strategy was also presented to the SPC.

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.

RPS have now been appointed as consultants to prepare the Virtual Consultation Rooms for the Draft CDP.

Work is progressing on the drafting of a number of Draft CDP chapters. The following will inform the drafting of each chapter;

- (i) Mandatory and non-mandatory objectives from the Planning and Development Act
- (ii) Section 28 Guidelines and SPPRs
- (iii) NPF NPO objectives
- (iv) RSES RPO objectives
- (v) CE report
- (vi) Feedback at members workshops
- (vii) Kildare County Council Advisory Group and
- (viii) Chief Executive report on Members Directions

Early stages of SEA/AA/SFRA also underway.

Local Area Plans

Athy

The Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted at a Special Meeting of the Athy Municipal District on the 03 August and has come into effect on the 13 September 2021.



Naas

The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted at a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on the 21 October and the plan will come into effect on the 01 December 2021.

Notification has been sent to the Office of the Planning Regulator in this regard.

Maynooth

Background work for the Maynooth LAP is currently underway with various

environmental and infrastructural assessment being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

Kildare Town

Background work for the Kildare Town LAP is currently underway with various environmental and infrastructural assessment being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

Planning applications received:		Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: October	
October	Year	No.	Total Granted:	
2019: 132	1,219	2,226	Retention:	63
2020: 175	1,306	4,202	Extension of Duration:	17
2021: 149	1,558	574	Total Refused:	0
				27

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Stage	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
21/310865	3	Cairn Homes	Dunboyne Rd, Maynooth	194	Grant 01/11/2021
21/310892	3	Debussy	Millicent, Clane	192	Grant 09/11/2021
21/310912	3	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	336	10/11/2021
21/311037	3	T. Monaghan	Boyctown, Kilcock	298	25/11/2021
21/311040	3	Glan Dev.	Ballymany, Newbridge	247	25/11/2021

Significant Applications				
Ref No	Applicant	Description	Status	Comment
191138	Keegan Quarries	Develop 1.05ha for readymix batching plant, block yard and associated works	Refused	09/11/2021



		at Ballyonan, Broadford. EIAR and AA accompanied application		
211286	Kyrie Therapeutic Farm	Therapeutic farm for use as a step down health facility at former Portree Stables, Boston, Straffan	FI Request	04/11/2021
21/1276	Tony Vaughan	Development of 31 residential units, new vehicular and pedestrian access from adjoining estates at lands between Sallins Wharf, Osberstown Drive and Sallins Pier.	FI Requested	01/11/2021
21/1256	Power Capital Renewable Energy	Construction of a Solar PV farm with a 35 year operating life; 75,984 ground mounted PV panels on c44.21 hectares at Griffinrath, Celbridge	FI Requested	26/10/2021
21/1248	Barola Capital DAC	Distribution Warehouse, Office Accommodation and Buildings of c.64,550 sqm south of the Newbridge South Orbital Relief Road	Grant	22/10/2021
21/1175	Eirgrid Plc.	EirGrid Plc. with the consent and approval of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), intend to apply for permission for development on lands to the west of the Dunnstown 400 kV substation within the townland of Dunnstown (Td), Brannockstown, Naas, Co. Kildare. The proposed development will consist of an extension to the western boundary of the existing Dunnstown 400 kV substation to allow connection of series compensation equipment to the Dunnstown-Moneypoint 400 kV circuit. The extension will measure approximately 154m by 138m	FI Requested	05/10/2021

Section 254 Licences

- 64 licences for outdoor dining (tables and chairs etc) received to date: 34 granted, 6 refused and 24 in progress.
- Four licences issued to National Broadband Ireland (Overground electronic communications infrastructure) for the Athy,

Kildare Newbridge and Naas
Municipal District areas.

Legislation to extend enhanced outdoor dining measures beyond 30 November 2021 currently proposed.

Conservation Update

An offer of appointment has now been made, and accepted, to fill the currently vacant Architectural



Conservation Officer post. HR is following up with respect to start dates.

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding in 2022, an increase of €30,000 from the 2021 allocation.

Heritage Office Update

Planning

Heritage reports 229 applications to date. CDP Heritage related chapters completed. Heritage review of other chapters.

Geophysical survey of Old Kilcullen

Project not proceeding in 2021.
Deferred to 2022.

Online biodiversity workshops/mentoring and Citizen Science workshops

Project not proceeding in 2021.
Deferred to 2022.
Kildare Invasive Species Actions 2021 (American Skunk Cabbage control) with UCD

- a) American Skunk Cabbage control) with UCD

Control is almost completed.
Management procedure and educational video were developed.

- b) Himalayan Balsam survey of the River Liffey banks in Kildare with UCD

Survey work has completed, and community eradication project developed.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Expressions of interest form 11 towns and Villages have been received.
Plans will commence Quarter 4 2021.

Irish Walled Town Network

Two interpretation projects in Castledermot and Kildare completed.

Holy Wells of County Kildare Audit

Survey on holy wells in Kildare completed, wells mapped and a database generated.

Know your locality Course

Course 3 completed in September 2021 and course 4 in October 2021. In total 90 participants have taken part in the course. Funding was secured for, Creative Ireland.



Kilkea Stone Table

Conservation Letterfrack is progressing on conservation of the Table. A meeting was held with National Museum and conservator to agree cleaning methods.

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. The Minister has confirmed that the joint bid,

submitted in June 2021, was a valid application. The appointed Expert Advisory Group has advised that the Royal Sites of Ireland application has the potential as a serial transnational nomination, but needs to demonstrate the critically important Outstanding Universal Value which is a pre-requisite for any World Heritage consideration.

Passlands Graveyard - Monasterevin

Conservation work completed.

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 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

Works are being finalised on the following projects:



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

The following public realm applications to Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund were successful and funding terms and conditions have been accepted:



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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS and PUBLIC REALM TEAM
Updates in GREEN**

Concept

Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan and Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted.

Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Design has commenced on NTA funded interim traffic management measures which will be rolled out in November 2021. Tender for consultant to work on healthcheck with Public Realm team being published Nov 2021.

Part 8

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

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to



<p>place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on 19.05.2021. Detailed design will now progress.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 05 October 2021.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants and Design</p>
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 20km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023.</p>
<p>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. Public consultation to commence November 2021.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27 September 2021.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. . Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021.</p>



<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Quarter 4 2021.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. Second phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation.</p>
<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Quarter 4 2021 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p>Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Quarter 1 2022.</p>
<p>Design</p>



<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Consultation on draft Masterplan complete and submissions being incorporated into draft Masterplan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 published 05 October 2021. Included in successful URDF application.</p>
<p>Detailed Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08 June 2021. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre.</p>
<p>On Hold</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.</p>
<p>Construction</p>
<p>Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.</p>
<p>Naas – MERITS – Works complete. Final fit out nearing completion.</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Athy - Narraghamore-Socila Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>



Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December.

Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

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 4 2021 pending all operation outstanding issues and HSQE issues are addressed.

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 Autumn of 2021.

Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement

works carried out in Clane and Newbridge are substantially complete.

Some minor pipeline works continue in Naas off the Monread Road. The remaining pipeline works will be completed in Quarter 1 2022.

Permanent road reinstatement has commenced in Clane and Naas town centres.

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 4 2021 pending all operation



outstanding issues and HSQE issues are addressed.

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 published a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for this scheme in late September as option agreements have not been reached with all landowners.

Capital Projects

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and set out through a series of workshops in November and December this year and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 1 2022 for

execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control 3 and Revenue Control 4 periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Irish Water confirmed that the green light has been given for the upgrade of Timolin Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme. This will unlock growth and development by ensuring the treatment infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of the community. There is no time line available at this stage. This follows the announcement of the upgrade of Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant already this year.

Water Networks Management Projects

Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works -

Lourdesville BYSS (Back Yard Services scheme)

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 4 of 2021.

Assumpta Villas BYSS

There are currently two premises remaining whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained throughout Assumpta Villas. Private side service connection works have still to be completed at each of the remaining properties prior to decommissioning the final sections of existing mains within Assumpta Villas.

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 next scheduled clinic in 2021 is as follows:

29 November – 1.00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of this clinic.

Environment

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

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for



protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Civic Amenity Facilities

The two civic amenity sites continue to operate as normal at Silliot Hill Naas, and at Gallowshill Athy.

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to stabilise in line with recent trends. In October 2020, 402 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2021, this increased slightly to 422 tonnes, in line with previous years.

All 34 public bring bank facilities continue to be serviced by a dedicated team of Environmental staff on a weekly basis.

Community Composting

Three green waste composting facilities were installed in October. As part of a wider transition to sustainable waste management, community groups are looking to compost green waste on site both to deal with it as waste and also to provide a sustainable source of compost. To date, one Tidy Towns group and two

residents associations have begun composting and this is expected to increase. Some of the composters are made from recycled plastic while others are made using repurposed wooden pallets.



Leixlip Mens Shed assembling a community composter



Prosperous Tidy Towns composter

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.

Environment Complaints

Pollution complaints continue to be investigated in accordance with national guidelines.

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

National Tidy Towns

The National Tidy Towns competition proceeded this year, with the adjudication being done remotely. The Environment Department supported the entrants by providing grants to facilitate works, as well as offering advice on the wide range of areas covered by the competition.

There are 41 groups in county Kildare and 32 of them entered the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition.

Grants were processed and paid out to all applicants



The results where county Kildare were mentioned are:

- Endeavour Award – Kildare Town
- County Awards – In first place was Kill, in second place was Straffan and in third place Naas
- Medal Winners -
 - Bronze Medal Winners – Clane and Rathangan
 - Silver Medal Winners – Ballymore Eustace, Celbridge and Newbridge

Gold Medal Winners – Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Straffan

Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative

An anti-dog fouling initiative was carried out in each of the five municipal district areas. The wardens and staff from the Environment Department met with councillors in Naas, Athy, Kildare, Maynooth and Celbridge to hand out dog waste bags/dispensers to passing walkers. Stencils and an audio message reminding them to dispose of the waste were placed in each of these areas. There are plans to continue the

scheme in several other areas suggested by the Community Wardens.

Green Kilometre Scheme

The Kildare Green Kilometres has been shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Local Authority Awards under the Sustainability category. Kildare County Council continues to support these groups by providing clean up equipment and collecting the waste in a timely fashion. Over 130 kilometres registered and well over 50 tonnes of waste gathered in the year to date.

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/>



New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

Consultants have been appointed to progress this project to the next stage which will involve seeking expressions of interest from the market.

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. These projects have all been progressed, with the majority completed and the remainder

scheduled to be completed by end November 2021.

A free Mattress and Couches recycling day was successfully held at Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Site on Sunday 03 October 2021. The event was very successful with over 75 tonnes of waste couches and mattresses received on the day.

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.

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and Killeenmore commencing. Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://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 and documentation to advance this is being currently being drafted.

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 surveys to facilitate this has just been completed. Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://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. Most of the internal movement of waste is now complete, with Zone 1 lined and now receiving subsoil and

topsoil capping. Zone 3 is being prepared for lining, see photo below.



All the gas wells are installed and are being phased into connection with the temporary flare. The photo below shows an area in Zone 1 with gas wells.



The construction of the site compound is continuing, with Mechanical and Electric works commencing. The methane stripping equipment is being installed at the moment.





The changing rooms blockwork is complete. The Project team continue to work with Irish Water in terms of water services connections to the public systems.

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/>

Historic Landfill Programme

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Section 22 Register for unregulated waste

disposal sites. 100% funding is provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice on these sites. This must be carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites. The status of these are as follows:

Carigeen, Clane

CoA issued by EPA. Design for remediation works is complete and works have been tendered. It is envisaged to sign contract documents in January 2022 subject to funding.

Digby Bridge, Sallins

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Pollardstown, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which are currently underway and expected to be complete in Quarter 1 2022.



Knocknagarm, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which are due to commence and expected to be complete in Quarter 1 2022.

Greenhills, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Prusselstown, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

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

Works on significant improvement work to the St. Conleth's Cemetery were completed in September 2021. Some additional work is being planned to aid with waste management.

Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

Tenders will be advertised by end November 2021 for the resurfacing of the carpark, together with new

boundary fencing and barrier system.

It is proposed to also proceed with the installation of a pedestrian crossing as part of these works in conjunction with the Roads Department. Works are expected to commence in early 2022 on both projects.

Newbridge Cemetery Road and Path Resurfacing

Tenders have been advertised for some footpath and roadway improvement works and it is proposed to have Contractor appointed by end of November.

St. Michael's (New) Cemetery, Athy Road and Path Resurfacing

Tenders have been advertised for some footpath and roadway improvement works and it is proposed to have Contractor appointed by end of November.

Ballymore Eustace Cemetery

New paving works were carried out around the old Altar and other minor improvement works in the cemetery are completed.

Allen Cemetery

Plans for Phase 4 expansion currently being developed. Part 8 documents to



be prepared with a view to proceed to Part 8 publication in Quarter 1/Quarter 2 of 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Cemetery Maintenance Grants, to assist local groups with the maintenance of cemeteries, are currently being processed.

Risk Management

All directorates attending before audit committee on a rota basis to discuss respective departmental risk 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 looks at identifying practical ways local government could

promote economic activity arising from climate action policy.



The second annual conference on this theme took place on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 October 2021. The conference, entitled Climate Action Economic Opportunities - Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise was attended by over 400 participants over the two days. The conference heard from a range of speakers how local authorities can, through their economic remit, support, encourage and nurture new and existing business and enterprise, as they transition to a net-zero economy through innovation, digitalisation and the adoption of more sustainable practices.

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 participants in 20 local authorities to date, with a further four scheduled to year end. The remaining seven counties will be completed in early 2022. To date, in excess of 700 senior staff and elected members have completed this module.



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. The course takes place over six half days and to date, has been delivered to CAT members in 26 local authorities, with the remaining five being scheduled to commence in late November and leadership modules rolling into January. Strong attendance has been reported, particularly for the leadership modules.



Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online training programme is ongoing. To date, a total of 8,522 staff at Grades 7, 6, 5, 4 (and technical equivalents) have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities. Participation rates have been positive – with average completion rates over 70% of enrolled participants. The programme will be rolled on to Grade 3's and their technical equivalents which will see a further 4,548 people enrolled in the training.



Thematic Training

In the first training course of the Actioning Policy training pillar, the Planning for Climate Change training, informed by workshops held in conjunction with the three Regional Assemblies was rolled out to 291 local authority planners of all disciplines.

Other training courses being developed under the Actioning Policy pillar are at various stages as follows:

- A Green Procurement course, to address a number of actions across local authority strategies, the Climate Action Charter and other environmental legislation, is now at tender stage, with an appointment expected in December and course rollout to commence in 2022.
- An introduction to Flood Risk Management is an eight module course designed to develop skills and knowledge in flood risk management for key staff involved in managing, planning and responding to flood risk.

A pilot took place on 27 September and the rollout to all local authorities commenced on 01 November, with over 240 participants enrolled to date.



Outdoor Staff

A pilot of the Delivering Action programme took place on 01 July, with feedback from attendees used to finalise course content and delivery method before rollout to all local authority outdoor staff. The LASNTG are currently recruiting an in-house trainer to deliver this programme to outdoor staff on a county by county basis.



Frontline Staff

Training for front line or community engagement staff remains under design and development with the Institute of Public Administration. A pilot programme is scheduled for December 2021 with further rollout in 2022.



Adaptation Planning Progress Reporting:

The second annual progress report from local authorities on the implementation of their Climate Change Adaptation Strategies is currently being collated and will be submitted to the Dept. of the Environment, Communications and Climate by the end of November 2021. The Eastern and Midlands CARO is coordinating this work on behalf of the other CARO's and all 31 local authorities.

Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted.

The CAROs, working in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA convened a

project advisory group and commenced work on guidelines for local authorities in support of the development of their climate action plans.

Guidelines are due for completion by the project advisory group at the end of November 2021, however they are to be published by the Minister of Environment, Communications and Climate.



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 2021.

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. Their final report is expected shortly. The CARO were successful in securing funding from SEAI's Project

Assistance Grant (PAG) Programme for the respective local authorities and 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 has been established under the stewardship of the CCMA Climate Change, Transport and Networks Committee, and to date, a survey has been issued to all local authorities to

establish a baseline. The initial phase of the project will be to examine the survey returns and to research and present opportunities for immediate reduction of carbon across the local authority fleet.

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 Adaptation Strategy (CCAS)





CCAS Action Reporting is being finalised for the country by Eastern and Midlands CARO with input from the individual county's Climate Action Team members. The number of actions being undertaken and completed by Kildare continue to increase. The final data shows 65.35% of all actions are ongoing, 16.5% are completed and 5.51% are new actions.

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). RPS Group are the contracted consultants and are working hard to deliver imminently an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline.

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 51% by 2030. To this end the team is aligning collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement 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. The Climate Action SPC is being made aware of progress to inform its work.



Energy

Energy Management Team

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team continues to meet monthly and is progressing a number of key areas. The recognized energy management standard of ISO 50001 is being considered by the Team with a dedicated meeting being scheduled for January 2022 to decide Kildare County Council's next steps. The Energy Management Team through its register of opportunities is identifying suitable projects to move to action phase for 2022, these will be a mix of initiatives and projects to reduce our energy usage. A significant area the Team is evaluating is that of bills analysis and it is hoped to roll out training for personnel involved in processing and authorizing utility bills in Quarter 2 2022. Analysis of top energy users across our council remains a standalone agenda item and it is hoped to bring analysis of these top energy users to senior managers attention intermittently through 2022.

Kildare Climate and Energy Week (26 October to 29 October)

After six months of development, planning and execution Kildare's first

Climate and Energy Week was delivered on 26 to 29 October.



Kildare recommitment to the Covenant of Mayors movement during Climate and Energy Week

Kildare Climate and Energy Week started as an initiative in the Energy Management Team and was planned and delivered by a sub-group of the Team driven by Kildare County Council's Climate Action Office. During the week long initiative there were three lived streamed events from the council chamber, seven online events and a host of demonstrations and competitions. The events cover demystifying Energy, Biodiversity and given insights into actions that can be undertaken by the individual, groups, enterprise and business. The events will be hosted shortly on the Council's YouTube account.



Panelists in “Climate Action Panel Discussion”

The Climate Action Office is currently working on compiling learnings from Kildare Climate and Energy Week and it is hoped that the learnings can be used as guidance for future similar initiatives.

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on reducing its energy usage across the council. Our provisional scorecard for energy usage in 2020 shows a 33.3% 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 and

also meets the National target of 33% reduction by 2020.

Mid-East Energy Bureau

Kildare County Council is engaged in a process with other local authorities to form an Energy Bureau to drive energy efficiencies at a regional level. It is proposed to establish the Bureau with the assistance of SEAI’s pathfinder program which will assist with funding towards energy related projects across the region and also funding for the Bureau establishment and staffing needs over a fixed period of time. Currently Kildare, Wicklow and Meath Local Authorities are partnered to deliver this initiative, with support from CARO. Kildare’s Energy Efficiency Officer is also assisting with a sub-group of the Bureau establishment Team to develop tender documentation to procure a suitable consultant to drive this project. It is hoped to have final tender documents ready by December 2021 at which point Chief Executives from each of the Local Authorities will be asked to approve the progression of the Mid-East Energy Bureau.



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. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA.

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.

The Climate Action Office is considering working with CODEMA to streamline the administration of the system for all parties involved.

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for LA's as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in our fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District Offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging.

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.

Climate Action



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

The Climate Action Office in conjunction with Age Friendly, Roads and the Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association have applied for funding for Ballymore Eustace Disability, Age and Climate Friendly River Walk. If successful, this project to make the river walk fully accessible for all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.

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. Potential sites are being investigated with the relevant functional areas.

The assistance senior management to advance the site selection process is requested.

Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The Climate Action Office published its third edition during the first week of October with a view to circulating widely as a mainstreaming tool.

The edition was warmly received and gave fun, varied subject matter with links to future information and sound bites.

The December edition is now being compiled.

Just Transition

The municipal districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to develop and prepare a 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare'. Urban Foresight Limited are nearing the end of the process and will be presenting the final draft to Councilors in early December to inform any final changes and will



present to the CPG in mid-December when finalised.

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.

Cork City, Galway City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon Fingal, Offaly Tipperary and South Dublin Councils have confirmed their partnership. Waterways Ireland has confirmed that they will partner shortly and have already worked with us on trials on pavement cleaning.

Sophia Couchman, Masters student, has since June, undertaken field data collection from the research sites, citizen science initiatives, commenced desktop research. Initial baseline experiments have taken place on the Millennium Link Road in Naas. During October Maynooth University, Trinity College, NBDC, Teagasc and Kildare County Council are reviewing the data collected to date. Together the potential experiments and follow up

research items will be designed to inform the scientific and practical process during 2022.

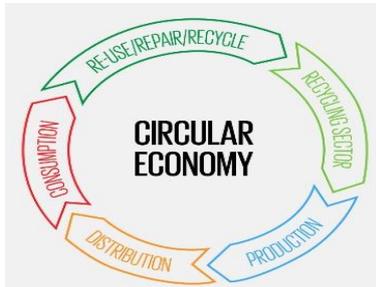


Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates and profile posts of those involved in the background and of the work being undertaken.

Work on a circular economy model with regard to disposal of grass not suitable for use as fodder is well advanced with material being sent to Green Generation in late September and October to ascertain its potential use to create bio-energy. The results of the experiment when known will have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of maintenance and disposal works. The CAT members are invited to see the workings of Green Generation for themselves on the 02 December to fully understand the



process and future possible applications.



Council Policy Documents and Initiatives

The Climate Action Office is delighted to be working with various functional areas to enhance their work through a Climate Action lens.

The Climate Action Office continue to work with the Planning Department to inform the CDP, community section including Age Friendly to future the Climate Action Plan for Ballymore Eustace and sustainable transport section with future community consultation.

There are future plans to undertake workshops with teenagers with access needs, potential An Gaisce Awards work and intergenerational works.

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county.

Paul Woods

Paul graduated from LSAD with a BA Honours Degree in fine art painting. He paints about personal, collective and universal histories. He focuses on details, minute elements and intricate patterns.



He builds up layers of paint meticulously in order to achieve his desired effect. In recent years, his focus has been on the theme of evolution and the environmental impact of humanity on nature. The scale of his work is very important as he wants the viewer to be immersed in the painting and overwhelmed by its colours and patterns.

Mural finalized in early October on Council's Machinery Yard Wall, Newbridge.

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Key Highlights

- NTA's Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Programme – public consultation has commenced. To view county-by-county proposals, network tables, and maps log onto www.nationaltransport.ie and register to attend public information events.
- NTA's Draft Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy has been published (www.nationaltransport.ie) Register



to attend online public information events.

- DART+Southwest second consultation has commenced (Dublin city to Hazelhatch, Celbridge). A series of public webinars will be held over the coming weeks. Register at www.dartplus.ie

Projects Update

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.

TII deliverables for Phase 1 are now complete and signed off by both Kildare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The scheme has now moved to Phase 2 Option Selection. The scheme will take

a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road

Contract signed by Chief Executive on 19 October 2021 and Main Works contract commenced on the 09 November 2021.



ADR Contract Signing: John Lucey, Director and Theo Cullinane, CEO, BAM Civil Ltd.

Compensation for compulsory land acquisition is ongoing. The Project Resident engineer has commenced work on the project and the remaining resident engineering (RE) team is currently being procured. Contractor is now on site.



New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

The Part 8 approved 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 undertaken by Clonmel Enterprises Ltd. has now been 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 at tender stage, with tenders to be returned by the 29 November 2021.

It is expected to have a main contractor on site for Quarter 2 2022.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee confirmed approval of the Part 8 in respect of Option C, the preferred route, on the 29 July 2019.

Kildare County Council is currently endeavouring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the CPO going ahead.

Valuers have been appointed.

Discussions with Waterways Ireland, Iarnrod Éireann and CIE are ongoing in relation to the design of the bridge structure which will span the Royal Canal and Dublin/Sligo railway line. Agreement has been reached with Irish Water on the servicing of the lands associated with the MERR LIHAF project. Detailed design of the scheme, including drainage design, is at an advanced stage.

Arrangements are being made for funding discussions with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF), the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Engineering Consultants RPS have been engaged for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road Project. Kildare County Council was successful in



securing funding 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.

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.

A public consultation associated with the emerging preferred route will commence in Quarter 1 2022.

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.

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. The Part 8 process has been completed with approval to proceed with the project confirmed at the July MD meeting.

Affected landowners are being consulted at present and a decision on whether to proceed with a CPO (rather than by agreement) will be confirmed in December.

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. Consultants (ATKINS) have been recently appointed. It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 1 2022.

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 Kildare Town Transport Strategy is currently at DRAFT stage. Meetings with the Kildare-Newbridge MD Councillors were held on the 07 April 2021 and the 26 April 2021. The non-statutory public consultation was completed in August 2021. It is expected to have a final document available in early December.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

AECOM Consultants have been appointed to the develop of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. It is expected to take twelve months to complete and this will facilitate the development of the Maynooth LAP. The first public consultation is to commence on the 06 October and run for six weeks.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Kildare County Council received funding for 2021 from the Department of Transport for bridge rehabilitation works.

The Monasterevin Bridge has significant structural issues in two centre-pier cutwaters. Emergency works are not deemed necessary at this stage. An application to An Bord Pleanála for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Natura Impact Assessment approval (as the river Barrow is a Special Area of Conservation) has been approved subject to conditions. Rehabilitation works are ongoing on-site.

Four bridge projects funded by the Department of Transport for 2021 have been awarded to TRUIR and are to be completed by Quarter 4 2021.

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

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

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



submission of the taking in charge documentation.

Following the unsuccessful application for funding under URDF Call 2, the Project Team has commenced the tender process for the appointment of consultants to progress the project to stage 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (Planning Stage). It is expected to award the contract by the end of 2021.

Maynooth Inner Relief Street

This road with signalised junctions and a new bridge over the Lyreen River has been substantially completed by Cairn Developments Plc. The 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 4 2021.

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 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.

NTA-funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Designers: Tenders Invited
Consultancy services for the detailed design of the Mill Street works is being procured.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Designers: WS Atkins Ireland Limited.
Tender evaluation of construction contract is underway.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Designers: WSP Ireland Consulting.
Appointment made for design review and a revised Part 8 Process will follow.



Easton Road/Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Designers: WSP Ireland Consulting.
The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Celbridge Bridge

Designers: National Transport Authority
No update.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Designers: Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.
Public consultation process for the interim scheme is complete. Planning for implementation works is underway.

Maynooth Permeability Measures

Designers: O'Connor Sutton Cronin.
Construction of permeability measures in Maynooth is underway.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Designers: WS Atkins Ireland Limited.
The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Designers: J.B. Barry Transportation.
The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Designers: J.B. Barry Transportation.
The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Safe Routes to School Programme

Designers: Kilgallen and Partners.
Proposed Part 8 drawings for the Monasterevin scheme are being discussed with the Planning Department.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Designers: WS Atkins Ireland Limited.
Detailed design phase underway.

R445/R416 Junction Improvement, Newbridge

Designers: Inhouse.
Works nearing completion.



Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

291 submissions are being reviewed and it is hoped to discuss amendments with elected representatives in Jan 2022.

NBI Fibre Broadband Rollout

Kildare County Council has granted the Section 254 licences in the Athy and Naas MDs. Three further S254 licences for Naas, Kildare/Newbridge and Athy MDs are currently being progressed. These licences are for new poles and overhead fibre installation.

A tender for the preparation of the Kildare Digital Strategy is progressing.

Athy Municipal District November 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.
- 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.

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 is engaging with the Local Link Team to discuss 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.

- Blackcastle
- Knocknagee
- Ballaghmoone
- Crooket
- Kildoon
- Peelhall
- Nicholastown
- Gotham
- Kildoon Ironhills
- Beaconstown
- Sills Cross
- Kilberry R417

Some after care taking place along these roads in building up of edges.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2021

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



Restoration Maintenance Surfacing works

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

1. L8073 Russellstown Inch
2. L8016 Rathsillagh Narraghmore
3. L8007 Ballyshannon
Calverstown
4. L8026 Broomfield Snipestown
5. L4011 Woodlands
6. L4010 Newtown allen
7. L4012 Prumplestown
8. L4009 Castledermot
9. L7071 Kildoon Ironhills
10. L8040 Peelhall
11. L8078 Nicholastown
12. L8087 Blackcastle
13. L8090 Knocknagee
14. L80901 Oak Park
15. L8089 Lisbush Knocknagee
16. L8091 Crooket
17. L8086 Sills Cross
18. L8087 Beaconstown
19. L8018 Kilcrow
20. L80012 Pit Lane
21. L80491 Belan Lane
22. L8082 Ballybough Lane
23. R427 Cloney
24. R417 Kilberry Cloney
25. R415 Walterstown
26. R414 Mylerstown

Local Improvement Schemes

1. Goulyduff
2. Hughstown
3. Calverstown
4. Pullagh
5. Killeen East

Some after care works taking place along these roads in building up of edges.

Community Involvement Schemes

1. L80011 Ball Alley Lane
2. L80972 Carrigeen Lane
3. L70651 Rickardstown Lane
4. L8064 Rosbran Lane
5. Killeen East Lane

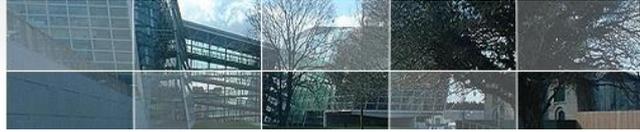
Some after care works taking place along these roads in building up of edges.

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 the council are upgrading the junction.

Commenced placing of signage at Booleigh junction.



Road Markings

Junctions have been identified where lining is faded and needs replacing. Relining to all roads surfaced, where appropriate, including placing of “cats eyes”. This has been assigned to the contractor and the works have commenced.

Completed anti-skid marking at Hacklow Junction R418. Signs to be upgraded before end of month.

Drainage Works

Unblocking of drains from the autumn leaves including cleaning out of gullies and providing water cuts.

Public Realm Works

In conjunction with the public realm team the Municipal District office has installed 5 picnic benches in Athy at Barrow Quay adjacent to the River Barrow.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District November 2021

Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

The 2021 program of works is now finished with the following re-surfacing works completed:

1. L70721 Eascanrath Lane
2. L6047 Coughlanstown
3. L6045 Flemingstown
4. L6068 Green Avenue
5. L-7089 Raheens, Caragh
6. L-7027 Loughbrown
7. L-7038 Roseberry
8. Bracknagh Road, Rathangan
9. L-7087 Blacktrench to Paddy's Bridge
10. L-3009 Fernsbridge to Barraderra
11. L -2032 Athgarvan Crossroads to Liffey Bridge
12. L-70418 Henry Street Newbridge
13. Military Road Newbridge
14. R414 New St Rathangan
15. R414 Drogheda Row, Monasterevin
16. Bracknagh Junction with Bournes Lane

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:

1. L-7012 Ballykelly Cross
2. L-7001 Rathangan
3. L-7006 Punchersgrange



4. L-7032 Pollardstown
5. L-7023 Pollardstown
6. R-414 Rathangan to Shee Bridge
7. L-2035 Kenny Court to Gormanstown
8. L-6074 Kilcullen to Carnalway
9. L-6080 Old Kilcullen

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works 2020

Mount Carmel, Newbridge – Phase 2 footpaths completed

Rowanville Kildare Town footpaths have been completed and a portion of the road in the estate was overlaid. Footpath works are currently being done in Milltown and should be complete by the end of the week.

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

Footpath works in Avondale complete
Emergency footpath repairs in Newbridge Industrial Estate.

The contractor will continue with the remaining planned LPT Works and Drainage works over the winter months.

Low Cost Accident Schemes

There are three Low Cost Accident schemes programmed for 2021 and now complete:

- Thompsons Cross
- Cherryville Cross
- Ball Alley Cross

Miscellaneous Works

Verge cutting across all areas of the municipal district underway

Footpath Works in St. Patrick's Park
Rathangan and Curragh View
Brownstown

Pothole repairs across the Municipal District

General Maintenance – Water cuts, patching and gully cleaning
Drainage Works at Clogheen

Naas Municipal District November 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.

- St. Martins Avenue, Naas – Complete



- Roseville, Naas – Nearing Completion
- Woodlands, Naas – Substantially Complete
- Friary Road, Naas – Awaiting Contractor Availability
- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas – Awaiting contractor availability
- Lakelands, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Monread Avenue, Naas (footpath repairs)
- Lacken View, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Broadfield View, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Ballycane Rd., Naas (dished crossings at entrances to Oakfield Heights)

The Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 1 – 2021 are now complete at the following locations.

The locations are as follows:

- Main Street, Kill - Complete
- Elmwood, Naas – Complete
- Osberstown Road, Sallins – Complete
- Monread Road, Naas – On hold pending completion of Irish Water works

Naas Municipal District Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 2 – 2021 - (Refer to LPT Funded Works)

Naas MD Footpath and Civil Works Scheme 3 – 2021

Works are now complete at the following locations:

- St. Corban's Place, Naas (footpath improvements)

The 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
- Sallins – R407 opposite Chapel Lane
- Naas – Dublin Road – Odeon Cinema

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Funded Works

Works are substantially complete at Sallins Road, Naas (Footpath widening improvements from Naas GAA to Oldtown Demesne).



Works are ongoing at the Bundle of Sticks Roundabout, Naas (New footpath construction).

Naas Municipal District Road Improvement Works 2021

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

1. L2022 Eadestown
2. L2022 Nunsland
3. L6021 Bishopscourt
4. L6026 Coolahocka
5. L6029 Cupidstownhill
6. L6054 Tipperkevin

Works at the following location (Scheme 2) is now complete:

- L6030 Hempstown (Slate Quarries)

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

Works at the following location is now complete:

- L2019 Arhurstown

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

Restoration Improvement Works have commenced and are ongoing at the following locations:

1. L60671 St. Michaels Terrace Naas
2. L2993 Railway Terrace Naas
3. L3012 / L29937 Monread Rd. / Monread Avenue Junction
4. R445 Newbridge Road (Jigginstown to New Carragh Road)
5. L3018 John Devoy Road including Newbridge road Junction
6. L29973 Pacelli Road /St Martins Avenue Junction.

Surface Dressing Works

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

1. R410 Blessington Rd. (Naas to Beggar's End)
2. R411 Naas to Ballymore Eustace
3. L2026 Ardenode to Perrystreet Cross
4. L5043 Broadleas
5. L2010 Bodenstown
6. L60161 Killeenmore
7. L6011 Sherlockstown
8. L6021 Blackchurch / Castlewarden



9. L2014 Kill Interchange to Blackchurch
10. L6047 Coughlanstown
11. L6051 Dowdenstown

Naas Municipal District Footpath Works

Work have been completed on 2021 LPT/Paid Parking Funded Works at the following locations:

- Morell Avenue (Raised Crossing)
- Elmwood, Naas (footpaths improvements)
- Hartwell Green, Kill (footpath improvements)
- Hartwell Rd., Kill (footpath improvements)

Works are substantially complete at the following locations:

- Woodlands, Naas
- Monread Avenue, Naas, Uncontrolled crossing with raised table.

A tender has been awarded for works at the following locations which will commence as the contractor becomes available:

- Liffey Heights, Ballymore Eustace (footpath improvements)
- St. Brigid's Terrace, Sallins (construction of parking area)
- St. Conleth's Place, Naas (road and footpath improvements)
- The Sycamores, Naas (footpath improvements)
- The Paddocks, Naas (footpath improvement)

Low Cost Accident Schemes 2021

There are three Low Cost Accident Schemes programmed:

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

Designs for these works for Safety Improvement Works to include additional line marking and signage at the following.

Drainage

Naas Municipal District Drainage Works Scheme 1 – 2021

Drainage works are now complete at the following locations:

- Mountain View, Naas
- Esmondale, Naas
- Oldtown Court, Naas



- Dun na Riogh Green, Naas
- Broadleas, Ballymore Eustace
- Turnings, Straffan

Works at the final location (Johnstown) in this scheme are substantially complete with permanent reinstatement awaiting completion.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

Works are complete on two Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) at the following locations:

- Kill Celtic, Kill
- Haynestown

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District November 2021

Road Improvement Works

The crews have continued with general maintenance over the past month with a strong emphasis on drainage maintenance which included gully cleaning and water cut openings throughout the district.

As requested by the elected members arrangements were made for the installation of portable toilets in the Harbour Field earlier in the month. Unfortunately these were vandalised and fire damaged shortly after being installed.

Restoration Improvement

The following works were undertaken in October:

Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 2.5 km

- L70051 – Ballyteigue to Pluckerstown

Other works planned in Clane as part of the Irish Water reinstatement works includes:

- L80137 – Central Park and Churchfield Clane
- L81263 – Abbey Court Clane

General Works:

Footpaths

The Municipal District Office is progressing the identified footpath repair projects.

The following works have been completed in the past month.

- The Downings Prosperous – Footpath repairs

The footpath repairs in Clane are due to commence shortly.

It is hoped to complete the initial project list in the coming month and the municipal district office is currently identifying additional footpaths to



progress during Quarter 4 2021 and into 2022 subject to available funding. The municipal district office was successful in securing funding from the NTA for the following two projects.

- Allenwood – Footpath installation along the R403 to Bluetown
- Maynooth – Continuation of cycle lane along Meadowbrook Link Road to the Straffan Road

We are currently engaging with landowners and finalising the tender documents with hopefully construction started before year end.

Drainage

The following works have been completed in the past month.

- R403 Carbury Road Derrinturn – New road crossing and outfall

Lining

A list of junctions, safety measures and ramps have been identified where lining is faded and needs replacing.

This has been assigned to the contractor and the works have commenced and anticipated to be completed in the coming month.

Subject to available funding, this will be a multi annual programme.

Signage

The Municipal District Office has purchased over 400 signs for replacement, these will be installed during 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 4 2021.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

The contract has been awarded for the following project and the advance works have commenced with the project to be completed in the coming month.

- L5071 Mill Pond Staplestown

Low Cost Safety Schemes

The contract has been awarded for the following project and the advance works have commenced with the projects to be completed in the coming month.

- L1019 Mangans Cross
- L2002 Millicent Cross



Other

A contractor has been appointed to undertake the repair works to Alexandra Bridge in Clane.

The Public Realm team arranged the installation of lining in the Harbour Field to encourage children to play.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

The following works are ongoing in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District:

Cycleway works/Pedestrian Works

The Royal Canal Greenway tenders have been received and are currently being assessed by the consultants. It is planned to seek approval from the NTA to appoint the winning contractor in December.

The appointment of the contractor will be subject to approval from the NTA and funding.

Municipal District Road

Improvement Works 2020/2021

The Department of Transport funding allocation for 2021 has been used to resurface the following roads:

- 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)
- Parts of Castletown Estate in Celbridge and Leixlip

Surface Dressing Works

The following roads have been surface dressed:

- 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.

Kildare Civil Defence

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



- Assisted at Irish Blood Transfusions Service Clinic in Clane.
- Attended three First Aid events at Naas Racecourse
- Provided First Aid Cover for 10K and 5K event in Naas.
- Provided assistance to Dublin Civil Defence with event in the Aviva.
- Attended Rest Centre Evacuation Exercise in Tallaght with Dublin Civil Defence with Catering Unit.

Health and Safety

One incident occurred during the month of October where an electrical cable was hit while repairing water main. The Health and Safety Section carried out the following:

- 14 COVID 19 Compliance Inspections completed
- 23 online assessments completed
- Updated COVID-19 Return to Workplace Induction
- Meeting with HR re Government Announcement re COVID-19 restrictions and next steps needed to be taken.
- Meetings attended:

1. Lead Worker Representative Meeting
 2. Staff App Meeting
 3. Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
- Health and Safety Week (25 to 29 October). The theme for this year was Healthy Brain/Healthy Body. Key Highlights included:
 - Webinars:
 - Value of the Brain "Wake up to Brain Health"- which was delivered by Dr Sabina Brennan, chartered health psychologist (C.Psychol.,PsSI.), neuroscientist (PHD) and best-selling author
 - "Let's talk about Menopause"- which was delivered by Dr Caoimhe Hartley, Associate Professor with the University of Alberta in Canada.



- In conjunction with K Leisure we offered all staff free access to a fitness class, gym session or a swim session.
- Promoted our Employee Assistance Program and encouraged staff to download the Spectrum Life Wellbeing App.

Accessibility

- Working with contractor on the delivery of 360 degree virtual tours of Libraries and Áras Chill Dara
- Working on preparation for International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 03 December.
Proposal to include:
 - Plan to run for the week 29 November – 03 December
 - Launch of JAM Card (Just a Minute) Initiative-

to date 234 staff and councillors have completed the eLearning course

- Light landmarks across Kildare purple for the week.
- Fly CKAN flag (County Kildare Access Network) in prominent locations across Kildare
- Meetings:
 - Celbridge Access Meeting
 - CKAN Meeting
- Review of Disabled Parking Bays:
 - Newbridge Library
 - Market Square Kildare

Meeting with UCD Centre for Disability Studies to explore the possibility of working together on a project around social inclusion of people with disabilities into neighbourhoods/localities in Kildare.



Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end September)
Newbridge	429	358
Naas	389	370
Athy	194	177
Maynooth	280	236
Monasterevin	151	136
Leixlip	203	151
Total	1,842	1,423

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	33	31
2021	6	5

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	7
2021	13

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	204
2021	221



Building and Development Control

BUILDING CONTROL (figures to end of October 2021)

Commencement Notices:	2020	2021
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	526
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	519
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	4
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	319
Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2020	2021
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	531
Number Valid	425	531
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing	0	0
Additional Information		
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	198
Disability Access Certificates:	2020	2021
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	167
Number granted:	137	140
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	1
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	107
Building Control Active Sites:	2020	2021
Number of units inspected	2067	2710
Development Control Active Sites:	2021	
Number of Active Sites	119	



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Kildare County Council hosts Pride in Your Place Awards Ceremony 2021

Prize-winners gathered at the Westgrove Hotel in Clane on Thursday evening, 04 November to reap the rewards for their hard work in the County Kildare Pride in Your Place Competition. Kildare County Council hosted a prize-giving ceremony for the winners who included young people, gardeners and local authority residents' associations from across the

county. There was also a new category in this year's awards for COVID-19 Heroes who went above and beyond for their communities during the pandemic.

Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cathaoirleach of the county of Kildare and Eoghan Ryan, Deputy Chief Executive, Kildare County Council presented the awards. Marian Higgins, Acting Director of Services in the Economic, Community and Cultural Department thanked the groups and individuals who had taken part for their work and achievements in their neighbourhoods.





Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2021		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	134	€236,066
Festival Grants	56	€44,605
Local Property Tax	355	€660,455
Private Estates Res. Assoc.	300	€111,517
Local Authority Res. Assoc.	71	€44,573
Drehid Grants	28	€201,697
Community Enhancement Programme	27	€148,013
Education Bursaries	35	€24,750
Total	1006	€1, 471,676

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 have issued to successful applicants and payments are being processed.

Local property tax grants

Lists have been provided from Municipal Districts. Community section staff are processing relevant awards or mini-schemes as required. Grants awarded to date are as above.

Community Enhancement Programme

€148,013 has been allocated for 27 local projects in Kildare ranging from €1,000-€10,000. The funding will support capital projects/equipment to enhance facilities and to assist with

costs associated with reopening or sustainability of facilities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education Bursaries

Applications were assessed in September. 35 awards have been made.

Local Community Development Committee November 2021

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 29 September 2021.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The guidelines for the next Local Economic Development Plan were



received on 11 November. An online briefing event is scheduled for 09 December. The LCDC will consider the guidelines and devise a process to commence planning.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative. This will mean greater resources and opportunities for Athy as a healthy town. Capital funding of €250,000 has been secured through this initiative towards upgrading the People's Park

A dedicated co-ordinator will be employed and work to co-ordinate approaches between Kildare County Council, HSE and Tusla is agreed. This post will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Social Enterprise Community Grant Scheme

An assessment group of the LCDC met and recommended applications for funding available to Minister Humphries in line with the allocation for Kildare of €35,053.13

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

The Department Rural and Community Development recently launched the Community Activities Grant Scheme.

This will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility bills as well improvements to their facilities. The guidelines and details are not yet available from DRCD. The LCDC will administer this funding of which €296,027 is available in Kildare.

LEADER Programme

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 or telephone 045-895450

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

SICAP is on track to fully deliver its targets in 2021. The programme has been extended by a further year until 2023. The draft plan for 2022 is currently being finalised.



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

Healthy Ireland Strand 1 Round 3

A Healthy Kildare Planning process is underway. This will help to identify health and wellbeing priorities for Kildare to inform funding applications. A further Healthy Ireland funding stream Round 4 was confirmed. Details to apply for this funding are being finalised nationally.

Contact: Laura Kelly, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator, 086-8858505.

The next LCDC meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 November 2021.

Kildare Fáilte

At the end of October, it was announced that live events could once again take place. This was welcomed by many tourism and hospitality providers.

The AVEA annual conference was attended by Kildare Fáilte which included a Recovery Strategy for Irish Tourism and an international panel providing key learnings on inspiring innovation.

Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan

Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and Tipperary County Council launched the Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) on Wednesday 10 November to drive and sustain tourism in Kildare and Tipperary by developing new and enhanced visitor experiences across both counties.



“County Kildare has long been synonymous with the horse and, in particular, the Thoroughbred. Kildare County Council and Kildare Fáilte are delighted to work with our colleagues in Tipperary County Council, Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders in the Equine industry to develop the Thoroughbred Country Experience. The launch of this plan is a significant milestone and we very much look forward to the realisation of the Thoroughbred Country Destination Development Plan”

Kildare County Council Interim
Chief Executive, Sonya Kavanagh

Steering group meetings on the Shackleton project were also attended as was the Tourism Ireland Industry Briefing.

County Kildare Fáilte was delighted to continue to host press trips in October and welcomed Roisin Healy from Irish Country Magazine who experienced the adventurous activities Kildare had to offer and will share her experience in the coming weeks. Travel writer,



Michelle Jackson, shared her experience about her luxury visit to Kildare in the Irish Daily Mail.



Travel Writer, Michelle Jackson

Kildare Fáilte also welcomed Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer from Tipperary Tourism on a familiarisation trip to Kildare where highlights of the county were showcased.



Marie Phelan, Caroline Potter, Aine Mangan

Kildare Fáilte continued to promote Kildare experiences through Fáilte Ireland's Keep Discovering campaign, which received press coverage in the Irish Independent, Irish Examiner and the Irish Times for four weeks in

October. Twelve Kildare experiences were given exposure as part of this activity. Also included as part of this campaign was a feature on Lovin.ie and sponsored adverts from Discover Ireland.

A Community Tourism Workshop was facilitated in Newbridge by Kildare Fáilte to establish a working group to carry out specific actions that will have a positive impact on Newbridge as a destination for both visitors and local residents. There was a variety of businesses, local community groups and residents in attendance who agreed three actions to execute in the coming six months and set a date for the next meeting.



Vivian Carroll, Evonne Boland, Aine Mangan, David Mongey

Preparation for the Kildare Fáilte Tourism Gathering continued through October. The event took place on the 17 November in Kilkea Castle with keynote speaker Mr David McWilliams, economist, author and broadcaster.



Minister Catherine Martin TD will also be in attendance. Tourism and hospitality businesses are invited to attend the event, which will also have a programme of guest speakers, industry panel discussions and networking sessions.



Christmas plans are underway with the Taste of Kildare at Christmas as key message for the season. A dedicated webpage will promote festive breaks, festive experiences, gifting and hampers and vouchers. Fáilte Ireland will also include Taste of Kildare as part of the Keep Discovering campaign in November.



Kildare Fáilte commenced a digital campaign at the start of October with

the intention to increase awareness and traffic to the Into Kildare website to encourage visitors to book a break in the County. A secondary objective is to grow social media reach and inspire visitors to visit Kildare. The campaign will run for three months in total. To date, the campaign has been proven to be very successful with a large reach across social being achieved as well as an increase in visitor traffic to the Into Kildare website.

Halloween events, activities and offers throughout the county were supported by Kildare Fáilte across social media and website. Blog content focussing on the best Halloween events around the county and activities for families being very popular. To support the industry further, Halloween activity was included in the digital campaign which proved to be a great success.





Visitor engagement on all social media channels remains strong and continues to grow as our digital campaign continues. Users are most interested in walks which remains one of the most popular searched terms on our website. Things to do over midterm and breaks away in Kildare followed outdoor walks in popularity.

Library and Arts Service

“Who doesn’t love a library? It is a place you can go in any town and discover the world” – Pat MacNulty

Libraries Are Open – Drop In!

Libraries Ireland are putting out a call to the public to drop in, relax, explore, connect, work, or learn at their local library. This national promotional campaign will run from 16 November to 13 December. With libraries now permitted to provide a greater number of services, in line with public health guidance, libraries are now putting out a call to come visit, explore and enjoy the library in-person again.

Your library is one of the few places you can spend time without spending a penny. So, please enjoy the space and services, take time out with a book or a newspaper; look into events and culture; meet friends and family; catch

up on work or study, use the computers and Wi-Fi.

Kildare Readers Festival 2021

Kildare Readers Festival 2021 took place between 01 to 17 October. There were 24 events in-person, on Zoom and recorded. Kildare Readers Festival events are always free and despite restrictions on numbers for the in-person events the Library Services still had over 1,000 attendees over the two weeks.

Guests this year included Abie Philbin Bowman, John Bowman, Sophie White and many more. Details of the events held are available at

<https://www.kidlarereadersfestival.ie>

and recorded events can be watched back here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1737879>

Library IT Projects

New Library Website

After six months of work our new Library website went live on 26 October. This was a partnership between the library service and the IT department using MS Teams as a way of collaboration which Library Services worked well. Library Services are very happy with the result and have received very positive feedback. It is a cleaner, more visually appealing, easy



to navigate website with contemporary style. A nice addition are virtual tours of each library which make you feel you are there. Library Services look forward to the new Library Management System (LMS) and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) in the Spring, which has a similar look and feel of new website and will complement it perfectly.

Kildare Libraries STEM programming

Spotlight on Real-World STEAM talks for Primary Schools

As part of our STEAM programme of workshops and talks for primary schools Library Services introduced a new strand this year which has proven very popular. Real world STEAM professionals give a talk to the students about their career and their love of STEM. These talks are held through Zoom and Library Services can have up to eight schools attend together. In October Library Services had two hugely popular talks which were attended by eight schools each via Zoom with over 400 children in total across the two talks.

The first talk was with Brenda Romero of Romero Gaming entitled 'So you want to be a game designer'. Brendan

spoke about what it means to be a game designer, how people get jobs in the game industry.

Library Services also had a talk from Dr David McKeown who is an Assistant Professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering in University College Dublin. He is also co-founder of Dublin Maker, the annual carnival where thousands of inventors showcase their homemade creations and repurposed items. He spoke about his work building space telescopes, robotic arms, controlling rockets.

Workshops for primary schools for Math's Week and Space Week

Library Services held workshops with Deirdre Kelleghan looking at women in space and workshops with the Rediscovery Centre exploring space. Library Services held 10 workshops in total during Space Week around the county.

For Math's Week Library Services held a total of nine workshops for local primary schools with the Adapt Centre in DCU and the Rediscovery Centre.

Date for your Diary: Kildare Libraries Online Science Festival

Kildare Libraries received funding from Science Foundation Ireland to host an



online science festival for all ages. Library Services have a jampacked programme of free talks and workshops taking place during the month of November. Still to come Library Services have a talk on the robotics revolution with Professor Peter Redmond and a talk on trailblazing women in STEM.

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.

New Clane Library

Deaton Lysaght Architects have been appointed Design Team lead on this project. First meeting was held this week with the Design Team, Architects and Library Service. Project has commenced in preparation for Part 8 Planning process.

Kildare Decade of Commemorations

The following were supported as part of the 2021 programme in the past month.

Poems by Thomas Behan

Active during the War of Independence, Thomas Behan from Rathangan was captured and killed by

Free State Forces in December 1922. A booklet has been produced which contains a facsimile of an original copy of the poems published in 1923 which is held in the Kildare Local Studies Collections. It also includes a biographical piece on Thomas. Copies have been distributed to local history groups and to Kildare libraries. A digital copy is available at <https://www.kildare.ie/ehistory> and on the Kildare Library Service website.

Audio Recordings of Poems by Thomas Behan

A selection of audio recordings of poems from this book has been made by members of the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups, facilitated by Kildare Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives department. These are available to listen to on <https://www.kildare.ie/ehistory> and via Decade of Commemorations social media accounts.

Arthur Griffith and the Treaty Delegation

A talk by Professor Colum Kenny on Arthur Griffith as part of the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups A.G.M. in Kilcullen Heritage Centre.



Old Ireland in Colour – Kildare Readers Festival

Authors of the best-selling Old Ireland in Colour books, Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley, and Dr John Breslin, appeared at the Kildare Readers Festival on Saturday 16 October to discuss their work and the process of colourisation of historical photographs.

World War I Dead of County Kildare

An e-book of Remembrance: The World War I Dead of County Kildare (published earlier this year) has been added to the Kildare Library Service website, as well as an updated listing of further WWI dead. A listing of Kildare women in the First World War compiled by historian Dr Barbara Walsh has also been added.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Local History Groups and Schools

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department continues to work closely with local history groups and schools throughout county Kildare. Zoom presentations have been given to secondary schools and to local history groups on Kildare local history research and resources available in the Local Studies and Archives Section.

Collections

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department continues to acquire and seek donations of items of Kildare interest. Conservation and preservation of fragile items in the collections also continues.

Local Studies and Archives Website

The Local Studies and Archives pages of the new library website have been developed, with further original primary source material and digitised material to be added.

Kildare Arts Service

Come Back Festival

Come Back Festival included in person live and streamed online events from venues in Naas (Moat Theatre and St David's Church) and Newbridge (St Patrick's Church of Ireland) on various dates in October. Come Back was produced by Kildare Culture/Davis Events and supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service. The festival was funded under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programme Scheme Phase 1.

Christy Moore joined a line-up of Kildare-based artists and bands that



included Bell X1, Paddy Casey, Arlene Bailey, Amy Rowlett, Tebi Rex, JyellowL, Sive and Megan O'Neill for this festival of live music culture showcasing the best of the county's talent. County Arts Officer, Lucina Russell also participated in a panel of contributors to the Come Back Webinar. Recordings of all concerts and the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Eilish Langton announced as Creative Places Athy Coordinator

Kildare Arts Service announced the appointment of Eilish Langton as Creative Places Athy Coordinator. Eilish will work with the Arts Team and the community to deliver an ambitious three year Creatives Places Athy programme for and with the people of Athy.

Creative Places Athy is an arts and community development programme which aims to create opportunities for people to become more engaged in their town and develop an increased community connection through making socially engaged art. Athy has been successfully chosen alongside seven other Creative Places across the island of Ireland. Creative Places Athy is supported by the Arts Council / An Comhairle Ealaíon and Kildare County

Council. Read more about the [Creative Places programme](#).

Dance Research Residency work completed

Kildare Dance Artist in Residence Philippa Donnellan recently completed a residency with fellow dance artists Glenna Batson and Ailish Claffey. Drawing on research that had arisen from her recent Body of Work workshops, the focus of the three day residency was an exploration of care and caring as a form of work, and its impact on our lives and bodies. The Dance Research Residency programme which is ongoing throughout the year is supported by Kildare Arts Service. [Read Philippa's update here](#).

Arts Service publishes call outs for funding and upskilling

Kildare Arts Service published three calls last month, for funding and learning opportunities in the weeks ahead.

'Kildare Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 2', a scheme funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to assist producers, promoters and venues to provide support for people in the live



performance industry to facilitate programming of live performances in the Municipal Districts of both Celbridge/Leixlip and Clane/Maynooth. Funding of €143,000 is available.

‘Digital Folklore and Stories – Capturing the Ordinary’, a six week online workshop series with artist/folklorist Michael Fortune, produced as part of Kildare’s Creative Ireland Digital Programme and supported by Kildare County Arts Service.

‘Kildare Arts Service First Fortnight Award’ to support the development and presentation of new work in any artform that challenges the stigma attached to mental health. Awards of up to €3,000 are available.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

A new member of staff is due to start with the Parks Section at the end of this month and will be progressing this project to tender stage in Quarter 1 2022 and then to construction.

Bawnogues Athletic Track

Works have been completed on the upgrade of the athletics track in the Bawnogues. This included the installation of eight sprint lanes and a

high jump area with a synthetic surface. Both long jump runways were also upgraded to a synthetic surface. The work also included the installation of new floodlighting, infield drainage and refurbishment of the cinder surface. The works cost approximately €350k and were funded from development levies, a Sports Capital Grant and funding from St Cocoas Athletic Club.



The Peoples Park, Athy

Following a request from the Department of Health under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme for an Enhancement Funding Scheme an application was made for The Peoples Park. Grant funding of €250,000 has been received to carry out enhancement works in the park. This will include the following

1. Improve and widen 500 metre of existing paths in the park from just over 1 metre to 2



metre to facilitate people using the park to walk side by side or to pass each other without having to step off the path.

2. Install 250 metre of new paths to facilitate a looped walk of the park. The current arrangement of the path network does not allow for a 500 metre looped walk around the perimeter of the park and the main path through the park mainly facilitates people cutting through the park.
3. Install six new seating in the park to replace the existing seating. The new seating will also feature arm rests to facilitate easier use of the seating for elderly or people with mobility issues.
4. Alter the existing three picnic tables in the park to make them accessible. This involves altering the tables to facilitate wheelchair access and widening the paving around them to cater for access around them. Paths to access them from the main paths will also be installed.

The works will be carried out in 2022.

Newbridge Playground

An online survey has been launched on

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/survey>

s. The survey will run until Friday 17 December. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain the public opinion to inform the refurbishment of the existing playground and the addition of play facilities in the town including a natural play area in the Liffey Linear Park. It also aimed at ascertaining the public's view on disability access to playgrounds.

Tree Works Tender

Tree works in Celbridge–Leixlip

Municipal District have been tendered.

It is hoped to have a contractor appointed to do the work by the end of the year and that the works will start in early 2022. Work is ongoing in the preparation of tenders for tree works in the Kildare–Newbridge Municipal District and Clane–Maynooth Municipal Districts.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From January – 16 November 2021		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	113	€200,382
Shopfront Grant *Remainder of funds per MD see pg2	77	€144,504
Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant	128	€394,311
Export Marketing Grant	16	€25,320
Start-up/ Expansion/ Priming/ Export Marketing Grants	46	€828,490
Agile Innovation Fund	3	€214,725

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

Register query or request to speak to an advisor:

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

For Brexit and Export support, email afrese@kildarecoco.ie

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call 045980838.

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

Shopfront Grant Budget Remaining

Kildare/Newbridge	€0
Athy	€17,545
Naas	€384
Clane Maynooth	€20,632
Celbridge Leixlip	€25,789



Town and Village Renewal Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

The aim of the scheme is to enhance the streetscape environment of the towns of by encouraging and supporting owners of premises to improve their individual building facades.

It is intended that the scheme will result in a more attractive environment that residents, visitors, shoppers and businesses can enjoy. It is also envisaged that this scheme will assist in promoting these towns in Kildare as attractive places for social and business interaction thereby increasing the vitality and viability of those towns, with positive benefits for all.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme closed for applications on Friday, 17 September 2021.

Kildare County Council received nine completed applications from the following areas:

Location	Number of Applications
Monasterevin	4
Rathangan	2
Sallins	3
Ballitore	1
Total	10

Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Businesses

The scheme provided support to 128 individual independent hospitality and tourism businesses in Kildare towards the cost of equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and facilitate these individual independent businesses to increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021.

The Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant Scheme closed for applications on Thursday, 30 September 2021.

Green for Micro Programme

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.

65 clients have availed of the Green for Micro Programme in 2021.

Lean for Micro Programme

The training programme introduces Lean concepts to participating businesses. The programme is



provided by an external consultant and each company participating is encouraged to complete a specific improvement project to show the value of the approach.

61 clients have availed of LEAN Programme in 2021 (including both LEAN for Micro and LEAN Digitisation)

Ongoing Business Advice and Mentoring Support

604 sessions of 1-1 expert mentoring support provided to businesses over the course of 2021.

Business Advice clinics continue to be held weekly where participants can receive advice and guidance from an experienced Business Advisor.

Our Mentoring programme is available for startup businesses (less than 18 months) and for established businesses (more than 18 months). This support is free of charge.

Training Programmes

LEO Kildare provides a wide range of high-quality training programmes tailored to meet specific business requirements in areas including digital marketing, finance and IT.

396 individuals have completed a Start Your Own Business Programme in 2021, showing the continuing ambition for start-ups in the county.

In total 3,844 clients have availed of LEO Kildare training programmes in 2021.

Economic Support Services

MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre



MERITS is reaching the end of its construction phase and has begun to take in tenants. Its conference facilities are being used by external clients for the first time this week, now that the building is fully furnished. The grand opening is scheduled with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar for the end of January 2022, but there will be a series of open days/ open evenings over the coming months to market the facility to local Tech founders.



The MERITS team has an extremely busy month with its two LEO-funded programmes, TechHatch and GoGlobal, coming to an end with Demo Days and Investor Pitch days scheduled. Two events are also scheduled, one on the Fundamentals of Intellectual Property and the other on Unlocking EU Funding.

National Equine Innovation Centre

Construction commenced on site on the 31 May at the Irish National Stud. The programme of works has now been completed and the marketing and promotion of the NEIC will commence shortly to attract equine innovation companies from Kildare to locate there.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

The final design has been completed for the project. A pre-qualification process for interested contractors for the main construction contract was published in October and expressions of interest must be submitted by Monday November 15. The project team continue to prepare a funding

application in advance of a funding call which is expected before the end of the year.

K-Hub Network

Hosted by Kildare County Council 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. The next meeting of the K-Hub will take place in November.

Kildare Hub Strategy

Kildare County Council appointed a consultant, PMG Consult, in July to develop a hub strategy that carries out a critical piece of analysis for the county to ensure it future growth and to align its approach and hub development strategy with regional and national policy. A consultation phase was completed with over 25 internal and external stakeholders and a draft strategy was presented to the Economic



Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for consideration in September. Following feedback from the SPC, a final version of the strategy is being drafted and will be published before the end of 2021.

Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The ED team have worked closely with the regional stakeholders to consult and prepare the final draft of the Mid-East REP to 2024. It is expected that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will publish the plan before the end of the year.

Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

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

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

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

Objective	Support	Link
Financial		
Funding to businesses who are not eligible for the Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business	Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID-19 [SBASC]	https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/



Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes.		
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business loan – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
Generate Revenue with Online Sales	Shop County Kildare – new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html
	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to the LEO at localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie .	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/
Upgrade Shopfronts and Implement Outdoor COVID-19 Signage	Kildare Shopfront Grant Scheme	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Start-or-Grow-your-Business/Supports-by-Sector/Retail/Kildare-County-Council-Shop-Front-Accessibility-Grant-Scheme.html
Advisory:		
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors	https://www.localenterprise.ie!/KHSQYE



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



<p>services as well as support documents and publications</p>		<p>Sign up to newsletter: https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c</p>
<p>Access to LEO team and specialists</p>	<p>The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry</p>	<p>localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838</p>

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive