



Chief Executive's Management Report – December 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 remains in place. 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. In line with Government guidance staff continue to work remotely where possible and attend at the office only where it is necessary to do so.

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



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/countycouncil/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.

All meetings are online for the present. Notice of dates and times of statutory meetings continue to issue on social media.

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.

The Community Call helpline has ceased to operate. Calls for assistance will be directed through normal channels for Local Authority services.



News Items

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021

Kildare County Council won the 'Sustaining the Arts' award, alongside being nominated in a further four categories (see page 6)

Kildare County Council – Christmas Service Arrangements

Kildare County Council's services over the Christmas and New Year period (see page 8).

Launch of online national service catalogue for Local Authorities

The public can now access information on services such as housing, planning, business supports, parks and outdoor amenities, arts and culture, libraries, and much more all in one location (see page 8).

Launch of Kildare County Council's Irish Language version of Contact Us Online Portal

The council is delighted to announce that an Irish language version of this Portal is now live on our website (see page 9).

Local Area Plans – Naas

The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 came into effect on the 01 December 2021 (see page 25).

Conservation Update

An offer of appointment has now been made, and accepted, to fill the currently vacant Architectural Conservation Officer post (see page 27).

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre (see page 37).



CAP 2021

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 was published recently (see page 45).

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative (see page 73).

Kildare County Council Minutes 1899-1938 now online

As part of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme, the minutes of Kildare County Council from 1899 up to 1939 have been digitised and are now available to view (see page 81).

MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre

MERITS is reaching the end of its construction phase and has begun to take in tenants. The grand opening is scheduled with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar for the end of January 2022 (see page 86).

Diary/Calendar

Register of Electors 2022-2023

The County Registrar for the County of Kildare will hold an open court to consider claims for correction to the draft register of electors 2022/2023 for the five municipal districts in Naas Courthouse, on Friday, 17 December 2021 at 2:00 p.m. (see page 10)

Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Department is finalising the Housing Delivery Action Plan, the final draft is due for submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 17 December 2021 (see page 16).

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 (see page 38).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Dec	27	28	29	30	31	1 Jan
2	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD; On Line	8
9	10 14:30 Protocol Committee; On Line	11 15:30 Naas Municipal District Monthly meeting; online	12 11:00 Drehid Liaison committee; online	13	14	15
16	17 10:00 Athy Municipal District Monthly Meeting; On line 16:00 SIPTU presentation to Full C...	18	19 10:00 Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Monthly Meeting 10.00; online	20 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee	21 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD Monthly Meeting; On Line	22
23	24 14:00 Corporate Policy Group ; On Line	25	26 10:00 LCDC	27 11:30 County Twinning Committee	28 15:00 Decade Of Commemorations Committee	29
30	31 15:00 Full Council ; On Line	1 Feb	2	3	4	5



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Corporate Services

Communications

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021



Kildare County Council won the 'Sustaining the Arts' award, alongside being nominated in a further four categories in the recent Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021.



The Kildare Covid Notebook Project took home the award in the Sustaining the Arts category. As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, Kildare County Council were keen to provide some positive pro-active projects that could engage and inspire citizens of the county, particularly those who were

cocooning and older people. A5 moleskin notebooks were offered to citizens in the county, asking them to fill it in as they wished, capturing the COVID-19 months in some way, before returning the notebook.

The notebooks documented very personal lockdown experiences, as well as national and international news, creating an archive of this extraordinary time for future generations. The project was led by Kildare County Council's Library and Arts Service, supported by the Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland team, Kildare Age Friendly network, Naas Care of the Aged, library services, disability and mental health services in the county.

Four other Kildare County Council projects were shortlisted in this year's Excellence in Local Government Awards:

- The 'Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme' was shortlisted in the Local Authority Innovation category.
- The 'Kildare Green Kilometre' was shortlisted in the





Enhancing the Urban Environment category.

- 'Supporting Families, Sharing the Learning' was shortlisted for Best Library Service.



Kildare Disability Week

Kildare County Council undertook a communications campaign in support of Kildare Disability Week – the first of its kind for the council, comprising a week of events in support of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The theme for the week was 'Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world. Following on from a successful launch of the plans for Kildare Disability Week, throughout the week itself Kildare County Council themed most of our content on social media to highlight the many events taking place both by the council and by others



throughout the county. A number of new initiatives were launched throughout the week and highlighted in local and national media. These included:

- Access All Areas - an award-winning initiative developed by Celbridge Access Group (CAG) aimed at supporting local business in making Business Accessible to All.
- JAM Card - allows people with a learning difficulty, autism or communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.
- Our World – Disability Awareness Education Program. This initiative which is being led by Maynooth Access Group consists of a catalogue of toys with different disabilities which is lent out to preschools and





schools to educate children around the perception of normality.

- Naas Community Bus - a joint initiative between An Garda Síochána and Kildare County Council's Naas Municipal District. In addition to its day-to-day use for community policing in Naas, its services will now be used to support community groups and vulnerable minorities such as disabled people.

Throughout Kildare Disability Week our social media posts about those events reached over 47,000 people on Facebook and almost 19,000 on Twitter.

Customer Services

Kildare County Council – Christmas Service Arrangements

Please [see information here](#) on Kildare County Council's services over the Christmas and New Year period.

Launch of online national service catalogue for Local Authorities

The public can now access information on services such as housing, planning, business supports, parks and outdoor amenities, arts and culture, libraries, and much more all in one location.

[Services.LocalGov.ie](https://services.localgov.ie) developed by the Local Government Management Agency with support from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) provides, for the first time, a comprehensive list of the services provided to the public as well as a pathway to access those services locally. It presents that information in a clear and accessible manner, in both the Irish and English languages, and the site will be continually updated as new local authority services become available or are updated.

More information here:

<https://services.localgov.ie/en-ie/Home/intro>





Launch of Kildare County Council's Irish Language version of Contact Us Online Portal

The council, following [the launch of its new Online Contact Portal in September](#), is delighted to announce that an Irish language version of this Portal is now live on our website.

The new Contact Portal can be accessed by clicking the 'Contact Us' button anywhere you see it on the Kildare County Council website. This will bring you to the Contact Us page where you will find the link to the Contact Portal - <https://kildaremembers.powerappsportals.com/report-it-frm/>

From there customers can select either "Gaeilge" or "English" as their preferred language option from the top left of the Portal webpage.

Once a query is submitted via the portal, a case reference number will be generated, along with an Irish language acknowledgement.

This portal is also integrated with the council's new Customer Relationship Management System, which will

enable the council to track and report upon the volume of enquiries received in the Irish Language into the future.

Seoladh Leagan Gaeilge den Tairseach Ar Líne Déan Teagmháil Linn

Tá an-áthas ar an gcomhairle a fhógairt, i ndiaidh seoladh a Tairseach Ar Líne Nua Déan Teagmháil Linn [Seoladh a Tairseach Teagmhála nua Ar Líne i Mí Mheán Fómhair](#), i mí Mheán Fómhair, go bhfuil an leagan gaeilge den tairseach seo anois ar fáil ar ár suíomh gréasáin.

Is féidir teacht ar an Tairseach Teagmhála nua trí chliceáil ar an gcnap 'Déan Teagmháil Linn' áit ar bith a bhfeictear é ar suíomh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara.

Tiocfaidh tú ansin ar an leathanach 'Déan Teagmháil Linn', áit a bhfaighidh tú an nasc don Tairseach Teagmhála. Uaidh seo, is féidir le custaiméirí "Gaeilge" nó "English" a roghnú mar rogha teanga is fear leo sa chúinne ar barr ar chlé leathanach gréasáin na tairsí.

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





Nuair a chuirtear iarratas isteach ar an dTairseach, cruthaítear uimhir thagartha le hadmháil i nGaeilge. Tá an tairseach seo comhtháite le Córas Bainistíochta Caidrimh Chustaiméirí nua na Comhairle, a cheadódh leis an gcomhairle líon na bhfiosrúcháin i nGaeilge a rianú agus a tuairisciú.

Register of Electors

Register of Electors 2022-2023

The 2021/2022 Register of Electors was published on 01 February 2021 and came into force on 15 February 2021. It will remain in force until 14 February 2022.

Kildare County Council published the Draft 2022/2023 Register on 01 November 2021 and it is currently available for viewing at Kildare County Council offices and at your local Library by appointment or at your Post Office, Garda Station and online at www.checktheregister.ie.

The County Registrar for the county of Kildare will hold an open court to

consider claims for correction to the draft register of electors 2022/2023 for the five municipal districts of Athy, Celbridge-Leixlip, Clane-Maynooth, Kildare-Newbridge and Naas at the following location:

Naas Courthouse, on Friday, 17 December 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Claims lists are available for inspection at Post Offices and Garda Stations in Athy, Castledermot, Celbridge, Kilcock, Kildare, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge, Council Offices at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, at the council's Customer Services Point in Athy, or in our libraries (all by appointment) or by contacting below with queries.

Email: register@kildarecoco.ie

Tel: (045) 980201

Meetings

All meetings of Kildare County Council were held online during the month of November.


The members of Kildare County Council adopted its 2022 Budget at their statutory budget meeting on the 22 November.



Kildare County Council

Adopted Budget Book
for the Financial Year ending
31st December 2021

Peter Carey
Chief Executive



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Finance and Information Technology

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to 30 November 2021				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	47,571	49,371	96%	1,800
Road Transport and Safety	37,857	34,259	111% -	3,598
Water Services	9,114	10,408	88%	1,294
Development Management	21,056	19,339	109% -	1,717
Environmental Services	16,799	20,803	81%	4,004
Recreation and Amenity	9,691	11,198	87%	1,507
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	1,009	1,212	83%	203
Miscellaneous Services	31,951	17,583	182% -	14,368
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	175,047	164,173	107% -	10,874

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to 30 November 2021				
Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	44,720	41,074	109% -	3,646
Road Transport and Safety	15,713	15,321	103% -	392
Water Services	8,264	10,145	81%	1,881
Development Management	9,940	5,805	171% -	4,135
Environmental Services	5,128	6,715	76%	1,587
Recreation and Amenity	1,523	694	219% -	829
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	391	347	113% -	44
Miscellaneous Services	24,120	4,584	526% -	19,536
Local Property Tax Allocation	16,250	17,727	92%	1,477
Rates	56,614	61,761	92%	5,147
	182,663	164,173	111% -	18,490





Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council

Summary of Major Collections to 30 November 2021

	Arrears 01/01/2021	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/11/2021
Commercial Rates	15,670,069	61,916,452	423,461	14,986,524	62,176,536	46,009,386	16,167,150
Rents & Annuities	1,162,718	13,908,607	28,865	-	15,042,460	13,698,300	1,344,160
Housing Loans	2,572,061	3,397,380	10,679	-	5,958,762	4,185,162	1,773,600

Cashflow/Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 November to 30 November 2021.

extended for a third quarter till end September 2021.

An extension to the commercial rates waiver was announced in Budget 2022 for Quarter 4 2021. This waiver is being 'targeted at the hospitality, arts and certain tourism related sectors'.

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

General Municipal Allocation / Municipal District retained LPT

The General Municipal Allocation for 2021 comprising just over €4.88 million retained LPT, plus a further €177,000 from pay parking surpluses, which are both used at the members' discretion at municipal district meetings has not all been spent. As agreed at the Budget Meeting, any underspends in





this area will be carried forward to 2022 and ringfenced for use by the members in addition to the 2022 General Municipal Allocation of €6.16 million.

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

In July 2021 the Finance Department launched a new customer portal and app for Rent and Rates Customers. These new services allow rates and rent customers to make payments and view their account information online via their smartphone, tablet or PC.

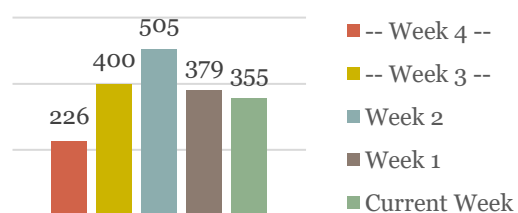
There are currently 1,800 rent customers and 760 rates customers signed up for the service. Since August, on average circa. €200k of payments is processed through the service each month.

The link to this portal is on <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>

Information Technology

The IT Helpdesk continues to manage the technical support team with an average of 77 tickets a day, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.

Total of calls received per week (to 27 Nov 2021)



Kildare County Council web site

- Improving Accessibility – received update from LGMA on new legislation
- Irish language version of planning enquiry – waiting for Department review of policy
- Work on new library website

Service Innovation includes:

- Docusign – over 170 users
- Rainbow – rolled out to 190 staff
- Submit.com – on-line forms live with LEO, live with Community, HR, Libraries and Planning interested – working on recruitment in HR





- Dynamics – Went live 05 April 2021
- Staff App – Gone to tender – 19 November

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, we 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.





Housing

Housing for All: A new Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Department is finalising the Housing Delivery Action Plan, the action plan deals with social and affordable housing delivery targets; the social housing targets are laid down by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and the affordable targets are derived from the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. An update on the draft plan will be provided at the December meeting of the Housing SPC, the final draft is due for submission to the DHLGH on the 17 December 2021. Update on Barnhall Cost Rental Scheme (56 units): Cluid recently advertised this scheme and received 1,193 applications. A media campaign was launched by the Housing Delivery Coordination Officer to identify un-commenced residential developments, Kildare was included in the campaign. The campaign was aimed at developers and builders with turnkey units (10-150 units), where planning permission has been granted but is uncommenced.

Primarily the campaign was aimed at affordable housing delivery however social housing delivery can also be considered.

The Housing Department intends to run a county specific scheme in Quarter 1, 2022.

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations remain high with a particular emphasis on family presentations mainly resulting from Notices to Quit.

Update from National Homeless Leads Meeting

The National Homeless Leads COVID-19 meeting was held on the 16 November and there are no positive cases of COVID-19 in Homeless Services in the county.

Homeless Forum and SMG Meetings

Both meetings were held on the 03 December with representation at the Forum from the various stakeholders involved in Homeless Services in the Mid-East Region.





The Homeless Action Plan will form part of the agenda for future meetings to progress the actions and added value actions through the themes of the plan thereby ensuring the plan is a live working document.

Housing First targets for the next five years were advised by the Department and Kildare will have a target of 29 over the five year period. There are currently 14 Active tenancies in place with wrap-around supports being provided by the Peter Mc Verry Trust.

Shared Housing

The operation of shared tenancies is now in place in one of the two units in Athy and these three individuals have moved on from Emergency placements to a shared tenancy. Teach Íosa are operating this service on behalf of Kildare County Council and it is intended to extend this service to other units in the coming months.

Tenancy Support

There are currently 56 active Tenancy Support Officer cases with

engagement and support being provided to all families.

There were five discharges from this service for the month of November.

Homeless HAP (HHAP)

There were six new HHAP tenancies for the month of November.

Lack of rental property and the HAP rates are an issue throughout the country and the Housing Agency have engaged Grant Thornton to review the open market from all aspects for a plan going forward.

Children in Homeless services

The homeless team are collaborating with the Library Service on an art/craft and book pack for children in the homeless service. The pack will be distributed to all children in this homeless service before Christmas. A Santa's treats cookery workshop was held in both family hubs on Saturday 27 November and two further Christmas events are planned, on 04 December a glitter tattoo artist will hold a workshop in both hubs and Santa will visit the hubs on the 18 December with a gift for each child.





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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	17	25	35
6 - 12 Months	8	10	12
12 - 18 Months	6	8	8
18 - 24 Months	5	6	5
24 - 30 Months	4	5	6
36 Months +	4	8	7
	44	62	73

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 November 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	0	0	0
6 - 12 Months	1	2	1
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	3	4	6
+ 36 Months	7	12	18
	11	18	25

Number of Allocations

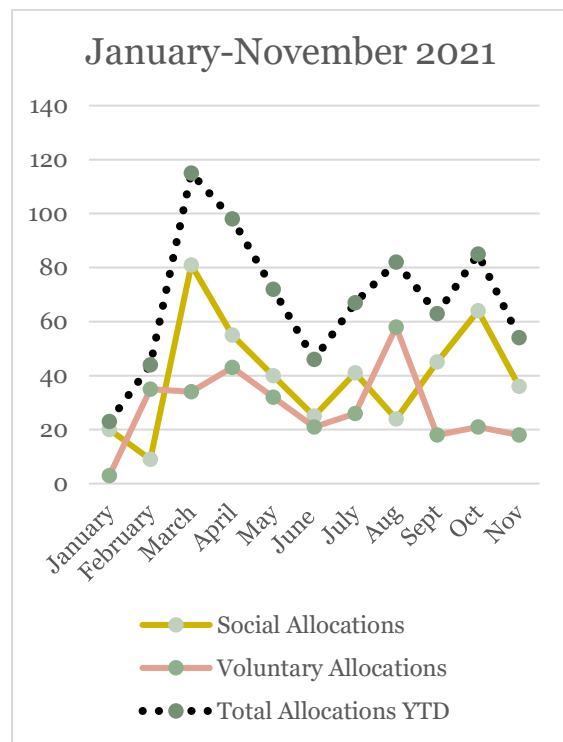
Allocations continued in November and included allocations to Kildare

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 427 tenancies were signed up to the 30 November.

Traveller Community

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

The last meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) took place on 02 December 2021. Meetings for next year have been agreed as follows:

- 03 March,
- 02 June,
- 01 September
- 01 December 2022

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	This scheme will be re-tendered in 2022





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. Proceed to Part 8 launch on Stage approval.
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	Stage 2 submitted for approval 26 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 Quarter 4 2021. Acoustic consultants appointed Preliminary Acoustic survey complete and report due 20 December.
Approval Stage 1		
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 application submitted 17 November 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.
Ardrw, 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 Quarter 1 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Finalising Stage 2 application. Part 8 to follow.





Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Finalising preparation of Part 8 documentation for launch Quarter 4 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	Completed 15 November 2021
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 launched 30 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 Castleden, 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 09 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. Requests from the Department to increase density to improve viability of scheme – currently under review with Planning and Cluid.
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	112

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge- Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2021	6	22	48	20	16
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	9	62	3	15	153

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove: Retrofit Works have commenced this week 29 November 21 for 14 Units in Beechgrove, expect to complete 4-6 houses this side of Christmas
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	Phase 2 Ashbrook: Retrofit works substantially complete to 16 Units.





Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurry: Awaiting confirmation of performance bond from Conneally Group prior to issue of LOA. Expect to commence Quarter 1/2 2022.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	Phase 4 St Evins' Park: Contractor now appointed to commence work next week Monday 06 December 21. Expect to complete 2-4 units this side of Christmas
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed, next 5 units to commence this side of Christmas
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Expect to commence Quarter 1 2022
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	To commence Quarter 1 2022
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works have commenced to Vacant Units. Expect to complete 6 No. Units this side of Christmas

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)

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	14	14	1,858	2,007	0
Total	79	60	7,707	6,849	87

Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

The Housing Needs Demand Assessment is now almost complete and has been undertaken with the support of AIRO in Maynooth University and in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Survey work undertaken for all non-LAP small towns, villages, rural settlements and nodes (56 in total) to inform the County's Settlement

Hierarchy in accordance with National Policy Objectives (NPO) 18b of the National Planning Framework (NPF), is informing the emerging settlement strategy in Volume 2 of the draft 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. Both documents will feature as appendices to the draft CDP but will be cross referenced from the relevant policies/objectives of Volume 1 of the draft CDP.

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 draft CDP chapters as well as Volume 2 (Small Towns/Environs/Villages/Rural Settlements) and eight no. Appendices. The following has been informing 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) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy - Regional Policy Objectives
- (v) Chief Executive 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.

It is intended to issue a draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 to the elected members in December 2021 for their consideration.

Local Area Plans

Naas

The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted at a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on the 21 October and came into effect on the 01 December 2021. The Office of the Planning Regulator has welcomed the adoption of the plan.

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: November	
November	Year	No.		Total Granted:	79
2019:	113	1,331	2,636	Retention:	8
2020:	146	1,462	4,263	Extension of Duration:	5
2021:	130	1,695	1,011	Total Refused:	35

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	Refused 10/11/2021
21/311037	3	T. Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	298	Refused 25/11/2021
21/311040	3	Glan Dev.	Ballymany, Newbridge	247	Grant 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 at Ballyonan, Broadford. EIAR and AA accompanied application	Refused	09/11/2021
211286	Kyrie Therapeutic Farm	Therapeutic farm for use as a step down health facility at former Portree Stables, Boston, Straffan	FI Requested	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

Section 254 Licences

- 64 licences for outdoor dining (tables and chairs etc) received to date. 34 granted. 6 refused. 24 in progress.

- 4 licences issued to National Broadband Ireland (Overground electronic communications infrastructure) for the Athy, Kildare-Newbridge and Naas Municipal District areas, with a





further four applications
received and in progress

Offer of extension to outdoor dining
licences until 31 December 2021
currently underway.

Conservation Update

An offer of appointment has now been made, and accepted, to fill the currently vacant Architectural Conservation Officer post. The new post has been offered to Ms Ruth Kidney who is due to begin employment with Kildare County Council on 14 December.

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 made on 239
planning applications to date. CDP
Heritage related chapters completed.

Heritage review of other chapters on
going.

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 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 from 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 4 completed in September 2021. In total 120 participants have taken part in the course. Funding was secured from 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





Public Realm

Public Realm Funding Applications and other items

Town & 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 early 2022.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published Quarter 1 2022.

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





place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.
Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13 April 2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on 19.05.2021. Detailed design will now progress.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 05 October 2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 will go before Clane-Maynooth Municipal District for approval at February meeting.
Tender Consultants and Design
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.
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 January 2022.
Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.
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 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.
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.
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. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.
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 September 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.
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 September 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.
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. Additional consultation to be launched Quarter 1 2022.
Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Quarter 1 2021.
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. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.
Tender Consultants
Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.
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. 2 nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation.
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 1 2022 and will take nine months to complete.





Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.
Tender Works
Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.
Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Quarter 1 2022.
Design
Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.
Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Consultation on draft Masterplan complete and submissions being incorporated into draft Masterplan.
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.
Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.
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.
Detailed Design
Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.





Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08 June 2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre.
On Hold
Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.
Construction
Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.
Naas – MERITS – Works complete. Final fit out nearing completion.
Complete
Athy - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.
Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.
Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.
Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December.

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 Health, Safety, Quality,

Environment (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 2022 schedule of clinics





has not yet been received from Irish Water.

Irish Water will contact members regarding details of the next clinic shortly.

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

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre.

The public awareness campaign is asking households and commercial premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste. By doing so they will make an important contribution to meeting the climate challenge as well as improving the quantity and quality of recyclable material collected and help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and incineration.



Along with local authorities across the country Kildare County Council have adopted bye-laws to ensure a consistent approach to managing our waste – Segregation, Storage and Presentation.

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

- Dry Recyclables
- Food and Compostable Waste
- Residual Waste





Food waste and other compostable waste must be disposed of by either composting, using civic amenity sites or via a brown bin service provided by your authorised waste collection service.

Authorised Waste Collection Services are obliged by law to provide separate bin service for food/compostable waste in agglomerations of 500 or more people.

Mr Joe Boland, Director of Services Kildare County Council said; “The intent of this campaign is to improve general public awareness of their legal obligations with respect to the proper segregation of waste streams within the homes and businesses of the county. The purpose of the bye-laws is to ensure every household and commercial premises segregate and dispose of their waste in an authorised manner.

If people live in an urban area with a population of greater than 500 people, their authorised waste collector is obliged to provide them with a compostable bin collection service. These simple actions will greatly improve the quality of recyclables

collected and significantly minimise the volume of residual wastes that are disposed of at landfill. In addition, there will be significant community benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

Kildare County Council are actively carrying out inspections to help ensure compliance with the bye-laws and failure to comply with the requirements of the bye-laws may result in a fine or legal prosecution.

Further information is available from:

mywaste.ie or

kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Environment/Waste/

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, Kilcullen and at Gallowshill, Athy.

- Section 4 license compliance,
- River Basin Management Plans consultation.

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to reduce in line with recent trends. In November 2020, 441 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2021, this has reduced to 385 tonnes, in line with previous years.

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

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,

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

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 and completed.

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 continuing but at a slower rate due to the weather

and winter hours. A view from Zone 1, below shows, that the preparation for liner in Zone 3 has progressed well, with a view of the changing rooms receiving its roof trusses just in front of Zone 3, in the same photo.



All the gas wells are installed and are being phased into connection with the temporary flare. This will take several months.

The construction of the site compound is continuing, with mechanical and electric works continuing. The methane stripping equipment is almost fully installed, though commissioning will still need to follow.





Please see photo below.



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 to the EPA. A draft CoA has been received in November 2021. Kildare County Council to review and respond to the EPA with view to final COA to be granted in 2022. Once granted,





design for remediation works to commence.

Pollardstown, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which are currently underway and expected to be completed by 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 process has commenced for footpath and roadway improvement works. Contractor to be appointed and works scheduled in Quarter 1 2022.

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

Tenders have been advertised for some footpath and roadway improvement works. Contractor has been appointed and works to be scheduled for Quarter 1 2022.





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. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie



CAP 2021

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 was published recently, with the Annex of Actions expected to be published shortly.

The CARO will undertake an examination of the CAP and Annex of Actions, to provide local authorities with the details of the relevant sections.

Community Climate Action Programme



The Community Climate Action Programme, funded by the Climate Action Fund, will see €60 million invested in community climate action projects, initiatives, and capacity building, over the next three years. It will be rolled in two phases with €30 million allocated for the first phase. The first phase is comprised of two strands:

Strand 1 - Action: Building Low Carbon Communities





€24 million is being provided to local authorities to support communities, large and small, rural and urban, to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way. Further details on the roll out will be available in due course.

Strand 2 - Education: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing.

A total of €6 million is being provided to build community capacity in relation to climate action. There are two elements to this strand:



A - Open Call for Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing Projects:

€5 million will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications(DECC). Applications opened on the 15 November and will close on 14 January 2022.



B - Creative Climate Action: €1 million which has already been allocated.

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 took place on 12 and 13 October 2021, entitled Climate Action Economic Opportunities - Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise. It was attended by over 400 participants each day, where participants 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. Recordings and presentations are available to view on the CARO website www.caro.ie.





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 22 local authorities to date, with 824 attendees across senior management and elected members. A further 2 will complete before the end of 2021 with the remaining seven counties will be completed in early 2022.



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 the three CARO regions of Atlantic Seaboard North, Dublin Metropolitan and Eastern and Midlands. Training is currently ongoing for CAT members in local authorities in the Atlantic Seaboard South region. Strong attendance has been reported, particularly for the leadership modules.



Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online 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. There are now 4,540 Grade 3 and analogous staff enrolled to complete the programme, between 01 November to 23 December 2021.



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 has commenced with 379 registered attendees and 212 in attendance over the initial five (of eight) modules rolled out 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 in-house trainers 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 15 and 16 December 2021 (subject to review in light of recent government advice) with further rollout in 2022.



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.

The draft guidelines have been developed, comprising a main guidance document and three technical annexes. They will now be circulated through the governance channels of both the CCMA and EPA, before submission to the DECC by 01 December. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the 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 a Memorandum Of Understanding is awaited from the SEAI, prior to approval being sought from the local authority Chief





Executives. 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 has been received and identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline for each building to attain a B2 rating, as well as detailed costs of upgrade works, payback period and energy savings.

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.

In the South East (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The three Counties Energy Agency (CEA) have met with the CARO and are pursuing a position paper for approval from their local authorities (Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford), with the ambition of forming a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the SEAI in 2022.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): the region intends to carry out a similar project to that of the border region, to identify opportunities.

Local Authority Progress Reporting:

The CARO has compiled a master report of the progress reports from all 31 local authorities, which was submitted with an accompanying overview to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on 12 November 2021.



Reimagining Local Authority 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 Adaption Strategy (CCAS)



CCAS Action Reporting was submitted on the 12 November to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). It was approved by the National CARO Steering Group beforehand. 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. Kildare is above the national average in the number of completions/ongoing actions. The update was warmly welcomed by the CAT.

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. 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. Aligning of both the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team meetings from 2022 is being enacted to streamline meetings, to reduce duplication for some members and cross pollinate actions.





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 provided key learnings for our Climate Action Office and Ciara O'Flynn has compiled the Teams learnings from the week of events to ensure we can utilize all learnings for future events and promotions. The events are being hosted on the council's YouTube account.



Panelists in "Climate Action Panel Discussion"

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

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.

The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is to change in that it will capture more energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel and others.

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(EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA. Ballymore Eustace and Naas SEC's have lodged applications with Kildare County Council for funding assistance to deliver their energy master plans. It is hoped to have agreements in place in early 2022.

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. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer took the opportunity at the 'Lunch and Learn' CPD to educate council staff on the topic and seek additional potential sites.

The templates for tendering have been finalised and are available to utilise.





Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The Climate Action Office is finalizing the December edition with topics being informed by external and internal influences including climate actions and mainstreaming taking place within the council.

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 presented the draft Local Just Transition Plan to the Climate Action SPC on the 01 December and invited councillors from all municipal districts to join and take part in the discussion to inform the final document. The finalized document is due to be presented to the CPG in mid-December.

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

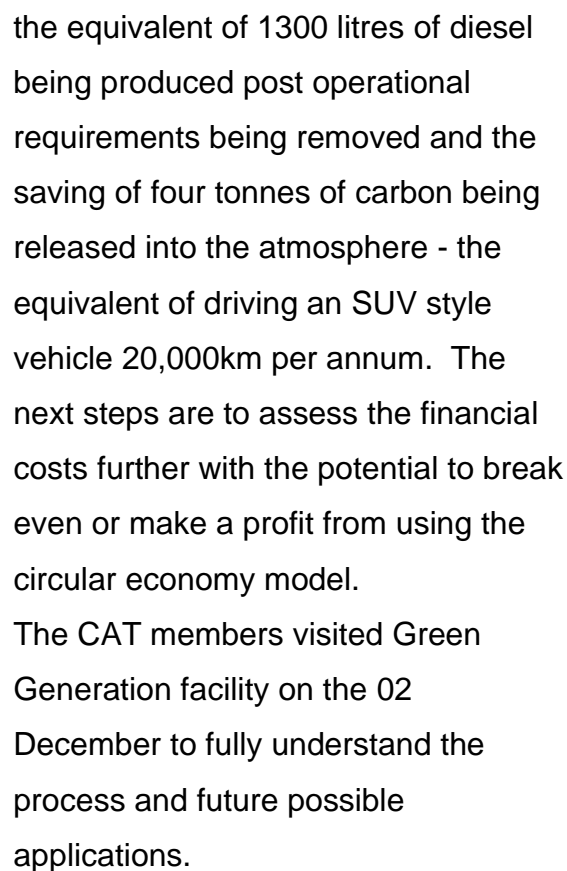
The Parks/Climate Action Office's project including scientific research

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 Councils have confirmed their partnership together with Waterways Ireland. South Dublin County Council and Monaghan County Council have expressed strong interest in joining.

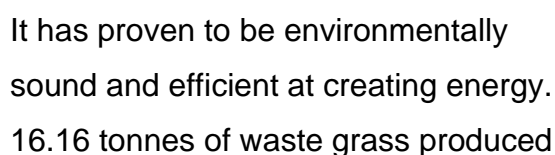
Sophia Couchman, Masters student, has finalized her first report of what exists on the various sites with regard to vegetation and biodiversity and her assessors are considering the continued approach requirements. Maynooth University, Trinity College, NBDC, Teagasc and Kildare County Council are reviewing 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. Practical trials have been designed and are to be finalized by the end of December.

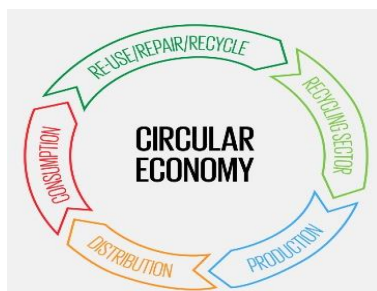




the equivalent of 1300 litres of diesel being produced post operational requirements being removed and the saving of four tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere - the equivalent of driving an SUV style vehicle 20,000km per annum. The next steps are to assess the financial costs further with the potential to break even or make a profit from using the circular economy model.

The CAT members visited Green Generation facility on the 02 December to fully understand the process and future possible applications.





Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland invited a small group to look at the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel source for larger plant and machinery. The example was a grab truck utilising the gas to travel on average 600km between refueling at designated stations. The truck is 50% quieter than a diesel version while gas is considered the greenest carbon fuel in this case the gas is produced by Green Generation making the vehicle carbon neutral with green certification available. It also significantly produces less air particulate matter and Nitrous Oxide. Plans are advancing to potentially provide fuel stations in the county of Kildare to increase the viability of CNG usage in transport.



Council Policy Documents and Initiatives

The Climate Action Office is researching the viability of partnering with others to enable the use of the newly announced Strand 2 funding under the Governments Climate Action Fund.

The council are also delighted to be working with various functional areas to enhance their work through a Climate Action lens.

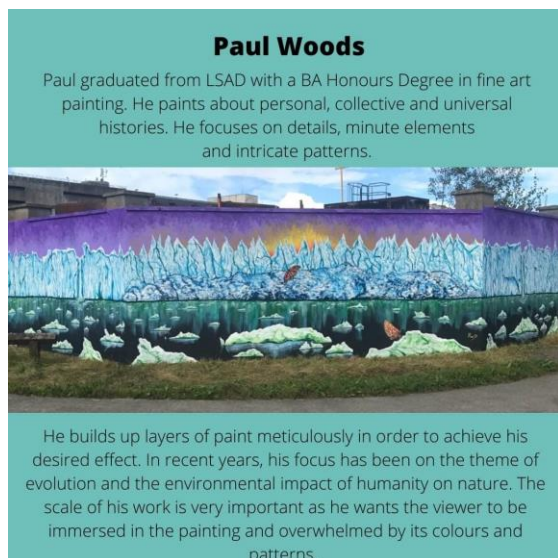
The Climate Action Office continues to work with the Planning Department to inform the CDP, community section including Age Friendly to future the Climate Action Plan for Ballymore Eustace, Suncroft and other initiatives and sustainable transport section with future community consultation.

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.



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

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Key Highlights

- Winter Salting Programme underway
- 569 Building Control Commencement notices received to date
- 1,567 Fire Services operation calls to date

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. 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

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 main contract is at tender stage, with tenders to be returned by mid December 2021. It is expected to have a main contractor on site for Quarter 2 2022.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF).

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding under 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. Non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 1, presenting the route corridor options has been completed and submissions have been compiled.

Non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2, presenting the emerging preferred route option will commence in Quarter 1 2022.

Newhall Junction Improvement

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Attempts to acquire the lands by agreement on this scheme have not been successful so a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process has commenced. It is expected to advertise the CPO in Jan 2022.





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.

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Kildare Town Transport Strategy is currently at draft stage. Meetings with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District 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 shortly.

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 commenced on the 06 of October and ran for six weeks. The baseline analysis is broadly complete and

AECOM are moving onto the strategy optioneering stage. The Planning Department in Kildare County Council are currently finalising land-use scenarios to provide to AECOM for analysis.

Naas Permeability Improvement Project

Consultants OCSC were appointed to this project to develop 8 no. permeability links in the Monread area of Naas to Part 8 stage. Initial design complete. Meetings held with Naas Municipal District councillors on 28 October 2021 and 12 November 2021. It was agreed with the Councillors to start with a non-statutory public consultation prior to detailed design and Part 8. The non-statutory public consultation (via a leaflet drop and online survey) will begin in December and end on 17 January 2022.

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 ABP for an EIAR/NIS approval (as the river Barrow is a SAC) 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 1 2022.

Brook bridge has been approved by 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).

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.





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

Construction contract to be signed in Quarter 1 2022.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Designers: WSP Ireland Consulting

Design review ongoing 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 complete.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Designers: WS Atkins Ireland Limited

The scheme is at preliminary design stage. Part 8 Process due to commence in Quarter 1 2022.

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 developed.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Designers: WS Atkins Ireland Limited

Detailed design phase underway.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

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

Digital Strategy for Kildare

The tender process for the preparation of the Kildare Digital Strategy is now finalised. Work will commence in the coming weeks to develop a Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare.

Municipal District Updates

Athy Municipal District

Municipal District Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works

- All road works program completed as planned.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

- A number of projects have been completed as agreed and a number are ongoing.

Local Improvement Schemes

- Goulyduff.
- Hughestown.
- Calverstown.
- Pullagh.
- Killeen East.

Community Involvement Schemes

- Ball Alley Lane, Kildoon.
- Carrigeen lane.
- Richardstown Lane.
- Rosbran lane.
- Killeen East lane.

Road Markings

- Hacklow junction works completed.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

- Miltown – footpath works
- Brownstown – drainage and footpath works
- Gables – new entrance to the linear park





- Roanville – footpath and surfacing works.

Local Improvement Schemes

Three local improvement schemes are now complete at:

- Clogheen
- Scarlettstown
- Conlonstown

Signage works

General signage maintenance and renewal across the municipal district.

Road Markings

Road marking upgrade works at:

- Junction seshonn cross
- Ballally cross
- Mullacash Cross
- Mountprospect Rathangan

Drainage Works

- Sunnyhill
- Brownstown

Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works

Road improvement and restoration schemes are now complete for the 2021 period. The council are now preparing the 2022 schedule.

Miscellaneous Works ongoing

- Patching
- Hedge Cutting
- Gully cleaning

Naas Municipal District

Footpath Works

Footpath repairs were completed at:

- Roseville, Naas
- St. Corban's Place, Naas
- Lakelands, Naas
- Lacken View, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Broadfield View, Naas (footpath improvements)
- Ballycane Rd., Naas (dished crossings at entrances to Hazelmere and Oakfield Heights)

Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Works

LPT Works were completed at:

- Swans to Patrician Avenue, Naas
- Monread Avenue, Naas
- Woodlands, Naas





The remaining 2021 Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works will continue into 2022.

NTA Funded Works

NTA Funded Projects were completed at:

- Sallins Rd., Naas (Footpath improvements Naas GAA to Oldtown Demesne)
- Bundle of Sticks Roundabout, Naas (New footpath construction) – Street Lights are outstanding

Drainage Works

Drainage Works at seven locations are now substantially complete. The final location (Johnstown) is due to be completed by the end of December.

Restoration Improvement Works

Restoration Improvement works were completed at:

- L60671 St. Michaels Terrace Naas
- L2993 Railway Terrace Naas
- L3012 / L29937 Monread Rd. / Monread Avenue Junction
- Newbridge Road (Jigginstown to New Carragh Road)

- Pacilli Road /St Martins Avenue Junction

Low Cost Safety Works

The following projects were completed in the past month:

- Kerrys Crossroads (Ballymore Eustace)
- Clownings Crossroads (Kill to Straffan Rd.)

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District

Restoration Improvement (Overlay) – Approximately 0.5 km

- L80137 – Central Park and Churchfield Clane

Footpaths

Footpath repairs were completed at:

- Loughbollard, Clane

NTA Projects

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

These projects are due to commence in the coming months.





LPT Funding

The Municipal District Office is currently examining the LPT projects with an intention to progress these projects during Quarter 4 2021/Quarter 1 2022.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works

The following project was completed:

- L5071 Mill Pond Staplestown

Low Cost Safety Works

The following projects were completed in the past month:

- L1019 Mangans Cross
- L2002 Millicent Cross

Other

Repair works have been undertaken to Alexandra Bridge in Clane.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

Active Travel Measures Updates

All works to footpaths funded by the NTA under active travel have been completed with the exception of the Hazelhatch Road in Celbridge where the council are awaiting ESB networks to move a pole.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

Crews are working on footpath repairs and a tender is currently being assessed to commence works to footpaths in older estates in the municipal district.

Drainage Works

The maintenance crews are currently carrying out routine maintenance to water inlets and cleaning gullies in the municipal district. Gully cleaning will take approximately three months to complete.

Health and Safety

One accident in November:

- Issue with a hose pipe on rotating bridge of clarifier tank caused minor injury to employee.

Four incidents in November:

- Aggressive and threatening behaviour reported related to the impending removal of a horse.
- Aggressive behaviour and verbal abuse of a caretaker.
- Two minor road traffic accidents reported with minor damage to vehicles.





The Health and Safety Section carried out the following:

- 56 COVID 19 Compliance Inspections completed
- 15 online assessments completed
- 2 Pregnancy risk assessments
- Coordinated the provision of event safety management plans for community-based field days, Community fun days etc.
- Discussions with Housing Homeless Team on Risk Assessments and Method Statements.
- Review of Risk Assessment for Mobile Library Service
- Engaged an Air Quality Specialist through facilities to carry out an independent report on the air quality within the building following a number of complaints
- The Health and Safety section worked with HR in association with Spectrum Life to offer the flu vaccine free of charge to staff.
- Supported Libraries on hosting of events and providing study space in for patrons
- Prepared Risk Assessments for LASOG for national distribution
- Meetings attended:
 - Lead Worker Representative Meeting
 - LGMA Update - Local Government Draft Blended Working Policy Framework
 - Meeting with HR re COVID-19 Update for Staff
 - Local Authority Safety Officers Group (LASOG) Meeting
 - Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC

Accessibility

- Finalised schedule of events for International Day of Persons





with Disabilities – 03 December
which include:

- Extended to week of events 29 November – 03 December titled Kildare Disability Week
- Press Release prepared for Kildare Disability Week
- Preparation for International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 03 December which included:
 - Radio Interview with KFM
 - Newspaper interview with Kildare Nationalist
 - Working with Access Groups putting finishing touches to launches
- Kildare Disability Week:
 - Launch of Access All Areas, an award-winning initiative developed by Celbridge Access Group (CAG) aimed at supporting local business in making Business Accessible to All. CAG is working in partnership with Celbridge

businesses to make people with disabilities feel valued and welcomed as customers.

- Review of South Beach Greystones Accessible Playground with CKAN
- WAM (Willing, Able Mentoring) Webinar - Brain Awareness and Neurological Conditions.
- Submissions made to the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund with:
 - KARE and UCD Centre for Disability
 - Kildare Leader Partnership
- Meetings:
 - Brainstorming Session with Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) on Creating Our Future
 - Meeting with IT re developing new style guides – important that all documents produced are in an accessible format.
 - Athy Access Group Meeting





- Leixlip Access Group Meeting November – 03 December
- CKAN Meeting re Kildare Disability Week – 29 Meeting with Planning re Accessibility on the Grand Canal Greenway

Fire Service

Operational Calls		
Station	Total Calls 2020	Total Calls 2021 (to end November)
Newbridge	429	389
Naas	389	419
Athy	194	197
Maynooth	280	254
Monasterevin	151	144
Leixlip	203	168
Total	1,842	1567

Fire Safety

	No. Inspections	No. Premises Inspected
2019	75	72
2020	33	31
2021	10	9

	No. Fire Safety Complaints
2019	16
2020	7
2021	13

	No. Fire Safety Certificates
2019	179
2020	204
2021	232





Building and Development Control

BUILDING CONTROL (figures to end of November 2021)

Commencement Notices:	2020	2021
Total Number of Commencement Notices received:	461	569
Number of Valid commencement notices received:	454	550
Number of Invalid commencement notices received:	7	3
No. of inspections carried out on Commencement Notices	199	323
Certificates of Compliance on Completion	2020	2021
Total Number of Certificates received:	426	699
Number Valid	425	606
Number Invalid	1	0
Awaiting processing Additional Information	0	2 3
Number of inspections carried out on Compliance on Completion	196	200
Disability Access Certificates:	2020	2021
Total Number of Disability Access Certificates received:	124	180
Number granted:	137	159
Number refused:	0	0
Number invalid	2	1
Number of inspections carried out on Disability Access Certificates	66	114
Building Control Active Sites:	2020	2021
Number of units inspected	2067	3114
Development Control Active Sites:	2021	
Number of Active Sites	121	





Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

All Grants Awarded 2021		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	134	€236,066
Festival Grants	56	€44,605
Local Property Tax	380	€703,555
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	1031	€1,514,776

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. Schemes are now closed.

Local property tax grants

Lists have been advised from MDs and 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 December 2021

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 24 November 2021.

Youth Mental Health

Kildare LCDC and Children and Young People's Services Committee have been working with the HSE to progress recommendations to increase Youth Mental Health provision in Kildare. Additional funding of €145,000 has been secured for In Sync Counselling Service to increase youth counselling across the county. This will provide for three additional posts and work to alleviate the 300 young people currently on their waiting list. The HSE have also secured four temporary psychology posts and are working to establish an additional CAHMS team for the county.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The guidelines for the next Local Economic Development Plan were received on 11 November. An online

briefing event was 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 was advertised with interviews taking place shortly.

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. The Minister announced the awards through a press release on 06 December. The successful applicants from Kildare are outlined on the following link



<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/3e318-minister-humphreys-announces-1-million-in-capital-funding-for-social-enterprises/>

Dormant Account LGBTI Funding

In Sync were successful in their application for LGBTI funding to the DRCD and were recently awarded €22,635. This funding will be used to support their work with LGBTI young people across the county in 2022.

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

The LCDC received draft guidelines and application forms for the Community Activities Funding from the DRCD last week. This funding is aimed at community/voluntary groups to support small scale capital costs and towards utility bills. Kildare LCDC have €296,027 to administer. The national deadline for receipt of applications is 28 February 2022. The LCDC suggested consulting with PPN members in relation to funding priorities which will be considered prior to advertising the scheme in Kildare.

Healthy Ireland

An extension has been granted for projects to complete their work until March 2022. Planning is underway at national level for Healthy Ireland Round 4. Sector 3 Solutions are contracted to develop the Healthy Kildare Plan. Work has commenced on this, with consultations taking place in mid-December into January 2022.

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.

Two Projects were approved by the LCDC/LAG on 24 November for LEADER grant aid totaling €254,451.06.

1. Gray Farm Partnership were grant aided €54,451.06 towards a direct-sales fresh milk enterprise. The promoter plans to produce, pasteurise, and sell farm fresh milk directly to the customer.
2. Castlestone Holiday Homes was grant aided €200,000 towards the development of existing stone buildings at



Haynestown Farm into five self-catering holiday homes.

Contracts are currently being finalised. 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 course to reach its targets and spend the 2021 budget. LCDC members conducted the Mid Programme Review in October and agreed the priorities for the remaining two years of the SICAP programme. Young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early were identified as an emerging needs target group.

Additional resources of €4 million were secured nationally for SICAP 2022. Kildare is receiving an additional 15% for SICAP 2022. This is very positive as the national baseline was a 5% increase. The Kildare SICAP budget 2022 is €1,256,797. Work to complete the draft plan for 2022 is currently being finalised and will be presented to the LCDC meeting in January in line with national requirements.

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

Connecting Ireland NTA Consultation

On 29 October 2021, the National Transport Authority (NTA) launched a public consultation to improve transport connections in rural areas - 'Connecting Ireland'. Connecting Ireland seeks to make public transport for rural communities more useful for more people, and it will do this by:

- Improving existing services
- Adding new services; and
- Enhancing the current Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) network which meets the transport needs of people who live in remote locations.

The NTA has undertaken a comprehensive analysis to better understand where rural bus service improvements are required with a view to introducing new and improved connections between villages and



towns; and providing better access to public transport in rural areas.

An online survey is now opened to gather views of the public for proposed routes and services in each county. The survey as well as the maps for each county and more details on the consultation can be accessed on

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations/connecting-ireland-consultation/>

The closing date for submissions is Friday 10 December 2021.

Community Call Helpline

As per the Department's guidance, Kildare County Council ceased the operation of the Community Response Forum.

Kildare County Council are continuing local arrangements and supports to assist the most vulnerable in the county.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

The month of November launched the promotion of festive events and offerings by tourism and hospitality providers, under the new guidelines.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Fáilte Ireland Greenway Development Workshop which moved to online. It had been hoped to hold this in person. Tourism Ireland also held their November Industry Briefing online in November also which included updates on International Travel into Ireland. A workshop on Christmas shopping facilitated by the Local Enterprise Office was attended to prepare for the festive season. Kildare Fáilte also attended the Naas Town meeting where an update on tourism activity was provided. The monthly Shackleton project meeting also took place.

The Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan was officially launched at the Irish National Stud and Gardens. The strategy seeks to drive and sustain equine attractions in Kildare and Tipperary. In attendance was Mr Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland and Mr Paul Keeley, Regional Development Director of Fáilte Ireland. Steering group committee representatives of tourism and equine businesses were also present, of which Into Kildare is a member alongside Tipperary Tourism.



Ms Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare, Ms Caroline Henry, Fáilte Ireland – Ireland's Ancient East, Mr Paul Keane, Curragh Racecourse, Ms Orla McCabe, Killashee Hotel, Ms Mercedes Bagnall, Lawlors Hotel

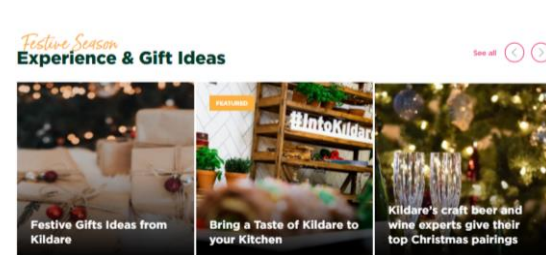


Thoroughbred Country Steering Committee

Following the Destination Newbridge Community Workshop in October, meetings took place by each project group: developing an event calendar, exploring the visitor journey and the structure of the group. The wider group came together on 24 November to update on progress so far. The next meeting will be held on 05 January 2022, with project meetings being held in the meantime. There is great

passion and energy to carry out these actions and Kildare Fáilte is delighted to be supporting the group and plans.

Taste of Kildare at Christmas launched at the beginning of the month. This campaign will continue into December promoting festive breaks, festive experiences and gifting in Kildare to drive visitors to come and stay in the county during the shoulder season. It also seeks to encourage people to support and shop local this Christmas. This is being supported by a strong digital campaign driving awareness and bookings for Kildare.



Supported by social media posts, blog content including Festive Gift Ideas from Kildare, Festive Gift Vouchers to Experience the Best of Kildare, Festive Afternoon Tea in Kildare and Magical Christmas Breaks in Kildare aim to inspire visitors to come to Kildare or commit to a visit in the coming months. Visitor engagement across all channels is being driven by



inspirational posts, Christmas events and experiences and outdoor walks.

The Into Kildare Tourism Gathering took place in Kilkea Castle and was a highly successful event. Cathaoirleach Naoise Ó'Cearúil and Minister Catherine Martin were in attendance to launch the Strategic Plan for tourism in the County for the next five years.



Ms Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare, Mr David Mongey, Chair Into Kildare, Minister Catherine Martin, Ms Sonya Kavanagh, Interim Chief Executive Kildare County Council, Cathaoirleach Naoise Ó'Cearúil

An interesting and interactive panel discussion took place covering topics including St Brigid, the Greenways and Blueways, the importance of authentic, sustainable tourism experiences and the Thoroughbred Country opportunities. The panel consisted of a representative from Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Kildare County

Council, Curragh Racecourse and Restaurant's Association of Ireland as well as industry expert and travel journalist, Mr Eoghan Corry. Each of the panel offered one word to take away which can guide tourism strategy: connections, optimism, authenticity, hospitality, networks and collaboration.



Kildare native, Ms Daniella Moyles provided lunch time entertainment. It was also an opportunity for members of the tourism and hospitality industry to get together.



Mr David McWilliams, Economist
Keynote speaker

Mr David McWilliams, noted that Kildare has the potential for a strong recovery by being innovative and reactive. He added that businesses



can take their strengths and make them better while at the same time taking perceived weaknesses and transforming them to strengths. He ended the day asking, 'Kildare, are you ready to get back into the ring?'

Feedback from attendees was incredibly positive with appreciation for the chance to gather safely, meet industry peers and be inspired by the various speakers. Coverage from the event featured in press, on radio, online and in industry publications.

Additional press coverage in November included articles from two press trips that took place in October – one with a focus on golf breaks for non-golfers too in the Irish Independent, while the second was a feature on 48 hours in Kildare on RSVP Live covering a selection of experiences from Athy to Kildare town. Both articles highlighting the wealth of visitor experiences in the county.

Library and Arts Service

At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It's an enormous force for good.
-- Barack Obama –

Study Sessions

It is now possible to study by appointment at our libraries in Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge. Appointments are for two hours maximum and can be booked on the library website.

Kildare Libraries Online Science Festival funded by Science Foundation Ireland Discover Week Funding

Kildare Libraries hosted its first Science Festival in November as part of the national Science Week events taking place across the country. The festival ran from the 01 to 27 November and was fully funded by an €8000 grant from Science Foundation Ireland.

The festival comprised a mix of workshops across our network of library branches to engage and encourage our communities,



particularly those underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) or who may not typically be exposed to STEM, to engage in ways that are more relatable and accessible for them. The programme comprised events for a mixture of audiences: children, families, adults and local DEIS schools across the county. Events included coding workshops specifically aimed at girls

We held 26 events in total with 780 attendees. 18 of these events were for public attendance and eight of them were held in partnership with DEIS schools across the county. We surveyed attendees after events and 26% of those who responded had never attended an event with Kildare Libraries showing the added reach of the programme in connecting the library with new audiences.

Connections Through Literature, in association with Irish Writer's Centre

The final event in this series took place on Saturday 13 November. An online interview and reading with renowned poet Doireann Ní Gríofa and scholar and critic, Liam Mac Amhlaigh. This collaboration was funded through

Creative Ireland to bring a series of contemporary and accessible literary events to Kildare.

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.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

This Capital Project received Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) under Category B as part of the Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter. Metropolitan Workshop Architects have been appointed as the Design Team lead and are working with the Public Realm and Special Projects Team and the Library Service on the design in advance of the Part 8 Planning process.

New Clane Library

Deaton Lysaght Architects have been appointed Design Team lead on this project. The Design Team, Architects and Library Service working on



drawings in preparation for Part 8 Planning process.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives (LSGA)

Kildare County Council Minutes 1899-1938 now online

As part of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme, the minutes of Kildare County Council from 1899 up to 1939 have been digitised and are now available to view, download and search by keyword on the new library website www.kildare.ie/library. They consist mainly of printed minutes, while a small amount are handwritten or annotated. This important archival resource is now available to researchers at home and abroad.

Donation of archival material from Drummin House, Derrinturn, Co. Kildare

The LGSA department received a significant donation of archival material from the executors of the estate of the late Grattan de Courcy Wheeler of Drummin House. The collection requires extensive cleaning and

appraisal. It will then be catalogued by the county archivist and made available to researchers by appointment.

The material includes a significant quantity of eighteenth and nineteenth century papers relating to the Quaker Neale family of Newington and Christianstown Houses, along with some relating to de Courcy Wheeler family. Staff from the LGSA department have participated in an Irish Life and Lore podcast to publicise this exciting discovery.

Local History Groups and Schools

The LGSA department continues to work with local history groups and schools throughout the county. Zoom presentations have been given to secondary schools and local history groups on our local history research and resources.

A recent presentation given by staff member James Durney as part of a Creative Rathangan – Meitheal seminar highlighted the vital role of County Kildare in the intelligence war during the War of Independence.



Local History Publications

The LGSA Department continues to assist local historians and groups to publish local history material. Several notable recent publications include a history of Ballymore-Eustace, Kilcock during the revolutionary decade, The Forgotten on the World War I dead from the Castledermot area, and The Annals of Athy.

New Website

The Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives pages of the new library website have been created with primary sources and digitised material added, including new guides to researching military and police ancestors. A new section related to the Kildare Decade of Commemorations has also been added.

Kildare Arts Service

Kildare Local Live Performance Programme Scheme Phase II

Kildare County Council Arts Service managed an open call for expressions of interest to the Kildare Local Live Performance Programming scheme,

Phase 2. The scheme, funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media aims to support the creation of employment opportunities for local professional artists and musicians, performers, designer, technicians, crew, lighting and sound engineers and other support staff working in the live commercial arts and culture sectors in county Kildare. Phase II of the scheme will facilitate programming of live performances in the Municipal Districts of both Celbridge-Leixlip and Clane-Maynooth, in county Kildare before the end of the year. An independent panel convened in November to assess eligible applications to the scheme. The event will be announced and delivered in December.

'Digital Folklore and Stories Capturing the Ordinary

Artist/folklorist Michael Fortune (folklore.ie) facilitated a 6-session series of online workshops on new techniques to record people and places and edit short video. Participants in this fully subscribed course actively engaged with Michael and fellow participants and feedback has been very positive. Workshops



started in mid-November and will continue until early December. This workshop series is supported through the Kildare Creative Ireland programme.

Professional development for Kildare youth arts leaders

Kildare Arts Service has published a call out for applications from Kildare-based youth arts workers to participate in 'Laying the Foundations' a three-day training in Youth Drama Facilitation. This training facilitated by Youth Theatre Ireland offers an excellent grounding for anyone interested in developing the facilitation skills at the heart of good youth theatre practice. The call out for participants was published in November 2021. Training will be delivered in early 2022.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

A new member of staff has started with the Parks Section and will be progressing this project to tender stage in Quarter 1 2022 and then to construction.

Tree Works Tender

Tree works in Kildare-Newbridge and Clane-Maynooth Municipal Districts areas have been tendered. Work on preparing tenders for the Athy and Naas Municipal Districts are ongoing and it is hoped to tender these in early 2022.

Green Flag Award

Kildare County Council have been awarded two Green Flag sites, for Liffey Linear Park in Newbridge and Zero Waste Community Garden in Rathcoffey. The Green Flag awards are the international accreditation for public park excellence in Ireland and reflect the importance of parks and open spaces in the county. It also demonstrates the importance of the partnerships Kildare County Council has with Newbridge Tidy Towns and the Community Garden Committee, Rathcoffey, and the many hours that the volunteers with both groups provide to achieve the Green Flag Award.



Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From January – 03 December 2021		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	119	€206,689.63
Shopfront Grant *Remainder of funds per MD see pg2	77	€144,504
Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant	126	€387,272
Export Marketing Grant	18	€28,496
Start-up/Expansion/Priming/Export Marketing Grants	54	€1,017,039
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	€8659
Naas	€0
Clane Maynooth	€14,239
Celbridge Leixlip	€20,789

Grant Support

Since the previous CE Report, an additional €188,549 was approved in grant funding (Feasibility, Priming and Expansion grants). Included in this funding is direct employment support for 12 new full-time jobs in Kildare.



The first Grad Start application was also approved in Kildare, providing €30,000 grant support in the recruitment of a graduate role.

In total 54 businesses received grant support in 2021 totalling €1,017,040. Included in this funding is direct employment support for 49 new full-time jobs in Kildare.

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 10 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 126 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. 85 clients have availed of the Green for Micro Programme in 2021.

Lean for Micro Programme

The training programme introduces Lean concepts to participating businesses. 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.

Ongoing Business Advice and Mentoring Support

682 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 and for established businesses. 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.

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

In total 4,202 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 a series of open days/open evenings over the coming months to market the facility to local Tech founders have been deferred due



to the rise in COVID cases and replaced with one to one tours on a pre-booked basis.

The MERITS team has been extremely busy over the past 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 were submitted from a number of contractors. The successful

contractors have been informed that they have been approved to tender for the main construction contractor which will be published for tender next year. 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.

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 its 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 has been drafted for discussion at the December SPC meeting. The strategy will be published in early 2022.

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 in January 2022

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Kildare County Council has tendered for a Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator. The successful service provider will be required to act as co-ordinator of the Kildare Food Network and drive the implementation of the Kildare Food, Beverage and Hospitality strategy on behalf of the key project stakeholders. The date for submission of tender is 22 December.

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	Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid [SBASC]	https://kildare.ie/coun-tycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/CommercialRates/



COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business 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
Health and Safety Guidance	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	https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE
Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines	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	https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE
Re-Designing Businesses for Physical Distancing	Re-Designing Businesses Programme - assisting companies in order to operate using Lean Workplace Organisation practices in order to achieve implement physical distancing	Email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie to apply
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/



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

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive