



**Kildare County Council**

**Chief Executive’s Management Report – November 2022**





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## News Items

### **Get Konnected, Stay Connected! – Launch of Kildare County Council Staff App**

Kildare County Council has introduced a new mobile app for all employees (see page 07).

### **Publication of NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2021**

NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 has been published on the NOAC website (see page 07).

### **Register of Electors – Improvements to voter registration process launched**

For the main changes to the electoral registration process (see page 07).

### **Commencement of Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021**

At least 20% of any advertising placed by Kildare County Council in any year shall be in the Irish language and 5% of overall advertising in Irish Language media (see page 09).

### **Ukraine – Pledged Accommodation**

The recognition payment will increase to €800 from 01 December 2022 (see page 12).

### **Homeless Services – Winter Emergency Period**

The Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022 came into effect on 29 October 2022 (see page 12).

### **Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan were on display until 27 October 2022 during which time 266 submissions were received (see page 20).



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### **2022 Supervalu National Tidy Towns Awards**

The results of the 2022 competition were announced on 28 October by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys, TD (see page 30).

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023 (see page 32).

### **Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing**

The Newbridge 2nd Bridge will be provided as part of the much broader Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route (see page 47).

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

Construction of the scheme has commenced with Lakeland Civil Engineering the appointed contractor (see page 48).

### **LCDC – Ukrainian Community Response Forum**

Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme nationally with €100,585 secured for Kildare (see page 55).

### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

Minister Frank Feighan TD launched Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Athy Library on Friday 14 October (see page 56).

### **Kildare Fáilte**

The Kildare Fáilte Annual General Meeting which took place in the Museum of Style Icons at Newbridge Silverware on Tuesday 25 October (see page 58).

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

The library will be open to the public in late Spring/early Summer 2023 (see page 62).

### **Kildare Arts Service – Lambing wins Best International Drama Award**

Lambing, a short film, filmed in county Kildare, was awarded a Best International Drama Award at the Discover Film Festival, London (see page 63).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **2023 Budget Meetings**

Statutory Budget Meeting will be held on Monday 21 November 2022 at 3:00 p.m. (see page 11).

### **Ukraine – Pledged Accommodation**

There will be a National Call for pledges for vacant homes commencing on 24 November (see page 12).

### **Traveller Accommodation**

The next meeting of the LTACC is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 07 December (see page 14).

### **Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029**

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

### **GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme**

An official launch of the toolkits will take place in Croke Park on 03 December and Phase 2 will commence at the beginning of 2023 (see page 37).

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 30 November 2022 (see page 58).

### **Shop Local Support Local Campaign**

A five week Shop Local Support Local marketing campaign has been launched by Economic Development to actively support and promote local retail businesses on the run up to Christmas (see page 69).

### **Green for Micro Programme**

A campaign aimed at the Kildare Retail sector to avail of a 1:1 mentoring session in MERITS on 30 November that will help businesses understand and reduce energy costs (see page 70).



## December Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>28 Nov</p> <p>13:30 Development Contribution Scheme Briefing</p> <p>15:00 Full Council Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>09:00 KWETB</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 LCDC</p>	<p><b>1 Dec</b></p> <p>10:30 LTACC</p> <p>15:00 Strategic Development &amp; Planning SPC</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting</p>
<p>5</p> <p>09:30 Part 8 - Naas to Kill Cycle Scheme; Microsoft Teams Meet...</p> <p>15:30 Protocol Meeting</p> <p>19:00 County JPC Annual Public Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>14:00 Coiste Gaelige Expenditure; on Line</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Climate Action SPC</p> <p>14:30 Environmental Services &amp; Water SPC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>14:30 Housing SPC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>09:00 Special Meeting CDP; Council Chamber; [REDACTED]</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Athy MD Meeting</p> <p>14:00 CPG</p>	<p>13</p> <p>15:30 Naas MD Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting</p>
<p>19</p> <p>15:00 Full Council Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
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## Corporate Services

### Communications

#### Get Konnected, Stay Connected! – Launch of Kildare County Council Staff App



Kildare County Council has introduced a new mobile app for all employees. Whether you are working on site, from home or at your desk, you will have access to information about the council, useful resources, health and wellbeing information and more, all in one location, on your phone.



Konnected was launched at the recent Health and Safety Conference to great enthusiasm amongst staff. Features such as news, events and a designated staff corner as well as policies and procedures which are

easily accessible and updated in real time are already proving to be very popular.

### Publication of Performance Indicator Report 2021

NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2021 has been published on the NOAC website and can be found at the link below:

[https://noac.ie/noac\\_publications/report-50-noac-performance-indicator-report-2021/](https://noac.ie/noac_publications/report-50-noac-performance-indicator-report-2021/)

Kildare County Council published the press release below following publication:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/PressReleasesAdverts/NEWREPORTSHOWSIMPROVEDPERFORMANCEBYKILDARECOUNTYCOUNCIL.html>

### Register of Electors

Improvements to voter registration process launched

**THE EASY WAY  
TO SECURE YOUR SAY**

[checktheregister.ie](https://checktheregister.ie)

**Your voice matters and your vote is important**

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

Whether you're a long time voter, or a first time voter, visit [checktheregister.ie](https://checktheregister.ie)



Following the commencement of the [Electoral Reform Act 2022](#) on 13 October a national media campaign began on 07 November encouraging the public to visit [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to either register for the first time or, in the case of existing electors, to confirm or update their entry by adding their PPSN, date of birth and eircode.

The main changes to the electoral registration process include:

- A move from fixed periods for updating details to rolling updates: Previously people could only update their details in November or via the supplementary register, which required a visit to a Garda station. Under the changes announced, continuous or rolling registration will allow updates or additions at any time of year;
- Streamlining of the application process through use of PPSNs: The use of PPSNs will enable a simple identity data cross-check to protect and improve the integrity of the register, while streamlining the process for electors. This will mean that most people won't have

to visit a Garda station to have their forms witnessed;

- Registering to vote for the first time will now be possible online: PPSNs also enable online applications - for the first-time people can register to vote or update their details online at any time;
- 16 and 17 year olds will be able to pre-register to vote: The introduction of a pending electors list to enable those 16 and 17 to pre-register and be automatically added to the register from when they turn 18.
- New provisions to make the register more accessible to all: The new process includes measures to facilitate electors whose safety might be at risk if their details were to be published on the register and those who have no address.

[www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) has a helpful FAQ area:

[www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/faqs](http://www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/faqs)

The media campaign encourages people who are already registered and those not yet registered to visit the



Check the Register site. There are over 150,000 electors registered in Kildare and Kildare County Council has experienced the highest volume of applications online nationally in the first week of the launch.

Each online application must be reviewed and approved before being added to the register. Due to high volumes of applications please be aware that processing of applications may take up to four working days. Further local advertising, social media and community engagement is being planned for the coming months by Kildare County Council.

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

More information also available on the Elections and Voting pages of the Council website at [www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/ElectionsandVoting/](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/ElectionsandVoting/)

### **Commencement of Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021**

In accordance with the [above Act](#), which commenced on 10 October, at least 20% of any advertising placed by Kildare County Council in any year shall be in the Irish language, and at least 5% of any money expended on advertising in any year shall be used to place advertising in the Irish language through Irish language media.

These changes will have budgetary implications related to the placement and translation of a large number of additional adverts and social media content.

The council is engaging translation services from an Office of Government Procurement Framework to meet their requirements regarding print advertising in newspapers and online using social media. Public bodies shall be asked to file an electronic compliance return in relation to these new requirements no later than 10 March 2024 in respect of 2023 advertising and processes are being implemented to enable compliance.



## **Members Services**

### **Municipal District Committees**

Municipal District Committee meetings continued in October with each committee required to approve its Draft Budget Plan 2023. Discussions around LPT allocations and funding in the upcoming Draft Budget, were raised and considered by the members in adopting these Municipal District Budget Plans. Clane Maynooth and Naas Municipal Districts had to hold special meetings to discuss their Municipal district Budget Plan as their monthly meetings fell outside the prescribed time.

### **Full Council**

The Statutory Budget meeting takes place online on Monday 21 November at 3:00 p.m. with the monthly meeting of Full Council scheduled to take place online on Monday 28 November at 3:00 p.m.

An online budget briefing for the members was scheduled for Monday 14 November.

### **Members Expenses**

The members have been asked to prepare their claims for vouched expenses for 2022 and to submit

estimates for vouched expenses for 2023 by 15 November 2022.

### **Books of Condolence**

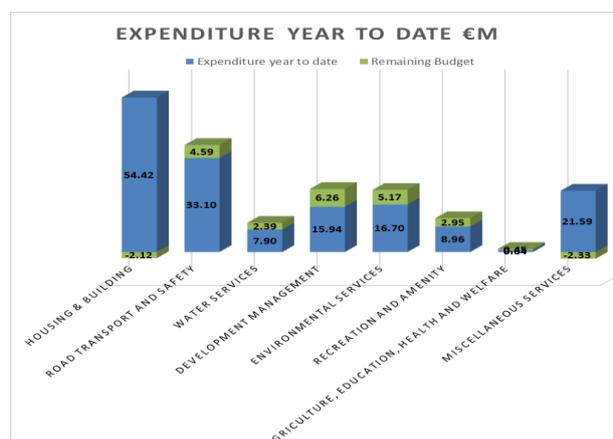
At the request of the Cathaoirleach a Book of Condolence was opened online and in Aras Chill Dara on 10 October, in memory of those who lost their lives in the explosion in Creeslough, Co. Donegal. May they rest in peace.

A Book of Condolence was opened on the 16 November at the request of the Cathaoirleach in memory of Vicky Phelan. May she rest in peace.



## Finance and Information Technology Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 Oct 2022								
Division	Expenditure				Income			Budget to be collected
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	
	€	€	%	€	€	€	%	€
Housing & Building	54,424	52,300	104%	- 2,124	52,000	44,828	116%	- 7,172
Road Transport and Safety	33,105	37,692	88%	4,587	15,253	19,290	79%	4,037
Water Services	7,896	10,281	77%	2,385	6,807	10,062	68%	3,275
Development Management	15,940	22,196	72%	6,256	7,822	7,758	101%	- 64
Environmental Services	16,700	21,869	76%	5,169	5,781	7,062	82%	1,281
Recreation and Amenity	8,961	11,916	75%	2,955	1,570	1,079	145%	- 491
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	636	1,081	59%	445	242	348	69%	106
Miscellaneous Services	21,594	19,267	112%	- 2,327	3,480	6,026	58%	2,546
Local Property Tax Allocation					15,241	18,289	83%	3,048
Rates					51,099	61,837	83%	10,738
	159,255	176,602	90%	17,347	159,295	176,599	90%	17,304



## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council Summary of Major Collections to 31 Oct 2022							
	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/10/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,399,289	1,817,458	1,893,138	69,474,016	51,505,125	17,968,891
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	13,663,360	35,740	-	14,858,545	13,520,523	1,338,022
Housing Loans	2,023,590	3,236,556	-	-	5,260,146	3,523,379	1,736,767

## 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 October 2022.

## 2021 Audit

The Local Government Auditor's 2021 Audit Report went to the November Audit Committee will go to the November Council meeting.

## 2023 Budget Meetings

Statutory Budget Meeting will be held on Monday 21 November 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting [www.motortax.ie](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.

## Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

The Finance Department continues to encourage rates and rents customers to avail of the customer portal and app.



This enables rates and rent customers to make payments and view their account information online via their smartphone, tablet or PC.

The link to this portal is on

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

## Housing

### Ukraine

#### Pledged Accommodation

There will be a National Call for pledges for vacant homes commencing on 24 November. The call will be managed centrally but pledgers will also be able to contact the council directly with a pledge. The recognition payment will increase to €800 from 01 December 2022.

It is expected that an accommodation refusal policy will be introduced allowing for one offer of accommodation and that people residing in commercial settings such as hotels and guest houses will be required to make a contribution. The members will be updated on these policies in a future report

Liffey Lodge upgrade works are due to be completed shortly, it will reopen as a reception centre for displaced persons from Ukraine and will be

managed by The Peter McVerry Trust. The centre will cater for 50 people.

### Homeless Services

#### Winter Emergency Period

The Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022 came into effect on 29 October 2022. This legislation covers a defined period of time known as the Winter Emergency Period (30 October 2022 to 31 March 2023), during this emergency period tenancies which were due to terminate, will have their termination deferred. Homeless presentations have remained static and this is thought to be as a result of this legislation. It is considered this will have a significant effect on reducing homeless presentations throughout the winter period with increased emphasis now being placed on preventative measures.

### Housing First

A meeting of the Mid-East Housing First group was held on 10 October with representatives from the National Housing First Office, the HSE (Social Inclusion and Mental Health), Meath, Wicklow and Kildare County Councils, in attendance. The successes of Housing First in the region were



discussed with 25 tenancies operational in Kildare alone and future targets for the region were considered. The extension of the existing contract by one year was agreed and the requirement for additional wrap around supports discussed.

The gap analysis being carried out by the Homeless Action Teams in the three counties was discussed and it was agreed that this will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Forum in December.

### **Homeless Outreach**

The Cold Weather Initiative in Kildare is now operational for the winter period with an additional 20 beds being made available for this purpose.

During October, street work was carried out in the following municipal district areas: Athy, Naas, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge. A clinic was held in Cuan Mhuire for individuals requiring support and six new engagements were made resulting from this work.

The rough sleeper count was also verified and remains at 11 in the county with offers of support being made in all cases.

A new transitional unit for three females is in operation in the Naas area and it is intended to extend this in

the future as an option for single adults who are having difficulties securing HAP tenancies as progressions from emergency accommodation placements.

### **Tenancy Support**

Homeless Prevention in the form of tenancy sustainment has increased significantly in recent months in the county with a full complement of staff now in place in this area.

The increase in cases has been made possible by the commencement of an additional staff member and is a welcome development in homeless prevention and tenancy supports in the county.

Cases being supported have increased to 87 and further supports will be provided in Family Hubs with the Homeless HAP Placefinder providing assistance with move-ons for these families and ensuring that all the necessary supports are in place.

### **HAP Tenancies**

A total of 258 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,062 active tenancies are now in place.

### **Housing Assessments**

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) process is now



nearing completion and the response from applicants was very good with every effort made by the team to ensure contact was made. The return of the Summary data will be made to the LGMA before the closing date of 29 November.

Social Housing Applications are being assessed within the statutory 12-week timeframe and emphasis will be placed on updates and applications for medical priority in the coming weeks.

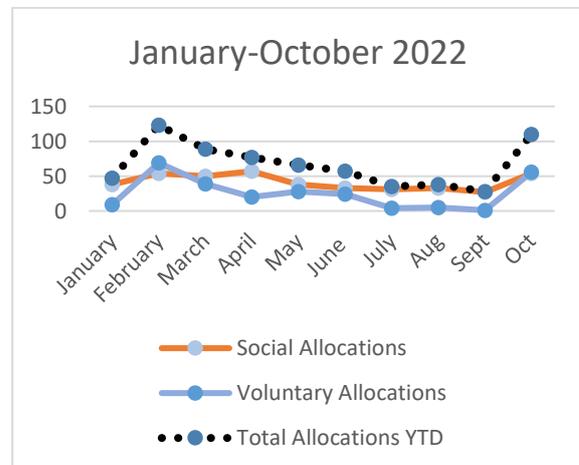
### Traveller Accommodation

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

The council is conducting the Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller families on Friday 25 November (Housing Circular 45/2022). The next meeting of the LTACC is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 07 December.

### Housing Allocations

To date, in 2022, there were 415 social and 255 AHB units allocated. This is an overall total of 670 units for this year, to date. During October, there were 54 social and 56 voluntary properties allocated. Pre-Tenancy group induction/training sessions have also been recommenced and the new tenants for phase 1 of Kildroch Court, Celbridge attended a morning seminar during October and met with staff from Housing, Finance, Community and the Fire Service. Allocations are underway for 30 3-bed units in Riverside, Kilcullen, these units are due for completion in November 2022.



### Loans

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has notified the council of an increase in lending rates, on the 10 December the interest rate increases from 3.35% to 3.45%, this increased rate applies to new loan draw downs.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Mountain View, Athgarvan Village	18 units	Standstill period complete. KCC verifying contractor's insurances with IPB, on confirmation, CE Order to be prepared for signing followed by Letter of Acceptance.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Pre contract meeting held with successful tenderer. KCC verifying contractor's insurances with IPB, on confirmation, CE Order to be prepared for signing followed by Letter of Acceptance.
<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.	Workshop meetings held with residents 12 October. Part 8 launched 04 November 2022
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning Application to be submitted to ABP Q 4, 2022
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team Tender being evaluated.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Part 8 approved by Naas MD Members 11 October. Tender documents being prepared.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Briefing provided to Clane-Maynooth MD members. Part 8 to launch November 2022.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations issued to DHLGH and approved to proceed to stage 2. Tender prepared for appointment of Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 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	Stage 1 redesigned proposals have been submitted to DHLGH with positive feedback. Briefing being prepared by KCC staff ahead of presentation to residents. Applications submitted to ESB for diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Single stage approval received August 2022 Part 8 to launch by the end of Quarter 4.



Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition. Comments on draft design brief issued by DHLGH returned on 29 August 2022. Final decision from DHLGH on inclusion in design competition pending.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Housing report being prepared following Part 8 consultation.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 launched 14 October. Submissions due by 24 November.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 approved at July Naas Municipal District meeting. Building Services consultant contract retendered with return date of 15 November 2022.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Part 8 considered at September meeting of Naas Municipal District. Civil/Structural consultant tender ongoing. Building Services consultant contract retendered with return date of 15 November 2022.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 agreed by Athy Municipal District on 16 May 2022. Disability Access Certificate approval received 10 August and Fire Safety Certificate approval received 26 August. Market engagement and preparation of tender documentation ongoing.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Appointment of design team expected in Quarter 4.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Adjacent KCC lands being master-planned as part of PPP development. Appointment of design team expected in Quarter 4.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 09 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 09 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.
Future PPP Bundles		Further call for sites for inclusion in future PPP social housing bundles issued 02 November.



### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Complete.
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Completion date extended due to requirement to re-route and re-lay services. Phase 1 to deliver by year end with remaining units to complete in March 2023.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid and now preparing preliminary design drawings.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee on 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 15 June 2022 to review revised proposals in line with KCC and DHLGH comments. Revised Stage 2 submission received 28 October being assessed by KCC.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Planning application lodged in August for this scheme. Pl. ref.: 22/985. Further Information request received October 2022. Response being prepared.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by KCC.

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	34	56	54
6 - 12 Months	8	13	4
12 - 18 Months	4	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	1	1
24 - 30 Months	2	2	0
36 Months +	4	5	5
	<b>53</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>67</b>



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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	7	10	15
6 - 12 Months	2	3	5
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	20
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	37
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	38
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>95</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	12	39	23	10	11
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	11	2	16	19	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)	€4,386,045 (from 2021 applications)



<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€1,915,500 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)
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### Local Authority Home Loan (Launched 2022)

2022	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Q1	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Q2	11	€2,235,929	0	0	0	0
Q3 YTD	11	€2,394,717	3	€611,550	0	0

### Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
<b>2021</b>	390	332	16	16	347	269
<b>2022- Q1</b>	59	72	3	5	83	144
<b>2022- Q2</b>	78	43	0	0	89	86
<b>2022- Q3*</b>	89	33	0	0	90	20
<b>2022- Q4</b>	19	34	2	2	35	45
As of 07/11/2022						

Q3 Figures amended compared to October CE Report

### Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

### National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme		No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>MEERP &amp; 2021 EERP</b>		175	Reconciliation of claims ongoing with the DHLGH.
<b>2022 EERP</b>	EERP	69	Contractor (Conneally Group) appointed for 26 units in Maganey, Ballyroe and Grangemellon and 27 Units in Lacken View, Naas. Works to Ballyroe commenced Oct 22. Lacken View Naas to commence November 2022



## **Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm**

### **Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:**

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan were on display until 27 October 2022 during which time 266 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's Report is currently being prepared for the consideration of the Elected Members.

The 09 December is reserved for the next Special Meeting of the Council to discuss the Chief Executives Report on the submissions relating to the Proposed Material Alterations in order to adopt the new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

A Group Leaders meeting was held on 10 November with the Executive in order to assist the members in preparing for the Full Council meeting.

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Kildare Town**

Preparation of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 is underway, with accompanying

environmental and infrastructural assessments being completed. A workshop with the Kildare Newbridge Elected Members took place on the 16 November in this regard.

#### **Maynooth**

Pre-draft public consultation for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030 closed on Friday the 11 November. An Issues Paper was published to stimulate debate and encourage public participation. A 'drop-in' event took place on the 12 October in the Glenroyal Hotel from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where council staff from Kildare and Meath County Councils were available to answer general queries.

#### **Leixlip**

The Elected Members of Kildare County Council resolved to extend the life of the Leixlip Local Area Plan by a further three years, to the 30 March 2026.



## Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
Oct	Year	No.	October	
2020: 175	1,306	4,202	Total Granted:	71
2021: 150	1,558	588	Further information requested:	44
2022: 110	1,299	897	Total Refused:	29

## Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	06/09/22 Grant
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	25/08/22 Grant
22/313276	15/05/22	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	219	13/10/22 Grant
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/313825	17/06/22	Kieran Curtin	Ballyoulster, Celbridge	344	06/10/22 (Overdue)
22/314337	11/08/22	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22
22/314564	07/09/22	Teresa Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	272	05/01/23

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

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



## Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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

Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/01	20/05/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	11/07/2022
2022/02	01/07/22	Westar	Finlay Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	23/08/2022
2022/03	27/07/22	William Neville	Main Street, Sallins	168	19/09/2022
2022/04	10/08/22	Debussy	Prosperous Road, Clane	190	03/10/2022
2022/05	20/09/22	MRP Oakland	Ruanbeg, Kildare Town	304	11/11/2022
2022/06	18/10/22	ESJ Blackparts	Blackparts, Athy	131	
2022/07	24/10/22	Makros Ltd	South Green Road, Kildare Town	164	
2022/08	27/10/22	Glenveigh Properties	Guinness Land, Leixlip	235	

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



## Heritage

### 1. Planning

Planning Applications to date: 292  
Forward Planning: Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare.  
Part 8: Heritage Officer inputs in service departments Part 8 detail.

### 2. Local Biodiversity Action Plans

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

### 3. Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations and LBAP towns will be launched in November (LPT Project).

### 4. Kildare Cathedral Walls

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

### 5. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Currently compiling works programme for 2022 with Conservation Officer.

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

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

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

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

### 8. Irish Walled Towns Fund (€15,000)

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



9. Heritage Plan Fund (€36,000)

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

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

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

11. Creative Ireland (€10,000)

- Holy Wells of Kildare, Photography- Completed. Drawdown commenced.

- Oral recording training- Competed. Drawdown commenced.

**Conservation**

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 / Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 138  
Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions.

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

BHIS scheme complete. Eight grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €72,328.00.

The grants which were utilized were:

- Harristown House, Brannockstown
- The Firs, Naas
- Thatch Cottage, Nurney
- Naas Town Hall (clock)
- Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town



- Gothic Hall, Thomastown
  - Glebe House, Leixlip
  - Thatch House, Thomastown
3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF): -  
Two grants awarded  
HSF scheme complete. Two grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €100,000.  
The grants which were utilized were:
- Abbeylands House, Clane
  - St. David's Castle, Naas.
4. Thatched Cottage Grant:  
€5,000 granted for rethatching of Rooskey Cottage, Ballyteague South. Works now complete.
5. Historic Towns Initiative:  
The Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. This was increased to a maximum value of €248,931, which requires 20% match funding. Works are due to be complete in coming weeks for use of the Naas Farmers Market on 26 November.
- A Part 8 application is currently being developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team for additional works.
6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme:  
The Heritage Council awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin under the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse, proposes to update the RPS and to include a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure. Alison Rea Architects was successful tenderer and the project commenced late July. The scheme is now complete and c.150 structures have been reviewed for the RPS.
7. Town Renewal Masterplan:  
Advisory role with Public Realm Team of TRM for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.
8. Part 8's:  
Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.  
Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn. Attendance at public consultation open day 13 November.



9. Infrastructure projects:

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

**Public Realm**

**Kildare Newbridge Municipal District**

**Newbridge Cultural Quarter – Phase 1 County Library and Archive**

Part 8 presented to Municipal District on 21 September 2022. Final details to Part 8 being resolved re agreement with neighbour and design details with Sustainable Transport team. Feasibility Study completed for the New Sustainability and Climate Action Centre – final edits being reviewed.

**St. Bridget's Well**

Works underway within the site by Parks Department.

**Kildare Square – Phase 1**

Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final Design details to be worked out having regard to access requirements for local businesses/residents. Meeting to take place with Cathedral reps. Meeting with Fáilte Ireland to update on project, date to be agreed.

**Kildare Square – Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet:**

Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. Kildare County Council Agent meeting with the owners of the two bungalows on 20 September 2022– deal expected to be possible.

**Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen**

TII will fund subject to different stages/gates in the process being followed. Detailed design underway including topographical and geo-technical surveys. Construction is expected to commence Quarter 2 2023

**Rathangan Market Square**

Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.

**Kilcullen Market Square**

Part 8 approved but no funding secured yet to advance.

**Curragh Plains Strategy**

Second Stage of the consultation closed 15 November 2022. This phase



of consultation looks for feedback on the proposed policies for the Conservation Management Plan, which were developed on foot of Phase 1, and for feedback on the draft Interpretation and Wayfinding Plan.

### **Athy Municipal District**

#### **Barrow Blueway**

32km of the 36km unbound surface complete; detailed design of the necessary upgrades of road crossings and upgrade to existing public lighting complete. Detailed design of pedestrian bridge progressing. Tender for road crossings and public lighting to be advertised end November 2022 with works to commence early 2023. Separate 'Way Finding Plan' and Marketing/Branding Plan underway.

#### **Emily Square**

Detailed Design Complete, tender documents in progress, tender to be advertised end November 2022. Works to commence Quarter 1 2023.

#### **Shackleton Museum**

Stage 1 of 2 stage tender process advertised on etenders, closing date 25 November.

### **Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District**

#### **Wonderful Barn**

Open day consultation took place on Sunday 13 November. Estimated over 500 people attended. Feedback from consultation currently being collated.

#### **Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans**

Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Meeting with design team and SPPR on 15 November to review feedback in preparation of final draft.



## Water Services

### Irish Water Councillor Clinics

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

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

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

Irish Water's Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Irish Water website at [www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates](http://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates)

### Irish Water Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy on Irish Water taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services.

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

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

## Environment and Climate Action

### Pre-Draft Notice of Preparation of the "National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy"

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the "National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy" to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans. The current plans are available on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

### Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding



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



### Recycling Banks

Efforts are continuing to find appropriate additional / replacement sites in the county.

### Water Framework Directive

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

### Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

- Waste Enforcement
  - Illegal waste activities,
  - Construction and Demolition Activity,
  - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,

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

### Environment Complaints

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

### Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Brought to you by the Department of Rural  
and Community Development

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

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



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

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

**Silver Medals:** Ballymore Eustace Tidy Towns, Celbridge Tidy Towns,

Newbridge Tidy Towns and Straffan Tidy Towns

**Bronze Medals:** Rathangan Tidy Towns and Clane Tidy Towns

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

### Community Clean-ups

Green Kilometre groups continue to be very active.

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

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

### GAA Green Clubs Initiative



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative and



waste is the category they are working on. Contact was established with the club and a number of dual bins were provided to increase recycling capacity around the grounds. The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.



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

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

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

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been

established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence.

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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



### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

Details of the scheme can be found at:

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

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

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

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

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

### **Historic Landfill Programme**

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. An Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice must be carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites.

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

Current plans are as follows:

#### **Columbarium Walls**

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

Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, and Athy. Preliminary designs are currently being drafted and tender documents are being drafted, it is hoped to advance to tender within Quarter 4.

### **Cemetery Maintenance Programme**

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

### **Risk Management**

**Corporate Risk Register now complete, formally approved and presented to Audit Committee. Individual Departments are coming before Audit Committee on a rota basis, to present and discuss**



respective Departmental Risk Registers.



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



### Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This programme is currently being revised and updated and will be made available to new members of CATs in an in-person training environment during October and November 2022. A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs has been launched including themes of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation and Energy, Community Climate Action, Creative Climate Action, Climate Action through Heritage and Biodiversity, Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonizing Zones.



### Online Training

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



### Thematic Training

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



Opportunities and Roads  
Infrastructure.



### Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with trainers working on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group to ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 and 2023.



### Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the IPA and LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and rolled out across the CARO regions over the year, before opening to all local authorities in October / November



### Local Authority Climate Action Plans

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

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

To support local authorities, CARO have established three national frameworks of consultants for county wide BEIs (Baseline Emission Inventories), Climate Change Risk Assessments as well as BEIs for DZs and planning and implementation activities linked to Climate Action Plans or commitments under the Local Authority Climate Action Charter.

The development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and



Appropriate Assessment screening is also being finalised.

Training to support local authorities on the development of their LA CAPs commenced with two online information webinars on Tuesday 25 October (targeting Chief Executives, Directors of Services and Senior Staff) and Wednesday 26 October (targeting climate action leads and members of climate action teams in local authorities). These webinars were a precursor to in-person roadshows scheduled for the 22 November 2022 (Mullingar Park Hotel) and the 29 November 2022 (Anner Hotel, Thurles).



### **Local Authority Progress Reporting – Climate Adaptation Strategies:**

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



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

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

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

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

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The



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

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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. The sector has one of the largest fleets with approx. 6,500 vehicles. Stage 1 saw completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. An early interventions document has been developed and provides immediate actions local authorities can undertake. A remote seminar was held on the 13 October launching this document and covered

areas local authorities should look to in improving the decarbonising of their fleet,

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



### Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action

In light of the evolving policy context of climate action and increased ambition for the local government sector, the CCMA CATN committee endorsed convening of a KPI working group to achieve specific objectives. This working group, chaired by Paul Kennedy of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown Council, will work with a number of local authorities across the country, with the intention to have KPIs decided



upon and tested to align with the implementation stage of LACAPs.



## GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

### Programme:

Phase 1 of the Green Club Programme is now complete with toolkits almost finalised. An official launch of the toolkits will take place in Croke Park on 03 December and Phase 2 will commence at the beginning of 2023, with applications for an additional 70 clubs anticipated.

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

## Kildare County Council Climate Action



### Energy

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

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021. Together with the requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act Kildare County Council is preparing a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). RPS Group,



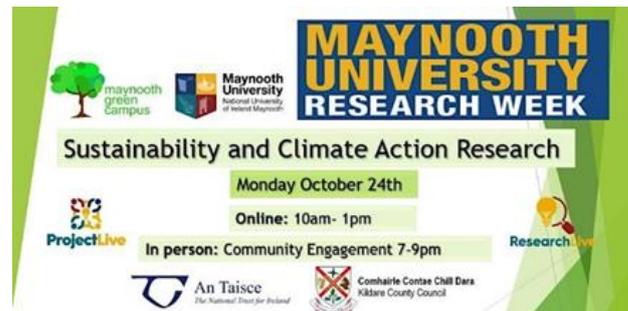
contracted consultants, have delivered an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline and risk analysis has commenced. RPS are costing the Decarbonising Zone as allowed for under their bid for the consultation CAP works and it is hoped all elements can be progressed under the one consultant.



### **Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee**

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021. The Climate Action Office and An Taisce successfully delivered information on the DZ and Low Carbon Community strategies to Academia and research faculties in the morning and the wider community in the evening. The session were hosted by the Green Forum within Maynooth

University. An Taisce are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan also in Maynooth and it is advantageous to streamline public awareness and consultation where possibly to foster continued good will.



The Climate action Office continues to align collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee is being made aware of progress and will be updated during December's meeting. The DZ actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint LAP.



## Climate Action Energy Management Team

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

## Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC’s)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC’s in county Kildare Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) process has been

developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA to streamline the administration for all parties involved.

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

The SEC’s of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a social enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The third meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 15 October. To assist the local communities further three information and Expression of Interest sessions were undertaken on Thursday 20 October in Monasterevin, Kilcullen and Maynooth. The initial expressions of interest received will be refined during the next stage to enable a community application to be made to SEAI to access grant funding to undertake energy upgrades in a number of



properties across the county under the Better Energy program.

### Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle (EV) Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for Local Authorities as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in the fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging. As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater awareness of EV's it will also be key to facilitate specific EV driving training for all drivers of fleet vehicles to ensure potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a

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

### Climate Action Community Initiatives

#### Items Awarded:

#### Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

The Climate Action Office in conjunction with Age Friendly, Roads and the Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association successfully applied for funding for Ballymore Eustace Disability, Age and Climate Friendly River Walk. Carmel Cashin is working with all concerned to undertake the funded works. Phase 1 is now complete and has made the river walk accessible for all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.



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

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

**Other Initiatives**

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

**'The People's Patches'**

The Climate Action Office supported the submission of 'The People's Patches' led by Neighborhood Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County

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

**'Stitching the Community Together'**

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries submitted the project 'Stitching the Community Together' under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective. Currently, the schools have been paired together with the nursing homes and have commenced their knitting projects. A second stage is being advanced with creatives to bring a Virtual Reality (VR) element to the project with an



exhibition at the end of the project to be potentially displayed from early 2023.

### **Gas Innovation Fund**

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

### **Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award**

The Climate Action Office supported a local artist and community organisation with a successful application to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project called 'We Hold the Power' involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community

groups and the artist Marta Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect the imagery of the community centre's history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station. The project will commence in the Autumn and the Climate Action Office will support its delivery where needed.

### **Agri-Tourism Project**

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

### **Climate Innovation Fund – First Round**

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



### Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

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

### The Climate Hub

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

### Climate Response Ireland

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

The Climate Innovation Fund is reissuing a second call for projects for Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas and Clane-Maynooth. See below for details.



### Climate Innovation Fund – Second Round

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

Despite many potential projects being developed none met the criteria set. The fund is still at embedding stage and will be further examined with a view of developing the research and developed potential with other stakeholders.



## Forestry

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

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. The templates for tendering have been finalised and are available to utilize.

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

## Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The K-Climate eZine is quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and happenings from within the council and other resources to support engagement and learning on climate action. The ezine is currently on its third issue in 2022 and is circulated to all council staff, councilors as well as

being made available to the public via the Climate Action Office’s [website](#).

## Intranet Portal

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

 [SharePoint](#)



## Climate & Energy

### Just Transition

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

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



### **Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery**

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced biogas could be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI presented to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland. The mechanical section in conjunction with the development of the new depot at New Hall is looking at the potential of a fueling point to incorporate biogas into the fleet.

### **Research**

#### **Alternatives to Herbicides Project**

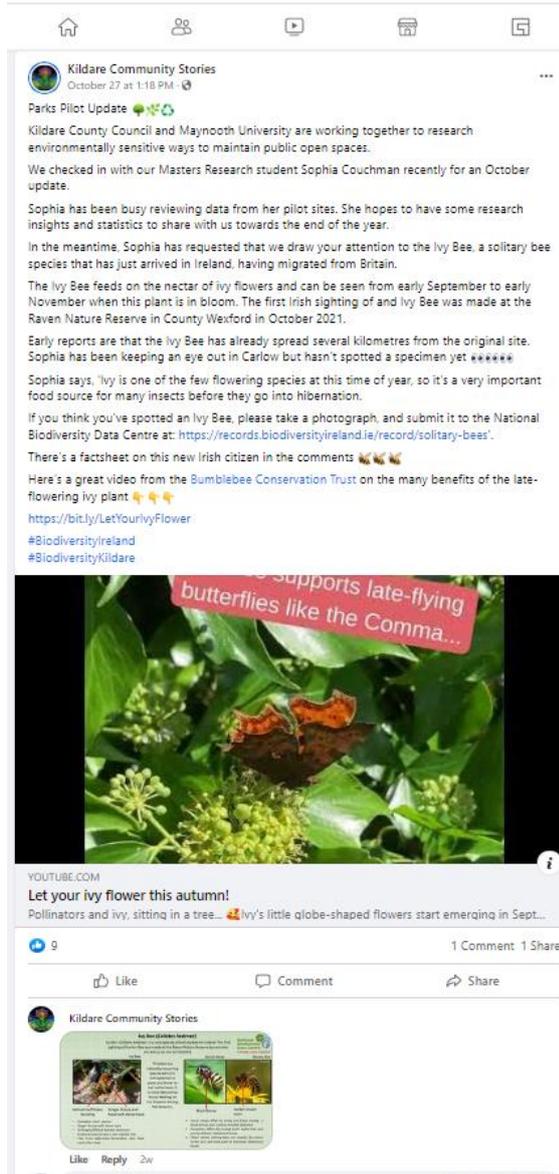
The Parks/Climate Action Office's project including scientific research together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to

produce a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces.

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

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates. The October post focuses on the arrival of ivy bee to Ireland and the importance of ivy blossom at this time of year to prepare insects for hibernation.



## Sustainable Development Goal Week – 20 to 26 September

Ireland's first SDG week was from 20 to 26 September as part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW). To acknowledge the versatility and broad nature of the SDG's, the Climate Action Office has notified the Communications Team and the members of the Climate Action and Energy Team about the week to

enable the SDG's to be embedded into the existing events and programmes in place. Libraries are being very proactive and have discussed potential opportunities with the Climate Action Office and are finalising a programme at local level. Given work is already taking place that aligns with the SDG's some sections will be highlighting the SDG's of significance for example the LEO may consider the Green for Micro programme, the PPN's Climate weekend programme and others.

## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety SPC

A summary report was presented to Full Council at the October meeting.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme is moving through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design



and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

### **Athy Distributor Road**

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

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

Contract has been awarded and has now commenced.

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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

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

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation number 2, presenting the emerging preferred route option is underway.

### **Newhall Junction Improvement**

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

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy**

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage.

### **Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing**

The Newbridge 2nd Bridge will be provided as part of the much broader Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route.

1. The council is actively working with the owners of the private road between the Newbridge - Naas Road (Lidl Roundabout) and the Great Connell Roundabout with a view to having the road opened and taken in charge. It is expected that this process will be largely complete by the second half of 2022.
2. Glenveagh Homes are currently constructing part of the NSORR between the Athgarvan Road and the Liffey, through their Belin Woods development
3. Aston Ltd have applied to An Bord 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.

### **Sustainable Transport Section**



### **Projects Update**

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

Construction Drawings and Documents for the Mill Street works are due to be completed in 2022.

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

Construction of the scheme has commenced with Lakeland Civil Engineering the appointed contractor. A construction period of 18 months is

programmed for the works. An upgrade to the works including a link to the Fingal County boundary is being designed at present.

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

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

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

Detailed design continuing.

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

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 1 2023.

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

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

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

Detailed design continuing.

#### **Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth**

Part 8 Process to commence in Quarter 1 2023.



**Kilcock Road Cycle Route,  
Maynooth**

Part 8 Process to commence in  
Quarter 1 2023.

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

Detailed design commenced.

**Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas**

Appointment of a contractor is being  
progressed.

**Celbridge Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge**

Detailed design commenced.

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

Preliminary design continuing.

**Monread Road (Naas) Cycle  
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme**

Design stage continuing.

**Vulnerable Road User Improvement  
Measures**

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

**Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs**

Pilot schemes selected for installation  
in Quarter 4 2022/Quarter 1 2023.  
Funding sought for extension of the  
scheme.

**Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle  
Scheme**

Review being undertaken of Section  
38 submissions.

**Monasterevin Cycle Network**

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

**Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle  
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle  
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

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

Preliminary design continuing.

**Cycle Safety Infrastructure at  
Signalised Junctions**

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



Centre to improve the detection of cyclists.

### **Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District – Minor Footpath Schemes**

Construction continuing.

### **Leixlip Permeability Schemes**

Construction continuing.

### **Other - Safe Routes to School Infrastructure**

Construction completed.

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

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

### **Roads Maintenance**

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

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

### **Local Improvement Scheme**

2022 works are being completed.

Department of Transport invitation for submission for Low Cost Safety schemes 2023: schemes to the value of €380k to be submitted.

### **Winter Maintenance**

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

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



### Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary



### Fire Safety Certificates

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

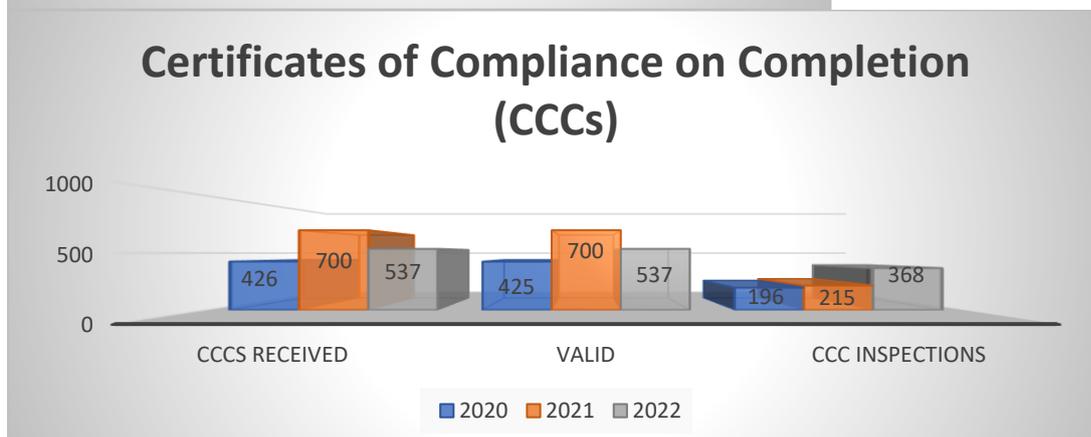
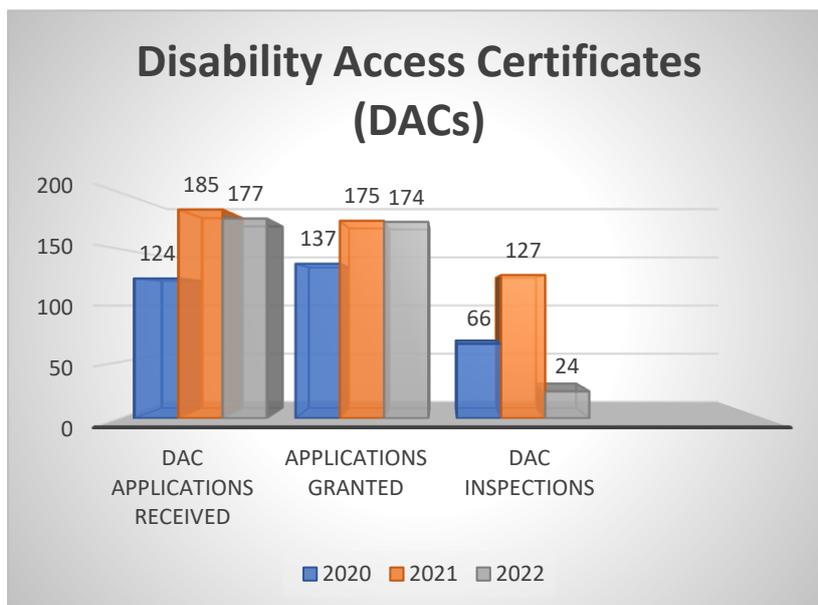
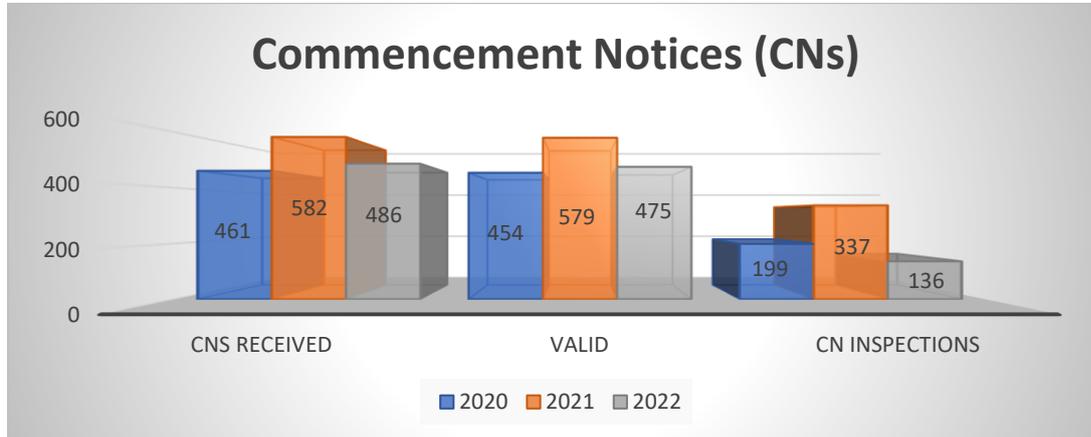


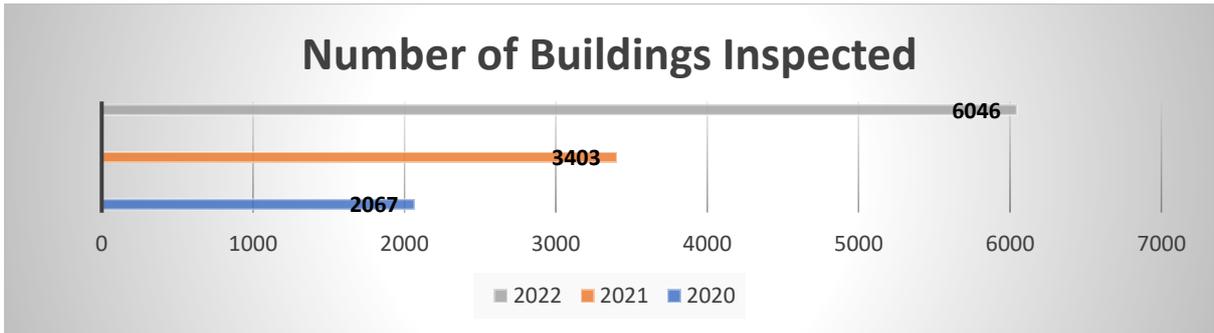


## Building and Development Control

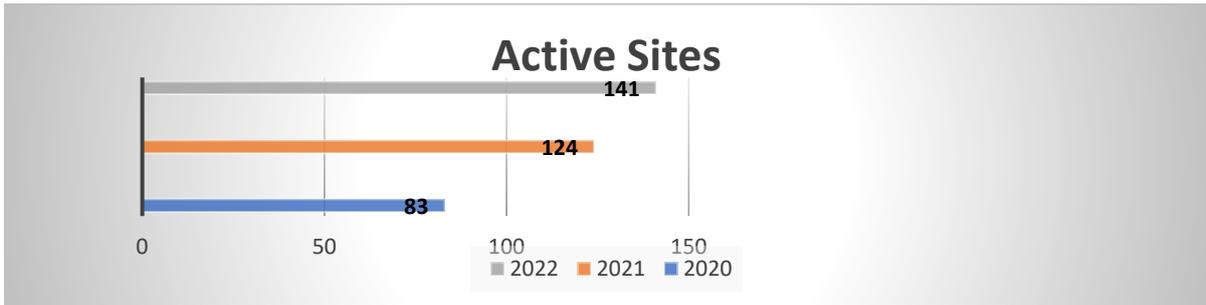
The following figures are cumulative up to end of October 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

### BUILDING CONTROL





## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Annual Health and Safety

Conference was held on the 26 October

- Theme: How do you look after your mental health?
- 200 in person attendees
- 110 attendees online



- Reviewed six National Guidance Documents and placed on portal
- Review of Risk Assessments / Method Statements for:

- Housing Inspection/Survey
- Graveyards

- Eight site inspections
- One VDU assessment
- Meetings – Staff APP, MEMC Meeting, Safety Committee Meeting, Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting, Roads Meeting, Municipal District Area Engineers Meeting
- Meeting with Department and Libraries re Health and Safety issues at proposed new library Clane.
- First Aid Refresher Training
- Flu vaccinations online booking system opened for three locations:



- Naas 07, 09 and 10 November
- Athy 08 November
- Maynooth 09 November
- 283 bookings to date

- CKAN Workshop to prepare for Kildare Disability Week which encompasses International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 03 December.
- NCBI Webinar – Change This Space – Use of Sound for Wayfinding
- Steering group meeting of Connecting Locally project – with KARE and UCD
  - <https://youtu.be/IOxp4mZJhHs>
  - [https://youtu.be/4\\_AEQgzexJI](https://youtu.be/4_AEQgzexJI)

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Leixlip, Naas Access Groups and CKAN
- Workshop with Into Kildare on promoting Kildare as an Accessible tourist destination.
- Workshop with CKAN on the development of a video to explain who the group are and works completed to date
- Meeting with NCBI re accessibility concerns in Kildare and Athy for two service users

Meeting with Access Earth re Access Earth Verified feedback system includes the deployment of multiple QR codes throughout a site location at key visitor touch points.



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

All Grants 2022		
Type	No.	Amount
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>€286,047</b>
<b>Festival Grants</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>€77,287</b>
<b>Private Residents Associations Grants</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>€200,128</b>
<b>Local Authority Residents Associations Grants</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>€58,433</b>
<b>Community Activities Fund</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>€219,744</b>
<b>Community Activities Rd 2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>€76,282</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Specific Grants</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>€644,988</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Mini Schemes</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>€179,395</b>
<b>Education Bursaries</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>€35,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>€1,777,304</b>

Incl LPT  
Incl LPT

### 2022 Revenue Grants Schemes

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

### Local Property Tax Grants

Community section has processed specific grant awards where possible and all larger LPT mini schemes have been completed. Some smaller LPT schemes are being finalized (e.g. Christmas lights).

### Education Bursaries

45 applications were approved for awards and have been paid.

### Local Community

#### Development Committee

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

#### Ukrainian Community Response Forum

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



working to respond to issues and co-ordinate responses across the county.

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

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

### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

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

Minister Frank Feighan TD launched Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Athy Library on Friday 14 October.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph. 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Healthy Ireland**

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county in 2022. The submission date for an application for HI Round 4 2023-2025 has been extended out to January 2023 and the budget has been increased from €40,000 to €75,000 for 2023.

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

### **Connected Hubs - Osprey Hotel**

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

### **SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme**

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in



Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The work is on target to reach its' goals and allocate its funding for 2022.

A draft of the SICAP Annual Plan for 2023 was submitted by CKLP in November for review by the LCDC. The Department have announced an increase for 2023 of 3% of the 2022 budget bringing it up to €1,294,500. Additional funding has also been confirmed to respond to the Ukrainian crisis but local allocations have not yet been announced.

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

### **LEADER Programme**

The Government announced the details of the new LEADER Programme for 2023-2027 in late October with an indicative budget of €5.4 million for Kildare from 2023-2027. This represents a small increase of 3% on the allocation 2014-2024.

The project budget for the current programme for Kildare is almost fully allocated.

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

### **Empowering Communities Programme Athy**

Athy has been selected by DRCD as a target area for a trial of a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. It is proposed that a Community Development Engagement Worker will be employed by County Kildare LEADER Partnership who will have a facilitation role in bringing local stakeholders together to identify areas of overlap or gaps in services. An information session on the 06 October was attended by LCDC support staff.

### **Local Economic and Community Plan**

Development of the next LECP commenced in October 2022 with the period up until Christmas being the preparation phase. This preparation phase will also consider the membership and process to establish the LECP Advisory Steering Group.



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

## Kildare Fáilte

Ahead of the school mid-term, the marketing message and focus for the tourism and hospitality industry was autumn breaks, activities and Halloween events. The target audience was primarily families maximizing the school holidays as well as uncoupled visitors seeking short breaks and day trips.



Annual General Meeting, Mr David Mongey, Chairman Kildare Fáilte, Mr Paul Carty, Chairman Fáilte Ireland, An Cathaoirleach Councillor Fintan Brett, Mr William Doyle, Chief Executive Newbridge Silverware, Ms Aine Mangan, CEO Kildare Fáilte

The key highlight for October was the Kildare Fáilte Annual General Meeting which took place in the Museum of Style Icons at Newbridge Silverware on Tuesday 25 October. Over 50 tourism and hospitality businesses

attended the events. In attendance also was Mr Derek Dolan, Manager Ireland's Ancient East.

The meeting began with a welcome from Mr William Doyle, Chief Executive Newbridge Silverware who appreciated the opportunity to showcase the venue as a new location for meeting and events.

After the official business of the meeting, including an address by Mr David Mongey, Chairman Into Kildare, a review of the activity undertaken by Kildare Fáilte and KPIs achieved in 2022 were shared, along with marketing plans for the future.



Mr Paul Carty, Chairman Fáilte Ireland addressing Kildare Industry

This was followed by an address from guest speaker Mr Paul Carty, Chairman Fáilte Ireland. Mr Carty shared information on the tools available to support the tourism and hospitality industry as well as an update from Fáilte Ireland. As an industry leader, Mr Carty talked about



how to harness the potential of Kildare tourism and enrich the visitor experience using examples from his time as Managing Director of Ireland's number one visitor attraction – the Guinness Storehouse.



Mr Paul Carty, Chairman Fáilte Ireland addressing Kildare Industry

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Fintan Brett was also in attendance and commended the work carried out by Kildare Fáilte. His comments were echoed by Ms Annette Aspell, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Services who welcomed the support and work of Into Kildare as the tourism body on behalf Kildare County Council and spoke in particular about the development of the Shackleton Museum in Athy. Mr Eoghan Corry, travel writer and industry expert was also in attendance and gave insight on tourism and travel trends.

The event was also an opportunity for tourism and hospitality businesses to network and discuss ways of working

together. Positive feedback was received from those in attendance.

The Chief Executive attended a number of trade events including the annual tour operator trade conference in Kilkenny and the Fáilte Ireland golf tour operator event in Cavan where over 50 top international operators attended as well as Irish trade.

Kildare Fáilte presented to the Holy Family Secondary School Transition Year Students during Activity Week on the role of Into Kildare in promoting tourism in Kildare. The students had an opportunity to ask questions on marketing plans and careers in the industry.

A consultation meeting took place with a representative of the project team regarding the proposed development of the Wonderful Barn near Castletown House, Celbridge with a view to maximize amenities to attract visitors.

Kildare Fáilte was involved in the tender and selection process to appoint a new marketing agency to represent the four councils and Waterways Ireland in promoting the Royal Canal Greenway.



Following the appointment of an agency a briefing meeting took place with Kildare Fáilte representing the interests of the four tourism bodies and county councils.

The Chief Executive of Kildare Fáilte was appointed Chair of the Brigid 1500 Tourism, Diaspora and Hospitality Committee. Continuing the links with twinning communities, Kildare Fáilte supported the Newbridge committee in advance of their visit to Bad-Lippspringe, Germany.

As part of the Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan steering group, Kildare Fáilte attended a meeting in Coolmore and also held meetings with Tipperary Tourism.

Kildare Fáilte attended a number of meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses to support and advise on developing their consumer experience with a focus on the shoulder season. Kildare Fáilte attended a Brigid 1500 meeting to begin planning for the celebration in 2024.

Work commenced on a new audio guide to complement St. Brigid's Trail

which will be completed for St. Brigid's Day 2023.



On social media the communication focussed on the wide range of activities, events and offers supporting tourism and hospitality industry ahead of the bank holiday weekend and school midterm break.

Visitor engagement on all channels remains strong, with Into Kildare consistently in the top five search results for events and in the top three for Halloween information.

### **Library and Arts Service**

*Jorge Luis Borges – We will have a total chaos without books, literature, and library.*

### **Kildare Readers Festival 2022**

Kildare Readers Festival took place from Monday, 03 to Sunday, 09 October in libraries across Kildare and in the Riverbank Arts Centre in



Newbridge. There were 21 events over the week with over 850 attendees.

### **Climate Action**

An Introduction to seed saving took place in Athy, Celbridge and Maynooth Libraries. Seed saving is an ancient tradition passed down through generations. It has become ever more important with the onset of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

Saving seeds saves money, conserves heirloom varieties from going extinct and develops resilient seed varieties

The Kildare branch of Cloth Nappy Library Ireland joined us in Maynooth Library to answer any questions on Reusable Modern Cloth Nappies. A brilliant way to cut back on trips to the rubbish bin and reduce your waste charges

### **Age Friendly**

Age Friendly Coffee/Tea mornings have started in Naas Library every Friday morning. Our Age Friendly Area and library resources can be enjoyed with a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with library staff.

The Age Friendly Acorn Tablets have been launched for loan with training provided in advance by our Age Friendly Champions.

### **New graphic novel by O'Brien Press titled Michael Collins**

Kildare Town Library hosted a very successful event on Thursday evening 20 October, attended by over 200 people across all age groups, to mark the publication of a new graphic novel by O'Brien Press titled Michael Collins: Ireland's Rebel Son (written by David Butler and Mario Corrigan). Guest speaker was Pól Ó Murchú, grandnephew of Michael Collins, while other members of the extended Collins family and a representative from the Collins 22 Society also attended.

### **Intergenerational Digital Classes**

The Naas Library/Piper's Hill College collaboration where Transition Year students provided one to one I.T classes to adults was a been a real success. Fifteen library users received instruction over six weeks in both the school and library and it was a wonderful example of the benefits of bringing different generations together, the knowledge exchanged, and social interaction enjoyed.

### **Reader in Residence Book launch**

Reader in Residence, Emma-Jane Leeson produced a book, Short Stories to Make You Say Wow!



featuring stories written by 44 children who took place in her creative writing groups throughout the library network this Summer. The book was launched in Kildare Town Library on Friday 04 November.

### **Customer Survey**

All libraries across the country participated in the LGMA Customer Satisfaction Survey with Naas Library implementing it on behalf of Kildare Libraries at the end of September/early October. It was a high-level, user survey taking place over five days with option to submit online or by print.

### **Capital Projects**

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

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

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

The Design Team, Libraries and Public Realm team are currently finalising documentation for the Part 8 application.

### **New Clane Library**

The Design Team are working with internal Kildare County Council departments to finalise the draft plans for the Part 8 Planning submission.

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

Staff continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries. The archivist has selected interment registers for 15 graveyards in Co. Kildare available. This adds to the 18,000 pages of Naas Poor Law Union Minute books (1839-1858) and Athy Poor Law Union Indoor Relief registers (1878-1918) now available via the [Online Archives](#) service. The county archivist is a member of the Data Governance and Records Management Steering Group. Cleaning and listing of archival material continue. Monthly historical articles are produced for The Pulse, Kildare eHistory journal and other publications. Staff continue to work with local history groups and schools in promoting local history and heritage of county Kildare.

### **Decade of Commemorations (DOC)**

Continued promotion of events via local newspapers, radio, social media,



and the National DOC website and newsletter. Liaising with community groups and individuals to deliver the programme and administration in relation to the DOC programme.

The Annual Seminar of the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups took place in Kilcullen Heritage Centre on Saturday 22 October, supported by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee. Policing history and the centenary of An Garda Síochána were the focus of the 2022 Seminar. An exhibition of historic Garda memorabilia proved very popular with the public, including with past and serving members of An Garda Síochána in the Kilcullen area who held a commemorative event in conjunction with the Seminar. A public lecture on policing history in Ireland by author Jim Herlihy concluded the event.

An interpretative panel highlighting the Graney Ambush of October 1922, during which four National Army soldiers lost their lives, was unveiled in Castledermot by Senator Mark Wall on Saturday, 22 October. This Castledermot Local History Group

project was supported by the Decade of Commemorations Committee, and a commemorative booklet by historian and library staff member, James Durney was also produced. He also gave public talks on the ambush to local history groups.

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

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Lambing wins Best International Drama Award**

Lambing, a short film, filmed in county Kildare, was awarded a Best International Drama Award at the Discover Film Festival, London (28 September – 01 October). Produced by Hardback Films, and written and directed by Katie McNiece, the film was a recipient of the Kildare Short Grass Film Commission Award 2021 and filmed in county Kildare. Read more about [Lambing/Hardback Films](#)

#### **Local Live events continued across the county**

A plethora of events supported by Kildare County and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts,



Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme, continued in venues across the county in October:

Féile Liam O'Flynn | Friday 07 - Sunday 09 October, Naas and Kill - A traditional Irish music festival taking place in Naas town and Kill Village, celebrating the life and music of renowned musician Liam O'Flynn.

Artists included Louise Mulcahy, Liam Ó Maonlaí, Donal Lunny, Matt Molloy, Séan Keane and more.

Live at the Local: Returns | Mon 10 October, Kilcock – an evening of live performances by singer-songwriters Eimear and Inni-K, and guitarist Shane Hennessy.

An evening of spoken word curated by Rachel Lally | Wednesday 19 October, St Mary's Maynooth | Featuring performances by Hazel Hogan, Geoff Finan, Emmet O'Brien, John Cummins, and Rachel Lally

The Des Hopkins Dixieland Jazz Band, and Musical Friends | Thursday 20

October, St Mary's Maynooth - A concert of historic jazz and readings.

Jazz in County Kildare | every Friday and Saturday in Carton House - a series of jazz concerts performed by the finest musicians in Ireland.

Bailey and John Lynch | Wednesday 26 October, St Mary's Church of Ireland, Leixlip – an evening of original songs and music.

Mundy with special guest Joan Healy | Thursday 27 October, St Mary's Church of Ireland, Leixlip

### **The Incubator – new intergenerational hub of co-creation**

The ACRE Project, Celbridge Monday 17 to Friday 21 October.

Dancers Ailish Claffey and Glenna Batson presented a five day workshop where participants immersed themselves in playful movement improvisation and mindful practices.

Adults at all ages and stages of life were welcome to join. Participation was complimentary and funded by Kildare County Council Arts Service's Arts, Health and Wellbeing Programme.

## **Parks**

### **News and Highlights**

#### **Allenwood Playground**

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

#### **St Brigids Well**

Works on internal drainage, grass paths, paved areas and bulb planting



are due to be completed week ending 18 November. The remaining works on new seats and handrails over the bridges will be complete by January.

### Tree Works Programme

Works are continuing on the preparation of a works programme for the Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Areas.

### Leixlip Playground

Work is continuing on the preparation of the Part 8 for the playground. Ground Investigation, flood risk and road safety audit work is being carried out at present. Once this is completed the Part 8 will be advertised.

### Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facility

Communication on the findings of the consultation with teenagers in Celbridge has been completed with the Municipal District Councillors, internal Departments, Gardai and PPN members.

### Barrow Walk Athy

The replacement of the picnic benches along the Barrow and Stanhope Street are underway. The installation of three wheelchair accessible benches will be complete in December.

## Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 07 October 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	82	177,136.40
Feasibility Study Grant	8	53,734
Priming Grant	8	194,070
Business Expansion Grant	24	548,427
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	10	21,979.05

### Feasibility Study Approved



An electrical and electronics engineer, Sankar Rajendra Sarma has been approved €4,600 as he embarks on a feasibility study to prototype a smart home energy management tool.

### Priming Grants Approved

Pragmatica Consulting launched in September providing highly regulated carbon auditing services to companies



in Ireland and the UK. Supported by a Priming grant of €32,250 for their first two employees, the Pragmatica team are locating in MERITS.

### Business Expansion Approved



George Tutty Footwear Limited, one of Naas' oldest companies, has been awarded grant funding of €8,242 to support the introduction of new technologies into this labour-intensive craft and the recruitment of a junior shoemaker.

Tim Dunleavy of DB Furniture Limited (Naas Municipal District) has been grant approved €49,999 towards recruitment and investment in specialised equipment.

MERITS based HUB360 are growing their team with support of a Business Expansion grant totaling €30,000 towards two new senior roles.

NJB Engineering Limited of Clane-Maynooth Municipal District have been grant approved €40,000 to support

investment in specialised equipment as they work towards enhanced digitization in manufacturing.

KAR Door Automation Limited t/a NS Motion of Clane-Maynooth Municipal District have been grant approved €15,000 in support of a new employee.

### Agile Innovation Fund Approved

Chris Farr, founder of Sontai Data Solutions Limited, Naas has had a grant approved €35,568 as he embarks on a significant digital process improvement solution.

### Clients Transferred to Enterprise Ireland



Leixlip Municipal District-based client Aidan Finn of Binarii Labs Limited will be supported to onboard investment in Enterprise Ireland's High Potential Start Up Unit.

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/11>

[3](#)

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.

### **€4.2 million in funding for the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub**

Kildare County Council's Enterprise and Economic department is delighted with last week's announcement by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD of over €4.2 million in funding for the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub. Our plans are to convert the historic Model School in Athy into a

centre for educational and entrepreneurial excellence for the food sector, providing a dedicated space for enterprise development, job creation and training in the region. The Hub will contribute to the economic regeneration, strengthening and building of resilience in Athy.

The Athy Food and Skills Innovation Hub will also benefit from a partnership and outreach arrangement with Boyne Valley Food Hub project in Navan who are working to empower food and drink entrepreneurs, escalate their growth and provide economic, physical, and networking assets to strive and succeed.

### **Ukraine Energy Crisis Scheme**

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

The Local Enterprise Office will have a role to play in supporting companies access Stream 1 of the Scheme. The role envisaged has changed somewhat in recent weeks and the current proposal is that all applications from LEO Clients\* for the direct grant



assistance of €20,000 will now be processed through the Local Enterprise Office.

\*(Measure 1 and 2 recipients are considered LEO clients for the purposes of this scheme and the LEO will process all applications from clients employing <10).

The Local Enterprise Office contacted suitable LEO clients to invite them to attend an information briefing on the scheme that was held on Thursday 17 November.

Full details on the scheme can be found here:

Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme - Enterprise Ireland ([enterpriseireland.com](http://enterpriseireland.com))

### **Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023**

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

applying for funding and the proposal for the scheme has been sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The scheme will open fully to applicants in the coming weeks.

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Building Acquisition Measure (Monasterevin)**

Keys to the old BOI building in Monasterevin have been received. The ambition for 2025 is to have created “Co WORX” a digital hub co funded initiative delivered through Kildare County Council’s Economic Development Department and Town and village renewal scheme with future potential of Enterprise Ireland and LEADER funding that will provide remote working employment opportunities and digital programs to meet the needs of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District community – by delivering a best-in-class co- working space, offering a technologically advanced environment that is leading-edge and accessible through shared communication. All with the aim of empowering our community to connect, innovate and think smarter.



### **Retail Window Merchandising Grant**

This scheme financially assists and supports independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme covers the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Autumn/Winter period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure was made available. The scheme opened on Wednesday 21 September and closed on the 16 November with 13 businesses availing of the grant to date. Similar grant Scheme will open in November to mark Bridget 1500.

### **Shop Local Support Local Campaign**

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

campaign will include radio and newspaper advertising and active social media promotion of local businesses around the county.

### **Radio advert campaign and support program for those in business worried about energy costs**

"Are you in business and struggling to manage your energy consumption and anxious to understand how to reduce your current Energy costs. "Kildare County Councils Enterprise Office is offering all businesses in the county a confidential one on one mentoring session with an industry expert who will help you understand and reduce energy costs in your business. This important two-hour mentoring session will give you immediate actions to which you can implement into your business alongside valuable tools to help you reduce your energy consumption and costs. This valuable business support service is available throughout the month of November

### **Event to Celebrate Kildare's Digital Champions 16 November 2023 MERITS 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

In celebration of the brands and businesses that have adapted and engaged with their customers in new



and innovative ways. Kildare County Councils Local Enterprise Office will acknowledge and promote those who have developed their digital processes, digital marketing impact and e-commerce presence to enhance their product/service

An overall winner will be selected, and four additional category winners will be selected:

- Export Champion
- Experience Champion
- Engagement Champion
- Digitization Champion

### Appendix: Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available **on the Kildare LEO [Website](#)**

Objective	Support
<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Immediate Cashflow</b>	<a href="#">MFI COVID-19 Business loan</a> – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.
<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

### Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can now avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact.

The Local Enterprise Office have launched radio and social media campaign aimed at the Kildare Retail sector to avail of a 1:1 mentoring session in MERITS on 16 and 30 November that will help businesses understand and reduce energy costs in their business.

Retails can choose a date and time to meet a Mentor by logging onto [www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare)



<p><b>Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines</b></p>	<p>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</p>
<p><b>Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales</b></p>	<p>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</p>
<p><b>Communications:</b></p>	
<p><b>Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications</b></p>	<p>The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.  <a href="#">Join our Newsletter.</a></p>
<p><b>Access to LEO team and specialists</b></p>	<p>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</p>

**Sonya Kavanagh**  
**Chief Executive**