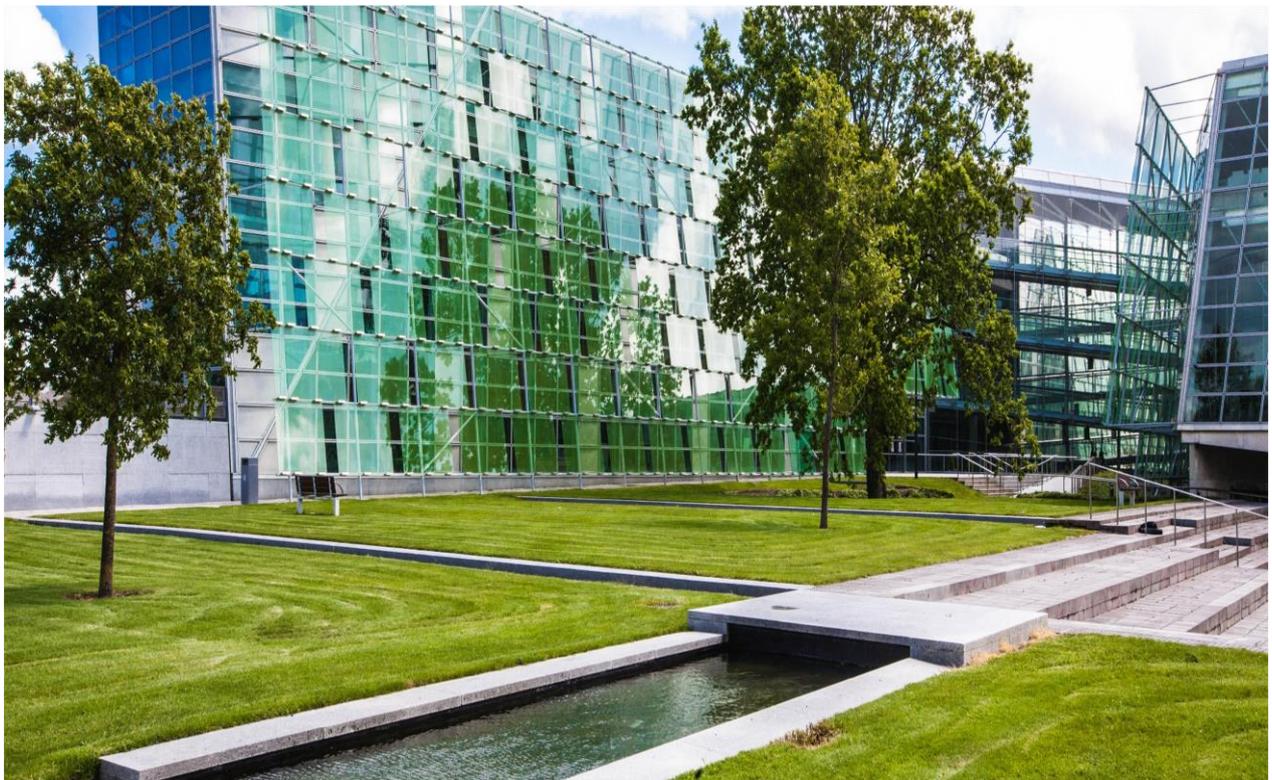




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**Kildare County Council**

**Chief Executive's Management Report – June 2022**





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## **News Items**

### **Kildare County Council hosts awards evening to recognise contribution of volunteers**

Kildare County Council hosted an awards evening at Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, in recognition of the valuable contributions of Kildare volunteers in response to the pandemic (see page 09).

### **Kildare County Council Retail Enhancement Supports**

The scheme, which supported over 60 businesses in Kildare last year, is aimed at increasing visibility for businesses and enhancing the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county (see page 9).

### **Kildare County Council Go Wild for Biodiversity Week 2022**

Kildare Biodiversity Week 2022 took place from Saturday 14 May to Sunday 22 May (see page 10).

### **Kildare County Council celebrates Africa Day 2022**

Kildare County Council marked Africa Day 2022 with three free community events in Athy, Maynooth and Monasterevin. Africa Day took place on Wednesday 25 May this year (see page 10).

### **Coiste Gaelige**

Students from schools in Naas, Prosperous, Athy, Celbridge and Newbridge were awarded Gaeltacht Scholarships by Coiste Gaelige (see page 11).

### **Housing for All**

The President of Ireland officially opened Jigginstown Manor on Tuesday 14 June. Homeless Care received Capital Assistance Scheme funding to develop this scheme of 12 one-bed units (see page 15).



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### **Kildare County Development Plan 2019-2029**

The Draft Plan was published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March to 24 May. A total of 612 submissions were received (see page 24).

### **Historic Towns Initiative**

The council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas (see page 26).

### **Green Schools**

Twenty-one schools were assessed for their Green Flag by the end of April (see page 36).

### **Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024**

The EPA have set out a new scheme of National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) to cover the period 2022 to 2024 (see page 37).

### **Murals**

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county (see page 54).

### **Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

This SPC has completed several items on the Work Programme (see page 57).

### **Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)**

Project retendered and due to start construction in 2022 (see page 60).

### **Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review**

The Speed Limit Review will be presented to June Full Council Meeting for approval (see page 62).

### **Ukrainian Community Response Forum**

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met twice with another meeting scheduled. Kildare County Council launched a new online information portal for Ukrainian citizens arriving to Kildare (see page 69).



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### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

Work is commencing on the Peoples Park Athy, which has received funding under Slaintecare Healthy Communities €250,000. (see page 69).

### **Kildare Fáilte - Tow Path Trails brochure and guide**

Work commenced on updating this brochure and guide. They will include the new Greenway and Blueway routes (see page 73).

### **Library Strategy 2023-2026**

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., has launched a public consultation on the development of a new strategy for the public library service. (see page 74).

### **Ukrainian Resources**

There is now a collection of Ukrainian children's books in all Kildare libraries as well as eBooks on Borrowbox (see page 75).

### **Outdoor Youth Facility Celbridge**

Consultation for the outdoor youth facility has been completed with young people in Celbridge (see page 79).

### **Competitive Start Fund (CSF)**

Two Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kildare start-ups have been successful in the CSF competition (see page 80).

### **Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster**

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster to ensure that Female Entrepreneurship supports are a key highlight in the County (see page 81).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Housing Loans**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has notified the council of a rate increase for loans which the council provides. The fixed rate for all new loans drawn down from 01 July will increase (see page 15).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

The details of the clinic are as follows: Date: Monday 27 June 2022, Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (see page 33).

### **safeTALK Training - safeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone)**

Two sessions completed – due to high demand a third course booked for the 06 September (see page 67).

### **Age Friendly Libraries**

The library service is delighted to announce that a further two libraries have been awarded official Age Friendly status in Kildare – Naas and Leixlip Libraries (see page 74).

### **Allenwood Playground**

The tender for the playground is closing 23 June (see page 79).

### **The Peoples Park, Athy**

Work has started on the path improvement works. The work on the paths is expected to be completed by the end of June. The new seating areas and picnic areas will be completed in July (see page 79).

### **Kildare LEO Flavours of Kildare Food Network**

The next meeting of the Flavours of Kildare will take place on Tuesday 21 June (see page 81).

### **Economic Support Services – Shopfront Enhancement Grant**

The scheme was officially opened on 28 March and will remain open for applications and has been extended until 08 July 2022 at 5.00 p.m. (see page 82).



## July Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Jun 11:00 Irish Water Clinic 15:00 full Council meeting; Meetings	28	29	30 11:30 County Twinning Committee	<b>1 Jul</b> 10:00 Clane Maynooth Annual Meeting; Council Chamber 10:30 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Aras Chill dara
4	5 14:00 14:00 Finance Committee Meeting	6 10:00 LCDC	7 11:30 Local Community & Culture SPC	8
11 14:30 Protocol	12 15:00 Naas Annual meeting ; Council Chamber 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	13	14 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee	15 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip Annual Meeting 10:30 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Aras Chill Dara
18 10:00 Annual Meeting Athy 10:30 Athy MD Meeting; Aras Chill Dara	19	20 10:00 Kildare Newbridge Annual Meeting; Council Chamber 10:30 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Aras Chill dara	21 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee	22
25 15:00 Full Council Meeting	26 09:00 KWETB	27	28	29



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## Corporate Services

### Good Practice Guidance for Continuing to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

As part of the approach to the return to physical workplaces, employers and employees are encouraged to be supportive of continued good practices built up over the past two years, which support a safe working environment for all. Continued adoption of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation in workplaces is advised. While not mandatory the continued wearing of facemasks in offices and public areas is encouraged.

Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or on having a positive COVID-19 test. It remains critically important that everyone continues to play their part in limiting transmission. COVID-19 continues to pose a risk to public health.

## Appointments

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

Meetings of the Council and Municipal Districts may take place in person or online. Notice of dates, times and location of statutory meetings continue to issue on social media.

Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing [meetings@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:meetings@kildarecoco.ie).



## Communications

### Kildare County Council hosts awards evening to recognise contribution of volunteers



On Thursday 19 May 2022, Kildare County Council, in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development and Volunteer Ireland, hosted an awards evening at Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge, in recognition of the valuable contributions of Kildare volunteers in response to the pandemic.

169 individuals were nominated through the Volunteer Ireland web portal and four groups were identified by the Kildare Volunteer Centre to receive a volunteer award. Those nominated volunteers received a commemorative badge along with a letter of thanks, signed by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin.

The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, elected representatives, members of the Oireachtas, Chief

Executive of Kildare County Council and members of the management team were in attendance. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the contribution of volunteers in Kildare during the pandemic. There was a musical performance from the Naas Men's Shed band.

### Kildare County Council Retail Enhancement Supports



The scheme, which supported over 60 businesses in Kildare last year, is aimed at increasing visibility for businesses and enhancing the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county.

The scheme provides for up to 50% of the cost of shop front refurbishment, depending on the work proposed, with a maximum allowable contribution of €5,000 per applicant. The scheme also incentivises applicants to incorporate



accessibility and age friendly improvements to their shopfront with up to 75% of eligible costs covered under this measure.

### **Kildare County Council to Go Wild for Biodiversity Week 2022**



Kildare Biodiversity Week 2022 took place from Saturday 14 May to Sunday 22 May, beginning with a Dawn Chorus at Castletown House and Parklands led by Kildare Bird Watch Ireland and a Day of Action on Lullymore West Bog at Bog of Allen Nature Centre on Saturday 14 May.

Biodiversity Week is a great opportunity for people to get out and find out more about nature and Wildlife in Kildare. Walks and talks covering all aspect of Kildare's natural Heritage were organised by wildlife groups across Kildare.

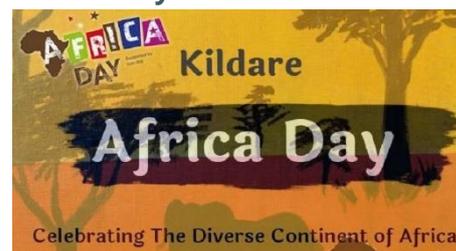
The word 'biodiversity' is coined from biological diversity, it's about the variety of plant and animal species and the interaction between them. It is this

interaction that is essential for life, giving us all the things, we need - clean air, water, agriculture, food and amenity.

Ireland's biodiversity is in a state of crisis. Around one-third of Ireland's 98 wild bee species are threatened with extinction, while recent findings show that over 60% of the 202 species of commonly occurring birds in Ireland are now on the red and amber conservation lists.

Over 90% of 58 listed habitats in Ireland also have an 'inadequate' or 'bad' status and just over half of the 61 European protected species in Ireland have a 'favourable' conservation status.

### **Kildare County Council celebrates Africa Day 2022**



Kildare County Council marked Africa Day 2022 with three free community events in Athy, Maynooth and Monasterevin. Africa Day took place on Wednesday 25 May this year with events taking place around the world to



showcase the continent's beauty, unity and success. Africa Day is an initiative of the African Union which celebrates the diverse continent of Africa and promotes its cultural and economic potential.

The events were planned in conjunction with County Kildare LEADER Partnership and local event committees and are generously supported by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

### **Coiste Gaeilge**

Students from schools in Naas, Prosperous, Athy, Celbridge and Newbridge were awarded Gaeltacht Scholarships by Coiste Gaeilge. They were presented with their scholarships at a ceremony held in Áras Chill Dara. Cathaoirleach Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil and Cathaoirleach of the Committee Councillor Íde Cussen welcomed the students and congratulated them on their success. Gael Linn gave a short presentation to the students on the classes and activities planned for their stay in the Gaeltacht.

## **Members Services**

### **Meetings**

#### **Full Council**

The May meeting of Kildare County Council was held in the beautiful surroundings of Maynooth University, the hometown of the Cathaoirleach.



At their meeting, the members noted the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021 and adopted the 2021 Annual Report, including the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021 progress report and the Corporate Plan progress report for 2021. Once completed, the



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NOAC indicators will be appended to the 2021 Annual Report.

The members agreed to return to the Council Chamber in Áras Chill Dara for the Annual Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and the plenary meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This will be the first meeting of the full council to be held in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara since February 2020.

### **Municipal Districts**

Municipal District Committee meetings continued in May both in-person in the council chamber and online.

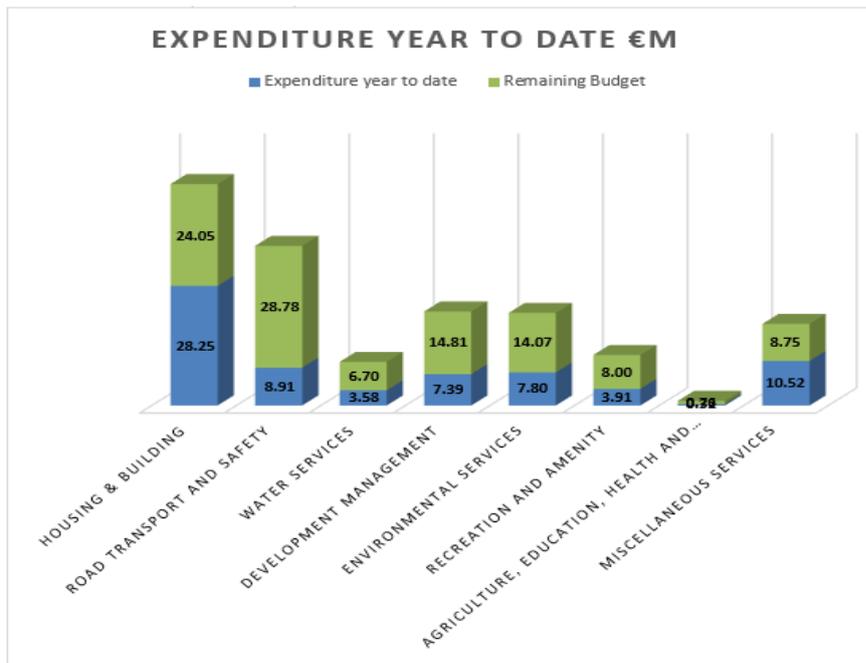
The Annual Meetings of the Municipal Districts will be held in July before each of the normal MD meetings.



## Finance and Information Technology

### Revenue Account

<b>Kildare County Council</b>				
<b>Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2022</b>				
Division	<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	28,253	52,300	54%	24,047
Road Transport and Safety	8,913	37,692	24%	28,779
Water Services	3,582	10,281	35%	6,699
Development Management	7,391	22,196	33%	14,805
Environmental Services	7,802	21,869	36%	14,067
Recreation and Amenity	3,915	11,916	33%	8,001
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	324	1,081	30%	757
Miscellaneous Services	10,522	19,267	55%	8,745
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	70,702	176,602	40%	105,900





<b>Kildare County Council</b>				
<b>Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2022</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Income</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget collected</b>	<b>Budget to be collected</b>
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	31,834	44,828	71%	12,994
Road Transport and Safety	1,679	19,290	9%	17,611
Water Services	2,248	10,082	22%	7,834
Development Management	4,938	7,758	64%	2,820
Environmental Services	2,832	7,062	40%	4,230
Recreation and Amenity	1,119	1,079	104%	40
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	88	348	25%	260
Miscellaneous Services	2,008	6,026	33%	4,018
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,620	18,289	42%	10,669
Rates	25,574	61,837	41%	36,263
	79,939	176,599	45%	96,660

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

<b>Kildare County Council</b>							
<b>Summary of Major Collections to 31 May 2022</b>							
	<b>Arrears 01/01/2022</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Write Off</b>	<b>Waivers</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Outstanding 31/05/2022</b>
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,351,914	398,056	1,433,148	71,306,033	30,244,026	41,062,007
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	6,548,712	15,795	-	7,763,842	6,456,596	1,307,246
Housing Loans	2,023,590	1,317,936	-	-	3,341,526	1,657,799	1,683,727

### 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 31 May 2022.

### 2021 Audit

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2021 Annual Financial Statements on 29 July 2022. Members were emailed with the confirmed date earlier in June.



### Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). If they are not in a position to use the online facility, 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](http://www.motortax.ie).

Alternatively, customers can email [motortax@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:motortax@kildarecoco.ie) or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

## Housing

### Housing for All

The President of Ireland officially opened Jigginstown Manor on Tuesday 14 June. Homeless Care received Capital Assistance Scheme funding to develop this scheme of 12 one-bed units, aimed at young homeless adults. The facility is operated by Tiglin.

The council has been conducting a series of meetings with the larger Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) to discuss their ongoing delivery and their future pipeline. They have advised that there is a reduction in the number of

opportunities they are being presented with. They have also advised that increases in the cost of Housing Finance Agency lending may impact on the viability of certain schemes. As is the case with construction schemes generally, AHB delivery is being impacted by construction inflation and supply shortages. AHB delivery is an important component of Housing for All, with AHBs due to deliver 40% of the overall social housing target of 2,068.

### Housing Loans

Type of Loan	Duration	Existing Rate	Rate from 01/07/22
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan/Local Authority Home Loan	25 years	1.5%	1.85%
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan/Local Authority Home Loan	30 years	1.75%	1.95%

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has notified the council of a rate increase for loans which the council provides. The fixed



rate for all new loans drawn down from 01 July will increase.

### **Response to the Ukrainian Conflict**

#### **Rest Centre**

Identification of suitable pledged properties is ongoing including inspections of the properties to ensure adequacy. A number of people who pledged properties through the Red Cross are now withdrawing from the scheme.

#### **Identification of Sites Suitable for Residential Development**

The Housing and Planning Departments have examined sites/property which may be suitable for immediate development of temporary or permanent housing. A short list of locations has been produced and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A response is awaited.

#### **Homeless Services**

Family homeless presentations remain high and this is consistent across the Mid-east region.

The Jigginstown facility in Naas for own front door accommodation for

homeless is currently accommodating 12 young single adults who are receiving supports to achieve progressions to full tenancies and longer-term accommodation.

Update from National/Regional Homeless Leads Meeting:

National Leads meeting was held on 12 May with regions experiencing continued family presentations, for the most part resulting from Notices to Quit and lack of available Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Homeless HAP properties. This is consistent with the situation in Kildare.

#### **Homeless Outreach**

The Outreach team continue to work with single adults throughout the county to ensure they receive the supports available and to assist them in linking in with the various services to achieve this.

Details of the work of the team includes

- Three municipal district areas covered for the Month (Athy, Kildare/Newbridge, Naas),



- Two Housing First Tenancies created,
- Monthly Clinic in Newbridge- One new engagement,
- One Client moved to Treatment from Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) placement,
- Three Homeless HAP tenancies created from STA,
- Street work-three sessions complete in May (Athy, Naas and Newbridge).

### **Tenancy Support**

Work in this area continues with a focus on homeless prevention:

- Sixty clients on active caseload not including family hubs
- Five clients on waiting list
- Six clients have been closed off no longer requiring intensive support

### **Homeless HAP**

There are 24 Homeless HAP tenancies completed for 2022 and the Placefinder continues to work with landlords to seek suitable properties. Six new applications were processed in May.

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies**

A total of 154 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,168 active tenancies are now in place. An analysis of HAP tenancies ceasing in 2022 was recently carried out. Of the 271 tenancies examined the reasons for cessation were as follows:

173 (64%) received an allocation of a social house

44 (16%) received a notice to quit.

25 (9%) exited the scheme voluntarily

29 (11%) had other reasons for exiting the scheme

### **Windows and Door Replacement Programme**

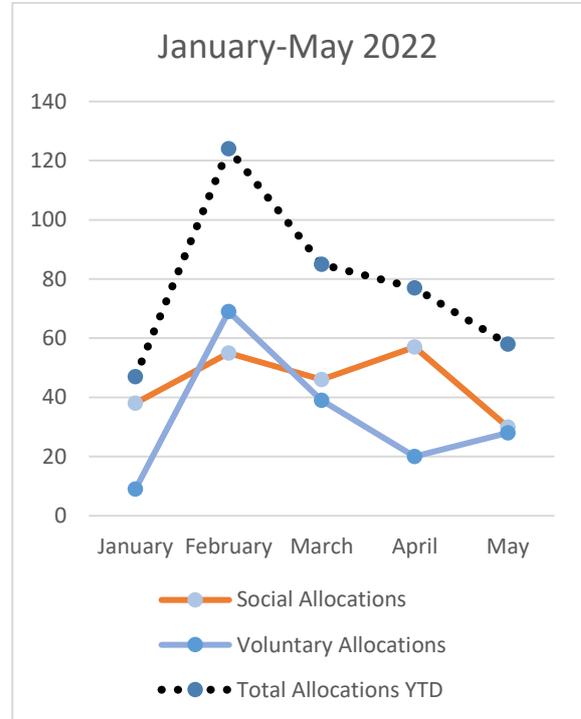
The Housing Maintenance Section has established a Windows and Door Replacement programme for 2022. This scheme is addressing the significant demand for replacement windows and doors and will increase energy efficiency across the housing stock. Ninety properties have been surveyed; tender details are being finalised prior to tendering for the work.



### 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 are maintaining regular contact with Traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable. The last meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) took place on 02 June.

date, in 2022, there were 226 social and 165 voluntary units allocated.



### Number of Allocations

30 social housing units and 28 AHB units were allocated in May 2022. To

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	26	46	43
6 - 12 Months	8	13	14
12 - 18 Months	3	4	4
18 - 24 Months	3	3	3
24 - 30 Months	3	3	2
36 Months +	4	8	7
	<b>47</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>



### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 May 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	8	10	14
6 - 12 Months	1	1	2
12 - 18 Months	1	1	3
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	<b>Mountain View, Athgarvan [18 units]:</b> Tender return deadline extended to 14 June 2022 further to issue of supplementary information in connection with construction Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Co-operation Framework Agreement
<b>Approval Stage 3</b>		
Coill Dubh	10 units	Tender return date 21 June 2022. Time extended due to construction Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Cooperation Framework.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 2 approval received. Design Team re-engaged and preparing Part 8 documents. Briefing to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District members and issue of update proposal to residents to follow before Part 8 is launched; expected by mid-July.



Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Briefing to be arranged with Municipal District. Planning launch to follow Q2 2022.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team Tender published; tender return = 22 June 2022.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Briefing to be arranged with Municipal District. Part 8 launch to follow Q2 2022.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 approval received 9 March 2022. Value engineering underway with completed redesign.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 application for approval being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations issued to DHLGH and approved to proceed to stage 2.
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.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Redesigned proposals have been resubmitted to DHLGH for comment prior to presentation to residents.
<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Station Road, Kildare	12-14 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition on 28 March 2022 and notice of shortlisting received 11 May 2022. Additional information submitted to DHLGH 3 June 2022.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3, 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3, 2022.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 observation period concluded 25 May 2022. Preparation of Housing Report in hand.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for single stage approval for new unit submitted to DHLGH.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Part 8 on display from 18 May to 1 July 2022.



## PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Scheme completed; allocations ongoing.
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 for 73 social housing units at Ardrew, Athy. Part 8 agreed by Athy MD on 16 May. Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate Applications being prepared.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Adjacent KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL lands being master-planned as part of PPP development.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Completion date extended due to requirement to re-route and re-lay services. Kildare County Council in discussion with Respond regarding phased delivery.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Completion now programmed for July 2022.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed Q2 2022.

## Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by Kildare County Council.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 8 March 2022 to review comments from DHLGH on Stage 2 application. Proposed amendments being reviewed by design team for revised Stage 2 submission.



Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Planning application is to be progressed by Cluid
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.

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	6
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	3		1	1	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	7	2	1	3	2

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022 to date
<b>Total Approved</b>	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,122,045 (from 2021 applications)
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€1,697,500 (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
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Apr	4	€798,393	0	0	0	0

### Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

### National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	<b>Phase 1 Beechgrove:</b> Substantially complete; to agree final account.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	<b>Phase 2 Ashbrook:</b> Final account agreed.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	<b>Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurray View:</b> Progressing well; circa 30 houses complete.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	<b>Phase 4 St Evin's Park:</b> All units substantially complete; to agree final account.
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed; works to remaining 5 units has commenced.
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Works progressing well, expect to complete end of June.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Works progressing well, expect to complete end of June.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing.
<b>2022 EERP</b>	EERP	69	KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL are in receipt of update on allowances for 2022. Average per property €35,707, target minimum of 69 properties. Programme of works (2022) submitted to DHLGH incl. Ottomy, Clane, Lacken View, Naas, Ballyroe and Castleroe.



## Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

### Kildare County Development Plan 2019-2029

The Draft Plan was published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March to 24 May. A total of 612 submissions were received from a variety of interest groups including statutory bodies, stakeholders and members of the public. The Planning Department are preparing the Chief Executive's report which will include a summary of all the issues raised along with a Chief Executive's response and recommendation against each of the issues. A copy of the report will be furnished to the elected members later

this summer with a Special Council meeting to discuss same to be held on a date to be confirmed.

### Local Area Plans

#### Kildare Town

Background work for the Kildare Town LAP is currently underway with various environmental and infrastructural assessments, including a Surface Water Study as a precursor to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

#### Maynooth

Background work for the Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP is currently underway with various assessments, including a Transport Strategy, being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

### Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
May	Year	No.	May	
2020: 104	552	1,440	Total Granted:	101
2021: 169	766	381	Further information requested:	50
2022: 162	667	433	Total Refused:	32



## 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	02/06/22 (late)
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	15/06/22 (late)
22/313276	15/05/22	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	219	02/08/22
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston LT.D.	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22

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. Further strategic housing development applications may still be received as a number complete the process.

The commencement notice also brought into effect mandatory timelines for the processing of compliance submissions received from 17 December 2021. The Planning

Authority has eight weeks to determine compliance submissions or they are deemed agreed by default.

### Conservation Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS)

15 grants awarded €126,400

- Harristown House, Brannockstown
- The Firs, Naas
- Thatch Cottage, Nurney
- St. Johns Church, Kill
- Naas Town Hall (clock)
- Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town
- Outbuilding at Taghadoe House
- Gothic Hall, Thomastown



- Glebe House, Leixlip
- Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Brigid, Kilcullen
- Confey Abbey, Dunboyne Road, Leixlip
- Thatched Cottage, Stickens
- Burtown House, Burtown
- Thatch House, Thomastown
- Presentation Convent, Kildare Town

### **Historic Structures Fund (HSF)**

Two grants awarded

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

### **Historic Towns Initiative**

The council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. A Part 8 application will be developed in collaboration with the Public Realm Team in the coming months. Site clearance including asbestos removal is near completion. Tender due to be issued shortly.

### **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.

### **Heritage**

#### **Local Biodiversity Action Plans**

Consultants have been appointed and meeting and sites visits will commence in June. Towns were requested to apply to be considered for the project. 11 towns/villages were selected. Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh with Local Property Tax funding.

#### **Biodiversity Training for Residents Associations**

Training will commence in June in each municipal district.



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### **Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme**

This will be launched in September 2022.

### **Geophysical Survey-Old Kilcullen**

Geophysical survey work has been completed and report is awaited. Presentations will be made to Old Kilcullen Development Group.

### **County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022**

Consultants have been appointed and survey will commence June 2022.

### **Gordon Bennett Videos**

It is proposed to develop a series of videos on the stories of the Gordon Bennett Race in co-operation with Carlow and Laois County Councils. Consultants has been appointed.

### **County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022**

Grants have been approved and currently are being paid out to groups.

### **Historic Towns Initiative**

Consent has been received from NMS for works to the yard. Final vegetation removal will be finished this week. Tender will issue for conservation works in June 2022.

### **Historic Monuments Advisory Committee**

Currently compiling works programme for 2022 with Conservation Officer.

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

The Department UNESCO Technical Team visited the Royal Sites during May. A decision regarding the final tentative list is expected in June 2022.



## Funding 2022

### Received

#### National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

<b>Project</b>	<b>Applied for</b>
Community Biodiversity Mentoring and training	20,000
Invasive species training and Hymalan Balsam Control pilot	17,000
Wetlands Story Map and book	7,500
County Biodiversity Kildare Profile	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,000</b>

#### Community Monuments Fund 2022

Stream 1: Essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.

Stream 2: Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed specification of works

Four Kildare Sites received funding (Three will be managed by Kildare County Council)

<b>Site</b>	<b>Stream</b>	<b>Applied for</b>
St Michaels Church, Athy	1	€83,570.00
Kildare Round Tower, Naas	1	€85,000.00
Moone Tower, Moone	2	€27,856.65
<b>Total</b>		<b>196, 427</b>
Donadea Castle Coillte		€85,000

#### Irish Walled Towns Network 2022

Funding was secured for three projects.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Applied for</b>
Castledermot Wall Conservation	15,000
Medieval garden- Kildare	4,000
Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan Naas Town Walls	13,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>€32,500</b>



### Heritage Plan Fund 2022

Funding has been received from the Heritage Council for four projects (€36,000).

Project	Funding received
Old Kilcullen Geophysical	10,000
Gordon Bennet Videos	5,000
Heritage Awareness 2022	11,000
Hedgerow Survey	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,000</b>

### Historic Towns Initiative

Project	Funding received
Naas Potato Market	168,000

### Public Realm

#### STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND PUBLIC REALM TEAM Updates in **BLUE**

Concept
<b>Athy</b> - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan and Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. Business Case being finalised for submission and approval.
<b>Naas</b> - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. NTA funded interim traffic management measures underway. Tender for consultant to work on Healthcheck and develop Town Renewal Masterplan with Public Realm team closed on 13.04.2022. 4 no. tender submissions received which are currently being assessed.
Part 8
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08.02.2022, on public display from 09.02.2022 – 09.03.2022. Public consultation closed 23.03.2022. 27 submissions received. Part 8 to be brought to June meeting of Kildare Newbridge MD for decision.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow



<p>businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021. Detailed design progressing well.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 5.10.2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 approved by Clane Maynooth MD at Feb meeting.</p>
<p><b>Tender Consultants and Design</b></p>
<p><b>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 27km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023. First 5km complete formally opened to the public by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.</p>
<p><b>Athy</b> – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan. Public consultation on Draft Masterplan launched from 29.03.2022 to 26.04.2022.</p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced. Shackleton branding formally unveiled by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.</p>
<p><b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p><b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27.09.2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.</p>
<p><b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey completed. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>



<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools. Additional consultation to be launched Q2 2022.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Q2 2022.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p><b>Tender Consultants</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of consultation is complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation. Work now commencing on Wayfinding, Interpretation and Branding Plan.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b> - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q2 2022 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p><b>Athy</b>- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
<p><b>Tender Works</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Q2 2022.</p>
<p><b>Design</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Masterplan formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation</p>



<p>into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street</b> - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p><b>Detailed Design</b></p>
<p><b>Kildare-Newbridge</b> – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08.06.2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre.</p>
<p><b>On Hold</b></p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. May be incorporated into Town Centre First Masterplan.</p>
<p><b>Construction</b></p>
<p><b>Naas</b> - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.</p>
<p><b>Naas</b> – MERITS – Works complete.</p>
<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>Athy</b> - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>
<p><b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b> – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.</p>
<p><b>Clane-Maynooth</b> – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since 04 December 2021</p>

## Water Services

### Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 3 2022 for

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



## **Small town and villages Growth programme**

### **Allenwood**

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

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

#### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics 27 June and 24 October, 2022**

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour.

The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 27 June 2022. Elected representatives are encouraged to send any items they would like discussed at the clinic and Irish Water would be happy to answer them. Please reply to [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) to confirm

attendance and to send any queries in advance.

The details of the clinic are as follows:

Date: Monday 27 June 2022

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Details:

Zoom Meeting ID: 2584296950

Meeting Password: 372137

Link:

<https://irishwater.zoom.us/my/eastandmidlandscomms?pwd=bGc0TmVqOG9UanhleWgybHYzV0IZUT09>

A Zoom account can be created at <https://zoom.us/> and it's recommended to use Google Chrome

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

Outside of the clinics, Irish Water have a number of ways in which elected representatives can get in contact with Irish Water, including the following:

- The Local Representative Support Desk can be contacted



at [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) or by phone at 1800 178 178. Staff are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to deal with queries from elected representatives about any topic related to Irish Water.

- Outside these hours, the 24/7 customer care line is available for urgent queries at 1800 278 278

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

## **Environment and Climate Action**

Role of Elected Members in the Making of the “National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy”

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided. Nearly all local authorities have discontinued the direct collection of

waste but they continue to provide a range of services either directly or through shared service arrangements such as waste management planning, enforcement, permitting, transfrontier shipment and the operation of civic amenity sites and bring centres. Local Authorities are required to make a waste plan either individually or collectively to provide a roadmap for management of waste arisings in accordance with European Union and National Policy.

The waste plan contains a range of policies and actions aimed at preventing waste, increasing reuse and recycling and ultimately reducing the amount waste directed to disposal.

Elected members have a key role in the making of the waste plan through their engagement with strategic policy committees on behalf of constituents. These engagements impact on the shape of the policies adopted.

While the making of the waste plan is an executive function the support of the elected members is important to the implementation of the policies contained in the plan.



In addition to policy shaping and making role, elected members have the power to make byelaws and have been instrumental in the making of consistent byelaws for the presentation of waste across the local authority sector.

The Regional Waste Management Offices will continue to engage with Local Authority Staff and elected members to ensure this waste plan is the best possible plan for the country.

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

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans.

The current plans are available on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

### **Waste Management – Awareness Campaign**

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial

premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre.

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



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

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

Dry Recyclables



## Food and Compostable Waste

### Residual Waste

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information is available from:

[mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie)

or

[kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Environment/Waste/](http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Environment/Waste/)

## Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to stabilise from previous years. In April 2021, 525 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2022, this has reduced to 409 tonnes, in line with previous years.

## Green Schools

Twenty-one schools were assessed for their Green Flag by the end of April, a welcome increase in activity from last year.



### **Water Framework Directive**

The public consultation period for the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022 to 2027 ended on 31 March 2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

### **Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024**

The EPA have set out a new scheme of National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) to cover the period 2022 to 2024, as follows:

- 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,
  - Noise directive,
  - Air/noise control, and
  - Ongoing air/noise enforcement

2021 end-of-year Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections report was signed off by the Director of Service and returned to the EPA. The council had a very busy and successful year in 2021 and a busier year is planned for 2022.

### **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.



For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)

### **Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards**

Naas has been awarded the top spot in the 2022 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League's cleanest towns.

Maynooth was ranked sixth out of 40 towns and cities countrywide. Naas has been making noticeable strides in IBAL as well the national tidy towns competition where it is now a multiple gold medal winner. Signage indicated 'Naas Heritage Trail' throughout the town; Reverse Vending Machines in operation the signage relating to Tidy Towns initiatives regarding historical sites and the local Greenway Cycle (in conjunction with local business) were some of the elements that were noted.

### **National Spring Clean**

Over 180 groups and individuals registered for litter clean-ups over the course of National Spring Clean. Groups were assisted in terms of litter pickers and bags (made available also through the Municipal Districts offices)

and also in having the waste collected. This year was the biggest spring clean recorded nationally and initial figures suggest this to be the case in Kildare.



### **New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge**

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

### **Catchment Flooding**

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

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence.



### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and Killeenmore commencing. Archaeology has been found in one landholding and is currently being investigated. It is unlikely that this will affect the programme of the works.



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 has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme and documentation to advance this is currently being drafted. The scheme will be assessed under the CEEQUAL sustainability scheme, giving an independent verification of the design and constructions sustainability performance.

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Mapping of the revised flood extents will be completed by the end of June. A presentation will be given to the Naas Municipal District, with public consultation on the revised mapping to follow. The combined hydrology and hydraulics report will be published once completed.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:



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

### **Kerdiffstown**

Capping works and installation of over liner progressing along with installation of drainage material for Pitch C. Preparatory works have been completed for the playground area and 95% of zone one is now topsoiled with grass seeding commencing in May 2022.



Mechanical and electrical installation to infrastructure compound continuing. Preparatory works have commenced in advance of directional drilling under the N7 which will provide a connection to Johnstown pumping station.



Pumping trial continuing which will determine the flare sizing requirements.

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

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

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. This will continue through the works. The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/>

### **Historic Landfill Programme**

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Section 22 Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. 100% funding is provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice on these sites. This must be carried out on each site and an



application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites.

The status of these are as follows:

#### **Carigeen, Clane**

CoA issued by EPA. Previous tender had to be withdrawn due to technical issues. Tender documents issued into the market in May. Expect works to begin onsite in Aug 2022.

#### **Digby Bridge, Sallins**

Application for CoA submitted to the EPA. A draft CoA received in November 2021 but challenged by Kildare County Council. Once granted, design for remediation works to commence.

#### **Pollardstown, The Curragh**

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works ongoing which will form the basis of the eventual Works Requirements.

#### **Knocknagarm, The Curragh**

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works ongoing which will form the basis of the eventual Works Requirements.

#### **Greenhills, Athy**

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

#### **Prusselstown, Athy**

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

#### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

Current plans as follows:

#### **Confey**

Environment department actively engaging with landowner in terms of procurement of suitable lands for a new cemetery close to existing cemetery which is approaching capacity.



### **Bodenstown**

Environment Department in co-operation with local group are investigating the feasibility of procuring suitable lands for a new cemetery close to existing cemetery which has reached capacity.

### **Allen**

Draft Part VIII drawings finalised and proposed to be issued to the municipal district elected members before end June for review prior to publishing.

### **Newbridge Cemetery Car Park**

Works ongoing by contractor on behalf of Kildare County Council Transportation Dept to widen the main road which will result in slight reduction in size of existing car park. Works due for completion by middle June. Plan to then advance with capital upgrade works to include for lighting, drainage, pedestrian crossing, barrier and resurfacing. Hopeful for works to begin by end of Quarter 3, 2022.

### **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 it is hoped to advance to tender within Quarter 3 with the expectation that works will commence onsite in Quarter 4, 2022.

### **Cemetery Maintenance Programme**

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

St. Conleth's Newbridge: Works are ongoing in terms of the resurfacing of roads and pathways within the cemetery in addition to drainage improvements. Works due to be completed by the end of week two in June.

Plans in place also to repaint the existing Calvary Monument. Hoping to have contractor engaged by the end of July.



Completion of old Colombarian Walls:  
Plans in place to complete partly built  
CW's in Rathangan and Crookstown.

Naas St. Corban's Plans in place for  
dishing the kerbing in various locations  
so as to improve accessibility.  
Additional plans to resurface some  
sections and stabilise areas beside  
existing roads and paths.

Castledermot: Tenders issued for  
footpath resurfacing works. Expect  
works to begin in early July.

Kildare Town St. Conleth's: Works  
recently completed on removal of old  
bunker and supply of additional bins.

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

Staplestown: Existing cemetery  
approaching capacity. Plans in place to  
get newly developed area to the rear  
ready for interments. Expect to appoint  
landscaping contractor in July.

Confey: Some seats removed and  
resited to more appropriate locations  
following local requests.

### **Risk Management**

All departmental risk registers have  
now been completed and a draft  
corporate risk register has been  
prepared.



The Climate Action Regional Office  
(CARO) works to support its constituent  
local authorities to drive climate action  
projects in their counties, with particular  
focus on implementing actions  
contained within climate adaptation  
strategies. For more information on the  
work of the CARO, see our website at  
[www.caro.ie](http://www.caro.ie)

### **Community Climate Action Programme**



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



The CAROs have been working with  
the Department of Environment,  
Climate and Communications and the  
LGMA to advance the framework for



local authorities on Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund – Building Low Carbon Communities. Under the Community Climate Action Programme, a total of €24 million is being provided to local authorities to partner with their communities, with activation of this funding expected imminently. CARO are working with Climate Action Officers to gather examples of potential project which could be funded under this strand when released.



### Capacity Building

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme commenced in January 2021 and the first phase of training courses delivered to the sector has seen circa 16,600 staff and elected members receive training. Attention is now turning to the second phase of training which will include focus on the development of local authority climate action plans. A review of the training programme was undertaken and the

process of implementing the review recommendations is underway.



### Elected Members/Senior Staff

This programme has now been delivered to all local authorities with a total of 1,216 senior staff and elected members having completed this training to date. Further training under this pillar is currently under design and development.



### Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, has now been delivered to local authorities across the four CARO regions. Circa 400 staff (members of the local authority CATs), have completed the programme. 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. 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. In 2021, this pillar delivered the Planning for Climate Change training and Flood Risk Management training to almost 600 staff across all local authorities. The rollout of training on Green Public Procurement and Implementation commenced in May 2022, delivered by Greenville Academy. Other training courses under this pillar are at various stages of design and progression towards delivery, including training aimed at/focusing on the Older Persons Council, Economic/Enterprise Opportunities and Roads Infrastructure.



### Outdoor Staff

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



ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 to 2023.



### Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the IPA and the LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and is scheduled to be rolled out across the CARO regions over the remainder of this year, with the next round in the ASBN CARO region on 15 June and 16 June, before opening to all local authorities on 04 October and 05 October and 08 November and 09 November.



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

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development

(Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted. The CAROs worked in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA under the guidance of a project advisory group to develop guidelines for local authorities in support of the development of their climate action plans.

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



December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans.

To support local authorities in the development of their Climate Action Plans, CARO have sought to establish three national frameworks of suitable 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. Work has also commenced on the development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening.



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

The CARO are working with local authorities in each of the four sub-regions to develop regional energy

bureaus or regional energy efficiency projects.

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

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building energy efficiency report for the three local authorities went to tender, with Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report has been received and identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating. This sub-region went for pre-tender consultation for tender of a regional bureau. Responses indicate that recruitment may impede a successful tender. Future steps are under consideration at present.

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the Three Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) to engage with CARO and the



SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being drafted at present by 3CEA. Tipperary County Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon County Council has entered an agreement to 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 the task of signing the region up to 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. Stage 1 of the Project was the completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Surveys were returned between

December and January. A draft early interventions document has been developed and is currently under review by the County and City Management Association (CCMA) working group. A seminar to present this document to local authority fleet managers, will take place in Castlebar on 16 June.



### GAA/CCMA Green Club Partnership:

The programme is starting to build back momentum after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The pilot phase has been extended to provide additional time for clubs to implement and pilot projects, as well as for Green Club Toolkits to be fully developed.



In 2021, the Green Club group applied to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)



for funding to help towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), using the Green Club as a vehicle to achieve this. At the end of 2021, the DECC announced they would provide €100k towards completion of the pilot phase and committed to further funding over the following two years for Phase 2 and 3 of the programme.

**New Sustainability Module – Local Authority Environmental Awareness Offices, CARO, Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and Professional Development Service for teachers (PDST):**

With Phase 1 of the Green Club Programme (GCP) underway, participants are focusing on five thematic areas under which to undertake projects – Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Travel and Transport.

Linked to this programme and drawing on the expertise of local authority Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) in the Mid-East Sub Region and CARO, transition year lessons, under climate and sustainability themes have been developed with the assistance of the PDST. These lessons will now be

rolled out under a new Sustainability Module which has been added to the GAA's Future Leaders - Transition Year (TY) Programme. The new Sustainability Module was officially launched on 17 May 2022 at a PDST / GAA event in Croke Park for TY teachers and will be followed with an information webinar at the end of the summer to promote the module.

**Kildare County Council Climate Action**



**Energy**

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

It is a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act that Kildare County Council prepares 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. Work is continuing on finalizing the data. Risk analysis has commenced to bring work on the plan as far as possible while awaiting the guidelines to be issued by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications.



### **Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee**

The Climate Action Office, while awaiting the guidelines from the Department, is progressing the likely needs of the challenge ahead to decarbonize by 51% by 2030. To this end the team is aligning collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects

established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee is being made aware of progress.

### **Climate Action Energy Management Team**

The team undertook an in-person orientation session on 19 May with Ciaran Hayes, retired Chief Executive of Sligo County Council. A requirement of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 is for each local authority to prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP) once guidance is provided. The session was in preparation for the development of CAP by discussing learnings taken from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, identifying collaborators and how to streamline processes internally. Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R) The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is changing during 2022 to capture more



energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel. The focus is now being placed on 2030 targets under The Climate Action Plan 2021 requiring 51% reduction in energy greenhouse gases emissions through 50% improvement in energy efficiency and space heating to be 50% renewable. The first returns have been given under the new requirements.

### **Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)**



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans

(EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA.

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

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

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a business formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The first meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 21 May with two further workshops planned over the summer months.

### **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 our fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging.

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

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

## **Climate Action Community Initiatives**

### **Items Awarded:**

#### **Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021**

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



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

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

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

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County Councils. Gnáthóga



Nádúrtha will be an ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath that brings the urgency of climate action to the forefront. The focus of this initiative is on Climate Action and place-based practice in these rich natural heritage sites across three counties, including Rathangan in Kildare.

### **Other Initiatives**

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

#### **‘The People’s Patches’**

The Climate Action Office supported the submission of ‘The People’s Patches’ led by Neighbourhood Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand Two. ‘The People’s Patches’ is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their

area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas.

#### **‘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.

#### **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.

### **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. Currently, the project is at its planning stage where the engagement and feedback events for farmers are being planned for May 2022. 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**

The Climate innovation Fund was piloted in 2021 with the support of LPT funding from Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. This year all five municipal districts have generously contributed €25,000 each toward the scheme. The fund will enable those with innovative climate action projects to advance their ideas and prototypes to the next stage while striving to reduce or capture Green House Gas Emissions through mitigation and adaptive measures. All projects must be scalable and be outwardly promoted to advance the knowledge base. The fund was launched on 29 April with a closing date of 29 May and applications are via the Consultation Portal see video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PHFtsOlfE>

### **Murals**

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



Presently an artist has been engaged to create a mural on two sides of the ICA building in Harbour Field, Maynooth. It is proposed that work will commence late June in cooperation with the local community.

### Forestry

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

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer has five potential sites chosen to be assessed provisionally.

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

### Communications and Mainstreaming

#### Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The first 2022 issue of the K-Climate eZine was released in February to the members and council staff, which

features updates from across the Climate Action and Energy Management Team. Discussions with the communications section are being scheduled to scope out the potential to broaden the reach of the eZine.

### 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.

 [SharePoint](#)



### Climate & Energy

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

We look forward to organizing our external webpage in the future.



## Just Transition

The municipal districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to develop and prepare a 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare'.

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



## Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced biogas could

be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI presented to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland.

## Research

### Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Cork City, Galway City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon, Fingal, Offaly, Tipperary and South Dublin Councils have confirmed their partnership together with Waterways Ireland.

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

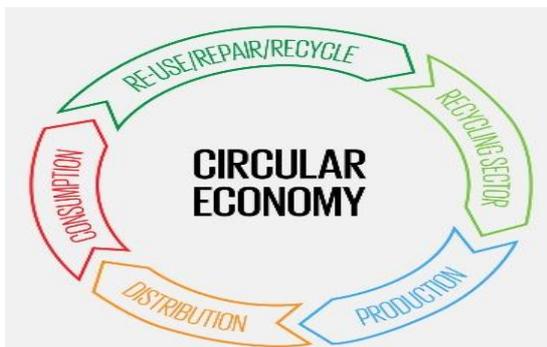


Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area.

Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The May post showcases the practical experiments using sheared wool and biodegradable clear plastic as potential weed control measures.



Screenshot of Community Stories Post 26 May 2022.



Gas Networks Ireland have invited the Climate Action Office to consider an application for potential grant funding to assist with the circular economy model

of maintenance given our results to date and the uniqueness of the project. Discussions will continue to be explored during 2022.

## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### Key Highlights:

#### Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

This SPC has completed several items on the Work Programme.

- Fish-Eye Policy and the use of 'Fish-Eye Mirrors on public roads.
- Rural Public Lighting Scheme. Examination of the issue of rural lighting in terms of installation and lifecycle costs and in the context of the current requirement on the council to reduce its energy costs in line with the EU Energy efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).
- Code of conduct for Greenways – the council has installed map boards on various locations generating



awareness of Code of Conduct for Greenways.

Kildare County Council's Parking Framework is currently being reviewed and is with the SPC for review.

### **Digital Strategy for Kildare**

The Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare is at report stage following a successful public consultation process and is being brought to council for adoption.

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

### **Athy Distributor Road**

BAM have generally completed mainline fencing and site clearance and are moving to earthworks. Project teams are in place. Progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing.

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

Approval to proceed received from Department of Transport (Salt Barn) and preferred bidder has now been notified.

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

Discussions are continuing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address a funding shortfall on the project.

### **Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road**

The 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 Compulsory Purchase Order shortly.

### Maynooth Transport Strategy

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage. Draft options for walking, cycling and parking are nearly complete and AECOM are working on the public transport options. The scenario testing in the traffic model has also started. Once the traffic modelling stage has been completed, a full suite of draft transport measures for the town will be available.

### Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Six bridge projects are being funded by the Department of Transport for 2022

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Road Number	Location		LA Allocation
R445	R445	Monasterevin Bridge, Monasterevin, Co.Kildare	€177,200
Kildare	L7049	Brooke Bridge, Monasterevin, Co.Kildare	€70,200
Kildare	L8102	Moone Village Bridge, Moone Co. Kildare	€73,500
Kildare	R407	Graiguetpottle Bridge	€68,500
Kildare	L60602	Corn Mill Bridge	€10,500
Kildare	L2004	Fleshtown Bridge	€55,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>€455,400</b>

### 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 Newbridge South Orbital Relief Road between the Athgarvan Road and the Liffey, through their Belin Woods development
3. Aston LT.D. have applied to An Bord Pleanala 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.

### **NTA funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update**



#### **Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)**

AECOM continuing with the detailed design of the Mill Street works. Construction is expected to commence in 2023.

#### **Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)**

Project retendered and due to start construction in 2022. Design work on

the upgrading of the Greenway is continuing.

#### **Naas to Kill Cycle Route**

Preliminary design ongoing and a Part 8 Process is due Q2, 2022.

#### **Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip**

Part 8 Public Consultation Process submissions received, and Chief Executive's Report being prepared.

#### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in 2022.

#### **Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures**

Construction of the interim scheme is continuing. Consultant appointed to complete the design of the permanent works.

#### **Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth**

Part 8 Public Consultation Process submissions received, and Chief Executive's Report being prepared.



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**Celbridge Road Cycle Route,  
Maynooth**

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

**Kilcock Road Cycle Route,  
Maynooth**

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

**Naas Permeability Routes**

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

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

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in Quarter 3, 2022.

**Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas**

Detailed design phase continuing with the scheme being tendered for construction in Quarter 3, 2022.

**Celbridge Pedestrian Bridge**

Part 8 Public Consultation Process started with deadline for submissions of 22 June 2022.

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

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

**Monread Road (Naas) Cycle  
Scheme**

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

**Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme**

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

**Vulnerable Road User Improvement  
Measures**

Construction continuing at locations across the county to upgrade signalised crossings.

**Cycle Parking**

Expression of Interest for Schools and Sports Clubs being progressed.



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### **Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme**

Design being progressed inhouse for scheme to be brought forward to Section 38 Consultation Process.

### **Monasterevin Cycle Network**

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in Quarter 3, 2022.

### **Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme**

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

### **Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle Scheme**

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

### **Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme**

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

### **Bond Bridge to Dunboyne Road Cycle Scheme**

Appointment process for consultants has been paused.

### **Supplementary Schemes**

It is acknowledged that the 2022 allocation of €13.67M won't be fully drawn down and the estimate at the end of May 2022 is that €6.85M of this will be drawn down. Supplementary schemes totaling approximately €5M, to infill the shortfall of expenditure, have been discussed with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and application forms for these have been prepared and sent to the NTA for approval.

### **Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review**

The Speed Limit Review will be presented to June Full Council Meeting for approval.

### **Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract 2022 to 2024**

Appointment of contractor completed.



**Traffic Related Communications and CCTV Maintenance Contract 2022-2024**

Appointment of contractor in progress.

Approval granted for Graduate Engineer(s) post to supplement extended work of municipal districts (site supervision and quality control).

**Roads Maintenance**

Surface Dressing season commenced on 30 May by direct labour works and expected to last for 8 to 9 weeks as is weather dependent.

Work on 58 sites and close to 4% of Local/Regional i.e., up to 100 km will be completed. This is a fulltime activity for all municipal districts with Health and Safety high risks and is afforded top priority by municipal district staff.

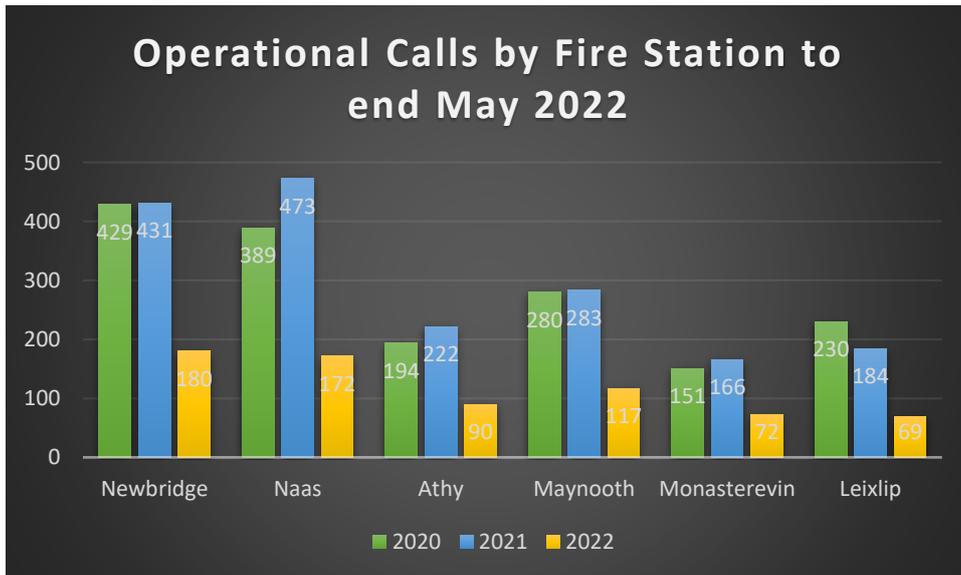
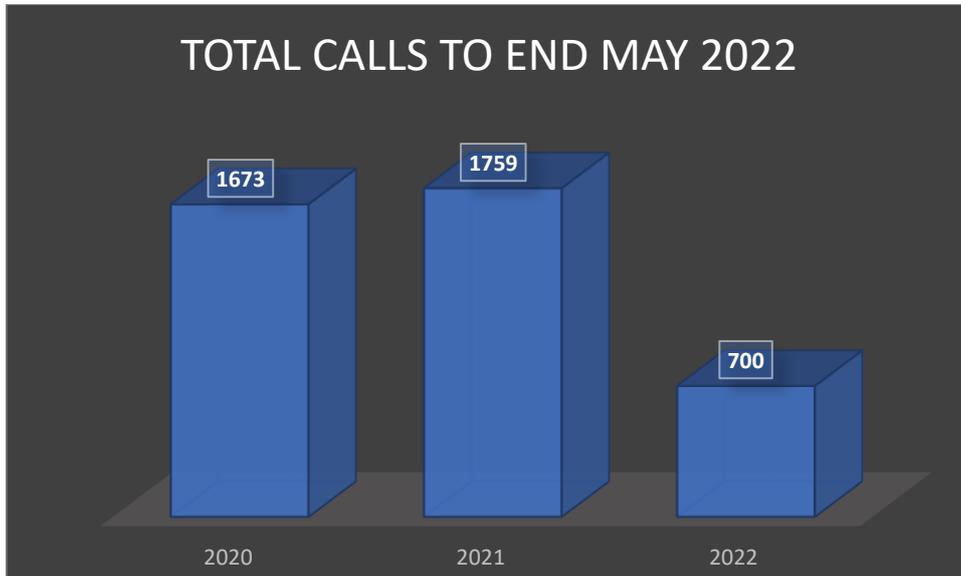
**Local Improvement Scheme**

Allocations to all counties has been circulated by Department of Rural and Community Development. Kildare County Council has made a submission to the value of €352M and a secondary list has also been prepared.

Interviews for the post of General Operative will commence shortly to fill vacancies in roads municipal district areas with the aim of maintaining existing numbers so that essential annual maintenance is completed.



**Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary**





**Fire Safety Certificates**

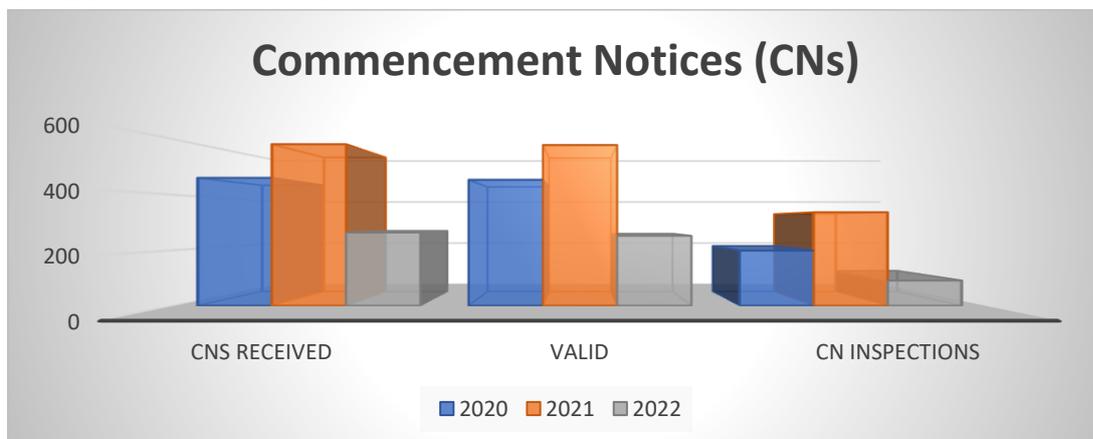
Applications received to the end of May 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

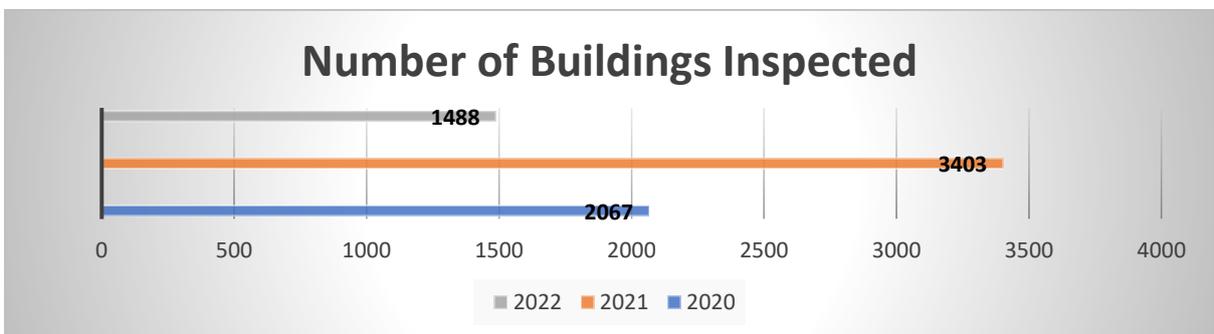
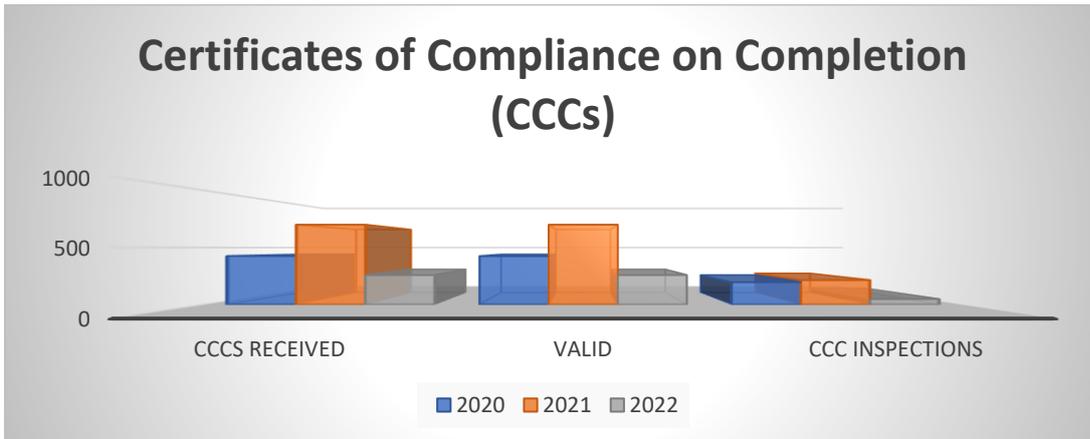


**Building and Development Control**

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

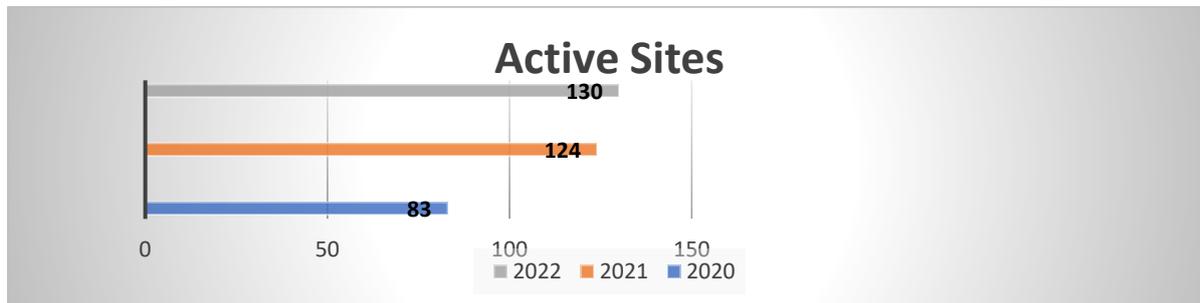
**BUILDING CONTROL**







## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Annual Meeting with Area Engineers and Outdoor Crews GSSs
- safeTALK Training- safeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone)- Two sessions completed – due to high demand a third course booked for the 06 September.
- Lead Worker Reps Meeting
- Staff App Project Team Meetings
- RAMS (Risk Assessment/Method Statement) review with Finance Team
- Preparation of file for forensic engineer for IPB re: investigation in gritter accident
- Update to Strategic Policy Committee
- Eight site inspections
- Review and update of nine national guidance documents

- Two pregnancy risk assessments and one VDU assessment completed
- Two accidents reported and investigated

### ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Leixlip, Athy, Newbridge, Naas Access Groups and CKAN
- Review of County Development Plan with CKAN – submission made.
- Walkability Audit of Maynooth with relevant stakeholders (Maynooth Access Group, Area Engineer and Councillors)
- Working with Sports Partnership re introduction of Wheelchair Tennis in Athy
- Working with Celbridge Access Group on “Have Your Voice Heard” initiative – getting views of community on access issues.



- Meeting with facilities to address queries from Changing Places re Changing Places Registration
- Meeting with 'Just A Minute' (JAM) Organisation regarding next steps regarding JAM card rollout
- At request of Local Government Management Agency agreed to participate in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Employee Monitoring Committee

## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

All Grants 2022		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	141	€243,955
Festival Grants	64	€68,425
Private Residents Associations Grants	276	€200,128 Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents Associations Grants	64	€58,433 Incl LPT
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	90	€561,959
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	0	€0
Education Bursaries		
<b>Total</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>€1,352,644</b>

### 2022 revenue grants schemes

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

### Local property tax grants

The community section has processed specific grant awards where possible and is rolling out Local Property Tax (LPT) mini schemes currently as resources allow.



### **Education bursaries**

Schools have been informed of the scheme. It is planned to formally open the scheme from the end of June to the end of August approximately.

### **Local Community**

#### **Development Committee**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held in person on 25 May 2022.

#### **Ukrainian Community Response Forum**

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met twice with another meeting scheduled. Kildare County Council launched a new online information portal for Ukrainian citizens arriving to Kildare. This portal provides a singular point of access to information on essential services at local and national level as well as useful links and contacts to help citizens navigate services available to them. Information on housing, transport, education, and health, amongst other services are available on the new portal to assist and support Ukrainian citizens to integrate into life here in county

Kildare. Maynooth University (MU) were supported to identify key agencies/groups to engage in meetings specific to the accommodation of Ukrainians in MU that they directly organised.

#### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

Work continues to roll out this programme with a number of HSE funded initiatives taking place in Athy. The Slaintecare Local Development Officer (Maria Healy) who commenced work in March continues to meet key personnel and is working closely with the HSE lead (Aine Buggy). Work is commencing on the Peoples Park Athy, which has received funding under Slaintecare Healthy Communities €250,000. A launch is being planned in October in line with national guidance.

#### **Healthy Ireland**

The Healthy Ireland (HI) Round Three programme has concluded with the final returns submitted to Pobal. A short presentation took place outlining that all programmes funded through HI were completed. This was very positive, especially as the programme ran during COVID-19. Over 5,500 people engaged



in HI funded projects through this funding in Kildare. A separate report is available.

The HI Coordinator post was advertised as a three-year Kildare County Council post. It is expected that this recruitment process will conclude shortly.

Details of the funding available and planning process for HI 4 are not yet available.

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: 086 8858508  
[healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie](mailto:healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie)  
[@Healthy\\_Kildare](https://www.instagram.com/Healthy_Kildare)

### Connected Hubs - Osprey Hotel

Osprey Hotel through the Prem Group have as part of the funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to develop their working hub space, made office and meeting space available to community/voluntary groups particularly with a focus on disadvantage. An expression of interest process has been developed. Five organisations are being contacted by the Prem Group following their expressions. This is an ongoing rolling

process which will be advertised on an ongoing basis.

### 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:

- a) Traveller/Roma
- b) Older People
- c) Mental Health (including Youth mental health)
- d) Long Term Unemployed e) New Communities (particularly direct provision) in addition to young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early. Work is progressing within local communities and with individuals through the SICAP team and progress is on track. The midterm review will be considered at the next LCDC meeting.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership  
[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450



## LEADER Programme

Six Projects were approved by the LCDC/Local Action Group on 25 May and 01 June for LEADER grant aid totaling €443,368.16.

County Kildare Youth Hub CLG (the Hive) were grant aided €18,231.56 to develop an overgrown outdoor area adjoining the Hive premises in Kildare Town into an attractive and usable garden area for use by young people from Kildare Town.

Cill Dara Stables Equine LT.D. were grant aided €103,215 to reinstate facilities at Cill Dara Stables which are currently in a state of disrepair in order to launch CDS Equine Livery and Horse-Riding venue.

Gurteenoonna Services LT.D. were grant aided €185,363.44 to enhance a small rural equine business that specialises in horse rehabilitation and care for injured horses who can no longer compete.

Joe and Ailish McFadden were grant aided €77,638.35 to develop a purpose-built single storey social farming and educational centre.

Two Mile House Community Centre CLG were grant aided €22,292.21 towards a feasibility study for the

proposed development of a community centre at Two Mile House village.

Cnoicin Park LT.D.. trading as Kildare Maze were grant aided €36,627.60 for new amenities in addition to repairs and replacement of items for the outdoor activity park.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

## Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

A series of national workshops on the LECP have taken place including a workshop on the Environment which took place on 25 May. The process for commencing the LECP in Kildare is delayed due to resourcing and competing priorities e.g. Ukrainian Crisis. This is also experienced in other LCDCs.

Synergies between the LECP and County Development Plan are very strong. The draft county development plan closed for submissions last week and the LCDC Coordinator attended the community consultations held.



These consultations and submissions will help prepare for the LECP.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 06 July 2022

## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

Following Paint the Town Red and the Punchestown Festival, planning began for the Kildare Derby Festival with meetings taking place between stakeholders to promote Kildare town as a place to visit pre and post racing.

It was announced that the K Club will host the Horizon Irish Open in 2023, 2025 and 2027 with the Challenge Tour taking place in alternate years. This will provide a welcome boost to tourism in County Kildare over the next five years.



Ms Áine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte) with Cllr Fintan Brett and Mr Niall Molloy (K Club Golf) at the press conference in the K Club

Ahead of Brigid 1500, key stakeholders attended a meeting at Solas Bhríde to examine the impact of increased visitor numbers to St Brigid's Well. The objective was to ensure that the site is maintained, protected and accessible for visitors. Key actions were defined and agreed by all in attendance.

The Kildare Rose selection took place at Barberstown Castle. As a key sponsor, Kildare Fáilte were involved in the interview process, and look forward to welcoming the International Roses to County Kildare in August.



Ms Ashleigh Byrne, Kildare Rose winner pictured with Mr Marty Morrissey at Barberstown Castle

Planning also commenced on a Taste of Kildare food festival for September. Kildare Fáilte and LEO Kildare met to discuss a collaboration to support food and drink producers around the County as part of the event.

Monthly calls took place with Fáilte Ireland and content was supplied for a Kildare Keep Discovering ad which will be placed in June. Tourism Ireland industry briefings were also attended. Meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses also took place as many properties seek support to develop their current offering for visitors.

Kildare Fáilte attended a call with other local authorities and tourism boards to support the animation of the National Famine Way as a complimentary product of the Royal Canal Greenway.

NATIONAL FAMINE Way™



To support the development of tourism in county Kildare, Kildare Fáilte continue to collaborate with Kildare Climate Action and Just Transition to identify interest from the Agri-sector to develop their business into Agri-tourism. The response from surveys carried out has been positive, with many engaging in the activity.

Work commenced on updating Tow Path Trails brochure and guide. The brochure will be updated to include the new Greenway and Blueway routes as well as updated maps and information.

Marketing communication in May included supporting National Bike



Week events, promoting walking and cycling routes, Biodiversity Week, summer activities for children and summer breaks. The Bealtine Festival in Naas was also supported through activity on Into Kildare social media and digital channels.

Suggested itineraries continued to be highlighted to encourage visitors to spend longer and explore more of the county.

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights – Library Service

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss

### Library Strategy 2023-2026

10 June 2022: Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., has launched a public consultation on the development of a new strategy for the public library service. Kildare County Council is encouraging the public to have their say on the future of libraries in Kildare

The consultation will run until 09 July 2022. The survey can be found at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/public-libraries-strategy-consultation> and hard copies are available in your local Kildare Library.

### Age Friendly Libraries

The library service is delighted to announce that a further two libraries have been awarded official Age Friendly status in Kildare – Naas and Leixlip Libraries.

Kildare Libraries also celebrated Age Friendly Day on 20 May, encouraging our older members of the community to call into their local library for a cup of tea and chat to see all that is on offer from their local library

### Reader Services: My Little Library Book Bag

The ‘My Little Library Book Bag’ initiative is a collaboration between the library and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the ‘First 5 Strategy’. Over 900 ‘My Little Library’ book bags have been collected by children starting junior infants in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. This initiative will be ongoing throughout the year and



Kildare Libraries have gained 532 new members as a result.

### **Summer Stars**

Summer Stars, the annual summer reading challenge for primary school children began on Monday, 13 June this year. There will be events in all our libraries throughout the summer.

### **Ukrainian Resources**

There is now a collection of Ukrainian children's books in all Kildare libraries as well as eBooks on Borrowbox.

The library service recently hosted an open day for residents of Liffey Lodge in Newbridge Library with some fun events for the children and a tour of library facilities for the adults. Many of the residents are now members of the library and we plan to run some summer events and English classes during the summer months.

### **Kildare Town Library**

This library offered an 'English Language for anyone beginning to speak English' free five-week course aimed at Ukrainian visitors but open to all. Classes given by retired teacher Gerard Herbert.

### **Bereavement Friendly Libraries Project**

Free online training was provided to Library Staff entitled 'What do I say?' which was very helpful. This was followed up by a well-attended public information session in Naas Library on 'Understanding Loss and Grief as we age'. This involved a talk by George Brogan, co-founder of Turas le Cheile, followed by an informal questions and answers where many attendees felt comfortable to share their personal stories. It is hoped to have another event on the topic of children experiencing bereavement in Leixlip Library in the Autumn.

### **Kildare Library**

The call for Kildare Town Windows Refurbishment was added to e-tenders in May: Tentative dates for works are late July or August.

### **Bealtaine Festival**

This festival was celebrated with The Sun in Willow with Beth Murphy. Patrons created a Sunshine Willow with Salix alba 'Chermesina' supporting our heritage and culture.



Also, furthering our collaborative work with Solas Bhríde, Kildare hosted Dawn Chorus Bealtaine Walk, led by author and broadcaster Richie Conroy.

An exhibition celebrating 'Grandmothers of the World' – a multi-media exhibition by local artist Mary Gibson, ran for the month.

### **Africa Day**

Kildare Libraries celebrated Africa Day with a range of events and book displays celebrating this amazing continent. Monasterevin Library hosted an exhibition on the archive of Nigerian writer and activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa in association with the Special Collections team in the library at Maynooth University.

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Naas Library and Cultural Centre**

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre has been affected by the impact of Covid closures, supply chain issues and the shortages of skilled workers that are being experienced by the construction industry nationally.

As a result, the contractor has issued a revised programme of works giving the end of January 2023 as the new date

for handover of the building. Allowing for snagging, time for IT installation and the stocking of shelves we expect the earliest the library will be open to the public will now be Spring 2023.

#### **County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre**

The Design Team, Libraries and Public Realm team are currently finalising documentation for the Part 8 application. It is hoped that the application will be ready for submission by end of July.

#### **New Clane Library**

The Design Team, Architects and Library Service are currently responding to the Kildare County Council inter-departmental technical submissions in preparation for Part 8 Planning process in the coming weeks. The Library Service has submitted the Stage two application to DRCD and await a response.

#### **Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives**

##### **Sixth Irish Military Seminar 2022**

The Irish Military Seminar took place from 07 June to 11 June. The event was



planned managed and promoted by LSGA staff, including the design and production of a brochure. The seminar included five successful events in Naas and Newbridge Libraries, Riverbank Arts Centre, and Newbridge Town Hall. Local and national historians, authors, and archaeologists, including the keynote speaker, Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter, delivered talks on a range of military history topics, including the Civil War.

### **Decade of Commemorations**

The planning, organisation and production of events and publications continues. The book, A Timeline of the Civil War in Co. Kildare, is currently being edited. It is planned to launch it during Heritage Week.

### **A Sense of Our Past History Project**

A pilot history competition for primary schools was run in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. There was a high standard of entries, with a great variety of topics. A prize giving event took place in Celbridge Library on 14 June.

### **The Graney Ambush**

A draft information board has been researched and designed in conjunction with Castledermot Local History Group. It will be unveiled in October.

### **Life Goes On exhibition, Newbridge,**

**Bord na Móna** headquarters Newbridge, 16 May to 29 May. The SULT Art Co-Operative and Newbridge Local History Group exhibition was supported by the Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme to mark the centenary of the withdrawal of the British Army from Newbridge in 1922. The exhibition was launched by librarian and historian James Durney, while Barry Andrews T.D. was a guest of honour. The exhibition has been selected to run in the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre for the month of November.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (Phase III)**

Kildare County Council supported a number of live performances across the county, through funding provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts,



Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme: The inaugural Arts and Mind Festival presented a series of live and in-person events in the surrounds of Maynooth University campus (05 May to 07 May). [View the 2022 programme.](#)

### **Festival in a Van**

This mobile live outdoor venue brought the magic of live performances to community settings around the county. The Festival in a Van travelled to locations in throughout Kildare on six dates from 05 May to 07 May and 19 May to 21 May.

### **Concert for Peace**

Nás na Rí Singers with orchestral ensemble, presented a Concert for Peace performing Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man', to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Naas-based choir (08 May).

### **Maynooth Film for All returns 'in person'**

Maynooth Film for All (MFFA) returned to the Iontas Building, Maynooth University for its first 'in person' screening in over two years (04 May).

MFFA is a partnership between Kildare Arts Service and the Department of Media Studies and English at Maynooth University.

### **Creative Places Athy training - Building your Creative Practice**

Creative Places Athy hosted online workshops Building your Creative Practice with music and arts mentor Rob McLeod. Aimed at artists/creatives, groups or communities living in/from Athy the four-part series of two-hour workshops included networking, planning projects, social media content and collaborative engagements. (24 May and 31 May and 07 June and 14 June 2022).

### **Ailish Claffey announced as the Kildare recipient of the 2022 Platform 31 Artist Development Scheme**

On 31 May a national announcement confirmed the 31 recipients of the Platform 31 Artists Development Scheme - one artist from each local authority area in Ireland. Platform 31 is designed to support artists to reflect on and develop their practice or make work in a new way, while being connected with and supported by peer



practitioners, advisors and mentors. Ailish Claffey was announced as the recipient of this award in county Kildare which is supported by the council through Kildare Arts Service.

## Parks

### News and Highlights

#### Allenwood Playground

The tender for the playground is closing 23 June.

#### The Peoples Park, Athy

Work has started on the path improvement works. This involves the widening of the existing paths and a new path to create a looped walk. Additionally seven new seating areas are being installed. The work on the paths is expected to be completed by the end of June. The new seating areas and picnic areas will be completed in July.

#### Tree Surgery Works

Works in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District have started and are due to be completed by the end of July.

## The Bawnogues, Playground

The temporary playground in the Bawnogues has been installed. It is now open for use.

## Outdoor Youth Facility Celbridge

Consultation for the outdoor youth facility has been completed with young people in Celbridge. 350 teenagers involving 19 workshops have been completed. Approximately 190 online questionnaires have also been completed. The data from the consultation is now being analysed to ascertain the requirements for an outdoor facility(s).

## Local Enterprise Office

<b>Funding Applications Awarded</b>		
<b>From 01 January – 10 June 2022</b>		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
<b>Web Development Grant</b>	51	€103,006.63
<b>Feasibility Study Grant</b>	6	€42,602
<b>Priming Grant</b>	5	€141,059
<b>Business Expansion Grant</b>	11	€221,915



<b>Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)</b>	6	€13,675.30
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### Grant Aided Businesses this month Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

1. PCP Limited was approved business expansion funding of €30,000 (15,000 per annum over two years) for Employment Support.

### Naas Municipal District

1. Future Vault Limited T/A QuickTips was approved feasibility studies funding of €8,950 for Technical Development.
2. Moon and Mellow Limited was approved feasibility studies funding of €1,515 for technical Development.
3. Sciplify Limited was approved for feasibility studies funding of €6,415 for Consultancy.
4. Wild Women Bitters Limited was approved for €7,500 to aid with Employment Support.

### Clane-Maynooth Municipal District

1. Centrepiece Rosettes received €1,580 in export support.

### Competitive Start Fund (CSF)

2. Two Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kildare start-ups have been successful in the [CSF](#) competition. Green Till (led by Gokul Gurijala) in Leixlip and The Vitamin Ones in Maynooth (co-founded by Catherine Banks and Dan Jones) each secured investment from Enterprise Ireland of €50,000 to accelerate their technical and commercial milestones.

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics are available.

Immediate business support:  
To access a business advisor or mentor, email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:



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

For Brexit and Export support, email [afrese@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afrese@kildarecoco.ie)

For all other queries email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie) or call 045980838.

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

### **Entrepreneurship Support Services**

#### **Spring 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, 993 clients availed of these training opportunities which can be booked here. Mentoring and Business Advice numbers stand at 193 clients. To utilise this service join below: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

#### **Kildare LEO Flavours of Kildare Food Network**

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food

and Drink Network to ensure that food and drink heritage in the County benefits from the attention it deserves.

Food and drink businesses are invited to apply to join the network <https://leokildare.submit.com//show/126>

The next meeting of the Flavours of Kildare will take place on Tuesday 21 June.

#### **Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster**

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster to ensure that Female Entrepreneurship supports are a key highlight in the County.

Women In Business Entrepreneurs are invited to apply to join the cluster <https://leokildare.submit.com//show/165>

#### **Kildare LEO Craft and Creative Cluster**

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



Craft and Creative businesses are invited to apply to join the network <https://leokildare.submit.com//show/164>

### Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. Online applications can be made here. <https://leo.submit.com/show/1>

### Economic Support Services

#### Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and will remain open for applications and has been extended until Friday 08 July 2022 at 5.00 p.m. Details of the scheme are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme/>

\*2022 Budget Allocation

Municipal District	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	10	€28,157
Athy	4	€8,000
Naas	4	€14,858
Clane/Maynooth	0	€0
Celbridge/Leixlip	4	€11,282

To date, 22 applications have been approved

### Retail Window Merchandising Grant

The launch of this scheme will financially assist and support independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. Funding under the scheme is available to existing businesses. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme will cover the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Spring/Summer period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (excluding VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure is available. The scheme opened on the 5th of May and closes on Friday 01 July. Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Retail%20Window%20Merchandising%20Grant/>

### Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

The Department of Rural and Community Development launched the Streetscape Enhancement Measure for



2022. This measure supports a project proposal up to €100,000 for one town or village (with population less than 15,000) per local authority. Kildare County Council sought expressions of interest from interested towns/villages that wish to improve the visual appearance of their urban streetscapes. Following an evaluation process, Athy has been nominated to the Department and the works to be completed will be included in one single Streetscape Enhancement project proposal for the town/village which will be subsequently submitted to the Department for approval. Eligible premises include commercial, residential or unoccupied buildings and the works allowed include activities such as painting (including murals), signage replacement, shopfront improvement, lighting, and canopies.

### **Kildare Economic Development Plan 2025**

The Kildare Economic Development Strategy 2025 has been published on the Kildare County Council website for easy user access. It has its own link and in it gives a brief description of what it's all about and attached is the PDF file for reading at detail.

[Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](#)

### **Kildare property Portal**

The Kildare property Portal is now ready and is due to be published from Map Me to the Kildare County Council Website. It is an interactive map for users to click into specific categories like Retail, Commercial, Office Space and Remote or Innovative Hubs around the county. From this it gives photos and a description of the property. It also has a link directly to the add on Daft.ie A link to submit.com is also there for any enquiries for Commercial Land/Property in Kildare

[Show \(submit.com\)](#)

### **Diaspora Project**

Kildare County Council are seeking to create linkages and networks that create and maintain relationships, share experiences, create opportunities and deliver on further investment and economic activity for our County. A draft of The Diaspora Strategy has been received and the economic development team are working with the consultant to finalise the strategy and will present it to the Economic



Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC in June for consideration and to full Council in September.

### Economic Development – Capital Projects

A multi hub application was made to the Connected Hubs funding scheme to carry out upgrade works on MERITS building, National Equine Innovation Centre and Athy Enterprise Centre. €181,00 was awarded to the three hubs and works will commence on the hubs

over the summer. Venture House and Kildare Chamber Ihub were also awarded funding under the scheme. The team are also making an application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for €50,000 to support the marketing and promotion of all of the hubs in the county.

Tender process closed on Tuesday 31 May and following an evaluation process it is expected that a consultant will be appointed in the coming weeks.

### Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

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

All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO [Website](#)

Objective	Support
<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<a href="#">MFI COVID-19 Business loan</a> – The first six months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.
<b>Grow online sales</b>	<a href="#">Trading Online</a> - Please encourage constituents to attend our next TOV seminar to learn more about this opportunity and how to make an application.



<b>Advisory:</b>	
<b>Expert Strategic Mentoring</b>	Free of charge 1:1 <a href="#">mentoring</a> programme with panel of specialist mentors
<b>Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines</b>	Free 1:1 <a href="#">mentoring with HR specialist</a> to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and brining staff back to work
<b>Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales</b>	Suite of <a href="#">digital marketing training</a> to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating
<b>Communications:</b>	
<b>Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications</b>	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.  <a href="#">Join our Newsletter.</a>
<b>Access to LEO team and specialists</b>	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry  <a href="mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie">localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie</a> 045980838

**Sonya Kavanagh**

**Interim Chief Executive**