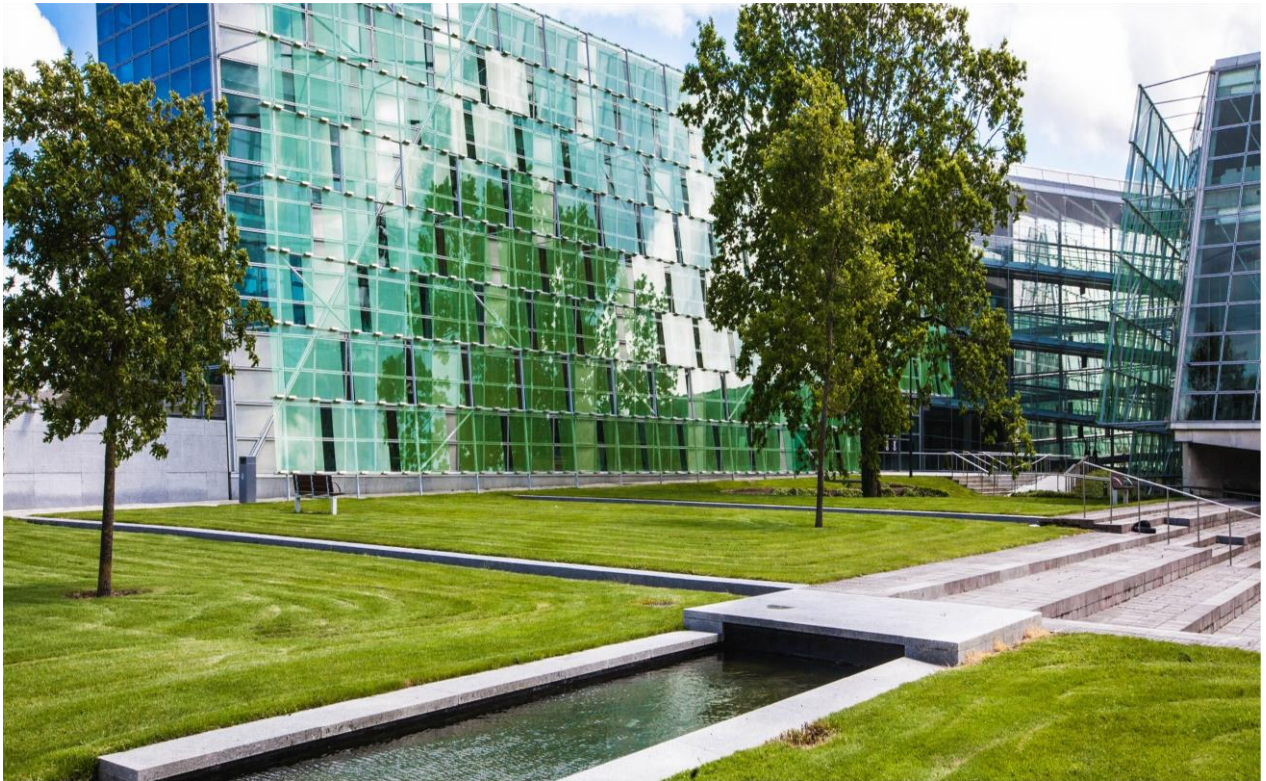




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – October 2022





News Items

Kildare County Council Supported Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week took place from 03 to 09 October (see page 06).

Kildare County Council Supported 'See Change' Campaign

Kildare County Council used social media channels to highlight the 'See Change' Green Ribbon campaign for mental health awareness (see page 06).

Data Protection/GDPR – Cookie Management

Changes have been made to the management of cookies on the Kildare County Council website (see page 07).

Register of Electors – Electoral Reform Act 2022 and voter registration

Kildare County Council were advised that the provisions of the Act related to the Register of Electors would not commence until 13 October 2022 (see page 07).

2021 Audit

The Audit Report is expected to be completed for the November Council meeting (see page 09).

Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023 (see page 34).

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

The Newbridge 2nd Bridge will be provided as part of the much broader Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route (see page 49).

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The first Ukrainian Interagency working group was held on 22 September (see page 58).



Diary/Calendar

2023 Budget Meetings

Members budget briefing session on Monday 14 November 2022 and Statutory Budget Meeting on Monday 21 November 2022 (see page 09).

Traveller Accommodation

The next meeting of the LTACC is scheduled to take place on 01 December. (see page 13).

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Proposed Material Alterations and accompanying environmental reports are on public display from the 28 September to the 27 October 2022 and submissions are welcome before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 27 October 2022. (see page 20).

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The 09 December is reserved for the next Special Meeting of the Council to discuss the Chief Executives Report on the submissions relating to the Proposed Material Alterations (see page 20).

Maynooth Local Area Plan

Pre-draft public consultation is now underway for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030, from 30 September to 11 November. Submissions are welcome before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 11 November 2022. (see page 20).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 24 October 2022 (see page 30).

MAKE IT! Kildare Gift and food fair

MAKE IT! Kildare Gift and food fair is back for the first time in three years - Newbridge Town Hall on 12 and 13 November (see page 72).



November Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31 Oct	1 Nov	2 14:00 Finance Committee Meeting	3 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee 14:00 Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC	4 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC Meeting 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
7	8 09:00 Naas JPC Meeting 10:00 Naas MD Meeting	9	10 14:30 Audit Committee Meeting	11
14 00:00 Protocol To Be Confirmed 15:00 Budget Briefing ; Chamber; Meetings	15	16 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge M... 15:00 Coiste Gaelige ; Teams	17	18 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Co...
21 00:00 CPG to be confirmed 09:00 Athy JPC Meeting 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 15:00 Budget Meeting ; Chamber	22	23	24	25
28 15:00 Full Council Meeting	29 09:00 KWETB	30 10:00 LCDC	1 Dec 10:30 LTACC 15:00 Strategic Development & Planning SPC	2 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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Corporate Services Communications



Kildare County Council Supported Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week took place from 03 to 09 October and Kildare County Council supported the efforts with a communications campaign promoting road safety awareness and encouraging positive road user behaviour.

Full details: <https://bit.ly/3enh4Aj>



Kildare County Council Supported 'See Change' Campaign

Throughout the month of September, Kildare County Council used the corporate social media channels to highlight the 'See Change' Green Ribbon campaign for mental health

awareness. The campaign is aimed at ending mental health stigma, shame and discrimination. Throughout the month, Kildare County Council social media channels highlighted various aspects of the campaign including World Suicide Prevention Day, encouraging honest conversations about mental health and guidance on how people can help.

Data Protection/GDPR

Cookie Management

Changes have been made to the management of cookies on the Kildare County Council website to ensure compliance with regulation 5 of the ePrivacy Regulations (S.I. 336/2011) in relation to the management of cookies and other similar technologies.

Visitors to Kildare County Council's website are now afforded a choice (not implied choice) and it is completely transparent as to what cookies are on the site. The banner is on every page of the site until the user decides their choice but can still access a change if they wish to do so. There is also a direct link to the policy/declaration on every page.



Freedom of Information Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2022	Total received Quarter 2, 2022	Total received Quarter 3, 2022	Total 2022
Freedom of Information requests	40	38	42	120
Freedom of Information appeals	2	1	3	6
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	15	14	7	36
Ombudsman	7	0	10	17

Register of Electors Electoral Reform Act 2022 and voter registration

Further to the detailed update in September, Kildare County Council were advised that the provisions of the Act related to the Register of Electors would not commence until 13 October 2022.

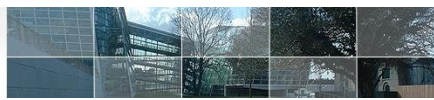
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) advised that following the Minister writing to all elected representatives regarding [the Electoral Reform Act 2022](#), that the DHLGH is liaising with

the AILG to organise briefings with members.

On receipt of the prescribed application forms and other public information from the DHLGH the council will update its [website](#) and provide links to all elected representatives to ensure they can assist the public in registering.

It is noted that a planned national communications campaign, led by the DHLGH and supported by all local authorities, will not commence until November 2022. When this occurs, the council will provide relevant awareness materials to elected members so they can assist in public awareness around registering to vote and confirming their details, where already registered.

Kildare County Council has been working towards this change during 2022, as a lead site in testing IT systems that will support the new Act and has been engaging with persons applying to join the register this year, and with postal voters especially, to ensure they are included in the new live “rolling” register, which from commencement replaces the former



Draft and Live cycles of forming the register.

The Act is available [here](#) and as more information is received from the DHLGH the council will brief elected representatives and publish relevant information online.

During this transitional phase and until such time as the Act commences and new forms made available to Kildare County Council, elected representatives are advised to direct people who wish to be added to the Register or to amend their current details to contact a member of the Register of Electors Team by email register@kildarecoco.ie or telephone 045980201, so the council can ensure the most efficient approach to their registration, during this period of change.

Out of Hours Service

Kildare County Councils out of hours service provider changed on the 8th September, 2022.

Services are now being provided by Otonomee Customer Management Ltd. The out of hours number remains the same and the service provider can be contacted outside of council normal working hours on 1800 500 444.

Members Services

Social Media Training for Councillors

The Communications team held Social Media Training dedicated to helping Councillors with their use of social media across key platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The training, which was split across four sessions throughout September and early October looked at the potential of Tik Tok together with advice on mitigating risk on social media.

Corporate Governance Training

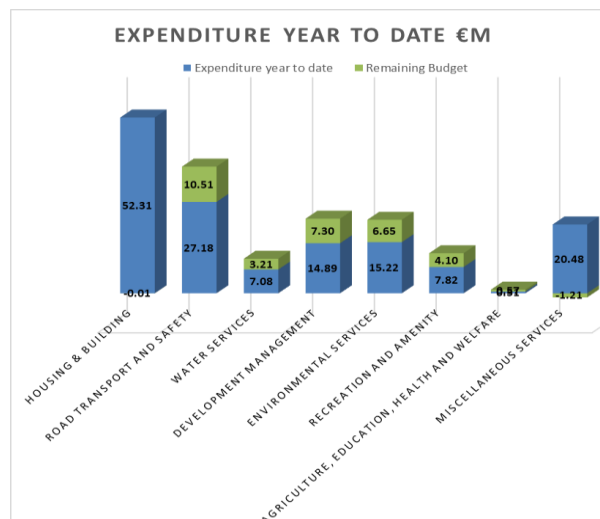
An online briefing for members and relevant staff with the Corporate Enforcement Office was held on Monday 10 October 2022 online.



Finance and Information Technology

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council								
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Sep 2022								
Division	Expenditure				Income			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€000	€000		€000	€000	€000		€000
Housing & Building	52,312	52,300	100%	- 12	49,939	44,828	111%	- 5,111
Road Transport and Safety	27,184	37,692	72%	10,508	10,670	19,290	55%	8,620
Water Services	7,075	10,281	69%	3,206	6,264	10,082	62%	3,818
Development Management	14,892	22,196	67%	7,304	7,204	7,758	93%	554
Environmental Services	15,218	21,869	70%	6,651	5,499	7,062	78%	1,563
Recreation and Amenity	7,820	11,916	66%	4,096	1,188	1,079	110%	- 109
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	514	1,081	48%	567	184	348	53%	164
Miscellaneous Services	20,478	19,267	106%	- 1,211	5,147	6,026	85%	879
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates					13,717	18,289	75%	4,572
					45,950	61,837	74%	15,887
	145,493	176,602	82%	31,109	145,762	176,599	83%	30,837



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 Sep 2022							
	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/09/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,400,936	1,745,437	1,882,555	69,558,267	48,037,634	21,520,633
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	12,355,575	21,910	-	13,564,590	12,091,554	1,473,036
Housing Loans	2,023,590	2,729,477	-	-	4,753,067	3,221,914	1,531,153

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 January to 30 September 2022.

2021 Audit

The Local Government Auditor and his team are currently auditing the 2021 Annual Financial Statements and the Audit Report is expected to be completed for the November Council meeting.

2023 Budget Meetings

Members budget briefing sessions is on Monday 14 November 2022, at 3:00 p.m. This is an on-line briefing. Statutory Budget Meeting is on Monday 21 November 2022, at 3:00 p.m. This will be in the Council Chamber.

Finance will bring the Draft Budgetary Plan to the Municipal Districts in October.

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, the council accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment



can be booked online or by telephone on 045980920.

Most answers to 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 045980920.

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

The Finance Department continues to encourage rates and rents customers to avail of the customer portal and app. This enables rates and rent customers to make payments and view their account information online via their smartphone, tablet or PC.

The link to this portal is on:

<https://kildare.ie/county council/YourCountyCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>

Housing

Housing for All

Affordable Housing

The council has prepared a draft Scheme of Priority for the allocation of sales of affordable housing units; this scheme was presented to the Housing SPC at its meeting on 08 September. This scheme was then submitted for Ministerial approval. Following are the main provisions of the scheme:

- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available properties, 70% of eligible applicants will be prioritised by the time and date of application.
- The remaining 30% of eligible applicants will be prioritised based on proof of residency in County Kildare for a period equal to or greater than five years, with further priority granted based on the time and date of application.
- The accommodation need will be determined as follows:



Dwelling Type	Meets accommodation needs of:
Three-bedroom dwelling	Two or more-person household
Four-bedroom dwelling	Three or more-person household

The SPC also raised concerns about the allocation of one-bedroom units and single persons applying. The Department have confirmed that inclusion of “first come, first served” outside of the three and four bed properties effectively gives single people equal prioritisation for one and two bed properties on a first come basis.

The council submitted proposals in March 2022 for staff resources to support the Affordable Housing Programme; sanction has now been received for an initial three staff members. Filling of these posts will take place in due course.

Ukraine

Pledged Accommodation

Further to the update provided in the September report, 162 pledged property owners were contacted in

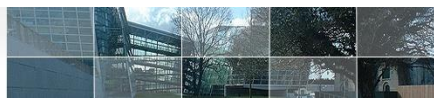
order to arrange the inspection of properties, 63 owners withdrew their offer of accommodation or were already accommodating displaced persons. Of the 99 properties inspected 67 require small works in advance of persons being placed in the accommodation, the housing team are engaging with these property owners. Currently, 122 beneficiaries are accommodated at the following locations, Bert House, Maynooth University, Liffey Lodge and Derrinturn.

Liffey Lodge

Upgrade works have commenced in Liffey Lodge, once the works are completed Liffey Lodge will resume accommodating displaced persons from Ukraine.

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations remain high with increased pressure being experienced in the availability of emergency accommodation provision. Unique presentations at the end of Quarter 3 2022 exceed the total for unique presentations for the full year in 2021. Efforts to source new providers continues and alternative accommodation will continue to be explored in the coming months.



A meeting of the Mid-East Housing First group was scheduled for 10 October with representatives from the National Housing First Office, the HSE (social inclusion and Mental Health), Meath, Wicklow and Kildare County councils, were due to be in attendance. Past performance including supports provided, any gaps in service provision as well as targets for the next three years were items on the agenda for discussion.

Homeless Outreach

Outreach services will be increased in the lead up to the Cold Weather Initiative in Kildare and an additional 20 beds will be made available in Kerdiffstown for this purpose. During September street work was carried out in the following MD areas: Athy, Naas, Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge.

The rough sleeper count verified 11 individuals all of whom have been offered support, advice and assistance. A clinic was also held in Cuan Mhuire with a total of eight new engagements for Homeless Services. Success in the form of, achieving progressions of three individuals previously sleeping rough to Supported Temporary accommodation, two homeless

preventions though placements in Homeless HAP and two single allocations to social housing from Supported Temporary Accommodation, were achieved in September. A further Housing First Tenancy was created.

The Jigginstown facility operated by Tiglin is operating to capacity with 12 individuals in Own Front Door properties and receiving intensive supports to progress to more permanent accommodation.

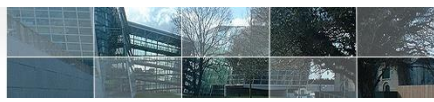
Tenancy Support

Tenancy sustainment cases have increased from in excess of 50 to 82 in recent weeks. Support and advice are also being provided to families who are experiencing difficulties with their HAP tenancies and these supports are assisting in preventing tenancy breakdown at a time when availability in the market is challenging.

The increase in cases is following the introduction of an extra member of staff to this area and is a welcome development in homeless prevention and tenancy supports in the County.

HAP Tenancies

A total of 236 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,092 active tenancies are now in place.



Year to date 445 HAP tenancies have ceased, following is the breakdown of reasons for cessation:
social housing allocation (263),
notice to quit from landlord (84),
voluntary exit (55),
movement within HAP (16),
other (27).

Housing Assessments

The Summary Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) process is underway with reminder letters due for return in the coming days. The response to date has been good and work will continue to ensure all applicants are contacted. New Applications are also being assessed within the statutory 12-week timeframe.

Traveller Accommodation

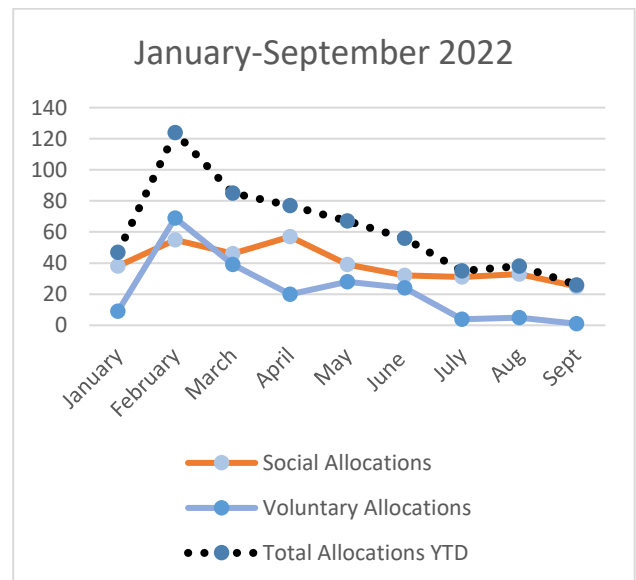
The Mid-Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019- 2024 has been completed (Housing Circular 28/2022). This was progressed in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC). Engagement with relevant housing applicants and a public consultation was undertaken. No change to the existing TAP was proposed and this noted by the LTACC at their meeting

on 15 September 2022. Preparation for the new plan is expected to commence in mid-2023.

The next meeting of the LTACC is scheduled to take place on 01 December.

Housing Allocations

To date, in 2022, there were 361 social and 199 voluntary units allocated. This is an overall total of 560 units for this year, to date.





Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Stage 4 approval received 03 October 2022. Notice letters issued and tender currently in standstill period. Pre contract meeting arranged.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Stage 4 approval received 29 September. Pre contract meeting held with successful tenderer.
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.	Kildare-Newbridge MD briefed on Patrick's Park Part 8. Public workshop meetings arranged with Residents to update on Part 8 prior to launch. Information leaflet issued to Residents in advance of public workshop meetings 12 October 2022. Part 8 to launch October 2022.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Briefing to Celbridge-Leixlip MD members held on 14 June 2022. Planning Application being finalised. Planning launch to Board expected during October 2022.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team Tender published; tenders received 26 June 2022. Tender evaluation complete. Tender and Recommendation Report issued W41 2022 – Result letters and standstill period to follow.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Part 8 being brought to Naas MD meeting for decision on 12 October.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Revised Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH with positive feedback. Briefing to be arranged with Clane-Maynooth MD members. Part 8 launch planned for October.
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations issued to DHLGH and approved to proceed to stage 2. Tender prepared for appointment of Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway.
Ardrew, Athy	8 units	Stage 1 redesigned proposals have been submitted to DHLGH with positive feedback. Briefing being prepared by KCC staff ahead of presentation to residents. Applications submitted to ESB for diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables.



Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Single stage approval received 23 August 2022
Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition. Comments on draft design brief issued by DHLGH returned on 29 August 2022. Final decision from DHLGH on inclusion in design competition pending.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 launched 27 September 2022 - Part 8 ref P82022-18. Final date for observations 07 November 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Q4 2022.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Tender for consultants uploaded to e-tenders September 2022. Tender return and evaluation to follow October 2022. Part 8 considered by MD in July – Approved in full.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Part 8 considered at September meeting of Naas MD. Approved in full. Tender for consultants uploaded to e-tenders September 2022. Tender return and evaluation to follow October 2022.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 agreed by Athy MD on 16 May 2022. Disability Access Certificate approval received 10 th August and Fire Safety Certificate approval received 26 th August. Market engagement and preparation of tender documentation ongoing.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Appointment of design team expected in Q4.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Adjacent KCC lands being master-planned as part of PPP development. Appointment of design team expected in Q4.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Complete. A number of units have been advertised via choice based lettings.



Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Completion date extended due to requirement to re-route and re-lay services. Phase 1 to deliver by year end.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid and now preparing preliminary design drawings.

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 on 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 15 June 2022 to review revised proposals in line with KCC and DHLGH comments. Revised proposals issued to KCC Sections for comment prior to finalising Stage 2 application.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Briefing delivered to Athy MD members on 20 June 2022. Planning application lodged in August for this scheme. Pl. ref.: 22/985. FI request 03-10-2022.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by Kildare County Council.

Homeless Presentations

2021	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1234	304	930
2021	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	296	92	204
Quarter 2	312	113	199
Quarter 3	338	134	204
Total	946	339	607

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2021	Adults	Dependents
Total	363	310
2021	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	99	81
Quarter 2	133	83
Quarter 3	164	125
Total	396	289

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 September 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	29	49	46



6 - 12 Months	12	18	14
12 - 18 Months	4	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	1	1
24 - 30 Months	2	2	0
36 Months +	5	9	7
	53	86	71

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 September 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	6	10	11
6 - 12 Months	4	5	8
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
Total	13	19	23

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	19
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	21
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	32
Total complete	379	187	110	72

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	10	35	12	9	6
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	10	2	2	9	2



Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022 to date
Total Approved	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,386,045 (from 2021 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€1,915,500 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)

Local Authority Home Loan (Launched 2022)

2022	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Q1	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Q2	12	€2,304,039	0	0	0	0
Q3 YTD	10	€2,326,607	0	0	0	0

Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2021	390	332	16	16	347	269
2022- Q1	59	72	3	5	83	144
2022- Q2	78	43	0	0	89	86
2022- Q3	110	60	0	0	107	40

Housing Assessments

2021	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	81	79	646	6	151
2022	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Q1 2022	14	16	88	2	38



Q2 2022	23	10	112	1	76
Q3 2022	54	2	86	0	94
Total	91	28	174	3	208

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2021	90	66	8,185	6,623
Q 1, 2022	27	16	2,523	1,874
Q 2, 2022	41	10	2,624	1,939
Q 3, 2022	38	13	2,169	1,369
Total	106	39	6, 316	5, 182

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme		No. of Units	Updated Status
MEERP and 2021 EERP		175 (To confirm number of vacants completed)	EERP and MERP: All MEERP 2021 EERP works to all estates complete expect for chimney works to 4 units and snagging to Clonmullion. Some residents have raised issues on their new air to water heating (Samsung Units) installed to Bishopsland, KCC to investigate. Claims submitted to the Department for the majority of the works, KCC following up with Department on payment.
2022 EERP	EERP	69	Letter of Acceptance issued on Ballyroe Athy (26 No Units). Contractor to commence 10/10/22. Letter of Acceptance to follow on Lacken View Naas (27 No Units). Anticipated remaining units may be fulfilled through retrofit of vacants.



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Two special meetings of Kildare County Council took place on the 12 September and 13 September to consider the Chief Executive's Report (dated 19 July 2022) on submissions received to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Elected Member's Motions.

It was resolved at that meeting to publish the Proposed Material Alterations (PMAs) to the draft plan and to invite members of the public and prescribed authorities to make submissions in this regard. The PMAs and accompanying environmental reports are on public display from the 28 September to the 27 October 2022 and submissions are welcome before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday 27 October 2022.

The 09 December is reserved for the next Special Meeting of the Council to discuss the Chief Executives Report on the submissions relating to the

Proposed Material Alterations in order to adopt the new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which will come into effect in 2023.

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

Preparation of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 is underway, with accompanying environmental and infrastructural assessments being completed.

Maynooth

Pre-draft public consultation is now underway for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030, from the 30 September to the 11 November. An Issues Paper has been published to stimulate debate and encourage public participation. A 'drop-in' event took place on Wednesday the 12 October in the Glenroyal Hotel from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where Council staff from Kildare and Meath County Councils were available to answer general queries and provide guidance on the pre-draft consultation and plan-making process. Submissions are welcome before 4:00 p.m. on Friday 11 November 2022.



Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
Sept	Year	No.	September	
2020:	142	1,141	2,475	Total Granted: 93
2021:	161	1,416	524	Further information requested: 44
2022:	124	1,198	533	Total Refused: 25

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	06/09/22 Grant
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	25/08/22 Grant
22/313276	15/05/22	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	219	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/313825	17/06/22	Kieran Curtin	Ballyoulster, Celbridge	344	06/10/22
22/314337	11/08/22	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22
22/314564	07/09/22	Teresa Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	272	05/01/23

All potential SHD applications have now been received and there are no further anticipated in accordance with the current legislation. Once the Chief Executive reports for these outstanding applications have been finalised, Kildare County Council will have completed its responsibilities

under the 2016 Act save for compliance conditions. All new applications for greater than 100 residential units or 200 student bed spaces will be dealt with through the LRD procedures.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)



Legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning authority will be required to hold an LRD meeting (within four

weeks) and issue an LRD opinion within eight weeks of the receipt of documentation from the applicant. An LRD application must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion.

Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/01	20/05/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	11/07/2022
2022/02	01/07/22	Westar	Finlay Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	23/08/2022
2022/03	27/07/22	William Neville	Main Street, Sallins	168	19/09/2022
2022/04	10/08/22	Debussy	Prosperous Road, Clane	190	03/10/2022
2022/05	20/09/22	MRP Oakland	Ruanbeg, Kildare Town	304	To be advised

Large-scale Residential Developments – Planning Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
22/221052	26/08/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	20/10/2022

Heritage

1. Planning

Planning Applications to date: 277
Forward Planning: Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare.
Part 8: Heritage Officer inputs in service departments Part 8 detail.

2. Oral Recording Training

Funding was secured under Creative Ireland to deliver a seven-week training course for community, history and heritage groups. Training is being delivered by MacConmamra Heritage Consulting in a blended manner.

3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans



- Plans are in preparation in following towns: Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh. Project funded via Municipal District LPT fund.
4. MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme
A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations and LBAP towns will be launched in November (LPT Project).
 5. County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022
Survey complete. Final report due end of October.
 6. Gordon Bennett Videos
Research completed. Video in production. Due to be completed early November.
 7. Historic Towns Initiative
Conservation works commenced. See ACO report.
 8. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee
Currently compiling works programme with Conservation Officer.
 9. UNESCO World Heritage Designation -Royal Sites of Ireland –Dun Ailinne,
The council has been added to Irish World Heritage Tentative. Royal Sites World Heritage Steering group commencing preparation of nomination dossier for full nomination.
 10. Hymalan Balsam Control pilot
Consultants have been appointed to develop a community project. Trailing community involvement in October 2022.
 11. Kildare Wetlands Story Map and book
Final versions will be available end October.
 12. St Michaels Church, Athy- Community Monuments Fund Project.
Funding: Community Monuments Fund and LPT Athy Municipal District. Work nearly complete. Commencing draw-down of grants.
 13. Kildare Round Tower
Funding: Community Monuments Fund.
Private application. Conservation of the round Tower has commenced



14. Moone Tower, Moone

Funding: Community Monuments Fund.

Private application. Conservation Plan has commenced. Final report due end October.

Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions.

15. Castledermot Wall Conservation

Funding: Irish Walled Towns Network LPT Athy Municipal District. Conservation completed. Drawdown of funding has commenced.

2. Built Heritage investment

Scheme (BHIS): – 15 grants awarded €126,400

Five grants are not proceeding in 2022. The grants proceeding are;

16. Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan Naas Town Walls.

Funding: Irish Walled Towns Network and LPT Naas Municipal District. Report completed. Drawdown of funding has commenced

Harristown House,
Brannockstown
The Firs, Naas
Thatch Cottage, Nurney
Naas Town Hall (clock)
Cathedral Church of St. Brigid,
Kildare Town
Gothic Hall, Thomastown
Glebe House, Leixlip
Burtown House, Burtown
Thatch House, Thomastown
Presentation Convent, Kildare Town

17. Kildare Cathedral Walls

Funding: LPT Kildare Municipal District. Plan for conservation of walls in preparation.

Conservation

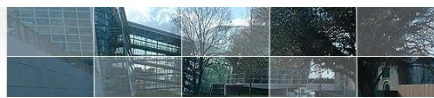
1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 /

Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 102

3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF):

- Two grants awarded
Abbeylands House, Clane



St. David's Castle, Naas.

4. Thatched Cottage Grant:

Scheme was advertised on 01 March 2022, closing date 22 March 2022. Two applications received. Both applicants awarded €5,000 for rethatching of properties.

5. Historic Towns Initiative:

The Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. A Part 8 application will be developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team in coming months. Work commenced on site early September and the project is due to be completed at the end of October.

6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme:

The Heritage Council awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin under the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse, proposes to update the RPS and to include

a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure. Alison Rea Architects was the successful tenderer and the project commenced late July. The scheme is due for completion late October.

7. Town and Village Renewal - BAM scheme:

Advising KCC on vacant and derelict historic buildings / protected structures as potential candidates for €400,000 funding for purchase and repurposing buildings for community use.

8. Town Renewal Masterplan:

Review of TRM for Leixlip and Celbridge which are both Architectural Conservation Areas

9. Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications including the Wonderful Barn, Lyreen Bridge etc.

10. Infrastructure projects:

Ongoing advice in relation to architectural conservation related issues in essential infrastructure projects.



Public Realm

STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND PUBLIC REALM TEAM

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. Contractor appointed and onsite to commence drainage works.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan and Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. Business Case for Maynooth URDF submitted and Department response seeking updated costs in line with inflation.

Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. NTA funded interim traffic management measures underway. Tender for consultant to work on Healthcheck and develop Town Renewal Masterplan with Public Realm team published with a closed 13.04.2022. 4 no. tender submissions received. Successful design team are now appointed and due to commence masterplan process.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment –Part 8 approved. Additional funding to be sought to complete the project

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment –
Stage 1 of the Part 8 Design is completed. Consultation with the Town Team, MD and businesses/residents on-going with formal consultations completed. Delivery matrix and online survey circulated to the businesses on the square. All feedback from consultation and survey being collated and will inform the development of the Stage 2 design for Part 8.

Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted. Works on temporary pilot completed with on-going maintenance/ access issues under review. A number of options for access/limited carparking being considered on foot of feedback from businesses on the square.

Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021. Detailed design progressing well.

Celbridge-Leixlip – Wonderful Barn - A new design team (led by Metropolitan Workshop with Conservation Architects Howley Hayes) has been appointed and they are currently progressing the initial survey work for the Preliminary Design Stage. An Open Day for informal public feedback to aid develop the Preliminary Design to be agreed in October. It is anticipated that the Part 8 will be advertised in December.



<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 5.10.2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 approved by Clane Maynooth MD at Feb meeting.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants and Design</p>
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 28km of 36km towpath works complete with 8.5km remaining of which 2.7 is in progress, due to be complete Feb 2023</p>
<p>Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum- Shackleton branding formally unveiled by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022. Detail design complete. Meeting arranged with Department to discuss additional funds resulted in SPPR team being asked to put this to tender</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed before year end.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - 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 27.09.2021 and submissions incorporated into Draft TRMP. Internal Department and MD feedback received and being collated for issue to the design team to incorporate into the final draft. Additional sites including the new Library and Acre project to be incorporated with high level spatial analysis</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - 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 incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Masterplan. Internal Department and MD feedback received and being collated for issue to the design team to incorporate into the final draft</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - 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. TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and Masterplan (TRMP) - TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks.</p>



Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks.

Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks.

Tender Consultants

Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands Masterplan -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan completed and reviewed by Public Realm team. A Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment has to be carried out before the masterplan can be developed further. Tender documents have been prepared in collaboration with Environment Dept and tender published.

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. 2nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation. Briefing to Elected reps, TD's and Senators was on September 30th, to be followed by both online and in person consultation on the Interpretation and wayfinding plan.

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. Contractor appointed and will take 9 months to complete.

Tender Works

Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square - Tender for construction to be launched Q4 2022.

Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway. Draft Part 8 briefing to the MD took place on September 20th. Part 8 being finalised for launch in October.

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 - The Town Renewal Masterplan was issued to the Town Team for feedback and is now completed. AA screening to be completed prior to publication of the TRMP. Consultants being appointed and completion of AA and SEA screening estimated before year end.

Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening. Consultants appointed and carrying out AA and SEA screening to be completed within 4 weeks



<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design Part 8 due to be published following presentation to the MD in September. Feasibility Study commissioned and now completed and being reviewed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised following agreement of additional work to be completed by the design team (in consideration of the Town Centre First Policy etc). Awaiting review on fees from the design team in consideration of requested extras</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held. To be confirmed if incorporated into Town Centre Masterplan (subject to DRCD approval). Awaiting details from Clane Community group in relation to progress on Tender for Clane Abbey and accessibility works with schools/An Taisce</p>
<p>Detail Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p>Naas – parklets on Main Street, Fáilte Ireland funded. Details design on-going. Consultation with businesses to begin subject to agreement with MD to proceed. Parklet outside Grá café to be moved to a new location subject to consultation with the public, businesses and MD</p>
<p>On Hold</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured.</p>
<p>Construction</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08.06.2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre. Construction will be complete Nov 2022 with fit out to commence Nov/Dec 2022.</p>



Water Services

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 3 2022 for execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control Three and Revenue Control Four periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Small town and villages Growth Programme

Timolin Wastewater 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 timeline available at this stage. This follows the announcement of the upgrade of Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. Irish Water is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk.

The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 24 October 2022. Elected representatives are encouraged to send any items they would like discussed at the clinic and Irish Water would be happy to answer them.

Irish Water staff will be on the call to answer any questions which elected representatives may have on water or wastewater operations.

Irish Water's Regional Communications team also provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers are regularly updated on the Irish Water website at www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates

Irish Water Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published on 24 June 2022, setting out the Government policy on Irish Water taking full control



of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services.

Irish Water is engaging with all the key National bodies and representative groups to prepare for the implementation of the Framework provisions.

The existing Service Level Agreement will end early 2023 and a new agreement will replace it taking into consideration changes included in the new Framework.

Environment and Climate Action

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

households and commercial premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste.



Recycling Banks

There are concerns that the council may lose a number of existing bring bank locations. Efforts are continuing to find appropriate additional / replacement sites in the county.

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council await the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period 2022 to 2027. This document is expected to be published before the end of the year and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,



- End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
- Household and Commercial Waste,
- Producer Responsibility Initiative's and local priorities
- Water Priorities
 - Pressures from agricultural storage,
 - Pressures from agricultural spreading,
 - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,
 - Discharge licenses,
 - Water quality monitoring
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring programme,

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.

Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: www.nwcpo.ie

The national "COVID-19" derogation in removing restrictions on waste collection times by household kerbside waste collectors has been rescinded with effect from 01 September 2022.

Tidy Towns

Tidy Town signage has now been updated to reflect last year's awarded medals.

Community Clean-ups

Green Kilometre groups continue to be very active.

There is also continued demand from community and Tidy Towns groups for supplies to aid with clean-ups and litter picking around the county.

Some Residents Associations are expressing interest in installing compost areas for green waste on their estates.

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative and waste is the category they are working on. Contact was established with the club and a number of dual bins were



provided to increase recycling capacity around the grounds. The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.

Recycling Promotional talks



Public talks on promoting recycling have recommenced with two talks given during the month in Leixlip and Kill. It is hoped to use the library network for further talks.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

Consultants have been appointed to progress this project to the next stage. Work is currently progressing on a market sounding exercise to assess the interest in the market for the operation of such a facility.

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.



Further details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.morellfms.ie/>



Athy Flood Relief Scheme

Kildare County Council and the OPW Steering Group have commenced developing the Athy Flood Relief Scheme.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

A Public Information Day was held at the end of July to present the revised mapping.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023.

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

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

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

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

[ownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/](#)

Historic Landfill Programme

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. An Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice 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.

Cemetery Capital Programme

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals for columbarium walls is currently being reviewed in line with funding availability.

Current plans are as follows:

Allen

Draft Part 8 drawings being finalised. Plans were outlined to the municipal district elected members at their July Municipal District meeting.



Columbarium Walls

It is proposed to install new Columbarium Walls in the following cemeteries:

Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, and Athy. Preliminary designs are currently being drafted and tender documents are being drafted, it is hoped to advance to tender within Quarter 3 with the expectation that works will commence onsite in Quarter 4, 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

This programme includes footpath resurfacing, drainage improvements, tree maintenance, and completion of old works. The current program includes the following:

St. Conleth's Newbridge: Works have recently been completed on footpath, roadway and drainage improvement works within the cemetery.

Completion of old Columbarium Walls: Plans in place to complete partly built CW's in Rathangan and Crookstown. Resurfacing and kerbing works have commenced at Naas St. Corban's cemetery

Barrettstown: Tenders issued for significant trimming of all riverside trees. Expect works to begin early September.

Staplestown: Plans in place to get newly developed area to the rear ready for internments.

Risk Management

Corporate Risk Register now complete, formally approved and presented to Audit Committee. Individual Departments are coming before Audit Committee on a rota basis, to present and 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 the website at www.caro.ie



Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This programme is currently being revised and updated and will be made available to new members of CATs in an in-person training environment during October and November 2022.



A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs has been launched including themes of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation and Energy, Community Climate Action, Creative Climate Action, Climate Action through Heritage and Biodiversity, Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonizing Zones.



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 17,531 staff at grades 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme, with a total of 13,561 (78%) having completed the programme. The programme is undergoing review and updating, with re-launch for new entrants and refresher training planned for Quarter 4 2022.



Thematic Training

Training under this pillar responds to identified training needs of specific

local authority groupings. The rollout of training on Green Public Procurement and Implementation commenced in May 2022, delivered by Greenville Academy. Other training courses under this pillar are at various stages of design and progression towards delivery, including training aimed at/focusing on the Older Persons Council, Economic/Enterprise Opportunities and Roads Infrastructure.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with recruitment ongoing to secure a trainer(s), who will work on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group to ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 to 2023.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the IPA and the LASNTG, who will coordinate with training



officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and rolled out across the CARO regions over the year, before opening to all local authorities in October / November



Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The draft guidelines have been developed and were circulated through the governance channels of both the County and City Management Association and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. (DECC) With the transfer of responsibility for Decarbonizing Zones from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the DECC, the guidelines have been revised to facilitate the inclusion of Decarbonising Zones (DZs) within Local Authority Climate Action Plans. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, who has until

December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans. To support local authorities in the development of their Climate Action Plans, CARO have established three national frameworks of consultants for county wide BEIs (Baseline Emission Inventories), Climate Change Risk Assessments as well as BEIs for DZs and planning and implementation activities linked to Climate Action Plans or commitments under the Local Authority Climate Action Charter. An information pack, including mini-tender templates has been provided to local authorities and CARO continue to work with them to launch their tender competitions as an additional support. Work has also commenced on the development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening.



Local Authority Progress Reporting – Climate Adaptation Strategies:

Annual reporting on progress of the implementation of Local Authority Climate Adaptation Strategies / Plans is being undertaken by all Climate Action Officers / Leads in all local



authorities at present. The deadline for completion and return was 07 October and a sectoral report will be collated by CARO and submitted to the Department.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO, have entered discussions with a third party to provide an energy service for local authorities in this sub-region. Proposed scope has been developed and is currently being reviewed.

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A tender for a public building energy efficiency report resulted in Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating.

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the South East Energy Agency (formerly 3CEA) to pursue Pathfinder Support.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon County Council has become the fifth member of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA). The MEA local authorities with the support of SEAI, have formed a working group, to focus on pursuing Pathfinder Capital Support.



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. The sector has one of the largest fleets with approx. 6,500 vehicles. Stage 1 saw completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. An early interventions document has been developed and provides immediate actions local authorities can undertake. It was



presented to local authority fleet managers at a seminar in Castlebar. This seminar included speakers from Donegal Co. Council who outlined their actions to date, focused mainly on driver training; from Cork Co. Council and their use of EVs and from An Post, who are trialling HVO in their depot. There was great engagement from fleet managers at the event and the final document is with the CCMA for approval before dissemination to local authorities.

Phase 2 of the project will provide a more detailed analysis of how local authorities can move forward, ensuring compliance with the EU Clean Vehicles Directive and the sector's very challenging target, the network of vehicles and procurement / leasing arrangements in place.



Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action

In light of the evolving policy context of climate action and increased ambition for the local government sector, the CCMA CATN committee endorsed convening of a KPI working group to achieve specific objectives. This

working group, chaired by Paul Kennedy of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown Council, will work with a number of local authorities across the country, with the intention to have KPIs decided upon and tested to align with the implementation stage of LACAPs. Work is ongoing with a workshop held recently in Athlone where participants considered 121 potential KPIs to whittle down to those local authorities could use for sectoral reporting and / or in relation to LACAPs, as KPIs will be an integral part of CAP reporting.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



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

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport



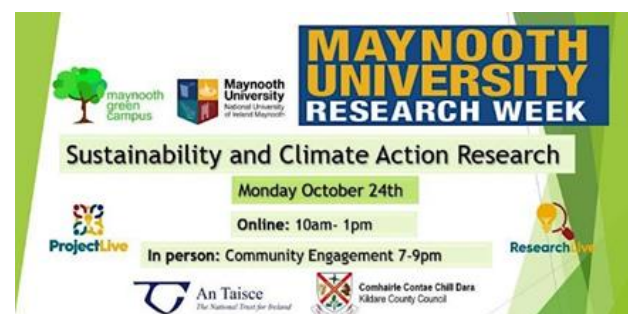
Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021. Together with the requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act Kildare County Council is preparing a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). RPS Group, contracted consultants, have delivered an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline and risk analysis has commenced. RPS are costing the Decarbonising Zone as allowed for under their bid for the consultation CAP works and it is hoped all elements can be progressed under the one consultant.



Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport

Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15th September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021. The Climate Action Office is developing with Maynooth University, Green Forum and An Taisce an event during Research Week to seek out stakeholders to inform the Decarbonising Zone and An Taisce's Low Carbon Community model through an event on the 24 October. Both the morning and evening sessions are open to all and it is expected academics and researchers will be most prevalent at the morning session. An Taisce are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan also in Maynooth and it is advantageous to streamline public awareness and consultation where possible to foster continued good will.



The Climate action Office continues to align 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 Strategic Policy Committee is being made aware of progress.

Climate Action Energy Management Team

The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 20 September using a hybrid meeting model to facilitate those both working from home and in the office settings. The physical meeting took place in the Shackelton Room in the MERITS building. The meeting was delayed by two weeks given the impending release of the draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines. A summary of the guidance was provided to the team. Ciara O'Flynn Climate Action Graduate bid farewell

to the Team who wished her well for the future

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) 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 to streamline the administration for all parties involved.

Ballymore Eustace, Naas and Kilcock have agreements in place with Kildare County Council in 2022.

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program



under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a social enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The second meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 18 June with a further workshop planned for 15 October. It is envisaged a community application will be made to SEAI to access grant funding to undertake energy upgrades in a number of homes across the county under the Better Energy program.

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle (EV) Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for Local Authorities 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 the 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.

The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas high goods vehicle into Kildare County Council's fleet, while smaller vans have suitable options such as electrification; the larger trucks are an issue. One solution to this is a compressed natural gas vehicle.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

The Climate Action Office in conjunction with Age Friendly, Roads and the Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association successfully applied for funding for Ballymore



Eustace Disability, Age and Climate Friendly River Walk. Carmel Cashin is working with all concerned to undertake the funded works. Phase 1 is now complete and has made the river walk accessible for all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.

Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) - new initiative as part of the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County Councils. Gnáthóga Nádúrtha will be an ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath that brings the urgency of climate action to the forefront. The focus of this initiative is on Climate Action and place-based practice in these rich natural heritage sites across three counties, including Rathangan in Kildare.

Other Initiatives

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

'The People's Patches'

The Climate Action Office supported the submission of 'The People's Patches' led by Neighborhood Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand Two. 'The People's Patches' is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas. The submission has not been successful at this time however the idea will be pursued under other funding streams as the opportunities become available.

'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries submitted the project 'Stitching the Community Together' under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and



schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective. Currently, the schools have been paired together with the nursing homes and have commenced their knitting projects. A second stage is being advanced with creatives to bring a Virtual Reality (VR) element to the project with an exhibition at the end of the project to be potentially displayed from early 2023.

Gas Innovation Fund

The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland's Gas Innovation Fund in conjunction with Maynooth University's Terrain-Ai research group and Teagasc. This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g. grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nation-wide. If successful the main body of work will be carried out by a postdoctoral researcher with project support from the Climate Action Office, Maynooth University and engagement with Teagasc.

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award

The Climate Action Office supported a local artist and community organisation with a successful application to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project called 'We Hold the Power' involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community groups and the artist Marta Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect the imagery of the community centre's history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station. Currently the project will commence in the Autumn and the Climate Action Office will support its delivery where needed.

Agri-Tourism Project

Climate Action Office, Into Kildare and CKLP continue to develop the agri-tourism project in Kildare targeted at cultivating diverse revenue streams for farmers in the county. The project has engaged with the farming community at several locations around the county and further feedback is awaited. The feedback gathered at these events will be fed into an application for LEADER funding or other funding streams to



facilitate the supports and resources needed for the project.

Climate Innovation Fund – First Round

Earlier this year, the Climate Action Office launched its Climate Innovation Fund and in June 2022 three applicants were successfully awarded funding. The projects that were awarded are as follows:

Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

A community climate app to nudge hyper local sustainable community behaviours through gamification and reward

The Climate Hub

A project that aims to capture data on traffic types and speeds data that will be used to co-develop active-travel related initiatives / nudging behaviour with the community

Climate Response Ireland

A project that will develop real time information technology on indoor air quality in residents' homes, highlighting the damage pollution can cause in the home

The Climate Innovation Fund is reissuing a second call for projects for Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas and

Clane-Maynooth. See below for details.



Climate Innovation Fund – Second Round

The 2022 Climate Innovation Fund was launched earlier in the year and has already allocated funding to a number of projects across the county. The second call was launched earlier in August at the Information and Community Networking Night hosted by the Climate Action Office in Naas Library. The aim of the fund is to foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. The remaining Climate Innovation 2022 funding is available through the Municipal Districts as follows Athy Municipal District (€25,000), Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District (€25,000), Naas Municipal District (€25,000), and Clane-Maynooth Municipal District (€18,400). Closing date for application submissions was Sunday 11 September at 23:59 p.m. Despite many potential projects being developed only 1 application was



received that did not meet the criteria set. The fund is still at embedding stage and will be further examined with a view of developing the research and developed potential with other stakeholders.

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

Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer is looking at other avenues such as self-regeneration of land locked sites in particular as a means to increase forestry naturally while awaiting further information from various functional areas.

Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2
A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The K-Climate eZine is quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and

happenings from within the council and other resources to support engagement and learning on climate action. The ezine is currently on its third issue in 2022 and is circulated to all council staff, councilors as well as being made available to the public via the Climate Action Office’s [website](#).

Intranet Portal

To enhance mainstreaming of Climate Action within the body corporate the Climate Action Office has established a Climate and Energy Portal on the Intranet here.



Climate & Energy

The portal has been streamlined to reflect the combining of the Climate Action Team (CAT) and the Energy Management Team (EMT). The portal is sub-divided into Projects and Initiatives, Meetings, Meet the Team, Communication, Resources Policy and Useful links. The portal is also being used to give secure and stable access to work files associated with the members of the CAT/EMT only. The council look forward to organizing the external webpage in the future.



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'.

The Climate Action Office presented on the Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare to the Midland Regional Transition Team (MRTT) on 13 May. The session imparted the potential of the roadmap, from a grass roots up perspective, to create a sustainable future for the associated communities with regard to economic, social and environmental themes.



Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced biogas could be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI

presented to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland. The mechanical section in conjunction with the development of the new depot at New Hall is looking at the potential of a fueling point to incorporate biogas into the fleet.

Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

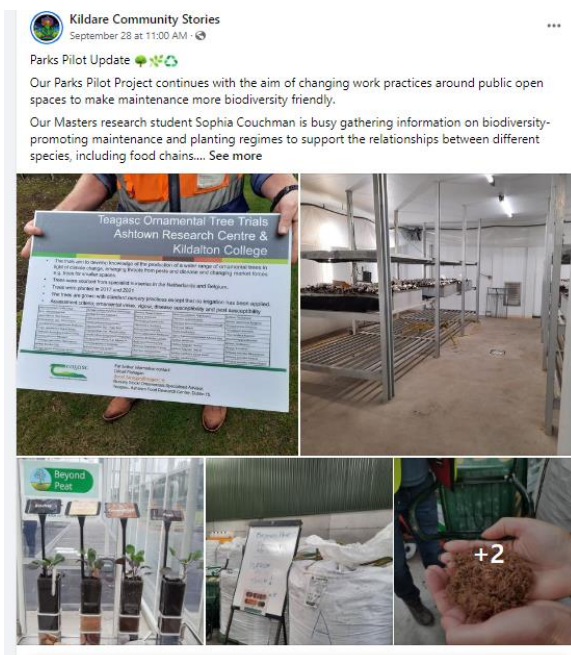
Cork City, Galway City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon, Fingal, Offaly, Tipperary and South Dublin Councils have confirmed their partnership together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future.

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments



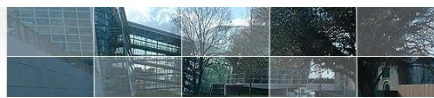
on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023

Community Stories continues to roll out updates. The September post showcases a visit by Sophia and members of the CASPC to Teagasc research center in Ashtown where research associated with climate change is ongoing. Research includes alternative growing mediums to peat compost, trees species to withstand future drought weather patterns and alternative maintenance opportunities



Sustainable Development Goal Week – 20 to 26 September

Ireland’s first SDG week is from 20 to 26 September as part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW). To acknowledge the versatility and broad nature of the SDG’s, the Climate Action Office has notified the Communications Team and the members of the Climate Action and Energy Team about the week to enable the SDG’s to be embedded into the existing events and programmes in place. Libraries are being very proactive and have discussed potential opportunities with the Climate Action Office and are finalising a programme at local level. Given work is already taking place that aligns with the SDG’s some sections will be highlighting the SDG’s of significance for example the LEO may consider the Green for Micro programme, the PPN ‘s Climate weekend programme and others. The events, work and ideas can be registered on [the ESDW website](#) and promotion of the initiatives can take place from 18 September to 08 October.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety SPC

SPC met on 01 September 2022 and a summary report will be presented to Full Council at the October meeting.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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 is moving 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

Project is progressing in accordance with identified milestones, and progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Contract has been awarded and due to commence in October.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Awaiting communication from DHLGH on the outcome of a financial review of LIHAF which has been commenced to address a funding shortfall on a number of LIHAF projects.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation two, presenting the emerging preferred route option is underway.

Newhall Junction Improvement

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. It is expected to advertise the CPO shortly.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage.

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

The Newbridge 2nd Bridge will be provided as part of the much broader



Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route.

1. The council is actively working with the owners of the private road between the Newbridge-Naas Road (Lidl Roundabout) and the Great Connell Roundabout with a view to having the road opened and taken in charge. It is expected that this process will be largely complete by the second half of 2022.

2. Glenveagh Homes are currently constructing part of the NSORR between the Athgarvan Road and the Liffey, through their Belin Woods development

3. Aston Ltd have applied to An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development – Case No 311390 on the route of the section of NSORR between the Great Connell Roundabout and the Liffey. This is subject to planning permission, however if granted this will deliver the section of road from Great Connell to the Liffey.

4. In relation to the remaining portion between the Aston Development and the Glenveagh Development, which is essentially the bridge over the Liffey, Kildare County Council continues to

work to move the project through the project planning stages, notwithstanding the fact that funding has not been identified to date for the construction of the bridge.

Junction Programme

Roads Design Team are currently developing a Junction programme with an initial ten junctions identified for upgrade in Phase 1.

Sustainable Transport Section



Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Detailed design of the Mill Street works is continuing.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Scheme retendered and due to start construction in Quarter 4 2022.

Design work on the upgrading of the Greenway is continuing.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Part 8 Process commenced in September 2022.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Detailed design continuing.



Naas to Sallins Greenway

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 4 2022 or Quarter 1 2023.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Construction of the interim scheme complete. Design of permanent scheme progressing.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Detailed design continuing.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 4 2022/Quarter 1 2023.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 4 2022/Quarter 1 2023.

Safe Routes to School Programme (Craddockstown, Naas)

Detailed design to commence in Quarter 4 2022 pending Part 8 approval.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Scheme has been tendered for construction.

Celbridge Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge

Detailed design commenced following Part 8 approval.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Design stage continuing.

Vulnerable Road User Improvement Measures

Construction completed at 20 locations across the county to upgrade signalised crossings.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

Pilot schemes selected for installation in 2022.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

Section 38 Consultation Process completed and review being undertaken of submissions.



Monasterevin Cycle Network

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 4 2022/Quarter 1 2023.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

Improvements for cyclists and pedestrians to be implemented at the Young's Cross Junction and the Clane/Celbridge Road Junction. Cycle detection to be installed in Naas Town Centre to improve the detection of cyclists.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Minor Footpath Schemes

Construction continuing in cooperation with the Municipal District Engineer.

Leixlip Permeability Schemes

Construction continuing in cooperation with the Municipal District Engineer.

Non-Safe Route To School Infrastructure

Construction completed.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

An appeal has been submitted to the Department of Transport (DoT) and engagement is ongoing.

Roads Maintenance

The surface dressing season is now completed. Works were carried out on 58 sites representing circa 4% /100km of Local/Regional.

Restoration Improvement schemes are 90% complete at this time and the Municipal District Engineers are now required to update all road works on PMS MapRoad database.

Local Improvement Scheme

2022 works are being completed. DoT invitation for submission for Low Cost Safety schemes 2023: schemes to the value of €380k to be submitted.

Winter Maintenance plan is complete for coming season which commences

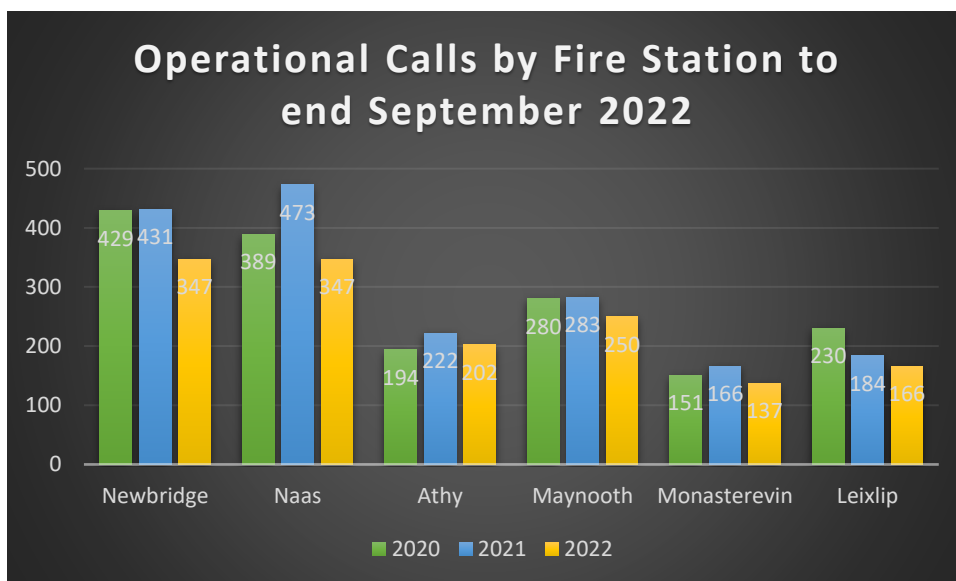
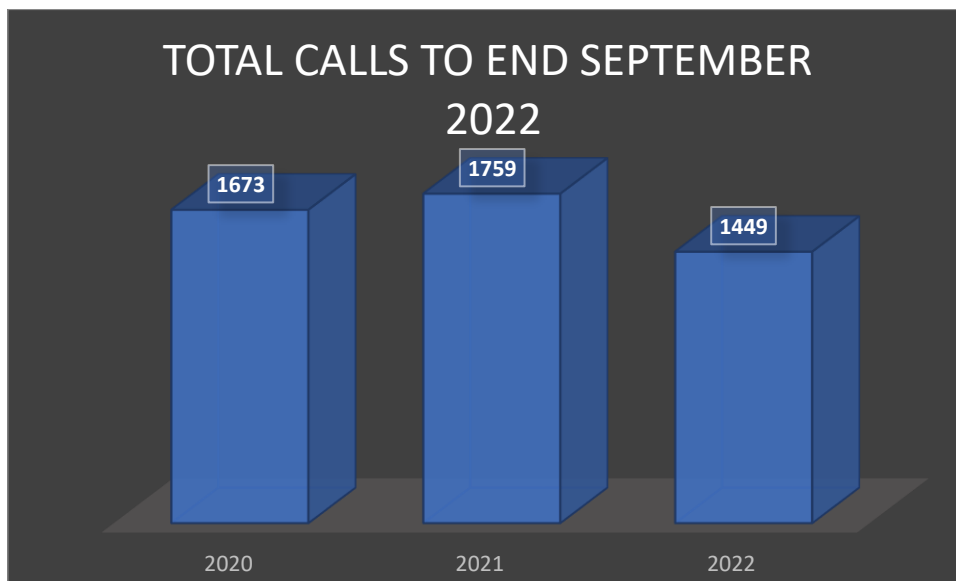


on 17 October 2022 to 30 April 2023
(195 nights monitoring).

Preventative Road Maintenance works
(opening of water cuts and gully
cleaning) is ongoing in advance of

winter storms. Tool Box Talk took
place for Drivers on Friday 07 October
on roles and responsibilities.

Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

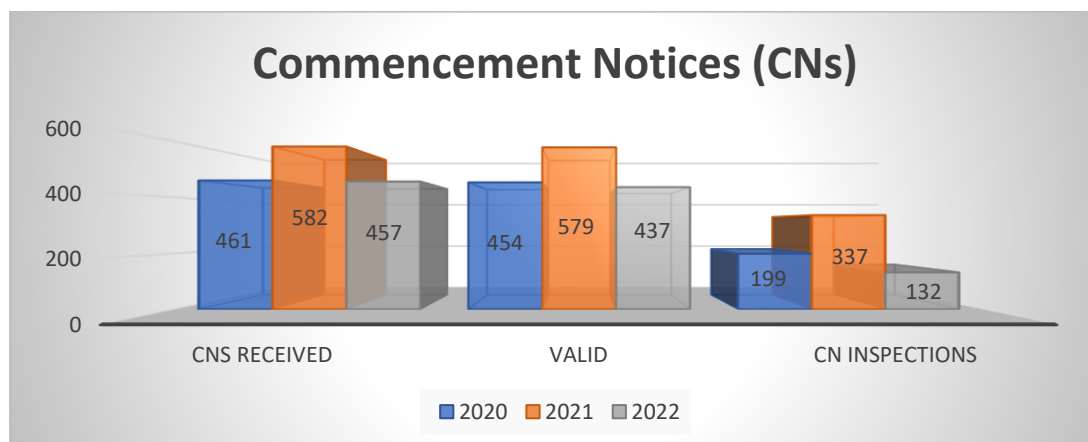
Applications received to the end of September 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

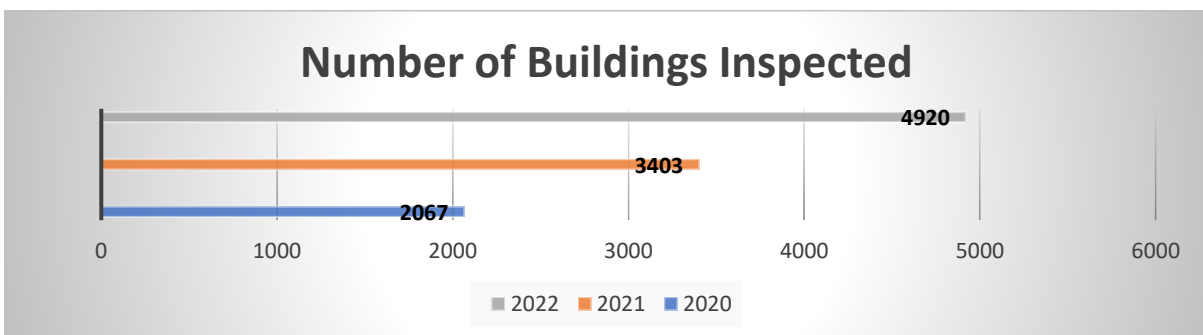
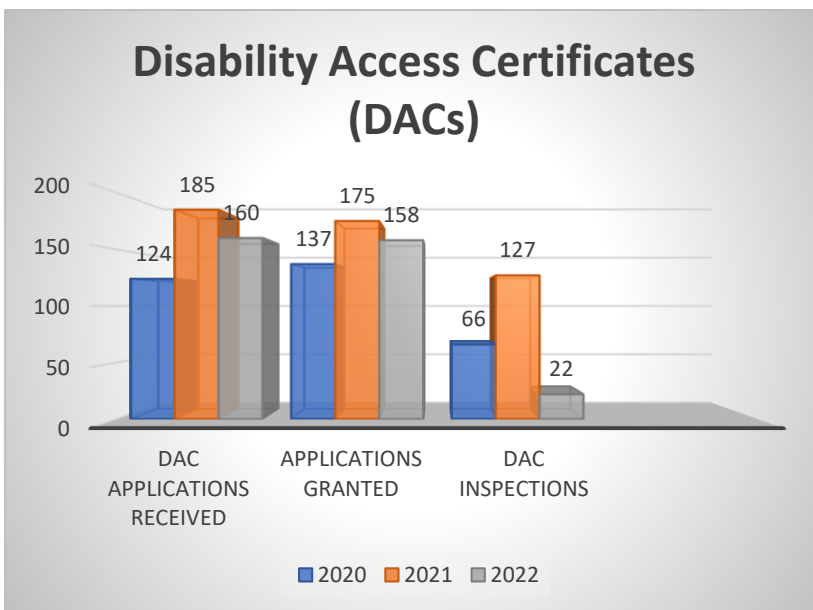
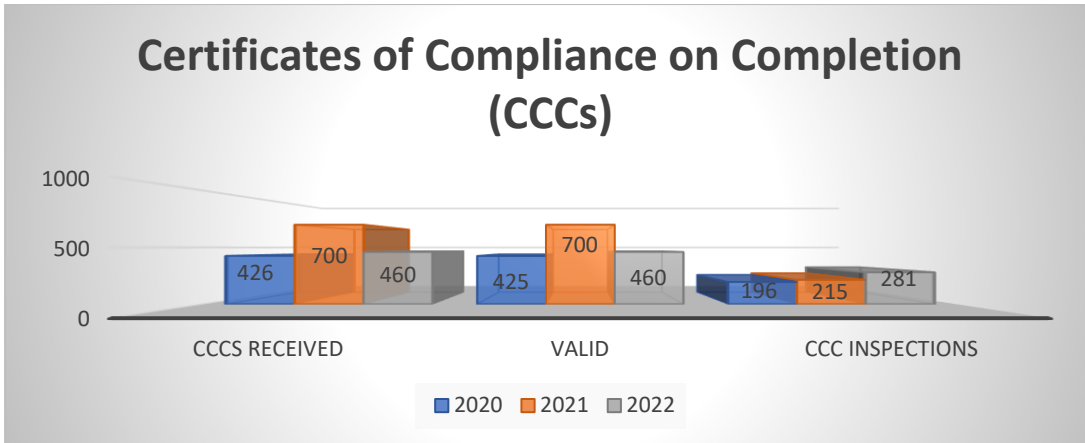


Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of September 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

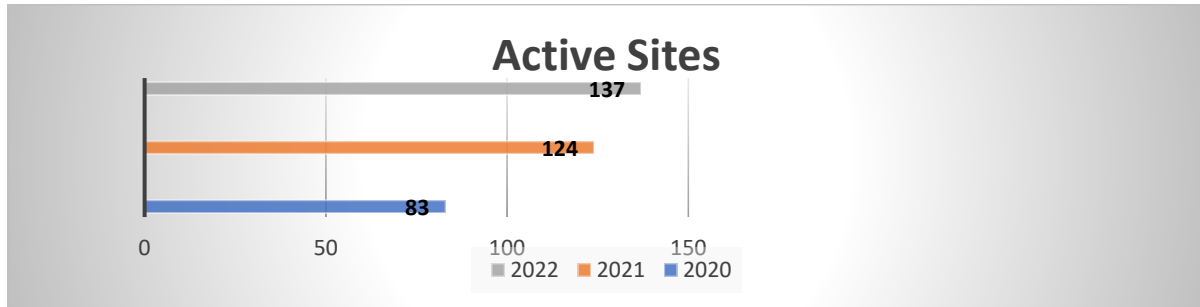
BUILDING CONTROL







DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Roll out of health screening programme completed from the 12 – 23 September
 - Three locations
 - Three packages for staff to choose from with option of additional extras (elected Members included)
- Flu vaccinations online booking system opened for 3 locations:
 - Naas 07, 09 and 10 November
 - Athy 08 November
 - Maynooth 09 November
 - 215 bookings to date
- Took part in the Green Ribbon Campaign in September. The Green Ribbon campaign aims to get as many people as possible talking about mental health to help end stigma and discrimination. Green ribbons distributed across the organisation.
- ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) Training Completed for 19 staff
- SafeTalk Training Completed -10 staff
- Blended working DSE assessors briefing

<u>Location</u>	<u>Completed Appts</u>
Naas	303
Maynooth	33
Athy	25
<u>Totals</u>	<u>358</u>



- Induction with 26 new employees
- Four site inspections
- One VDU assessment and one pregnancy risk assessment

Meetings – Lead Worker Rep, Staff APP, LASOG Meeting, Safety Committee Meeting

ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Celbridge, Leixlip, Athy, Newbridge, Naas Access Groups and CKAN
- JAM (Just a Minute) Card Train the Trainer training completed - representatives from across the directorates.
- Additional JAM (Just A Minute) promotional material purchased
- Review of Access Section of Kildare County Council Website – developed plan for update
- CKAN Workshop to prepare for Kildare Disability Week which encompasses International Day

of Persons with Disabilities on the 03 December.

- Second Changing Places completed – Newbridge Sports Centre – Registration completed
- Second Cubbie Sensory Hub purchased and installed in Athy Library
- Make Way Day- National Campaign -Distributed Make Way Day Promotional Material to Access Groups and participated in campaigns in Leixlip and Newbridge.
- Attended webinar on Unlocking Accessible Communications
- Steering group meeting of Connecting Locally project – with KARE and UCD
 - <https://youtu.be/IOxp4mZJhHs>
 - https://youtu.be/4_AEQgzexJI

Meeting of DHLGH Disability Consultative Committee



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

All Grants 2022		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	157	€275,575
Festival Grants	65	€77,287
Private Residents Associations Grants	276	€200,128
Local Authority Residents Associations Grants	64	€58,433
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744
Community Activities Rd 2	51	€76,282
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	119	€644,988
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	76	€150,095
Education Bursaries	45	€35,000
Total	906	€1,737,532

Incl LPT
Incl LPT

2022 revenue grants schemes

The 2022 community, festival and residents' associations grants were approved at municipal district meetings in April.

Local property tax grants

Community section has processed specific grant awards where possible and all larger LPT mini schemes have been completed. Some smaller LPT schemes are being finalised.

Education bursaries

45 applications were approved for awards and successful applicants have been notified.

Local Community

Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 28 September 2022 as a blended meeting (in person and Microsoft Teams)

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met four times. Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme nationally with €100,585 secured for Kildare. A dedicated Co-ordinator, Helen Mulhall, employed by County Kildare LEADER Partnership is



working to respond to issues and co-ordinate responses across the county. The first Ukrainian Interagency working group was held on 22 September. Helen can be contacted at helen@countykildarelp.ie telephone: 086 8360901.

Kildare County Council continue to update the portal site which provides a singular point of access on Kildare County Council's website with information on essential services at local and national level as well as useful links and contacts to help citizens navigate services available to them.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is progressing very positively in Athy to roll out a range of evidence-based health programmes in addition to local supports to engage people in healthy activities. Work has concluded to upgrade the Peoples Park and additional work is taking place along the river.

Minister Frank Feighan TD launched Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Athy Library on Friday 14 October. For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph. 087-9974155 or email mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Laura Kelly, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator, made a presentation at the LCDC meeting on 28 September. €40,000 has been secured for Healthy Ireland through the LCDC for programmes in 2022. Guidelines for Healthy Ireland Round 4 were received on Friday 30 September. A national workshop will be held by Pobal outlining further details of Round 4 on the 05 October and the Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator and LCDC Co-ordinator will be in attendance.

For further information contact Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: ph. 086-8858508 or email lkelly@kildarecoco.ie

Connected Hubs - Osprey Hotel

Osprey Hotel through the Prem Group have as part of the funding received from DRCD to develop their working hub space, made office and meeting space available to community/voluntary groups particularly with a focus on disadvantage. An expression of interest process has been developed. This is an ongoing rolling process which will be advertised on an ongoing basis. Any groups interested should complete the application process.



Community Activities Programme (CAF) – Round 2 Running Costs

CAF funding of €76,282.72 under running costs was not allocated earlier in 2022. This was mainly due to not having enough applications completing the form satisfactorily for example, no evidence of bills. The fund was re-advertised with a closing date of 31 August 2022 and a high volume of applications were received (104 applications to a value of €698,495.83). The Evaluation Committee met (with representation from LCDC, Kildare County Council and KWETB) on 22 September to review and recommendation applications for grant approval to the LCDC. The LCDC approved 51 applications for grant approval up to a total value of €76,282.64 and all applicants have been informed of the decision.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The work is on target to reach its' goals and allocate its funding for 2022. Planning for SICAP 2023 is

commencing and will be considered at the next LCDC meeting.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership
www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450

LEADER Programme

The project budget available for Kildare is almost fully allocated and details on the future programme are awaited.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership
www.countykildarelp.ie, or telephone 045-895450

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy has been selected by DRCD as a target area for a trial of a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. It is proposed that a Community Development Engagement Worker will be employed by County Kildare LEADER Partnership who will have a facilitation role in bringing local actors together to identify areas of overlap or gaps in services. An information session on



the 06 October will be attended by LCDC support staff.

Local Economic and Community Plan

A draft proposal to commence the development of the LECP is being prepared and will be presented to the LCDC at their next meeting for discussion.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 30 November 2022.

Kildare Fáilte

As the autumn season approaches, the marketing message focussed on autumn mid-week breaks, targeting uncoupled, as well as food in the run up to Taste of Kildare at the Curragh Racecourse. In addition, on social media channels Culture Night was also supported.

The key highlight for September was Taste of Kildare which took place at the Curragh Racecourse on 24 and 25 September. The purpose of the event was to promote Kildare as a food destination and highlight the variety of food producers and suppliers, restaurants and chefs. Kildare Fáilte

were delighted to collaborate with Kildare LEO and their Flavours of Kildare network on this event.



Kildare Brewing at Taste of Kildare

The event consisted of Bord and Bred in Kildare on Saturday 24 September, which was a particular focus on the food producers and suppliers and almost 50 businesses participated.

The main event took place on Sunday 25 September and, in addition to the food producers and suppliers, it included cooking demonstrations with guest chef Rachel Allen and local Kildare chefs and hospitality businesses.



Guest Chef Rachel Allen delivering a baking demonstration



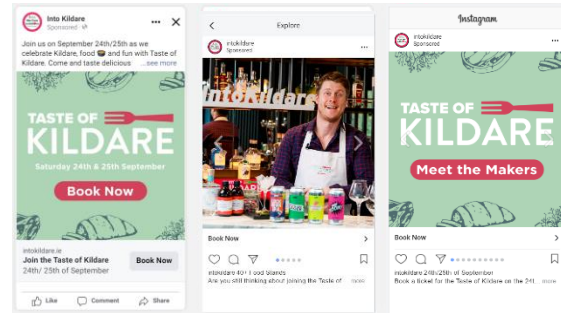
In addition, an eight-course ultimate tasting menu could be experienced in the Leger Restaurant, where over 100 guests were hosted. Each course was curated by a different Kildare chef or restaurant.



Mr Ted Robinson, Managing Director Barberstown Castle Hotel interviewing Executive Chef and Owner Nicola Zammit from Two Cooks Sallins who provided one of the courses in the Leger Restaurant

Also on Sunday, Junior Einsteins Kildare provided STEAM activities for younger guests, while Imagination Station hosted a craft area.

Communication for the event was multi-faceted. A dedicated website hosted the event details and ticket purchase. Kildare Fáilte generated awareness of the event through collateral at participating venues and outdoor advertising at key visitor touch points throughout the county with a strong call to action to book tickets.



Sample social media targeted posts

This activity was supported by an extensive targeted social media and PR media campaign.



Advert in Leinster Leader to promote the Taste of Kildare event

Kildare Fáilte supported County Kildare Twinning in hosting Lexington Sister Cities Group on their visit to Kildare. The group enjoyed a round of golf at The K Club, toured the Irish National Stud and Gardens and visited Kildangan Stud.



Lexington Sister Cities and County Kildare Twinning pictured at the Curragh Racecourse during Taste of Kildare

Both County Kildare Twinning and Lexington Sister Cities also visited the Curragh Racecourse and Taste of Kildare.

The gala anniversary dinner was held in the Original House in Killashee. It was followed by a collection of Irish songs performed by tenor Paul Linehan, soprano Clodagh Donnelly, musician Anne Cullen and narrated by Mario Corrigan.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Fáilte Ireland Golf Tourism Convention and met with over 50 leading international golf tour operators. Face-to-face meetings took place with operators for the US, Canada, Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. Some of the operators visited The K Club for golf to experience a sample of the Kildare offering.

Following an analysis of visitor data and trade workshops carried out earlier this year, the first round of visitor data was collected from tourism and hospitality businesses. Responses gathered to date show that the majority of visitors to County Kildare from June to August visited from the Republic of Ireland, followed by Northern Ireland and then the US.

Monthly calls took place with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland industry briefings were also attended.

Meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses also took place to support Taste of Kildare, autumn breaks and mid-term break activity.

Library and Arts Service

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.” Sidney Sheldon

CBI Award

Kildare Libraries are very proud to announce that Kildare Town Branch



Librarian, Carmel Hester, has been awarded the Children’s Books Ireland Award 2022. This annual award is given in recognition of an outstanding contribution to children’s literacy and a great credit to Carmel’s work with young readers in Kildare.

My Little Library Book Bag

The ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative is a collaboration between the library and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. Over 1,500 ‘My Little Library’ book bags have been collected by children starting junior infants in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. This initiative will be ongoing until the end of October and Kildare Libraries have gained 805 new members as a result.

Kildare Readers Festival 2022

Kildare Readers Festival takes place from Monday 03 October to Sunday 09 October. More details on all the free events this week are here:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/library/KildareReadersFestival/>

Library Membership Drives

Libraries around the county hosted Membership Drives during the month

of September with stands set-up at various locations within their local communities – including Athy Library which had a stand at this year’s Ploughing Championships.

Feedback was hugely positive – it was an opportunity to sign up new members, to remind people of all that the library has to offer FREE of charge, that our services post Covid have returned to normal and to promote our upcoming programmes including the Kildare Readers Festival 2022.

Using our new library stands, library staff handed out brochures, leaflets, and our eco-friendly merchandise, which acts as a nice constant reminder of the service.

Science Foundation Ireland outing 16 September

As part of the funded SFI Discovery Programme for schools Newbridge Library arranged for a class from the girls Curragh NS to visit the seashore with marine biologist Mona McCrea where the children got to examine and learn about marine life at Sandycove beach. This programme is designed to bring accessible and fun pathways to STEM subjects to children,



showcasing the differing routes and pathways to STEM careers.

TTT

On 21 September, the Library Service attended an event in Robertstown GAA club with families from a local disadvantaged community, alongside representatives from Kildare County Council Community Department, Healthy Ireland Kildare, and Sports Partnership. It was an informal meet and greet to engage with the families and gauge the supports required. As incidence of ASD and/or special/additional needs is quite high among children in the community, information provided to parents focused on supports and resources available in this area, particularly the Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) programme. Engagement from parents was good, and many left expressing high levels of appreciation and interest in availing of the TTT programme supports.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing according to the revised contractor schedule.

The library will be open to the public in Spring 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Design Team, Libraries and Public Realm team are currently finalising documentation for the Part 8 application in October. The draft plans were presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District by the Design Team in September.

New Clane Library

The Design Team are working with internal Kildare County Council departments to finalise the draft plans for the Part 8 Planning submission. In addition, the Library team are awaiting a response to revised draft plans from the Unit Owners at the Village Centre. Kildare Libraries hope to submit for Part 8 Planning by November/December.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Staff continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries. Nearly 18,000 pages of Naas Poor Law Union Minute books (1839-1858) and Athy Poor Law Union Indoor Relief registers (1878-1918) are now



available as part of a new service [online archives](#). The county archivist is a member of the Data Governance and Records Management Steering Group. Cleaning and listing of archival material is ongoing. Monthly historical articles are produced for The Pulse, Kildare eHistory journal and other publications. Staff continue to work with local history groups and schools in promoting local history and heritage of County Kildare.

Decade of Commemorations (DOC)

Continued promotion of centenary events via local newspapers, radio, social media, and the National DOC website and newsletter. Liaising with community groups and individuals to deliver the programme and administration in relation to the DOC programme.

The John Devoy Annual Seminar took place on Saturday 24 September in Naas, with a re-enactment of 'The Trial of John Devoy' involving the Kill Musical and Dramatic Society and the Monasterevin Lord Edward's Own Re-Enactment Group.

The Birth of a Nation, by Mario Corrigan, was performed in Leinster

House on Culture Night as part of Seanad 100 events following an invitation from the Oireachtas and Ceann Comhairle.

An exhibition of historic images of the Curragh Camp, funded by the Decade of Commemorations Programme, is currently on display in Kildare Town Library throughout October. It was launched with a presentation by curator Michael Rowley on Thursday 22 September.

Copies of A Timeline of the Civil War in county Kildare continue to be made available to the public through the public library network and to local history groups.

Kildare Arts Service

Kildare County Arts Strategy 2023 – 2027

A public meeting around the development of the Kildare County Arts Strategy 2023 – 2027 took place on Tuesday 13 September in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. It was attended by local artists, arts resources organisations, a councillor and a TD. Cathaoirleach Fintan Brett provided a welcome address. A draft plan was presented to the Local



Community and Cultural SPC at the 06 October meeting.

Culture Night Kildare 2022

Kildare's Culture Night 2022 took place on Friday 23 September. 73 free events were programmed around the county featuring everything from music, art, dance, local history, biodiversity, theatre, cuisine, craft, walking and heritage. In addition to Culture Night Commission Awards, and Culture Night stipends, a programme of events was hosted courtesy of the Local Live Public Performance Scheme (LLPPS), supported by Kildare County Council and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Kildare's 73 Culture Night events were promoted via listings on culturenight.ie/kildare and via a newly designed Culture Night Kildare brochure.

Mei Yi Foo announced as 2022-23 Music Artist in Residence

Mei Yi Foo was recently announced as the inaugural Artist in Residence for 2022-23, a position hosted by Maynooth University in collaboration with Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare,

and Music Generation

Offaly/Westmeath. The role is designed to provide students and the broader communities in Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath the opportunity to work with Mei Yi, as well as giving her the time and support to develop her own projects.

Bill 'Squires' Gannon sculpture unveiling

The formal unveiling of the Squires Gannon sculpture commission took place on Sunday 25 September at 11:00 a.m. in the Market Square, Kildare. Guests included Leas Cathaoirleach Joe Neville, President of the GAA Larry Mc Carthy, Towers GAA club, the artist Mark Richards FRSS, members of William (Bill) Gannon's family, and the All-Ireland winning captain of the Kildare U14 girls' team 2022, Katie Ray. The large crowd in attendance was entertained by The Artane Band. Marty Morrissey, RTÉ conducted interviews which featured on Sunday's main evening news.



Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service and Maynooth University Department of English welcome 2022/23 Writers in Residence

Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service and Maynooth University Department of English were delighted to announce the appointment of Fíona Scarlett and Catherine Talbot as Writers-in-Residence for 2022-23. Fíona and Catherine will appear at the Kildare Readers Festival in October, and work with students in the spring.

Kildare's Writer in Residence project featured at National Ploughing Championships

Ryan Dennis, Kildare's Writer in Residence 2021/22 attended the National Ploughing Championships (Thursday 22 September), with Kildare's Acting Creative Ireland Coordinator and Arts Officer Lucina Russell to speak about the project. Ryan embarked on a collaborative endeavour, working with 37 farmers from across the country and culminating in a publication, *Voices from the Land*, which was launched at Maynooth University earlier this year. Copies of *Voices from the Land* were available at the NPC.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

It is planned to retender this in lots for the playground, skatepark and Multi Use Games Area. It is planned to complete this by early November.

Old Kilcullen Walking Route

Consultants have been appointed to prepare a feasibility study for a proposed walking route around Old Kilcullen. This is a four-kilometre route starting at the Roundtower. It is hoped to complete the study by the end of the year.

St Brigids Well

Work is due to start in the upgrade of the site. Works will include new grass paths with paved areas. New perimeter fencing and hedge planting. This work should be complete by the end of October. Further works to be completed by the end of the year are the installation of new seating and upgrade of the handrails over the stream crossings.

Tree Works Programme

Works have commenced on the preparation of a works programme for the Celbridge Leixlip Area.



Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 07 October 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	73	153,872.90
Feasibility Study Grant	7	42,602
Priming Grant	7	177,758
Business Expansion Grant	19	335,302
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	10	21,979.05

Feasibility Study Grants Approved



Barry Murphy, a HGV driver from Athy was approved grant support of €6,532 to prototype his invention - a self-powered drying and sterilisation unit for heavy duty gloves.

Business Expansion Grants Approved



Barry Keatley of Talentpool Virtual Limited was approved € 15,000 in grant support to recruitment and expansion of his training centre in Athy.



Magda Seymour, the creator of the Pure Oskar brand has been approved funding to support recruitment of a digital marketing specialist and marketing of her new product collection.

Chris Farr, founder of Sontai Data Solutions Limited, Naas has had a grant approved €31,230 towards the recruitment of 2 technical development



roles due to significant expansion into the UK.

Stylist and designer Gail Doyle of Kildare/Newbridge MD has been approved €6,646 to assist in the marketing campaign of her first solo collection and brand launch.



Based on recommendations made on completion of Lean and Green for Mirco interventions by LEO, Naas based Cardboard Creations were grant approved €3,333.

Clients Transferred to Enterprise Ireland

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District clients Yala Consult Limited led by Jamie Groom, and Acorn Star Limited led by Cathal and Siobhan Leonard, both demonstrated significant scalability in global markets and will be supported to onboard investment in Enterprise Ireland's High Potential Start Up Unit (HPSU).

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/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.

Entrepreneurship Support Services Trinity University Innovation Collaboration

Over 50 client companies attended the launch of a Postgraduate in Innovation and Enterprise Development, accredited by Trinity College Dublin, and hosted in MERITS. [Applications remain open until 08 November.](#)



This collaboration with the LEOs in the Mid-East Region is a unique opportunity for business owners and their teams to foster a culture where innovation thrives, to de-risk their Research and Development and to continue to build on the value they create for their customers.



Training Programmes 2022

LEO Kildare continues to promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities of clients. To date, 1492 (1,354 last month) clients have availed themselves of these training opportunities. Mentoring and Business Advice numbers stand at 318 (276 last month).

Kildare LEO Hosts the Regional Tech Cluster

Kildare LEO Hosts the Regional Tech Cluster in MERITS on third Thursday of each month. In September Kildare LEO welcomed LEO client Equine

MediRecord led by brothers Pierce and Finlay Dargan and Simon Hillary. The brothers spoke of their journey from concept to market leader across USA and Asia, and the support of the LEO on that journey. This client company [has secured >€10m in investment.](#)

Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster to ensure that Female Entrepreneurship supports are a key highlight in the county. Kildare LEO hosted over 130 female owners at the National Enterprise Day the 13 October.



Kildare LEO Craft and Creative Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Craft and Creative cluster to ensure that Craft and Creative businesses in the region are aware of supports and have the opportunity to network.

MAKE IT! Kildare Gift and food fair

MAKE IT! Kildare Gift and food fair is back for the first time in three years - Newbridge Town Hall on 12 and 13 November – showcasing the best of local food and craft industries. Stall applications now welcome.



Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can now avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. In October 2022, 19 have confirmed interest with applications to follow.

Social Media Review

Kildare LEO are running a temporary increased social media strategy to

accommodate the large number of courses and events currently on offer in LEO.

Highlight figures include:

- Facebook page reach +88.8%
- Instagram reach + 55.4%
- Twitter + 52.8%
- LinkedIn + 127 page views.

Economic Support Services

Retail Window Merchandising Grant

This scheme financially assists and supports independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme covers the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Autumn/Winter period. A grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure will be available. The scheme opened on Wednesday 21 September and closes on the 11 November.

Further details are available at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Retail%20Window%20Merchandising%20Grant/>



Rev Up Retail

Kildare LEO are presenting 'Rev Up Online' - a mini accelerator programme designed to drive sales for Kildare based e-Commerce and High St. Retailer will take place over five workshops October and November. This newly designed programme features industry experts who will guide participants on digital decisions that will grow brand awareness and drive e-Commerce and/or footfall to increase High Street sales. 10 Kildare retailers will directly avail of this excellent opportunity to increase footfall and sales. Further details are available at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Rev%20Up%20Retail/>

Diaspora Project

The Head of Enterprise presented the strategy to Full Council in September and it was approved. The document

will be published online and a committee formed to consider the objectives and actions outlined.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Athy has been confirmed as one of 26 towns in Ireland that have been selected to receive up to €100,000 in funding as part of the initiative. Under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies. Over 20 applicants expressed an interest in applying for funding and the proposal for the scheme has been sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The scheme will open fully to applicants in the coming weeks.



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](#)

Objective	Support
Financial:	
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.
Grow online sales	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to attend the next TOV seminar to learn more about this opportunity and how to make an application.
Advisory:	
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors
Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines	Free 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and brining staff back to work
Improving Online Presence / 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
Communications:	
Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join the Newsletter.



as support documents and publications	
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 localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive