



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – December 2022



*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful
New Year*

BRIGID 1500

Celebrating A Woman, A Life, A Legacy

www.brigid1500.ie





News Items

‘Brigid 1500’ Launches with Plans to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of St Brigid

‘Brigid 1500’ is a programme of national and international events and initiatives to celebrate and commemorate St. Brigid (see page 07).

Kildare County Council wins at Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022

Kildare County Council was the recipient of the inaugural Communications award at the 2022 Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 (see page 07).

Register of Electors

The council have received 2820 applications on Check the Register since the 13 October, the third highest number of applications (see page 09).

Kildare County Council – Christmas Service Arrangements

Please see information [in English](#) and [as Gaeilge](#) on Kildare County Council’s services over the Christmas and New Year period (see page 09).

Housing for All

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has confirmed that delegated sanction will remain in place up to June 2023 (see page 11).

Homeless Services – Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025

The Youth Homelessness Strategy (YHS) was published on 09 November 2022 (see page 11).

Regional Homeless Forum and the Strategic Management Group

A meeting of the Homeless Strategic Management Group and Homeless Forum took place on 01 December (see page 12).

Kildare County Council Launches – New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Cllr Fintan Brett, launched a new anti-dog fouling initiative in Rathmore National School (see page 31).



Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

An uplift of 20% was announced on the original LIHAF grant amount of €10.88M and confirmed support for the project. CPO phase will now commence (see page 47).

LEADER Programme

The Government announced the details of the new LEADER Programme for 2023-2027 (see page 56).

Kildare Fáilte – St Brigid’s Day and Brigid 1500

As preparations for St Brigid’s Day 2023 and Brigid 1500 in 2024 progress, the Chief Executive attended meetings with other stakeholders to collaborate on a festival programme of activities (see page 58).

Age Friendly – Winter Safety Talks

Kildare Libraries have teamed up with the Kildare County Council Age Friendly Programme Manager to deliver talks in nine libraries on how to stay warm and safe this winter (see page 59).

Library Services – LGBTQ

Kildare Town Library held its first meeting of the LGBTQ over 40s Group (see page 60).

Creative Places Athy announce recipients of Making Connections Award

Fifteen successful applicants from/based in Athy were announced as recipients of grant funding under the Making Connections scheme (see page 63).

Kildare’s Digital Champions

For all the details of the award winners at the Digital Champions (see page 65).



Diary/Calendar

‘Brigid 1500’ Launches with Plans to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of St Brigid

2024 marks the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the death of St. Brigid and thus, St. Brigid’s Day, 01 February 2024 will be a key date in the programme (see page 07).

Public Realm – Athy Municipal District

Shackleton Museum – Retendering in January 2023 using an open procedure process (see page 27).

Healthy Ireland

The submission date for HI Round 4 2023-2025 is January 2023 (see page 57).

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 January 2023 (see page 57).

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The library will be open to the public in early Summer 2023 (see page 61).

Library Services – Dates for the Diary in December

Events are taking place in Rathangan Library, Curragh Racecourse and Rathangan (see page 62).

Tree Works Programme

Tree works tenders were issued for Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge Municipal Districts and are to close before Christmas. Work is to start on Naas, Clane-Maynooth and Athy Municipal Districts prior to end of the year (see page 64).

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub

Kildare LEO has published a tender to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed building of the Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub in Kildare Town; the deadline for submissions is 21 December (see page 68).



January Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Dec	27	28	29	30
2	3	4	5	6 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Meeting
9 14:00 Protocol Meeting 2.30	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	11	12	13
16 10:00 Athy MD meeting	17 14:30 Audit Committee	18 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD	19	20 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip MD
23 14:00 CPG	24	25 10:00 LCDC	26	27 15:00 Decade of Commemoration
30 Full Council	31	1 Feb	2	3



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate Services	7
Finance and Information Technology.....	10
Housing.....	11
Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm	20
Water Services	28
Environment and Climate Action	28
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	46
Building and Development Control	52
Economic, Community and Cultural Development	55
Local Community Development Committee	55
Kildare Fáilte.....	58
Library and Arts Service.....	59
Parks	64
Local Enterprise Office	64



Corporate Services

Communications

'Brigid 1500' Launches with Plans to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of St Brigid



'Brigid 1500' is a programme of national and international events and initiatives to celebrate and commemorate St. Brigid, the woman, the life and the legacy launched at St. Brigid's Cathedral.



According to leading Brigidine experts, 2024 marks the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the death of St. Brigid and thus, St. Brigid's Day, 01 February 2024 will be a key date in the programme. The main aim of 'Brigid 1500' is to create a meaningful cultural and societal legacy that appeals to a diverse contemporary audience.

'Brigid 1500' is being delivered by Kildare County Council supported by a Steering Committee of leading experts across the fields of arts and culture, academia, tourism, industry, spirituality and faith, community, education and more.

Kildare County Council wins at Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022

Kildare County Council was the recipient of the inaugural Communications award at the 2022 Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022, which were presented at the gala awards event in Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin Thursday 24 November.



The Communications category was included for the first time this year and the award seeks to recognise communications and marketing campaigns that support local authorities' strategic objectives and provide a better understanding of the work and role of councils.

The campaign titled 'understanding Kildare's County Development Plan'



was a coordinated communications campaign which included a series of podcasts, media engagement, a social media strategy, stakeholder engagement and internal communications and aimed to provide a better understanding of the County Development Plan (CDP) and the process involved in its development, and why citizens and businesses should engage with it.

Citizens, communities and businesses were encouraged to have their say



Congratulations to all involved in particular the staff of the planning and communications teams and those who presented and took part in the podcasts.

Register of Electors

A national media campaign began on 07 November encouraging the public to visit www.checktheregister.ie to either register for the first time or, in the case of existing electors, to confirm

or update their entry by adding their PPSN, date of birth and eircode.

THE EASY WAY TO SECURE YOUR SAY

checktheregister.ie

Your voice matters and your vote is important

In order to secure your say in shaping Ireland's future, you must be on the electoral register. The way we register to vote has changed and we're asking everyone to visit checktheregister.ie to confirm their details. It'll only take you a few minutes. Checking, updating or registering has never been easier.

Whether you're a long time voter, or a first time voter, visit checktheregister.ie

The main changes to the electoral registration process include:

- A move from fixed periods for updating details to a rolling register to allow updates or additions at any time of year;
- Streamlining of the application process through use of PPSNs: The use of PPSNs will enable a simple identity data cross-check to protect and improve the integrity of the register, while streamlining the process for electors.
- Registering to vote for the first time will now be possible online:
 - 16 and 17 year olds will be able to pre-register to vote and be automatically added to the register from when they turn 18.
 - The new process includes measures to facilitate electors whose safety might be at risk if their details



were to be published on the register and those who have no address.

www.checktheregister.ie has a helpful FAQ area:

www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/faqs

The media campaign encourages people who are already registered and those not yet registered to visit the Check the Register site. There are over 150,000 electors registered in Kildare and Kildare County Council.

The council have received 2820 applications on Check the Register since the 13 October, the third highest number of applications behind Dublin City and Fingal County Councils. The council continue to have one of the highest processing times in the country with applications for the 06 December being processed on the 07 December. Each online application must be reviewed and approved before being added to the register.

If Checktheregister does not offer the answer people need they can contact Kildare's Register of Electors Team:
By email register@kildarecoco.ie or
Tel: 045 980 201.

More information is also available on the Elections and Voting pages of the Council website at

www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/ElectionsandVoting/

Customer Services

Kildare County Council – Christmas Service Arrangements

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

Members Services

The members of Kildare County Council adopted its 2023 Budget at their statutory budget meeting on the 21 November.

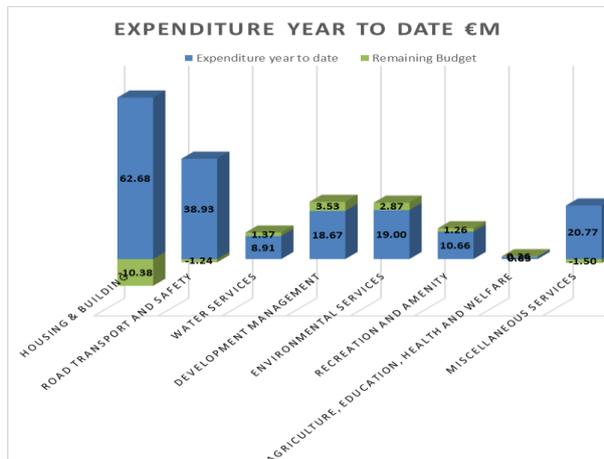
The monthly meeting was held on the 28 November at which the reports on the audit of the Annual Financial Statements 2021 were noted.

The Meetings Calendar for 2023 was also approved.



Finance and Information Technology Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Nov 2022							
Division	Expenditure				Income		
	Expenditure €000	Budget €000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining €000	Income €000	Budget €000	Budget to be collected €000
Housing & Building	62,675	52,300	120%	10,375	62,918	44,828	140% - 18,090
Road Transport and Safety	38,929	37,692	103%	1,237	16,209	19,290	84% 3,081
Water Services	8,909	10,280	87%	1,371	7,593	10,082	75% 2,489
Development Management	18,669	22,196	84%	3,527	8,431	7,759	109% - 672
Environmental Services	19,000	21,869	87%	2,869	6,233	7,062	88% 829
Recreation and Amenity	10,656	11,916	89%	1,260	1,717	1,079	159% - 638
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	825	1,081	76%	256	256	348	73% 92
Miscellaneous Services	20,767	19,266	108%	1,501	3,966	6,026	66% 2,060
Local Property Tax Allocation					16,765	18,289	92% 1,524
Rates					56,248	61,837	91% 5,589
	180,430	176,600	102%	3,830	180,336	176,600	102% - 3,736



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council Summary of Major Collections to 30 Nov 2022							
	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/11/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,398,436	1,945,940	1,892,885	69,344,934	52,816,123	16,528,811
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	15,005,608	36,834	-	16,199,699	14,545,392	1,654,307
Housing Loans	2,023,590	3,567,066	-	-	5,590,656	3,808,365	1,782,291

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 November 2022.

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, we accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045 980 920.

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

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/countycouncil/YourCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>



Housing

Housing for All

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has confirmed that delegated sanction will remain in place up to June 2023 for the secondhand acquisition programme, as a result the council will continue its acquisition programme focusing on homeless prevention.

Ukraine

The National Call for Unoccupied Homes commenced on 24 November. To date seven offers have been received, these properties have now proceeded to inspection.

The refusal policy for people residing in commercial properties came into effect on 28 November and allows for one single offer of suitable accommodation, beneficiaries may be required to vacate the temporary accommodation they are occupying if they refuse an offer of pledged accommodation.

Liffey Lodge has re-opened as a Reception Centre for displaced persons from Ukraine and is being managed by The Peter McVerry Trust. The centre has increased capacity to cater for up to 52 people. Presently 36

people are being accommodated in the centre.

Homeless Services

Youth Homelessness Strategy 2023-2025

The Youth Homelessness Strategy (YHS) was published on 09 November 2022. The aim of YHS is to help people who are aged 18-24 and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Strategy (available here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/69597-youth-homelessness-strategy/>)

outlines 27 distinct actions under the three strategic aims of preventing youth homelessness; improving the experiences of young people accessing emergency accommodation; and assisting young people in exiting homelessness.

YHS recognises that supporting young people at risk of becoming homeless can help to prevent a cycle of longer-term homelessness and also that the experiences of young people in the emergency accommodation system are distinct from those of the rest of the homeless population.

A Steering Group will soon be established under the auspices of National Housing Advisory Group to drive the delivery of actions set out in



this Strategy and to monitor progress. DHLGH will issue a request for two representatives from local authorities to join the YHS Steering Group.

Regional Homeless Forum and the Strategic Management Group

A meeting of the Homeless Strategic Management Group and Homeless Forum took place on 01 December with representatives from the Mid East local authorities, HSE, AHBs, Irish Prison service and other service providers in attendance.

YHS was discussed and it was agreed that this will be on the agenda for detailed discussion regarding actions and implementation at the February meeting of the Homeless Forum. Key added value actions from the 2021-2023 Homeless Action Plan including the GAP analysis carried out by each local authorities Homeless Action teams were discussed. It was agreed that where GAPs exist in service, the responsible agency (including local authorities if appropriate), will consider and advise the most appropriate action to be pursued in order to provide solutions.

Tenancy Support

There are currently 92 active tenancy support cases with a further 16

families identified as in need of support. The Tenancy Support Team assist householders with issues including arrears, budgeting and increased utility costs.

The team have engaged with all clients in emergency accommodation to ensure they will have options for Christmas dinner, links have been established with local charities to provide this if required. Christmas packs are being prepared for children in emergency accommodation and will be delivered to parents in the coming weeks.

Housing Support

There has been an increase in families linking in with the Homeless Team, however a number of HAP properties were secured to prevent families entering emergency accommodation. Presentations are higher and placements in emergency accommodation have increased slightly despite the moratorium on evictions until March 2023. It is expected however that presentations and placements will reduce in the coming weeks.

The allocation of social properties has allowed for move-ons for families in Family Hubs or hotel accommodation.



Outreach Services and Housing First

Outreach services were provided in four municipal district areas in November: Athy Municipal District, Clane-Maynooth Municipal District, Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and Naas Municipal District.

Active Housing First tenancies have increased to 27 and the Housing First team met in late November to monitor actions and to ensure the wrap around services are in place.

The rough sleeper count (11) was also verified, and support services are offered for those affected.

The Outreach team represented Kildare County Council at South West Region Drugs Action Task Force Committee and carried out 4 Street-work sessions in November in Athy, Kildare, Naas and Newbridge.

HAP Tenancies

A total of 301 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,078 active tenancies are now in place.

Housing Assessments

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2022 (SSHA) is now complete, the results of the SSHA will be published in 2023

Applications for medical priority are now being prioritised in order to update applications and deal with the large volume of applications in this area.

Traveller Accommodation

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

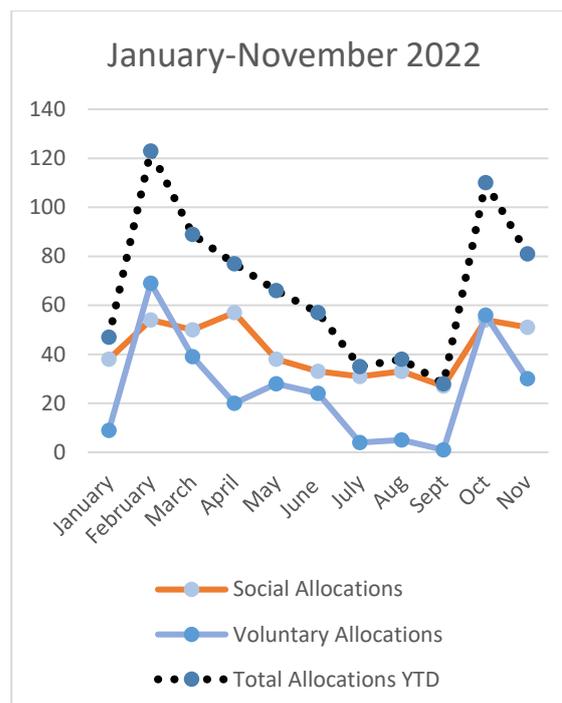
Improvement works (external painting and landscaping) have been carried out at the Blacklion estate in Maynooth. These were part funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund (DHLGH) in the amount of €38,500. The Annual Estimate of Traveller Accommodation was conducted on the 25 November last (Housing Circular 45/2022).

The last meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) took place on the 07 December 2022. Meetings for next year have been agreed as follows: 23 March, 22 June, 21 September and 12 December 2023.



Housing Allocations

To date, in 2022, there were 466 social and 285 AHB units allocated. This is an overall total of 751 units for this year, to date. During November, there were 51 social and 30 AHB properties allocated. Pre-Tenancy group induction/training sessions have also recommenced and the new tenants for apartments in Silken Gardens, Maynooth attended a morning seminar during November and met with staff from Housing, Finance, Community, Environment and the Fire Service. Allocations continued for 30, 3-bed units in Riverside, Kilcullen in November 2022.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Mountain View, Athgarvan Village	18 units	Letter of Acceptance drafted for issue to contractor in due course
Coill Dubh	10 units	Scheduled to commence on site 05 December 2022
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Part 8 launched 04 November 2022. The observations period closes on 16 December 2022.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Section 177AE application to An Board Pleanala during Q4 2022.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Service result letters and framework agreements issued: W42. Conclusion of Framework Agreement and award of initial contract to follow.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Preparation of Stage 3 application to progress. Part 8 approved by Naas Municipal District Members 11 October.



Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Part 8 launched 21 November 2022. Observation period closes 10 January 2023.
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	5 group housing units & 3 expanded bays.	Stage 1 redesigned proposals have been submitted to DHLGH with positive feedback. Briefing held with residents 23 November. Tender prepared for civil works associated with ESB diversion.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Part 8 to launch Q1 2023
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	Housing report being prepared following Part 8 consultation.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 launched 14 October with submissions returned by 24 November. Housing Report is being prepared.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 approved at July Naas MD meeting. Building Services consultant contract retendered with return date of 15 th November 2022. S+E and M+E consultants appointed.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Part 8 considered at September meeting of Naas MD. Civil/Structural consultant tender ongoing. Building Services consultant contract retendered with return date of 15 November 2022. S+E and M+E consultants appointed.



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. Prequalification stage to commence in December 2022. Tender ongoing for civil works for undergrounding of ESB lines at the entrance to the site. Works in January 2023
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Appointment of design team expected in Q4 with design to commence in early 2023
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 units	Appointment of design team expected in Q4 with design to commence in early 2023
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 09 June 2022.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 09 June 2022.
Future PPP Bundles		Further call for sites for inclusion in future PPP social housing bundles issued 02 November.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Complete.
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Delivery of Phase 1 of this scheme has been delayed. The entire scheme is now due to deliver in Q1, 2023.
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 09 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by Kildare County Council.
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 Kildare County Council and DHLGH comments. Revised Stage 2 submission received 28 October being assessed by Kildare County Council.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Planning application lodged in August for this scheme. Pl. ref.: 22/985. Further Information request received October 2022. Response being prepared.



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.
----------------------------------	---------	--

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	33	57	53
6 - 12 Months	13	22	17
12 - 18 Months	4	8	4
18 - 24 Months	1	1	0
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
36 Months +	5	6	5
	57	95	79

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as 30 November 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	5	9	10
6 - 12 Months	5	7	11
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	1	2	2
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	13	20	25



Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	22
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	48
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	42
Total complete	379	187	110	112

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge- Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	13	54	23	11	11
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	11	2	16	19	62

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	11	€2,235,929	0	0	0	0
Q3	11	€2,394,717	3	€611,550	0	0
Q4 YTD	3	€600,000	3	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*	89	33	0	0	90	20
2022- Q4	34	47	4	2	60	89
As of 29/11/2022						

Q3 Figures amended compared to October CE Report

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme		No. of Units	Updated Status
MEERP and 2021 EERP		175	Reconciliation of claims ongoing with the DHLGH.
2022 EERP	EERP	69	Contractor (Conneally Group) appointed for 26 units in Maganey, Ballyroe and Grangemellon and 27 Units in Lacken View, Naas. Works to Ballyroe commenced October 2022. Lacken View Naas to commenced in November 2022



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan were placed on public display between 28 September and 27 October 2022 during which time 266 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's Report was subsequently prepared which summarised all issues raised and included a response and recommendation from the Chief Executive in relation to same. The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the Elected Members on 14 November for their consideration. Motions from the Elected Members have been invited with a deadline of 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday 29 November.

A Special Meeting of the Elected Members to discuss the Chief Executives Report on the submissions relating to the Proposed Material Alterations in order to make the new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP) was held on 09 December 2022. The new CDP will then come into effect on 28 January 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. A workshop with the Kildare Newbridge Elected Members took place on the 16 November which will inform the vision, policies and objectives of the draft LAP, which will be published in Quarter 1 2023.

Maynooth

Pre-draft public consultation for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030 closed on Friday the 11 November. 65 submissions were received in response to the Issues Paper, which was published to stimulate debate and encourage public participation. 62 people attended the 'drop-in' event on the 12 October in the Glenroyal Hotel where Council staff from Kildare and Meath County Councils were available to answer general queries. The Chief Executive's Report is currently being prepared which will be issued to both Planning Authorities in Quarter 1 2023.



Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
Nov	Year	No.	November	
2020:	146	1,451	4,263	Total Granted: 72
2021:	130	1,688	1,211	Further information requested: 47
2022:	132	1,431	995	Total Refused: 22

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	13/10/22 Grant
22/312958	12/04/22	Glenveagh	Shackleton Road, Celbridge	152	28/06/22 (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 (Overdue)
22/314337	11/08/22	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22 (Overdue)
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	11/11/2022
2022/06	18/10/22	ESJ Blackparts	Blackparts, Athy	131	12/12/2022
2022/07	24/10/22	Makros Ltd	South Green Road, Kildare Town	164	To be advised
2022/08	27/10/22	Glenveigh Properties	Guinness Land, Leixlip	235	To be advised
2022/09	08/11/22	LADAS Property	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	To be advised
Large-scale Residential Developments – Planning Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
22/221052	26/08/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	Grant 20/10/22 Appealed



Heritage

1. Planning

Planning Applications / Conditions referrals to date: 341

Forward Planning: Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare.

Part 8: Heritage Officer inputs in service department's part 8 detail.

2. Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Plans are in preparation in the following towns: Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh. Project funded via Municipal District LPT fund.

3. MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations and LBAP towns was launched in Nov (LPT Project).

4. Kildare Cathedral Walls

Funding: LPT Kildare MD
Plan for conservation of walls in preparation

5. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Currently compiling works programme for 2022 with Conservation Officer.

6. UNESCO World Heritage Designation -Royal Sites of Ireland –Dun Ailinne,

Kildare County Council has been added to Irish World Heritage Tentative Royal Sites World Heritage Steering group commencing preparation of nomination dossier for full nomination.

7. Community Monuments Fund 2022 (€213,570)

- St Michaels Athy- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Moone Abbey- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Kildare Cathedral

8. Irish Walled Towns Fund (€15,000)

- Conservation Management Plan for Naas Towns Walls- Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Conservation of Castledermot Town Walls- Competed Drawdown commenced.

9. Heritage Plan Fund (€36,000)

- Kildare Heritage Awareness Project 2022 -Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022- Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Geophysical Survey-Old Kilcullen- Competed. Drawdown commenced.



10. National Biodiversity Action Plan fund (€48,000)

- Control of American Skunk Cabbage - Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Development of a methodology for the control of Himalayan Balsam along Liffey- Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Biodiversity Awareness- Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Kildare wetlands Story Book and Publication- Competed. Drawdown commenced.

11. Creative Ireland (€10,000)

- Holy Wells of Kildare, Photography- Competed. Drawdown commenced.
- Oral recording training- Competed. Drawdown commenced.

Conservation

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 / Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 138
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.

2. Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS): – 15 grants awarded
€126,400

BHIS scheme complete. Eight grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €72,328.00. The grants which were utilized were:

- 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
- Thatch House, Thomastown

3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) : -

Two grants awarded

HSF scheme complete. Two grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €100,000.

The grants which were utilized were:

- Abbeylands House, Clane
- St. David's Castle, Naas.



4. Thatched Cottage Grant:

€5,000 granted for rethatching of Rooskey Cottage, Ballyteague South. Works now complete.

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. This was increased to a maximum value of €248,931, which requires 20% match funding. Naas Farmers Market opened in the Potato Market on 26 November. A Part 8 application is currently being developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team for additional works.

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 now complete and c.150 structures have been reviewed for the RPS.

7. Town Renewal Masterplan:

Advisory role with Public Realm Team of TRM for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.

8. Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.

Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn. Attendance at public consultation open day 13 November.

9. Infrastructure projects:

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

Public Realm

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

1. Newbridge Cultural Quarter – Phase 1 County Library and Archive – Part 8 presented to municipal district on 21 September 2022. Final details to Part 8 being resolved re agreement with neighbour and design details with Sustainable



- Transport team. Feasibility Study completed for the New Sustainability and Climate Action Centre – final edits being reviewed.
2. St. Bridget's Well – Works underway within the site by Parks Department
 3. Kildare Square – Phase 1 – Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final Design details to be worked out having regard to access requirements for local businesses/residents. Meeting to take place with Cathedral reps. Meeting with Failte Ireland to update on project, date to be agreed.
Kildare Square – Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. Kildare County Council Agent meetings ongoing with the owners some key properties.
 4. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen – TII will fund subject to different stages/gates in the process being followed. Detailed design underway including topographical and geo-technical surveys. Construction is expected to commence Quarter 2 2023
 5. Rathangan Market Square – Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.
 6. Kilcullen Market Square – Part 8 Approved but no funding secured yet to advance.
 7. Curragh Plains Strategy – Second Stage of the consultation closed 15 November 2022. This phase of consultation looked for feedback on the proposed policies for the Conservation Management Plan, which were developed on foot of Phase 1, and for feedback on the draft Interpretation and Wayfinding Plan

Athy Municipal District

1. Barrow Blueway – 32km of the 36km unbound surface complete; detailed design of the necessary upgrades of road crossings and upgrade to existing public lighting complete. Detailed design of



pedestrian bridge progressing.
Tender for road crossings and public lighting to be advertised by year end with works to commence early 2023.

Separate 'Way Finding Plan' and Marketing/Branding Plan underway.

2. Emily Square – Detailed Design Complete, tender documents in progress, tender to be advertised by year end. Works to commence Quarter 1 2023
3. Shackleton Museum – Retendering in January 2023 using an open procedure process.

Celbridge–Leixlip Municipal District

1. Wonderful Barn – open day consultation took place on Sunday 13 November. Estimated over 500 people attended. Feedback from consultation currently being collated.
2. Celbridge Parochial House – TBD.
3. Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans – Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Meeting with design team and SPPR on 15

November to review feedback in preparation of final draft

Clane–Maynooth Municipal District

1. Bawnogues Community Centre – Fully funded by Kildare County Council and was due for completion in October, 2022 but will run into Quarter 1 2023.
2. Harbourfield – Part 8 approved, but funding shortfall to be addressed, in next round of URDF applications.

Naas Municipal District

1. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: From Alymer Bridge to Sallins Contractor commenced on site October 2022. 12 month contract to complete. TII have committed to funding the scheme based on the tender return/€6m.
2. Potato Market – Phase 1 works funded by the Historic Towns Initiative Grant (approved up to €248k), with this phase now complete. The Naas Farmers Market commenced the market on 26 November 2022. The Farmers Market operates every Saturday from 10:00-15:00. Phase 2 design works has



commenced and will form part of a Part 8 application.

3. Harbour Redevelopment, Naas – Feasibility of a Water Based Hub/Bike Hub/potential café/restaurant and/or youth/travel hostel being considered.

Water Services

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

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

The most recent Kildare clinic was held on Monday 24 October 2022 and attended by a number of the elected representatives.

The schedule for 2023 clinics will be circulated to the Members when finalised by Irish Water.

Irish Water's Regional

Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works 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 in 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

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 Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest which involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes awarded to the best under many different categories.

The results of the 2022 competition were announced on 28 October by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys, TD.



Kildare County Council congratulates the following Tidy Towns groups who received awards under the following categories:

Gold Medals: Kill Tidy Towns, Naas Tidy Towns, Maynooth Tidy Towns and Leixlip Tidy Towns

Silver Medals: Ballymore Eustace Tidy Towns, Celbridge Tidy Towns, Newbridge Tidy Towns and Straffan Tidy Towns

Bronze Medals: Rathangan Tidy Towns and Clane Tidy Towns

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Minister Humphreys also announced a special allocation of €1.4 million in funding to support the work of individual Tidy Towns Groups around the country to assist them in their continued efforts to enhance their towns and villages.

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.



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.

Kildare County Council Launches New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative



Thursday 01 December, The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Cllr Fintan Brett, launched a new anti-dog fouling initiative in Rathmore National School.

Following a schools poster competition run by Kildare County Council encouraging pupils in every Kildare primary school to design a new sign reminding dog owners to clean up after their pet. The winning entry was designed by a fourth-class pupil in Rathmore National School, Cian Browne. The winning design has now been turned into signs that are made available to community groups to install at key locations to raise awareness at local level. Presenting Cian with his prize of a book token. The Cathaoirleach of



County of Kildare congratulated Cian on his eye-catching design stating that “we need a range of different approaches to dealing with the ongoing problem of dog fouling. Cian’s sign really catches the eye and will encourage dog owners to do the right thing. It is great to see our young people using their talents to address local environmental issues.”

Kildare County Council’s Environment Awareness Officer, Dara Wyer said “Cian’s sign is one of a number of measures we are taking to raise awareness about this problem. The council is keen to encourage dog owners to take positive action, the idea is to promote responsible dog ownership and encourage them to pick up after their dog, bag the waste and safely bin it. The council has installed several audio or visual (LED) devices at key locations in the Municipal Districts to remind owners to clean up after their pet, and we encourage people to use any bag, any public bin.”

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

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>

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:

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 4.

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

This programme includes footpath resurfacing, drainage improvements, tree maintenance, and completion of old works.



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their counties, with particular focus on implementing actions contained within



climate adaptation strategies /climate action plans. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our 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 trainers working on behalf of the Local



Authority Services National Training Group to ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 and 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 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.



Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The Minister has approved a business case for local authority climate action resources in respect of two roles. A letter of comfort is soon to be issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. (DECC) relating to the recruitment of these resources on a five-year term for the purposes of developing and

implementing the LA CAP as aligned with the provisions of the business case.

Draft guidelines remain with the Department. Once finalised, the guidelines will be published by the Minister, who has until December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans.

To support local authorities, 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. The development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening is also being finalised.

Training to support local authorities on the development of their LA CAPs commenced with two online information webinars on Tuesday 25 October (targeting Chief Executives, Directors of Services and Senior Staff) and Wednesday 26 October (targeting climate action leads and members of climate action teams in local authorities). These webinars were a



precursor to in-person roadshows scheduled for the 22 November 2022 (Mullingar Park Hotel) and the 29 November 2022 (Anner Hotel, Thurles).



Local Authority Progress Reporting – Climate Adaptation Strategies:

Annual reporting on progress of the implementation of Local Authority Climate Adaptation Strategies / Plans has been undertaken by all Climate Action Officers / Leads in all local authorities. A sectoral report is being collated by CARO for submission 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 bureaux or regional energy efficiency projects.

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO,

are in the process of finalising a contract with Codema to provide an energy service for local authorities in this sub-region. An MoU has been developed and is currently undergoing final review, before the required SLAs and contract signing between Wicklow County Council (as lead authority) and Codema is completed.

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. A remote seminar was held on the 13 October launching this document and covered areas local authorities should look to in improving the decarbonising of their fleet,

Stage 2 is underway and will see the development of a more in-depth analysis document, with expected publication early in 2023. CARO are examining the development of a number of local authority case studies to support the solutions identified, including a HVO trial undertaken in Tipperary and Galway City; transition to EVs in Cork City and Dublin City; as

well as fleet management and eco driver training undertaken in Donegal.



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.



GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:

Phase 1 of the Green Club Programme is now complete with toolkits almost finalised. An official launch of the toolkits will take place in



Croke Park on 03 December and Phase 2 will commence at the beginning of 2023, with applications for an additional 70 clubs anticipated. The programme successfully secured €100k funding through Strand 2 of the Community Climate Action Fund. These funds will be used to develop an educational model to assist with the building of knowledge and capacity of Green Club Members and participating Clubs, to deliver projects under the five thematic areas of the programme. The DECC have also committed funding for phases 2 and 3 of the programme and will provide through 2023 and 2024.

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.

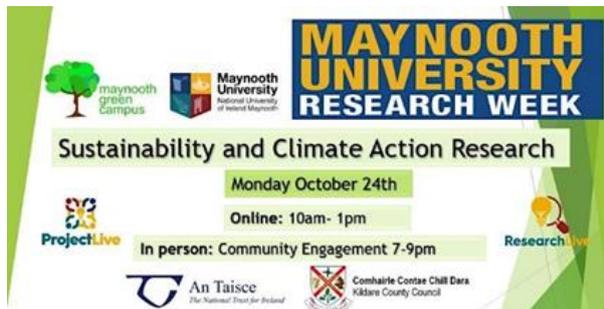


Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee

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. The Climate Action Office and An Taisce successfully delivered information on the DZ and Low Carbon Community strategies to Academia and research faculties in the morning and the wider community in the evening. The sessions were hosted by the Green Forum within Maynooth University. 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 and will be updated during December's meeting. The DZ actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint LAP. RPS group's fee proposal for the Decarbonising Zone, as allowed for under their bid as consultants to undertake the LA CAP, has been approved. The various elements can now be progressed under one consultant.

Climate Action Energy Management Team

The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 09 November on-line facilitate those both working from home and in the office settings.

New members were made welcome and the team introductions made. Updates on actions were provided by all. Conor Leahy of CODEMA gave an outline of the concept and purpose of the Energy unit for Meath, Wicklow and Kildare LA's. The upcoming roles for the Climate Action Officer and



Community Climate Action Officer were discussed.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. There are currently 27 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 third meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 15 October. To assist the local communities further three information and Expression of Interest sessions were undertaken on Thursday 20 October in Monasterevin, Kilcullen and Maynooth. The initial expressions of interest received will be refined during the next stage to enable a community application to be made to SEAI to access grant funding to undertake energy upgrades in a number of properties 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.

ICT Solutions

An opportunity to collaborate with Eir Evo <https://www.eirevo.ie/> to advance ICT solutions with regard to climate action is advancing at pace. The initial contact was made via our IT Department.

The development of an app linking plant passport statutory recording and

tree surveys together with the potential for the creation of a dashboard. The dashboard will display an estimation of the carbon sequestration values of the trees under the council's remit.

Other potential avenues are being explored including a bonfire app, biodiversity values associated with vegetation and linking the existing app to cross department data to expand the information base. Advancement is dependent on funding allocations.

The programme is funded by Microsoft.

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

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.

Site visits with though provoking interactive are being conducted on the various bogs during December to inform then project.

Other Initiatives

‘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 (working title ‘A future Tapestry’) 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. 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 none met 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

14.06.21

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

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.

10 Local Authorities have partnered 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. A presentation was given in late October to Teagasc student's on the initial Entomology qualitative data.

The Climate Action Office present on the Grass 2 Gas project at 'Climate Action within an Evolving Economic Context Local Authorities Building Resilience and Nurturing Opportunities' held in Kilkenny Castle on 15 November and organized by Co-operation Ireland.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates The November post focuses on changing work practices around public open spaces to increase biodiversity by utilizing locally sourced seed.

facebook

Log In



Kildare Community Stories

2d · 🌐

Parks Pilot Update 🌿 🌱 ♻️

Our Parks Pilot Project continues with the aim of changing work practices around public open spaces to make maintenance plans more environmentally sensitive.

...see more



Increasing biodiversity in Monread Park

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety SPC

A summary report was 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 has now commenced.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

DHLGH has advised of an uplift of 20% on the original LIHAF grant amount of €10.88M and confirmed support for the project. CPO phase will now commence.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation, 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 10 Junctions identified for upgrade in Phase 1.

Sustainable Transport Section



Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Section 38 plans presented to municipal district members. Construction due to commence in 2023.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Construction of the scheme has commenced. A construction period of 18 months is programmed for the works. An upgrade to the works including a link to the Fingal County boundary is being designed at present.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Part 8 Chief Executive Report to be presented to elected members in December 2022.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Detailed design continuing.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 1 2023.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Construction of the interim scheme complete. Design of permanent scheme progressing. Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 1 2023.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Detailed design continuing.



**Celbridge Road Cycle Route,
Maynooth**

Part 8 Process to commence in
Quarter 1 2023.

**Kilcock Road Cycle Route,
Maynooth**

Part 8 Process to commence in
Quarter 1 2023.

**Safe Routes to School Programme
(Craddockstown, Naas)**

Detailed design commenced.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Appointment of a contractor is being
progressed.

Celbridge Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge

Detailed design commenced.

**Athy College Campus to Southern
Distributor Road Cycle Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Monread Road (Naas) Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Detailed design stage continuing.

**Vulnerable Road User Improvement
Measures**

Construction completed for 2022.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

Pilot schemes selected for installation
in Quarter 1 2023. Funding sought for
extension of the scheme.

**Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle
Scheme**

Project on hold.

Monasterevin Cycle Network

Part 8 Process to commence in
Quarter 1 2023.

**Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Newbridge Main Street & Station
Road Cycle Scheme**

Preliminary design 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 being installed in Naas Town Centre to improve the detection of cyclists.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Minor Footpath Schemes

Construction continuing.

Leixlip Permeability Schemes

Construction continuing.

Other - Safe Routes To School Infrastructure

Construction completed.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

An appeal has been submitted to the Department of Transport 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.

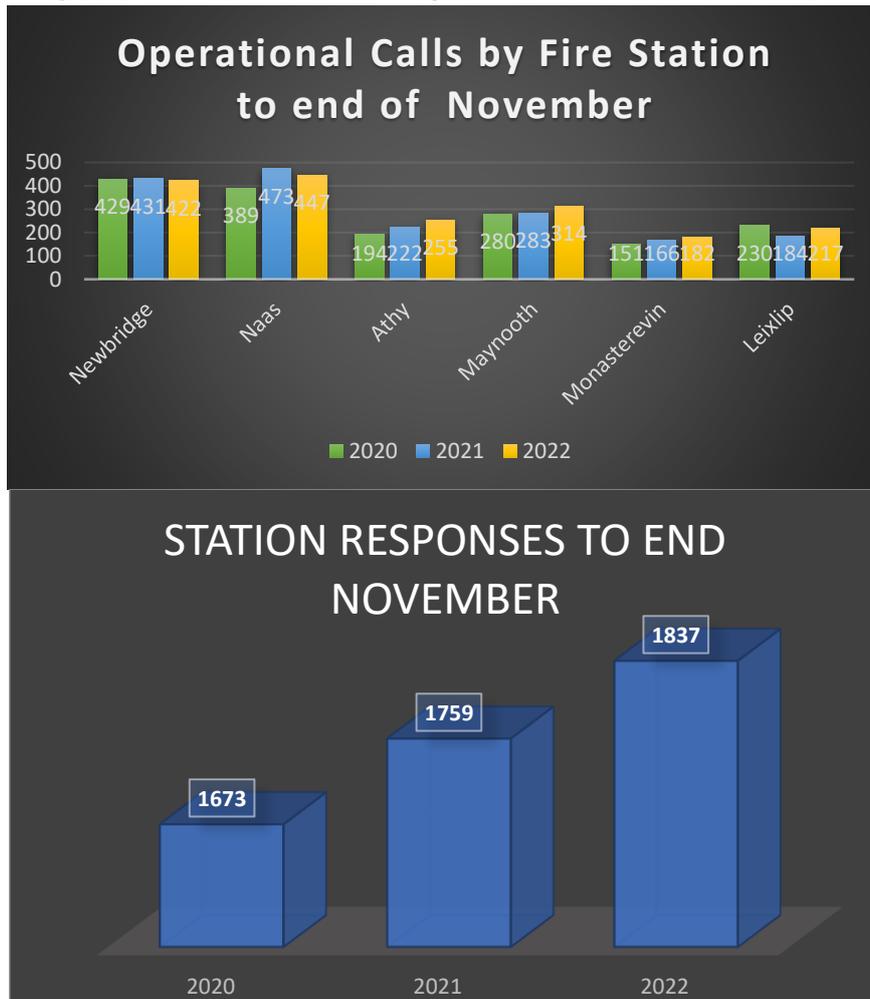
Winter Maintenance

The plan is complete for coming season which commences on 17th October. 22 – 30th April 2023 (195 nights monitoring).

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



Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

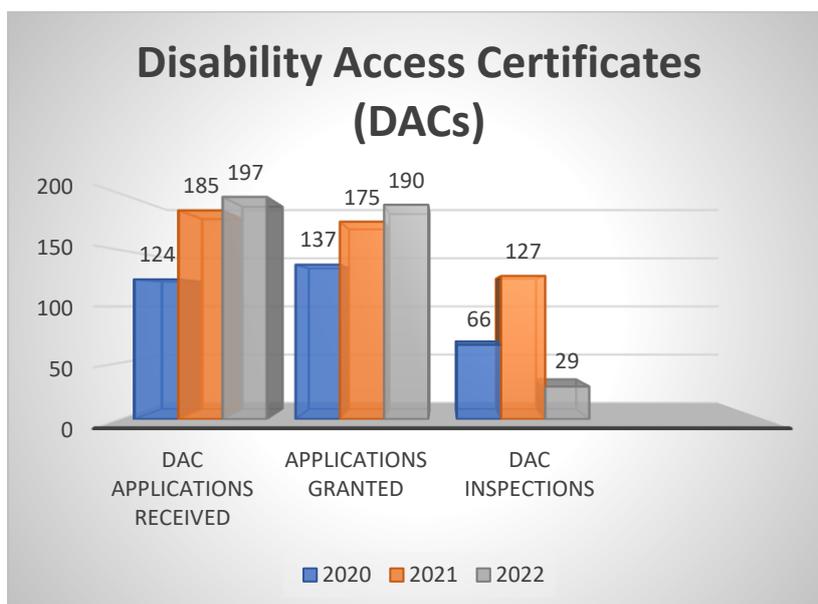
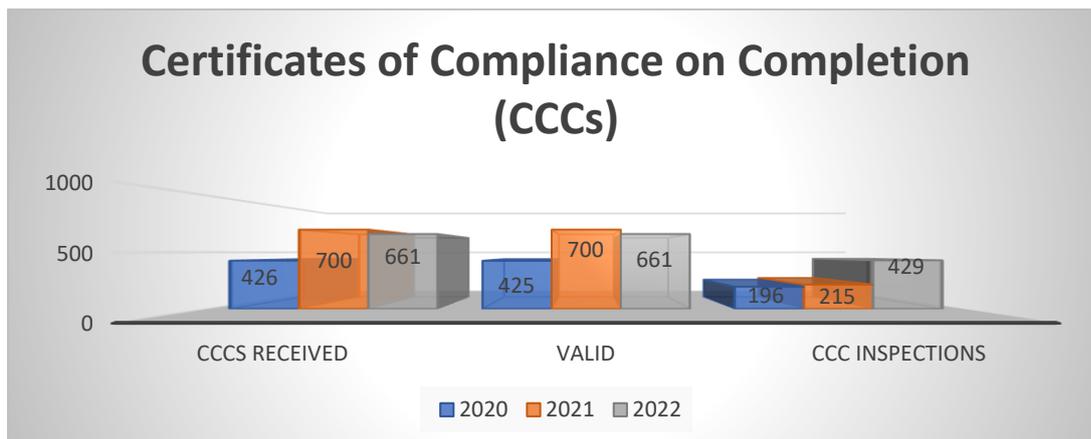
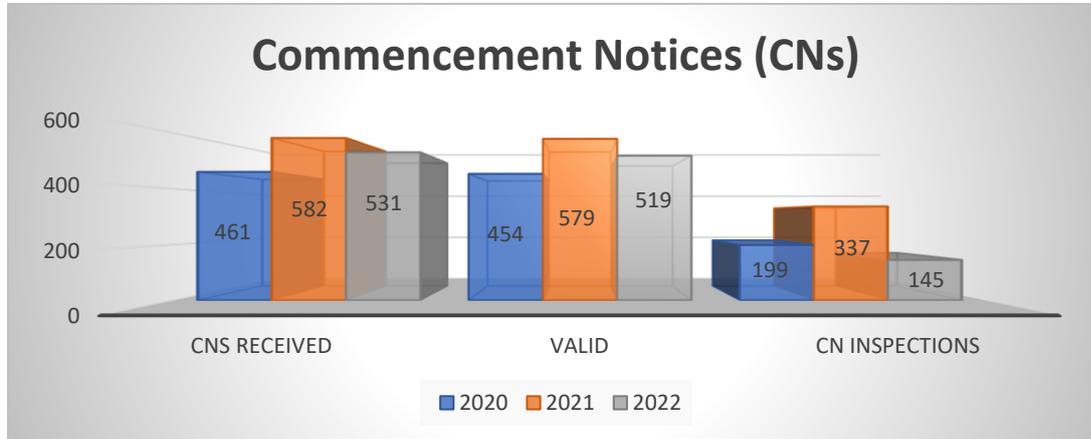




Building and Development Control

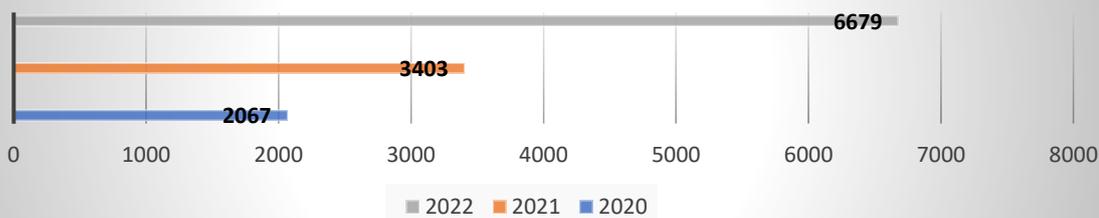
The following figures are cumulative up to end of November 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL



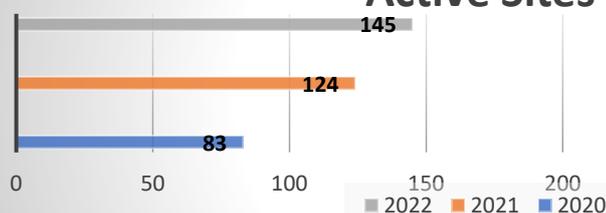


Number of Buildings Inspected



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Active Sites



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Five site inspections completed
- Ergonomics Briefing Session
- Two VDU assessment and One Pregnancy Risk Assessment
- LGMA/IPB Local Authority Health and Safety Conference
- National LASOG Meeting
- Review of Fire Marshalls – Aras Chill Dara
- Scanning of historic accidents/incidents – 2010-2012
- Meeting with Healthy Ireland on employee wellbeing initiatives
- One National Guidance Document under review and two National Guidance Documents reviewed and placed on portal

- Review of Risk Assessments / Method Statements for:
 - Temporary Traffic Management Plan
- Ongoing Meetings – Staff APP, Lead Worker Rep Meeting, Roads Meeting
- 25 floor first aid kits replenished at Áras Chill Dara.
- Final day of Health Screenings completed
- Flu vaccinations completed – 256 completed

ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Leixlip, Athy and Naas Access Groups and CKAN



- Review of Draft Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy Consultation
 - Preparation for Kildare Disability Week – incorporating International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 03 December – Turning landmarks in Kildare Purple, Flying the CKAN Flag in 250 locations etc.
 - Have your Voice Heard Initiative in Leixlip – an initiative where members of the public with disabilities were invited to partake in a workshop to identify the barriers that they face in their community and to develop an action plan to address.
 - Presentation to Kilkenny Co Co and PPN on Development of Access Strategy
 - Workshop with Into Kildare on promoting Kildare as an Accessible tourist destination.
 - Preparation of tender for the development of a video explaining access officers' role, the different access groups and successful projects completed to date
- Working with Maynooth Access Group and Reader in Residence in Libraries on development of a Children's Disability Awareness Story Book



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	161	€286,047
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	85	€182,745
Education Bursaries	45	€35,000
Total	919	€1,780,654

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. Smaller LPT schemes are being finalised (e.g. Christmas lights).

Education bursaries

45 applications were approved for awards and have been paid in full.

Local Community

Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 30 November 2022 in the MERITS building.

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

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. There are indications that further SICAP funding will be available in



2023, however this is not confirmed. Additional funding of €19,050 has been secured from the Department of Health for 2023. A number of family friendly days are planned for Ukrainian families.

Helen can be contacted at helen@countykildarelp.ie telephone: 086 8360901.

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.

A draft of the SICAP Annual Plan for 2023 was submitted by CKLP in November for review by the LCDC.

The Department have announced an increase for 2023 of 3% of the 2022 budget bringing it up to €1,294,500.

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

LEADER Programme

The Government announced the details of the new LEADER Programme for 2023-2027 in late

October with an indicative budget of €5.4 million for Kildare from 2023-2027. This represents a small increase of 3% on the allocation 2014-2024. Work is commencing to prepare an Expression of Interest to run the next programme in Kildare as per the national requirements.

The project budget for the current programme for Kildare is almost fully allocated. Two projects were approved for funding at the last LCDC/LAG meeting:

Carbury Village Residents Association were approved for LEADER funding of €14,695.96 to purchase and install five pieces of outdoor gym equipment on the ground of the new community centre in Carbury

Maynooth GAA were approved for LEADER funding of €160,401.67 to further develop an existing pathway with lighting and upgraded walking surface at the Maynooth GAA complex.

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

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.

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph. 087-9974155 or email

mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county in 2022. The submission date for HI Round 4 2023-2025 is January 2023 with a budget of €75,000 for the year. The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator is working of this submission which will be presented to the LCDC at their next meeting.

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

lkelly@kildarecoco.ie

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 stakeholders together to identify areas of overlap or gaps in services.

Local Economic and Community Plan

Preparation to develop the next LECF is commencing. AIRO in Maynooth University have been commissioned to update datasets. The planning process is an LCDC priority for 2023.

Community Support Fund

Kildare has recently been allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment and repairs. This will be advertised in 2023.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 January 2023.



Kildare Fáilte

This year will be the first time since 2019 that Christmas events can be held without any restrictions, and it was heartening to be able to promote a vast variety of events, experiences and short breaks to support the tourism and hospitality industry. The theme of festive experiences will continue through December.

Kildare Fáilte attended the IAAT conference where presentations were made to tour operators and trade to promote Kildare as an activity destination. The Chief Executives of both Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland were also in attendance as well as travel writer Pól O’Connaighle.

As preparations for St Brigid’s Day 2023 and Brigid 1500 in 2024 progress, the Chief Executive attended meetings with other stakeholders to collaborate on a festival programme of activities.

Work continues on a new audio guide to complement the existing St Brigid’s Trail and it will be supported by new signage along the route. Solas Bhríde will be a key stopping point on the trail. Meetings with stakeholders have taken

place and the guide will be ready in advance of the 2023 celebration.



Audio Guide for St Brigid’s Trail

A meeting was held with Waterways Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and the other local authorities who are stakeholders in the Royal Canal Greenway where the marketing campaign for the coming year was presented and feedback shared. A photoshoot will take place in early December to support the winter campaigns.



The revised edition of the Tow Path Trails guide to the canal walkways was completed. This updated guide includes the new Blueway and Greenways routes as well as information on the points of interest along the way.



Tow Path Trails brochure

Kildare Fáilte attended a number of meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses to support with Christmas promotions.

Kildare Fáilte held a meeting with County Kildare Access Network to identify ways in which Into Kildare can support the message of accessibility and the week of events surrounding National Day of Persons with Disabilities on 03 December.

On social media the communication focussed on the wide range of activities, events and offers for Christmas taking place around the county. The message is to support local and shop local.

Visitor engagement on all channels remains strong, with Into Kildare consistently in the top five search results for events and the top search result for many Christmas activities such as Christmas markets and experiences.

Library and Arts Service

Libraries are everyman's free university. — John Jakes.

Age Friendly

Winter Safety Talks

Kildare Libraries have teamed up with the Kildare County Council Age Friendly Programme Manager to deliver talks in nine libraries on how to stay warm and safe this winter.

College Connect

Kildare Libraries have teamed up with Maynooth University's College Connect team to deliver talks in all Kildare Libraries prior to the CAO deadline.



Do you ever wonder about going to college but thought you couldn't for any reason?

College Connect, based at Maynooth University, have teamed up with Kildare libraries to help you learn about supports you can access on your educational journey.

Let's Talk Parenting

A 5-week course on Positive Parenting facilitated by Bridie Clancy from TUSLA was held in Celbridge Library during the month of November, it was very well attended with great engagement and feedback from all the parents.

Commerce and Coffee Mornings

The monthly 'Commerce and Coffee' meet ups for local businesses in Celbridge are also proving very popular and promote library supports, resources and services; provide an opportunity for networking; and links in with the Local Enterprise Office. Library Branch Manager and Librarian Aideen Kerr did an interview on KFM's Kildare Focus recently about the initiative.

Naas Library

Well done to Naas Library's very own Wayne Byrne who launched his latest book 'Walter Hill: The Cinema of a Hollywood Maverick' in Naas Library, on Friday 18 November. A very entertaining evening with Wayne being excellently interviewed by Film Ireland journalist Paul Farren.

English Classes

Beginners English Classes have recently started in Celbridge library, hosted by Failte Isteach and are being very well attended by Ukrainians and other Migrants from our local community. A Welcome Lunch and 'Meet and Greet' took place on Wednesday 07 December from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

LGBTQ

Kildare Town Library held its first meeting of the LGBTQ over 40s Group providing a neutral space to get together in November. It is hoped that it will be a monthly event.

Library IT restructure

There was a major restructure of our public library network carried out to make services to the public more secure and support and maintenance



of these services more efficient. All PCs and laptops now can be centrally monitored and controlled from a server while still retaining independent networks in each branch. This will mean the deployment of applications, policies and settings can be done rapidly and remotely by our public network support company. Part of these works include VPN connections to our library partners in Civica.

eServices brochure

A new library eServices brochure was produced and circulated to last month and with a view to relaunch our eServices Roadshow in our branches next year after last two years online as a Webshow.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing according to the latest revised programme. The library will be open to the public in early Summer 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Design Team, Libraries and Public Realm team are currently finalising

documentation for the Part 8 application.

New Clane Library

The project will be submitted for Part 8 Planning in the coming weeks.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Archival, local history and genealogical queries. County Archives has published 97 volumes including Poor Law Union, Council Minutes and Burial Grounds Registers via its new [online archives](#) service. Since October these have been viewed over 2,289 times, with 27,523 individual pages accessed, an average of c.1,500 hours/62.5 days of research by the public. Listing and digitising of archival material; promotion of service; archivist is on Data Governance and Records Management Steering Group and Open Data Team. Historical articles for The Pulse. eHistory Journal updated weekly. Working with local history groups/schools.

Decade of Commemorations

Editing of forthcoming publications and planning of events in 2022 and 2023.



Promotion via local and social media, national DOC website/newsletter.

Liaising with community groups/individuals and administration of programme.

Dates for the Diary in December

01 December at 7:00 p.m., Leixlip Library – Launch of ‘Mullaney’s Men.’ The rise and fall of the anti-Treaty forces in North Kildare, Grangewilliam 1922 by Seamus A. Cummins, edited by James Durney.

10 December at 10:00 a.m., Rathangan Library, Creative Rathangan Seminar on Cumann na mBan.

12 December at 7:15 p.m., Curragh Racecourse – Commemoration of the Rathbride Column, executed on 19 December 1922.

13 December at 7:30 p.m., Rathangan, presentation on Comdt. Tom Behan, by Mario Corrigan and James Durney.

Kildare Arts Service

Creative Places Athy programme continues

Creative Place Athy (CPA) kick-started a conversation locally around ‘What is a Creative Place?’ a series of weekly meetings facilitated by Michael Fortune and coordinated by Creative

Places Athy. Meetings began on 09 November, hosted by Athy Community Arts Centre. The group continue to meet weekly to interrogate new ways for communities in Athy to engage with the CPA programme.

Meet and Move Dance for every moving body at The ACRE

Dancer Ailish Claffey is facilitating several workshops around meeting and movement in The ACRE Project, Celbridge.

Meet and Move

Free intergenerational dance workshops for all ages and abilities. The workshops were scheduled for 25 November, 02 December and 16 December.

Meet and Move for Memory

Dance workshops that promote brain health, and welcome older residents of county Kildare, especially those living with dementia, their families, carers, and healthcare workers.

Supported by the Arts Service’s Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme, and the Arts Council.



Dētrīmentum exhibition continues at Riverbank

Dētrīmentum, a video and photographic installation by Kildare artist Katie Whyte opened in the McKenna Gallery, Riverbank Arts Centre in early November and will continue until 22 December. Supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre's 'Emerging Artist Bursary Award'.

Running an Inclusive Choir Workshop

Facilitated by Embrace Music, this workshop (19 November) was suitable for both new and experienced facilitators to explore ways of creating a welcoming and inclusive space for community singing. An emphasis was placed on working with older people particularly those living with age-related needs, and their carers. Supported by the Arts Service's Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme.

Ailish Claffey announced as Artist in Residence at The ACRE, Celbridge

Dance artist Ailish Claffey was announced as Artist in Residence at the ACRE Project, Celbridge. The

residency will consist of engagement with members of the public, as well as access to the onsite facilities and workshop space over a 30-week programme (until June 2023) for the development of her professional practice. This new pilot residency is supported by the Arts Service's Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme.

Creative Places Athy announce recipients of Making Connections Award

Fifteen successful applicants from/based in Athy were announced as recipients of grant funding under the Making Connections scheme. Funding was awarded to support collaborative projects between artists/creatives and communities, that creatively engage and connect people after recent requirements for disconnection. More details of recipients are published on <https://kildarecoco.ie/ArtsService/PressReleases/>

Paula Barrett joins the Arts Team as Assistant Arts Officer

Paula Barrett joined the Arts Team as Assistant Arts Officer on Monday 28 November. Eláine Donnelly (Assistant



Arts Officer) will go on maternity leave from Friday 16 December.

Arts Grants, Commissions and Bursary Award 2023

The Arts Service team have generated call outs and application forms for 19 separate Arts Grants Awards to supports creative and artistic projects in the county next year. The call outs were published on kildare.submit.com on Monday 05 December. More details in next month's report.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

The tender was re advertised and is due to close in mid-December.

Tree Works Programme

Tree works tenders have been issued for Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge Municipal Districts. The tenders are due to close before Christmas. Work is due to start on Naas, Clane-Maynooth and Athy Municipal Districts before the end of the year and will run into early 2023.

Barrow Walk Athy

The replacement of the picnic benches along the Barrow and Stanhope Street is complete. Resurfacing of the

footpath along the Barrow towards the Horse Bridge is expected to be done after Christmas. New seating will also be installed as part of the works.

Leixlip Playground

Work is continuing on the Part 8 for the playground and it is proposed to advertise this in mid-January. The tender for the playground will also intended to be advertised by the end of January.

Moat of Ardscull

A contractor has been appointed to resurface the footpaths in the amenity area at the Moat of Ardscull and to replace the existing seating. This work is scheduled for January.

Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 07 October 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	86	186,506.40
Feasibility Study Grant	8	53,734
Priming Grant	11	229,653
Business Expansion Grant	27	675,807



Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	10	21,979.05
---	-----------	------------------

Priming Grants Approved

Data And Design Consulting Limited, founded by Rudi O'Reilly Meehan (Naas) was approved priming support of €15,000 towards the first employee in the business.

Jessica Price t/a Coveire has been approved €1,010 towards the purchase of specialist equipment and software for their prosthetic covers.

SLA Endeavour Limited led by Liji Joseph has been approved €19,573 towards employment and fit out of their new food production facility (Clane-Maynooth Municipal District).

Business Expansion Approved

Picel Limited led by Dominic Peel has been approved funding €49,500 towards the recruitment of 4 skilled food production roles in Athy.

Kildare Brewing Co. Limited is expanding their kombucha production capability with a semi-Automatic Bottling line and recruiting a new marketing lead with approved support of €47,500.

Kri Fine Products Limited t/a Good Brew (Clane-Maynooth Municipal

District) approved € 30,380 to scale their cold brew coffee production and undertake product development to increase the shelf-life of their products. expansion.



Agile Innovation Fund Approved

MERITS based HUB Central Consultancy Limited t/a HUB360 has been approved €44,888 in RD&I funding to undertake technical development their logistics platform to make it scalable and to make implementation of new customers more efficient.

Kill based JMT Engineering Asset Management Limited t/a AerNua has been approved €44,737 in RD&I funding to drive optimisation of the AerNua air sterilisation unit and have it classified as a medical/clinical grade air sterilisation system which will give rise to a high degree of indoor air quality.

Kildare's Digital Champions

MERITS based HUB360, were named Export Champion 2022. Their logistics platform demonstrated market



innovation and the scope of export growth across multiple sectors and geographies impressed the judges.



Led by James Byrne, Faerly.ie, an Irish online destination for sustainable living and was stand out in their personalisation of e-commerce as a business model. They were named Kildare's Experience Champion.



Babogue, founded by Certified Child Sleep Consultants, Erica Hargaden and Janet Creighton impressed with the community they have developed across their social media platforms, engaging their clients with not only their product but in a support system with each other. Babogue was named Kildare's Engagement Champion.



Bobby Harpor of The Vocal Academy, a music school in Lexlip, has taught Hollywood actors and helped students all over Europe, USA, Canada and even China. Digitisation of all the business' processes has given the business' scalable export potential and hugely impressed the judges as Kildare's Digitisation Champion.



Considering an overall winner, Kilcullen's Made Personal Limited promoters were stand out. They excelled across all categories with huge export success, an extensive portfolio of international clients, unrivalled user experience, client engagement at every stage of the selling process including an impressive aftersales approach. Made Personal



was named Kildare's Digital Champion 2022.



Immediate business support:

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

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

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 Rural Entrepreneurs



On 30 November we welcomed 30 EU Delegates to MERITS in collaboration with Teagasc. The delegates were a combination of CAP policy makers and

rural entrepreneurs who travelled to Ireland to understand the supports and funding landscape for entrepreneurs in Ireland.



We hosted a panel discussion with 4 grant supported clients across agri-tech and on-farm diversification.

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 was made available. 22 businesses were awarded the funding. The Brigid 1500 Retail Merchandising Grant has also been launched. The opening of this Grant Scheme provides



our retail community with an opportunity to become involved in the celebrations and generate excitement and display their creativity ahead of St Brigid's Day on 1st February 2023.

Further details can be found at <https://brigid1500.ie/GetInvolved/Enterprise/>

Shop Local Support Local Campaign

A five week Shop Local Support Local marketing campaign has been launched by Economic Development to actively support and promote local retail businesses on the run up to Christmas. The campaign has been designed to create greater awareness amongst the public around the importance of shopping with local businesses over the Christmas period. The 'Shop Local, Support Local' campaign includes radio and newspaper advertising and active social media promotion of local businesses around the county.

Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub

Over €4.2m has been awarded to the Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. When complete,

the hub will act as a home for our county-wide food cluster and will provide manufacturing space for 20 entrepreneurs. It will also act as a hub of education for the youth of the area to upskill and access the job market. The design team will now work on preparing the tender documents and the project is expected to go to tender in Quarter 1 2023.

Connected Hubs Works Programme

A contractor has been appointed to carry out works approved under the Connected Hubs Funding to MERITS, National Equine Innovation Centre and Athy Community Enterprise Centre. The programme of works has commenced and is expected to be completed in early 2023.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub

Kildare LEO has published a tender to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed building of the Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub in Kildare Town; the deadline for submissions is 21 December. The Local Enterprise Development Plan (2021 – 2024) outlines Craft as a dynamic, green and sustainability focus sector. It is proposed that a dedicated Craft,



Creativity and Design Hub will be built to act as a sectoral stimulus to develop a hub of enterprise, innovation, commercialisation, and learning.

Feasibility Study at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock

Following the tender process, consultants have been appointed to conduct a feasibility study to examine the use of lands at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock, Co Kildare. The project is expected to commence in the new year.

Kildare Hub Marketing Coordinator

The Kildare Hub Strategy (2022 – 2025) outlines the development of Kildare's hub infrastructure and the respective networks operating in these spaces (the K-Hub Network). The strategy aligns with the policy framework of the Kildare Economic Development Strategy 2025 and the Local Enterprise Development Plan. An RFT has been published to appoint a coordinator to support the promotion of the K Hub Network with a deadline date of 21 December 2022; the successful applicant will commence the role in February 2023.

Diaspora

A tender has been published to appoint a co-ordinator for the Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy. The appointed consultant will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of the actions under the strategy. The closing date for the submission of the tender is 06 December.

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.



Student Entrepreneurship Program

16 Kildare schools incorporating 1278 students engaging in Ireland's largest student enterprise competition.

Students get the opportunity to set up and run their own business and find out what it is really like to be an entrepreneur.

Further details can be found here:

www.studententerprise.ie

Training Programmes 2022

LEO Kildare continues to promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities of our clients.

To date, 1950 clients have availed themselves of these training opportunities.

Mentoring and Business Advice numbers stand at 402.

Training and Mentoring

Competitions

Kildare LEO invited consultants to bid for a place on its frameworks (management, marketing and general training) and panels (Digital Start, Lean for Micro and Green for Micro programmes, and mentoring services).

These competitions closed on 30 November and 02 December

respectively and following the evaluation process the successful applicants can be drawn upon over a two-year period to assist in the delivery of LEO-supported programmes and initiatives.

Manufacturing Cluster Coordinator

The competition for a coordinator to establish and facilitate Kildare LEO's Manufacturing Cluster closed on 14 November; Consultants have been appointed to facilitate the cluster and will commence in the new year. The Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy outlines manufacturing as a Strategic Objective for the region and the cluster will be established to support the development of existing and emerging companies in Co Kildare.

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can now avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. We launched radio and social media campaign aimed at the Kildare Retail sector to avail of a 1:1 mentoring session in MERITS on 16 and 30 November that will help businesses understand and reduce energy costs in their business.



Both dates were fully booked and positive feedback received from all attendees. A number of attendees currently applying for the full “Green for Micro” program.

Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Enterprise Ireland launched a new funding intervention to support manufacturing and international trading businesses who are currently viable but financially vulnerable as a result of the direct and indirect effects of the crisis.

Aid will be approved in the form of grants and repayable advances. Scheme suitable LEO clients were invited to attend an information briefing on Thursday 17 November.

LEO staff now supporting active applications to bring suitable cases to EVAC in 2023.

Full details on the scheme can be found here:

[Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme - Enterprise Ireland \(enterprise-ireland.com\)](https://www.enterpriseireland.com/ukraine-crisis-scheme)

Appendix: Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available **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 our 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 bringing 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 as support documents and publications	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join our Newsletter.
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