



Chief Executive's Management Report – April 2022

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



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

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

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

Members of the public should continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/ or by phone to 045 980 200. An appointment based approach is assisting management of attendance at the offices in a safe way.

Motor Tax transactions should continue to be made online or by post as there are a limited number of in person appointments available. Applications received by post in Aras Chill Dara are being returned (on average) with four working days.

Members of the public can continue to conduct business online at www.kildarecoco.ie or email customerservice@kildarecoco.ie or phone 045 980 200.



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

Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing meetings@kildarecoco.ie.



News Items

Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection

On 20 March, citizens and communities from across Kildare gathered in the grounds of Kildare County Council for a special ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection (see page 08).

Kildare County Council welcomes Minister for Rural and Community Development

On Thursday 24 March, Kildare County Council welcomed Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD to Kildare for a tour of some of the many rural and community projects and developments across the county (see page 08).

Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029

Kildare County Council recently announced the publication of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and are now inviting and encouraging submissions (see page 09).

Kildare County Council seeking advance purchase opportunities to accelerate delivery of Housing

Kildare County Council issued communications confirming that it is seeking to engage with home builders and housing developers in Kildare (see page 10).

Reform of Voter Registration process

The Electoral Reform Bill was recently published and is available (see page 10).

Response to the Ukrainian Conflict

Identification of Sites Suitable for Residential Development

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has requested local authorities to identify sites which may be suitable for the accommodation of Displaced Persons (see page 15).



Establishment of a Rest Centre

The council has established a rest centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge. Over the period 31 March to 03 April the council was on standby to accept Displaced Persons arriving from Ukraine (see page 16).

Housing for All – Affordable Housing Targets

On the 30 March the council received Affordable Housing Delivery targets (see page 16).

Social Housing Applications

An amended application form for social housing was implemented from the 14 March (see page 17).

Local Area Plans – Maynooth and Kildare Town

Background work for the LAPs is currently underway with various assessments (see page 27).

Conservation Grant Schemes

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding in 2022 (see page 28).

Historic Towns Initiative

Kildare County Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas (see page 28).

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

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided (see page 34).

Green Kilometre and other local litter initiatives

Over fifty participants in the scheme have accepted a supply of 800 native saplings to plant along their Green Kilometres this month (see page 38).



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 (see page 51).

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety - Key Highlights

Read about the Fire Service assisting and supporting other sections of Kildare County Council with preparation for expected arrival of Ukrainian refugees, a Letter of Acceptance issued to Architect Lead Design Team to progress the new fire station at Straffan Road, Maynooth and more (see page 56).

2022 Grants Schemes

The 2022 community, festival and residents' associations grants have been assessed and are being presented to the municipal districts at their April meetings (see page 66).

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative (see page 66).

Healthy Ireland

Work to progress the Healthy Ireland Programme of the LCDC and CYPSC is now complete since 31 March. A Healthy Kildare Plan is at its final phase (see page 67).

LEADER Programme

A meeting with Oireachtas members is being scheduled to inform the members of the current programme which is due to conclude in 2022 and priorities for future LEADER programmes (see page 67).

"Kildare Goes Green"

As a part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening and Green Button campaign, businesses turned green which was shared online by Kildare Fáilte with the message "Kildare Goes Green" (see page 69).



Royal Canal Greenway

Royal Canal Greenway Steering Group meetings took place to discuss upcoming promotions for the anniversary of the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway (see page 70).

Kildare Libraries and the Ukrainian Refugees

Kildare Libraries have been working with the Community Department to provide content for the new public information part of the council's website as well as procuring toys and furniture for the Rest Centre (see page 71).

Diary/Calendar

Finance and Information Technology

Our Financial Management System will be offline from Thursday 29 April to Monday 09 May due to a scheduled upgrade (see page 15).

County Development Plan

The Draft Plan was made with amendments and has now been published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March to 4:00 p.m. on 24 May (see page 26).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2022 (see page 34).

Civic Guards/An Garda Síochána 100 Anniversary event

Final preparations are underway for this event, which will take place on 16 April (see page 73).

Leixlip Summer Bedding

A tender for the annual summer bedding in Leixlip was issued and is due to close on 15 April (see page 74).

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and will remain open for applications until Tuesday 31 May (see page 77).



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 Apr 15:00 Full Council Meeting	26	27	28 11:30 County Twinning Committee	29
2	3	4 08:00 O365 Trg elected members (half day): Online 11:00 Drehid Liaison Committee	5 11:30 Local Community & Culture SPC 14:00 Transportation, Safety & E...	6 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting 13:30 O365 Trg elected member...
9 14:30 Protocol	10 14:30 Audit Committee 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	11 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services & Water SPC	12 14:30 Housing SPC	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting	17	18 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	19	20 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemoratio...
23 14:00 CPG	24 09:00 KWETB	25 10:00 Local Community Development Committee LCDC	26 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee	27
30 15:00 Full Council Monthly Meeting	31	1 Jun 10:00 Drehid Liaison Committee	2 10:30 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee LTACC	3 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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Corporate Services

Communications

Ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection



On 20 March, citizens and communities from across Kildare gathered in the grounds of Kildare County Council for a special ceremony of Remembrance and Reflection. The ceremony was held by Kildare County Council to honour those who lost their lives to COVID-19 and to pay tribute to the collective efforts and response of frontline workers, businesses, citizens and communities of Kildare.



Local media were invited to attend and official photography was issued from the event along with a press release and comprehensive social media coverage across Kildare County Council channels. The press release can be viewed [here](#).



Kildare County Council welcomes Minister for Rural and Community Development

On Thursday 24 March, Kildare County Council welcomed Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD to Kildare for a tour of some of the many rural and community projects and developments across the county. A packed tour of the county included visits to the site of the proposed Shackleton Museum, social enterprise development The Old Hardware as well as Venture House Remote Working Hub, the launch of Monasterevin Town Renewal Masterplan, Kildare Market Square and the final stop of the day was the



picturesque setting of the Barrow Blueway for an official ribbon cutting on the completion of the first 5km of the Barrow Blueway at Lowtown.

Local media were notified in advance and invited to each of the individual locations on the visit. Working with the Minister's press office, Kildare County Council issued official photography from each of the locations as well as press releases with full details of each of the projects visited.



The Kildare County Council press release can be viewed [here](#) and the Department's press release can be viewed [here](#).



Kildare County Council Publishes Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029

Kildare County Council recently announced the publication of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and are now inviting and encouraging submissions from citizens, communities and businesses alike during this important consultation phase, to have their say on the future development of the county.

A communications campaign is underway to build awareness and understanding of the County Development Plan, the consultation process and encouraging citizens, communities and businesses to engage in the process.

The launch press release can be viewed [here](#). A six episode podcast series is launching in April to further engage with audiences.



Kildare County Council seeking advance purchase opportunities to accelerate delivery of Housing



Kildare County Council issued communications confirming that it is seeking to engage with home builders and housing developers in Kildare to consider offering unbuilt houses or apartments with planning permission, to local authorities under an advance purchase turnkey arrangement. This advance purchase opportunity has been put in place to provide for accelerated delivery of housing generally, to provide affordable homes for eligible applicants nominated by the local authority in areas where a significant need for affordable or social housing has been identified.

Kildare County Council is seeking to enter advance purchase arrangements to secure turnkey homes in areas

where the need, in particular for affordable housing, is most acute. The press release can be read in full [here](#).

Freedom of Information

Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2022
Freedom of Information requests	40
Freedom of Information appeals	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	0
Data Access Requests	14
Ombudsman	7

Register of Electors

Reform of Voter Registration process:

The Electoral Reform Bill was recently published and is available at: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2022/37/>



Among many changes the Bill provides for:

- The establishment of a statutory independent electoral commission
- The modernisation of the electoral registration process
- The regulation of online political advertising, and
- Measures to facilitate the holding of elections when public health related restrictions, such as those related to Covid 19, are in place

More information available here

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/859a0-significant-modernisation-of-irelands-electoral-system-to-be-delivered-under-electoral-reform-bill/> and in a video on the [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#) twitter account <https://twitter.com/DeptHousingIRL>

Members Services

St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2022

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, recently invited Cllr. Naoise O'Cearuil, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, and Sonya Kavanagh, Interim Chief Executive, to New York for St. Patrick's Day. Meetings were arranged with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Consulate General. There were also a number of official engagements with the Kildare Association. Due to Covid 19, the last visit was in 2019 and it was wonderful to renew the linkages between Kildare and New York.





St Brigid

Kildare's unique relationship with St. Brigid was highlighted during our trip. We wore St. Brigid's crosses and brought "Brigid" themed gifts. It was heartening to see how well known this symbol is and how receptive each and every agency was to a "Kildare" centred event for St. Brigid's Day from 2023 onwards.

Meetings

Full Council

The March meeting of Full Council was held online and the members received their annual presentation from Kildare Fáilte. A number of reports were approved at this meeting including the Annual Financial Statement 2021, the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022 and the Kildare Hubs Strategy 2022 – 2025. The Cathaoirleach gave an update on his recent visit to New York with the interim Chief Executive confirming a report would issue following the meeting.

Municipal Districts

Municipal District Committee meetings were held on-line and in-person in March and there were no issues arising. Each committee agreed their Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022, with some committees agreeing to further consider the allocation of Members Nominations awards at their next meeting.



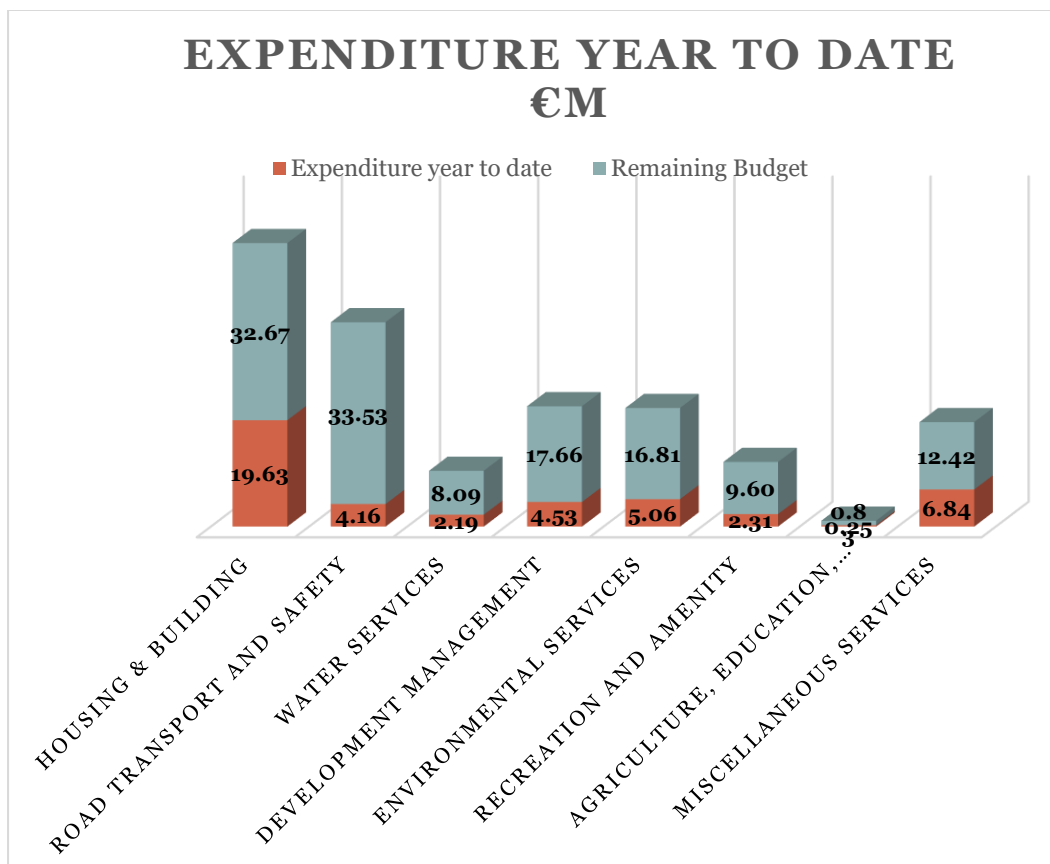
Finance and Information Technology

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2022

Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	19,630	52,300	38%	32,670
Road Transport and Safety	4,159	37,692	11%	33,533
Water Services	2,192	10,281	21%	8,089
Development Management	4,532	22,196	20%	17,664
Environmental Services	5,058	21,869	23%	16,811
Recreation and Amenity	2,311	11,916	19%	9,605
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	253	1,081	23%	828
Miscellaneous Services	6,844	19,267	36%	12,423
	44,980	176,602	25%	131,622





Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2022

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	13,670	44,828	30%	31,158
Road Transport and Safety	980	19,290	5%	18,310
Water Services	2,204	10,082	22%	7,878
Development Management	3,387	7,758	44%	4,371
Environmental Services	1,777	7,062	25%	5,285
Recreation and Amenity	698	1,079	65%	381
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	66	348	19%	282
Miscellaneous Services	1,306	6,026	22%	4,720
Local Property Tax Allocation	4,572	18,289	25%	13,717
Rates	15,274	61,837	25%	46,563
	43,934	176,599	25%	132,665

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 March 2022							
	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/03/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,624,390	329,618	1,423,962	71,656,133	7,218,683	64,437,450
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	3,710,090	11,753	-	4,929,262	3,781,823	1,147,439
Housing Loans	2,023,590	653,823	-	-	2,677,413	969,158	1,708,255

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 March 2022.

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

In July 2021 the Finance Department launched a customer portal and app for Rent and Rates Customers. These new services allow rates and rent customers to make payments and view



their account information online via their smartphone, tablet or PC. There are currently 1,700 rent customers and 750 rates customers signed up for the service. Over €1.5m of payments have been processed through the service since its launch. Details of the app are available on the Council website at

<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>

Information Technology

Our Financial Management System will be offline from Thursday 29 April to Monday 09 May due to a scheduled upgrade. During this period, no payments will issue.

Motor Tax

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

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

customers can email motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

Housing

Response to the Ukrainian Conflict

Identification of Sites Suitable for Residential Development

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has requested local authorities to identify sites which may be suitable for the accommodation of Displaced Persons. Sites should be suitable for immediate development of temporary or permanent housing which have not already been earmarked for social and affordable housing delivery under the Housing for All Programme. The following criteria applies:

- Public or private ownership.
- Zoned and unzoned land.
- Available for immediate residential development.
- Availability and capacity for foul and mains water connection.



- Safe pedestrian access and availability of public transport.
- Availability of utilities – electricity, digital infrastructure/telecoms/broadband.
- Availability of social infrastructure – education, healthcare, (shops), childcare and community services.
- Size of proposed development is proportionate to the existing population in the town/village/settlement.

Establishment of a Rest Centre

The council has established a rest centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge. Over the period 31 March to 03 April the council was on standby to accept Displaced Persons arriving from Ukraine. The centre opened on the 06 April and accepted 44 people. Displaced persons are referred to the centre by the International Protection Accommodation Service. With the agreement of IPAS, the council reached out to our colleagues in The Peter McVerry Trust to assist with the management of the Rest Centre from next week. The Trust are

already managing other facilities for IPAS accommodating displaced people from Ukraine.

Housing for All

Affordable Housing Targets

On the 30 March the council received Affordable Housing Delivery targets as follows:

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
15	42	59	55	55	226

The targets take account of:

- National targets
- Affordability constraints
- The strategic objectives contained in the National Planning Framework
- The delivery pipeline identified in the Housing Delivery Action Plan

The above targets do not include delivery by AHBs or the Land Development Agency on non-council owned land, or units which may be delivered through Part V.

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Housing Department recently advertised for expressions of interest from builders and housing developers across the county to engage with



Kildare County Council to deliver Turnkey units and Affordable Housing in areas of the county where a significant need for affordable or social housing has been identified. This advertisement follows on from Kildare's inclusion in a national advertising campaign.

Summary of Social Housing Assessments

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2021 was recently published, the number of qualified social housing applicants in Kildare is 2,937, this is a reduction of 167 applicants from 2020 (5.4%). It is important to note that this does not include households availing of the Housing Assistance Payment. The following is a summary of key data relating to Kildare:

- Number of qualified households: 2,937
- 20% of applicants age 50 plus
- 14% of applicants aged 60 plus
- 60% of applicants on the list for 0-5 years.
- The household type single adult accounts for 54% of applicants, an adult or couple with 1-2

children accounts for 28% of applicants

Social Housing Applications

As advised in last month's report, an amended application form for social housing was implemented from the 14 March. The new application form, along with a guide to producing income via revenue.ie, is also available.

Homeless Services

Family homeless presentations remain high with increased pressure on accommodation due to lack of available move-ons through HAP and Homeless HAP. There is increased presentations to assess families for Homeless HAP following the receipt of Notices to Quit.

Update from National/Regional Homeless Leads Meeting
National Leads COVID-19 meeting was held on the 29 March with regions reporting an increase in family presentations in the most part resulting from Notices to Quit. Move-ons across the country were also reported as slow due to lack of availability of HAP



landlords and constraints in the private rented market.

Homeless leads were asked to convene a meeting of the Regional Strategic Management Group to discuss the availability of accommodation in their regions of homeless accommodation in the short to medium term and how this may be impacted by accommodation required by IPAS for Ukrainian refugees. The Mid-East Region met on 07 April.

Homeless Outreach

The Homeless clinic met in Newbridge in March. Support and advice was given to five clients, with the next meeting scheduled for 12 April.

The Homeless Rough Sleeper list in the county has reduced to nine, which is the lowest in recent years and engagement continues to support those who remain in this position.

- Three clients were admitted into treatment from our Outreach programme

- Two move-ons from Jigginstown Own Front Door supported accommodation

- Four moved to Homeless HAP tenancies

- Housing First has six pending tenancies

The outreach team have been included in the regional drugs task force sub working group for treatment and rehabilitation. Streetwork in two municipal districts (Athy and Maynooth) were covered in March.

Tenancy Support

Active caseload between two Tenancy Sustainability Officer's is 55. The recruitment process for another officer is ongoing. The current waiting list consists of 10 clients

Family hub updates: Prosperous has currently three families (with a fourth due within the next week). Athy is at full capacity with nine families.



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 March 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	27	43	45
6 - 12 Months	8	12	12
12 - 18 Months	3	4	6
18 - 24 Months	6	8	6
24 - 30 Months	2	2	2
36 Months +	4	8	7
	50	77	78

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	4	6
6 - 12 Months	3	4	8
12 - 18 Months	2	3	5
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	2	0
	10	13	19

Housing Grants

The council was recently notified of its grant funding for 2022, as follows:

Type	2021 Allocation	2022 Allocation	Increase
Housing Adaptation Grants (private)	€3, 162, 288	€3, 208, 633	€46, 345

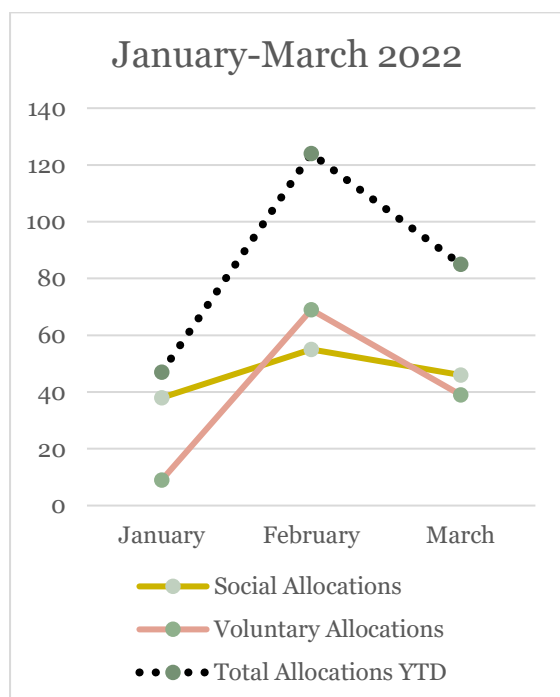


Disabled Persons Grants (KCC stock)	€517, 504	€1, 062, 775	€545, 271
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Number of Allocations

46 social housing units and 39 AHB units were allocated in March 2022.

To date, in 2022, there were 139 social and 117 voluntary units allocated.



Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

85 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. A total of 2,236 active tenancies are now in place. The limited supply of units and high rents being sought are impacting on housing applicants securing private rented accommodation.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Re-tender to be progressed for return mid-late May.
Approval Stage 3		
Coill Dubh	10 units	Revised Stage 3 approval received January 2022. Tender to be issued April 2022.



Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 2 approval received. Design Team re-engaged and they have undertaken to launch Part 8 within 6 weeks.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Stage 2 approval received February 2022. Part 8 to launch Q2 2022.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Part 8 to launch Q2 2022.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Oldtown Mill site proposed for Social Housing PPP Bundle 5/6. Site inspected by NDFA and awaiting DHLGH response.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH Q2 2022. Redesign complete and being reviewed by acoustic consultant
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 approval received March 2022, with conditions.
Approval Stage 1		
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultant's tender being prepared; expected tender launch Q2 2022.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Redesign complete; costing to be revised.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021. Design team tender preparation under way.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Q2 2022.
Glandore, Athy	5 units	Stage 2 approval received February 2022 with conditions.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 to launch Q2 2022. Display dates: 13-04-2022 to 11-05-2022 Last date for observations: 25-05-2022



Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for stage 1 & 2 approval. Submission ready for issue following approval.
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PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 Ref P82022-03 consultation closed 15 th March 2022. Part 8 Housing report currently being finalised.
Social Housing PPP Bundle 5 & 6	Various	Applications submitted to DHLGH for the following sites: Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare – 80 social units Oldtown Mill, Celbridge – 57 social units Rathasker Road, Naas – 80 social units Rickardstown, Newbridge – 80 social/40 affordable units

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Delays reported due to rerouting of services. Revised programme awaited. Possible phased handover.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Completion programmed for May 2022.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Cluid are finalising appointment of a Design Team Tender for an Architect Lead Design Team. Discussions regarding relocation of mast to be progressed.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Cluid progressing funding options. KCC included site in PPP bundle application.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2021. Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.



Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia in March following DHLGH feedback. Redesign underway.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	31 units	CAS2 application submitted to the DHLGH October 2021; response awaited. Requests from the DHLGH to increase density to improve viability of scheme. Increased density agreed in principle with Planning [December 2021]. Road and carparking layout to reflect public realm objectives for this area. Cluid updating drawings.
The Peter McVerry Trust Sallins	4 units	Revised proposal for 4 units submitted for review in March 2021 and discussed with DHLGH technical staff. Pre-planning meeting held. Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application information submitted and currently under review by KCC.

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	2				
Properties Leased Year to Date (2022) (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	6	1	0	2	1

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Substantially complete; to agree final account.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	Substantially complete; to agree final account.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	Phase 3: progressing well circa 24 houses complete
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	Substantially complete; to agree final account.



Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed; and works to remaining 5 units has commenced
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	On completion of Bishopsland, contractor will commence Clonmullion; expect to commence mid-May.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Progress has slowed due to issue with supply of heat pumps, circa 10 houses complete. Contractor expects supply to be resolved next week.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing

Homeless Presentations 2022

2021	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1234	304	930
2022	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Q 1	296	92	204

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2021	Adults	Dependents
Total	363	310
2021	Adults	Dependents
Q 1	99	81

Social Housing Applications

2021	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	81	79	646	6	151
2022	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Q1 2022	14	0	88	2	38

Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

Year	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
2021	1077	510	498
2022 – Q1	342	74	132



Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2021	390	332	16	16	347	269
2022- Q1	59	72	3	5	83	144

Tenant Purchase Scheme

2021	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
TOTAL	39	1	29
2022	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued (including applications from previous years)
Q 1	3	0	7

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022 to date
Total Approved	€10,340,718 (includes 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,122,045 (from 2021 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (€3,232,795 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €1,051,956 from 2021 approvals)	€1,487,000 (€826,400 from 2021 approvals, €660,600 from 2020 approvals)

Local Authority Home Loan

2022	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Apr						



Housing Maintenance

2021	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
Total	90	66	8185	6,623
2022	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
Quarter 1	27	16	2523	1874

Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

A Special Meeting of Full Council was held on Thursday 24 February in Newbridge Town Hall to consider and make the Draft Kildare County Development Plan. The Draft Plan was made with amendments and has now been published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March to 4:00 p.m. on 24 May.

The Draft Plan comprises Volume 1 (17 chapters), Volume 2 (Environs, Small Towns, Villages and Rural Settlements) and 12 Appendices. In addition, a Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Appropriate

Assessment and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment all accompany the Draft Plan.

A Public Consultation Strategy has been prepared which includes the following:

- A Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 ‘Virtual Consultation Room’
- Kildare County Development Plan Podcast Series
- Three independently facilitated webinar information sessions in April and May with the first of these sessions taking place on 06 April from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Recorded presentations
- Social Media and Website Consultation Strategy
- Consultation Portal
- Targeted Stakeholder Consultation



Local Area Plans

Maynooth

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

Kildare Town

Background work for the Kildare Town LAP is currently underway with various environmental and infrastructural assessments being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
March	Year	No.	March	
2020: 138	337	1,133	Total Granted:	69
2021: 191	424	222	Further information requested:	61
2022: 147	364	347	Total Refused:	15

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	02/06/22
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	15/06/22

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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

The commencement notice also brought into effect mandatory timelines for the processing of compliance submissions received from 17 December 2021. The Planning Authority has eight weeks to determine compliance submissions or they are deemed agreed by default.



Conservation Officer

Conservation Grant Schemes

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding in 2022, an increase of €30,000 from the 2021 allocation. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) allocation was announced in April. Kildare County Council applied for €200,000 for three private (Stream 1) and one public project (Stream 2) for restoration works. A total of €119,800 in funding has been secured.

Historic Towns Initiative

Kildare County Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. A Part 8 application will be developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team in coming months. Site clearance is currently underway, and works are to be tendered in the coming weeks.

Heritage Stewardship Scheme

Kildare County Council applied to the Heritage Council for €21,000 towards

a project to update the Record of Protected Structures. The project aims to revisit the existing RPS and update the record including the condition of each structure and highlighting vacancy and dereliction levels in protected structures. If funding application is successful Monasterevin will be used as pilot town.

Heritage Officer

Community Monuments Fund 2022

Kildare County Council made seven applications for projects in Kildare under this scheme. Funding notification shall be received by April.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

Four applications for Biodiversity Projects were made under the scheme. Funding notification shall be received by April.

County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

42 Applications have been received and they are currently being assessed.



Irish Walled Town Network

Funding applications are being considered under the conservation and interpretation strands of the Irish Walled Towns Network Grants.

sites steering group to progress

outstanding items in order to progress the application.

Kildare County Council has received funding under the Heritage Plan Fund for four projects to a value of €36,000.

UNESCO World Heritage

Designation -Royal Sites of Ireland

– Dun Ailinne, Kilcullen

Meetings have been arranged with the Expert Advisory Group and the Royal

Planning files:

Heritage files reviewed to date	103
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Public Realm

STRATEGIC PROJECTS & PUBLIC REALM TEAM Updates in **GREEN**

Concept

Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan & Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. Business Case being finalised for submission and approval.

Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Design has commenced on NTA funded interim traffic management measures which will be rolled out in November 2021. Tender for consultant to work on healthcheck with Public Realm team published with a closing date of 13 April 2022.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08.02.2022, on public display from 09.02.2022 – 09.03.2022. Public consultation closed 23.03.2022. 27 submissions received.



<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19 May 2021. Detailed design progressing well.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 05 October 2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 approved by Clane Maynooth MD at February meeting.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants and Design</p>
<p>Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 27km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023. First 5km complete formally opened to the public by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.</p>
<p>Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan. Public consultation on Draft Masterplan launched from 29.03.2022 to 26.04.2022. No submissions received to date.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced. Shackleton branding formally unveiled by Minister Heather Humphries on 24 March 2022.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27th September 2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the</p>



<p>consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. . Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools. Additional consultation to be launched Q2 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Q2 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. 2nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation. Work now commencing on Wayfinding, Interpretation and Branding Plan.</p>



<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q2 2022 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p>Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Q2 2022.</p>
<p>Design</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Masterplan formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p>Detailed Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>



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

Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works carried out in Clane, Sallins, Naas and Newbridge are complete. Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins pumping stations.

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility - Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract Variation

Thermal hydrolysis process is operational and managed by Veolia on behalf of Irish Water.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and detailed design stage.



Irish Water and its representatives are currently preparing to publish the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) confirmation documents and notices.

Capital Projects

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 3 2022 for execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control 3 and Revenue Control 4 periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

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

Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The 2022 schedule of clinics is as follows

- Monday 28 March at 11:00 a.m.
- Monday 27 June at 11:00 a.m.
- Monday 24 October at 11:00 am

Irish Water will be in contact with members in advance of clinics.

Environment

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

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided. Nearly all local authorities have discontinued the direct collection of waste but they continue to provide a range of services either directly or through shared service arrangements such as waste management planning, enforcement, permitting, transfrontier shipment and the operation of civic amenity sites and bring centres. Local



Authorities are required to make a waste plan either individually or collectively to provide a roadmap for management of waste arisings in accordance with EU and National Policy.

The waste plan contains a range of policies and actions aimed at preventing waste, increasing reuse and recycling and ultimately reducing the amount waste directed to disposal. Elected members have a key role in the making of the waste plan through their engagement with strategic policy committees on behalf of constituents. These engagements impact on the shape of the policies adopted.

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

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

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

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

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans. The current plans are available on www.mywaste.ie

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

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



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



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

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

- Dry Recyclables
- Food and Compostable Waste
- Residual Waste

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

your authorised waste collection service.

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

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

If people live in an urban area with a population of greater than 500 people, their authorised waste collector is obliged to provide them with a compostable bin collection service.

These simple actions will greatly improve the quality of recyclables collected and significantly minimise the volume of residual wastes that are disposed of at landfill. In addition, there will be significant community



benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

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

Further information is available from:

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

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to stabilise from previous years. In March 2021, 445 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2022, this has reduced to 443 tonnes, in line with previous years.

Green Schools

Thirteen schools were assessed for their Green Flag in March, an increase in activity from last year.

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and

comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland’s drinking water sources, environment and people’s quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

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

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,
 - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
 - Household and commercial waste,
 - Producer Responsibility Initiative’s and local priorities
- Water Priorities
 - Pressures from agricultural storage,
 - Pressures from agricultural spreading,
 - DWWTS’s,



- Discharge licenses,
- Water quality monitoring.
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring prog,
 - Noise directive,
 - Air/noise control, and
 - Ongoing air/noise enforcement.

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal.

For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website:

www.nwcpo.ie

National Tidy Towns

National Tree Week was promoted in March through the Tidy Towns network. In total, 1200 saplings were distributed to Tidy Towns groups to plant as mini woodlands using mainly native species.

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards

Naas has been awarded the top spot in the 2021 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League's cleanest towns. Leixlip was ranked fourth out of 40 towns and cities countrywide.

Green Kilometre and other local litter initiatives

Over fifty participants in the scheme have accepted a supply of 800 native saplings to plant along their Green Kilometres this month. These were distributed along with litter pickers and bags to facilitate ongoing cleanups.

New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

Consultants have been appointed to progress this project to the next stage



which will involve seeking expressions of interest from the market.

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and Killeenmore commencing. Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.morellfms.ie/>

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

Kildare County Council and the OPW Steering Group has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be

the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme and documentation to advance this is currently being drafted. The scheme will be assessed under the CEEQUAL sustainability scheme, giving an independent verification of the design and constructions sustainability performance.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. The review of hydrology is almost complete, with initial runs of the hydraulic model underway. The combined hydrology and hydraulics report will be published once completed.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

Kerdiffstown

Capping works and installation of over liner services progressing.



M and E installation to infrastructure compound continuing.



Pumping trial commenced which will determine the flare sizing requirements.

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

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

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. This will continue through the works. The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home

on Kildare County Council's website:

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

Historic Landfill Programme

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Section 22 Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. 100% funding is provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice on these sites. This must be carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites.

The status of these are as follows:

Carigeen, Clane

CoA issued by EPA. Previous tender had to be withdrawn due to technical issues. Proposed to retender in Quarter 1 2022.

Digby Bridge, Sallins

Application for CoA submitted to the EPA. A draft CoA received in



November 2021, but challenged by Kildare County Council. Once granted, design for remediation works to commence.

Pollardstown, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which are currently underway and expected to be completed by Quarter 1 2022.

Knocknagarm, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works as required were completed in January 2022.

Greenhills, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Prusselstown, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Cemetery Capital Programme

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals for columbarium walls is currently

being reviewed in line with funding availability.

Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

Works to include:

- Resurfacing,
- Drainage improvement,
- Lighting,
- New boundaries, and
- Pedestrian crossing.

Works have been delayed due to major road improvement works planned to facilitate new development in the area. Envisaged that works will be delivered during Quarter 2 2022.

Newbridge Cemetery Road and Path Resurfacing

Tenders advertised for footpath and roadway improvement works. Contractor appointed and works scheduled in Quarter 1 2022.

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

Works have been completed in January 2022.

Allen Cemetery

Plans for Phase 4 expansion currently being developed. Part 8 documents to



be prepared with a view to proceed to Part 8 publication in Quarter 1/Quarter 2 of 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Cemetery Maintenance Grants, to assist local groups with the maintenance of cemeteries, have been processed for 2021.

Risk Management

The Departmental Risk Registers are now being submitted and will be collated for input into the corporate risk register. Accordingly, the 2022 Risk Management cycle is progressing well.

Community Climate Action Programme



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



The CAROs have been working with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the LGMA to advance the framework for local authorities on Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund – Building Low Carbon Communities. Under the Community Climate Action Programme, a total of €24 million is being provided to local authorities to

partner with their communities, with activation of this funding expected shortly.



LOCAL AUTHORITY
Climate Action
Training Programme

Capacity Building

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme commenced in January 2021 and is reaching the end of its first phase of training courses delivered to the sector. To date c.16,600 staff and elected members from the network of local authorities have received training. Attention is now turning to the second phase of training. A review of the training programme has been undertaken and the review report is currently with the CCMA's Climate Action, Transport and Networks committee for review.



Championing
Leadership
Local Authority Climate Action
Training Programme

Elected Members/Senior Staff

This programme has been delivered to all local authorities as of 23 March 2022. The programme will be completed on 01 April 2022, with one final training session for anyone who



could not attend their scheduled training. Circa 1300 staff and elected members have completed this training to date.



Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI, the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, has now been delivered to local authorities across the four CARO regions. Circa 400 staff (members of the local authority Climate Action Teams), have completed the programme. Phase 2 will commence in Quarter 2 of 2022.



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 14,500 staff at grades 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 (and equivalent technical grades) complete the programme. Phase 2 will see the re-commencement of this programme

from May 2022. Since the beginning of this year, a further 1,864 staff have completed this course.



Thematic Training

In 2021, this pillar delivered the Planning for Climate Change training and Flood Risk Management training to almost 600 staff across all local authorities. It is anticipated that training under this pillar on Green Public Procurement and Implementation will be underway from Quarter 2 of this year. A further training programme on Green Procurement will be delivered from April 2022, with a contract awarded recently to the training providers.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with recruitment ongoing to secure a trainer(s) and delivery intended to be rolled out on a local authority by local authority basis, from Quarter 2 of this year.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are community-facing and will be delivered by the IPA and the LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. This programme was piloted in March 2022 and is scheduled to be rolled out across the CARO regions in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of this year.



Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted. The CAROs worked in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA under the guidance of a project advisory group to develop guidelines for local authorities in support of the

development of their climate action plans.

The draft guidelines have been developed and were circulated through the governance channels of both the CCMA and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, who has until December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans.



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, have put a tender together for the resourcing of five personnel for the



Mid-East Energy Bureau. The personnel range from one Regional Manager, one Regional Community Energy Officer and three Energy Officers, one of whom will be based at each of the local authorities.

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building energy efficiency report for the three local authorities went to tender, with Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report has been received and identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating. This sub-region is currently looking at forming an MOU with SEAI relating to Pathfinder Support.

In the South East (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the three CEA (three Counties Energy) to engage with CARO and the SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being drafted at present. Tipperary Co. Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon Co. Council has recently entered an agreement to become the fifth member of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA). The MEA local authorities with the support of SEAI, will now undertake a gap to target assessment and intends to engage with SEAI to progress an MOU for Pathfinder support for capital projects in their subregion.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet:

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. Stage 1 of the Project was the completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Surveys were returned between December and January. The survey results are currently being extrapolated and an early wins document is being developed. These have been



identified from the early findings of the survey and include the following:

- Eco Driver Training
- Fleet Manager Training
- Fuel Management and Accounting Techniques
- Electrification Opportunities
- Alternative Fuel Opportunities
- Union agreement / GPS Protocol



GAA/CCMA Green Club

Partnership:

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

In 2021, the Green Club group applied to the DECC for funding to help towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), using the Green Club as a vehicle to achieve this. At the end of 2021, the DECC announced they would provide €100k towards completion of the pilot phase

and committed to further funding over the following two years for Phase 2 and 3 of the programme.



CARO/Mid-East EAOs TY Project and GAA Future Leaders Programme:

Phase 1 of the Green Club

Programme (GCP) is underway, with 5 thematic areas for participants to undertake projects – Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Travel and Transport, with a sub-group to support development of resources for each. An Education sub-group has also been set up, to provide linkage between these themes and the GAA's youth education and leadership programmes, in particular the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme.

A working group of Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) in the Mid-East Sub Region and CARO, has been working to develop content for transition year lessons, under climate and sustainability themes. With their agreement, the expertise of educational contributors who assist the GAA with their Future Leaders programme has been leveraged, which



will see this content rolled out under the new Sustainability Module of the GAA's Future Leaders TY Programme.

9 of 10 sustainability module lessons have been developed, ready for launch shortly. For the initial pilot of the in 2022, the CARO will be focusing on engaging participating clubs in the Green Clubs Programme and schools in their locality, as well as the EAOs network and other LA networks. The feedback from the pilot should assist in the development of future content.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

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

It is a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act that Kildare County Council prepares a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). RPS Group, contracted consultants, have delivered an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline. Work is continuing on finalizing the data. Risk analysis has commenced to bring work on the plan as far as possible while awaiting the guidelines to be issued by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee



The Climate Action Office, while awaiting the guidelines from the Department, is progressing the likely



needs of the challenge ahead to decarbonize by 51% by 2030. To this end the team is aligning collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action SPC is being made aware of progress.

Energy Management Climate Action Team

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team and Climate Action Team have aligned. This is a more streamlined option which will reduce meetings for some members of the teams and will cross pollinate actions. It is proposed to hold the

meetings every two months throughout 2022. The first meeting was held on the 09 February with key areas being targeted in early 2022; 1. The recognised energy management standard of ISO 50001 is being considered by the Team and to decide Kildare County Council's next steps. 2. Register of opportunities is identifying suitable projects to move to action phase for 2022, these will be a mix of initiatives and projects to reduce our energy usage. 3. Analysis of top energy users across our council remains a standalone agenda item and it is hoped to bring analysis of these top energy users to senior managers attention intermittently through 2022. 4. The branding of the newly integrated Team/Climate Action Office to build awareness inwardly and outwardly, 5. Mind-mapping of departmental works and initiatives to recognize and enhance climate proofing of work 6. Development of the SECAP/CAP to reach the emission reductions targets set out under the national Climate action Plan 2021 upon receipt of the guidelines 7. Assistance with the Decarbonising Zone upon receipt of the associated



guidelines 8. Assisting with policies, strategies and other reports as required and 9. Community activation 10. Research in associated with key stakeholders and research institutes are some of the key elements to be progressed.

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

Our provisional scorecard for energy usage in 2020 shows a 33.3% energy reduction against its baseline year of 2009, which is significant progress from the 2019 figure of 24%. Although this is a provisional figure from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) it shows continued progress on energy efficiencies and also meets the national target of 33% reduction by 2020.

The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is changing during 2022 to capture more energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel. The focus is now being placed on 2030 targets under The Climate Action Plan 2021 requiring 51% reduction in energy green house gases emissions through 50% improvement in energy efficiency

and space heating to be 50% renewable.

Mid-East Energy Bureau

Kildare County Council is engaged in a process with other local authorities to form an Energy Bureau to drive energy efficiencies at a regional level. It is proposed to establish the Bureau with the assistance of SEAI's pathfinder program which will assist with funding towards energy related projects across the region and also funding for the Bureau establishment and staffing needs over a fixed period of time. Currently Kildare, Wicklow and Meath Local Authorities are partnered to deliver this initiative, with support from CARO. Kildare's Energy Efficiency Officer is also assisting with a sub-group of the Bureau Establishment Team to develop tender documentation to procure a suitable consultant to drive this project. The advertising of the three year contract was placed on eTenders at the end of January with bids to be returned by the 28 February 2022.



Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County
Council

continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare, with four of these nearing the end of their energy master plan stage which will allow them to move to the action phase.

Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA.

Ballymore Eustace and Naas SEC's have lodged applications with Kildare County Council for funding assistance

to deliver their energy master plans. It is hoped to have agreements in place in early 2022.

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

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for LA's as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in our fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District Offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging.

As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through



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

The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas HGV 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 to make the river walk accessible for all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.

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

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

Other Initiatives

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



‘The People’s Patches’

The Climate Action Office supported the submission of ‘The People’s Patches’ led by Neighbourhood Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand #2. ‘The People’s Patches’ is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas.

‘Stitching the Community Together’

The Climate Action Office Community, Libraries and Climate Action Office submitted the project ‘Stitching the Community Together’ under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective.

Gas Innovation Fund

The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland’s Gas Innovation Fund in conjunction with Maynooth University’s TerrainAi 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 are supporting a local artist and community organisation to apply to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community groups and the artist Marta Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect



the imagery of the community centre's history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station.

Agri-Tourism Project

Climate Action Office, Into Kildare and CKLP continue to develop the agri-tourism project in Kildare targeted at cultivating diverse revenue streams for farmers in the county. Currently, the project is at its planning stage where the engagement and feedback events for farmers are being planned for May 2022. The feedback gathered at these events will be fed into an application for LEADER funding to facilitate the supports and resources needed for the project.

Murals

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

Forestry

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

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach

Chill Dara. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer has five potential sites chosen to be assessed provisionally.

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

Communications and Mainstreaming Ezone



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The first 2022 issue of the K-Climate eZine was released in February to the members and council staff, which features updates from across the Climate Action and Energy Management Team. Discussions with the communications section are being scheduled to scope out the potential to broaden the reach of the eZine.

Intranet Portal

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



SharePoint



Climate & Energy

The content will be further refined to reflect the combining of the Climate Action Team and the Energy Management Team. This will reduce duplication of information and further embed climate action and energy efficiency as two sides of the one coin into all aspects of our lives. The portal is sub-divided into Projects and Initiatives, Meetings, Meet the Team, Communication, Resources Policy and Useful links. The portal is also being used to give secure and stable access to work files associated with the members of the CAT/EMT only. We look forward to organizing our external webpage in the future.

Just Transition

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

draft document increased, further consultation requests were received. Remaining consultations scheduled for mid-February were undertaken to inform the final report.

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



Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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



together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces.

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

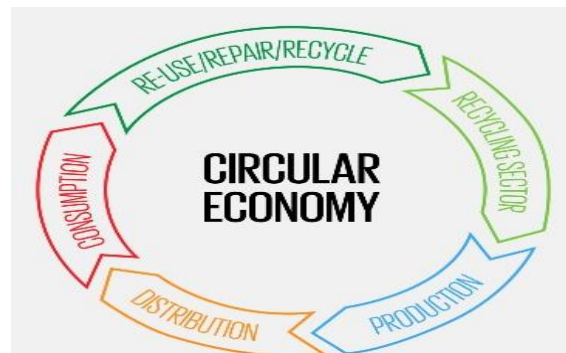
Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan MU, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have finalised the experiments and follow up research items designed in December to inform the scientific and practical process during 2022. Teagasc have made lands available for controlled experiments and practical experiment sites have commenced within Kildare County.

Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The February post showcases the baseline data collated by Sophia Couchman Masters students and the results show that Leixlip Spa is the top pollinator site of

all 22 sites surveyed across the county.



Screenshot of Community Stories Post 28 February 2022.



Gas Networks Ireland have invited the Climate Action Office to consider an application for potential grant funding to assist with the circular economy model of maintenance given our results to date and the uniqueness of the project. Discussions will continue to be explored during 2022.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Key Highlights:

- Fire Service assisting and supporting other sections of Kildare County Council with preparation for expected arrival of Ukrainian refugees.
- Letter of Acceptance issued to Architect Lead Design Team to progress the new fire station at Straffan Road, Maynooth. Total project value circa €3.5m
- It is noted that unit rates for Road Works - Restoration Improvements are up by (10-15%) over 2021 rates.
- Celbridge to Hazelhatch Bridge second non-Statutory Public Consultation presenting the emerging preferred route option is currently underway.

Digital Strategy for Kildare

Work is underway to develop a Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare. The Strategy will set out an overall

vision for the county outlining a number of core objectives, priorities and actions over the short, medium and long term. In line with the NBP deliverables, Kildare County Council is developing this digital strategy to maximise the opportunities of digital transformation for the benefit of our society and economy, ensuring that we are among the best places to live, work, invest or visit.

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 progressing through the various phases required.

Athy Distributor Road

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



New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Procurement process has concluded and contract anticipated to be awarded by the end of April.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

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

Newhall Junction Improvement

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Attempts to acquire the lands by agreement on this scheme have not been successful so a CPO process has commenced. It is expected to advertise the CPO shortly.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme

to Part 8. ATKINS are the appointed Consultants. It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 2 2022.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

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

Naas Permeability Improvement Project

Initial non-statutory consultation for this project ended on 31 January 2022. An initial in house analysis of the submissions received was completed and the data and submissions were sent to our Consultants OCSC to complete a consultation report. Once this report is finalised, we will further engage with the Councillors and NTA and move onto the detailed design and Part 8 process. As part of this, there will be a statutory



consultation process which will give the public and stakeholders a second opportunity to submit their views.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

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

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Road Number	Location		LA Allocation
R445	R445	Monasterevin Bridge, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare	€177,200
Kildare	L1049	Brooke Bridge, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare	€70,200
Kildare	L1102	Moonee Village Bridge, Moonee Co. Kildare	€73,500
Kildare	R407	Grangestown Bridge	€68,500
Kildare	R40602	Corn Mill Bridge	€10,500
Kildare	L2004	Heshorn Bridge	€55,500
Total			€455,400

Caragh Bridge reopened the week ending 02 April 2022.

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

NTA-funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

AECOM continuing with the detailed design of the Mill Street works.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

New Procurement Process required due to outstanding legal agreements with Waterways Ireland and expiry of tender validity period.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

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

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Part 8 Public Consultation Process underway and deadline for submissions is 06 May 2022.

Celbridge Pedestrian Bridge

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

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

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Public Consultation Process underway and deadline for submissions is 06 May 2022.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Safe Routes to School Programme (Craddockstown, Naas)

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Detailed design phase continuing.



Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Bond Bridge to Dunboyne Road Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing. No bids were received for the detailed design of the Poplar Square Permanent Improvement Project and this will be the subject of a new tendering process.

Vulnerable Road User Improvement Measures

Locations to upgrade signalised crossings being identified across the county.

Cycle Parking

Expression of Interest for Schools and Sports Clubs being prepared.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

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

Monasterevin Cycle Network

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.



Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Subject to review by Department of Transport (DoT), the Speed Limit Review will be presented to Full Council for approval.

Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract 2022-2024

Appointment of contractor in progress.

Roads Maintenance

Department of Transport Road Grant Allocation announced on 15 February: Overall Maintenance Grant is €17.46million which represents a 6.4% increase on 2021.

The Municipal District teams are concentrating at present on patching and maintenance works on the roads network.

Winter Maintenance Season continues until end April – recent unseasonably cold nights has resulted in salting events with gritting required.

Preparation for surface dressing season (plant, labour, materials) is progressing – all direct labour works and expected to commence late May.

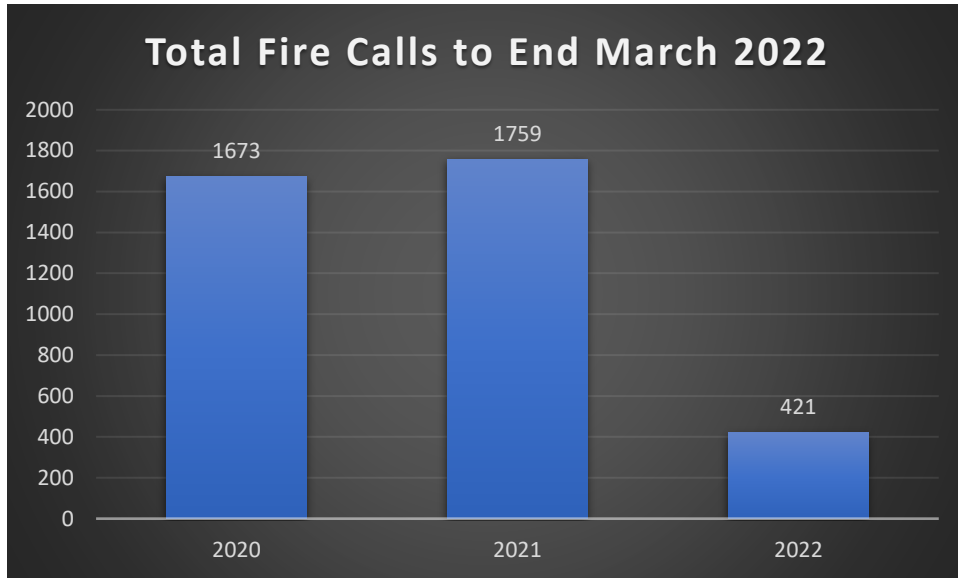
The 2022 programmes of work in each Municipal District is finalised and updated on MapRoad national database.

Local Improvement Scheme allocations to all counties has been circulated by Department of Rural and Community Development.

It is noted that unit rates for Restoration Improvements are up by (10-15%) over 2021



Fire Service Operations: 2021 Summary





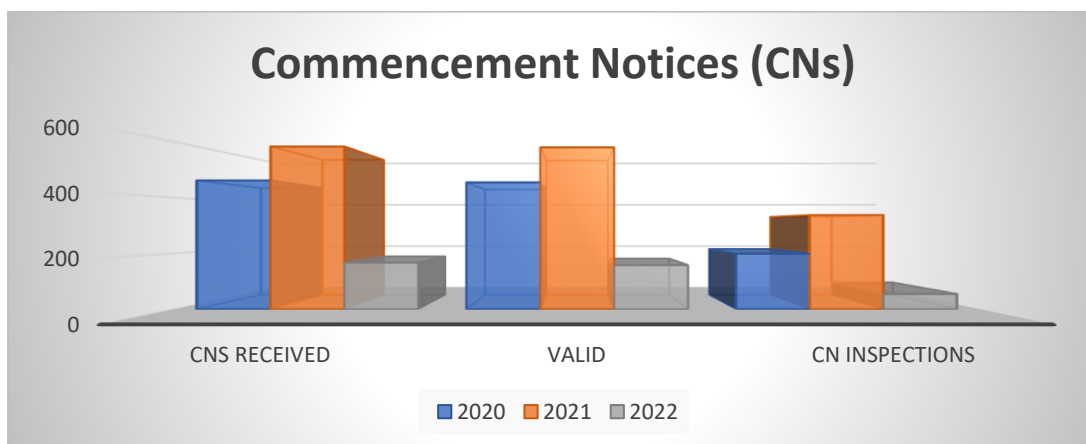
Applications received to the end of March 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

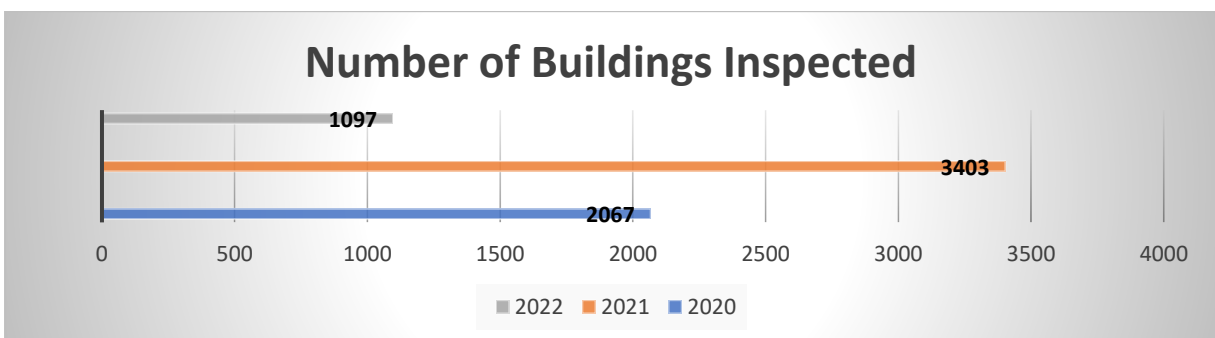
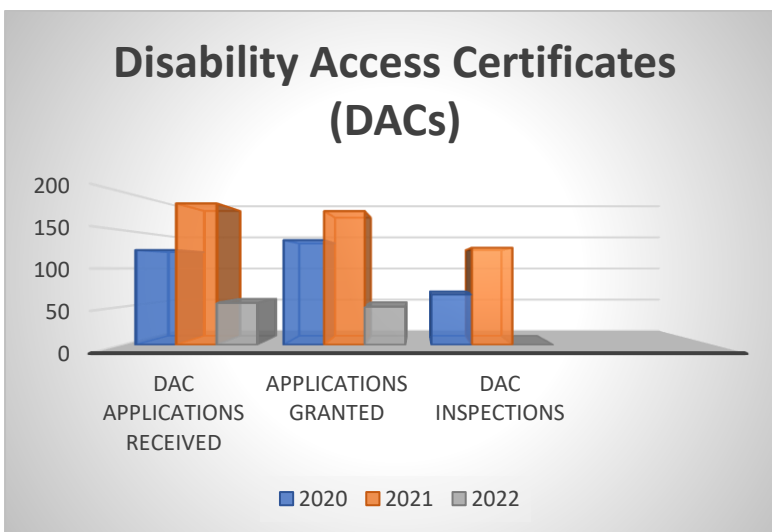
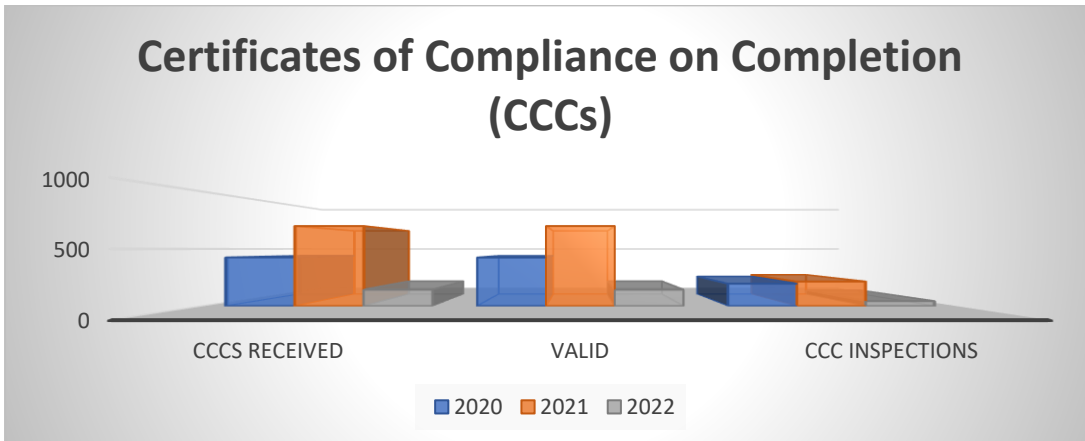


Building and Development Control

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

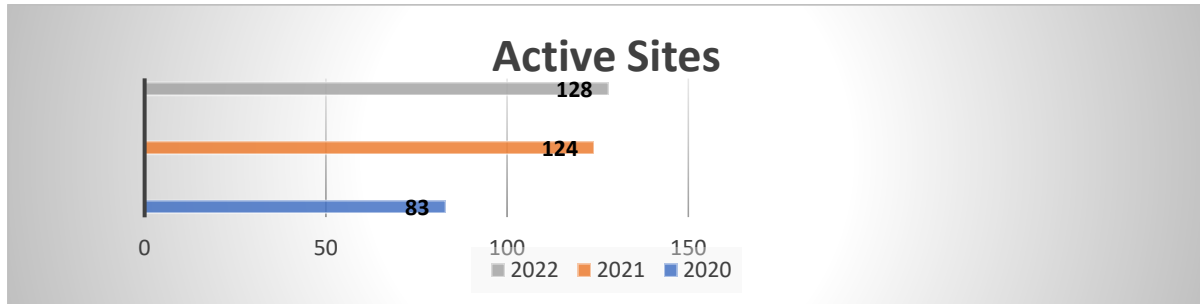
BUILDING CONTROL







DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Site inspections recommenced – 10 completed
- online assessment completed
- Meetings with Lead Worker Representatives, Business Continuity, Roads Team Meeting.
- Meeting with HR re preparation for Annual Safety Conference and Wellbeing Initiative
- Review of National H&S Policy and Procedures – 9 in total
- Supported Revenue Collectors with the review of Risk Assessments and Method Statements
- Supported Camping Wardens with the completion of Risk Assessments and Method Statements
- Induction of new staff – 25 in total
- Preparation for European H&S Week underway:
- Sourcing quotes for Flu vaccinations and basic health screening (blood pressure testing)

- Meeting with SeeChange on employee wellbeing initiatives:
 - Green Ribbon Campaign
 - Six Step Workplace Pledge Programme
- Sourcing delivery of safeTALK - (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) is an internationally recognised half-day training programme that prepares participants to recognise and engage with people who may be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide first aid resources

ACCESSIBILITY

- CKAN, Naas, Newbridge and Leixlip Access Group meetings held
- Meeting re setting up of new access group Monasterevin
- Attended Webinar with AHEAD on Back to the Future – Hybrid Working
- Walkability Audit Leixlip
- Knowledge Sharing workshop with Naas Network Learning Meetings re Part 8 – County Library and Kildare Digital Strategy



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

2022 Grants Schemes

The 2022 Community, Festival and Residents' Associations grants have been assessed and are being presented to the municipal districts at their April meetings. Full details of the approved final awards will be made available in the next report.

Proposed awards are as follows:

Community grants €243,455

Festival grants €67,825

Private residents' associations
€120,000

Local authority Ras €60,000 (budget)

Local property tax grants

Details of grants are awaited from some municipal districts. Community section will process all awards relevant to it as soon as possible.

Local Community Development Committee April 2022

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 30 March 2022.

Local Economic and Community Plan

An online workshop took place to inform possible datasets to support the development of the LECP. Liaison with planning is taking place as the County Development Plan process provides a strong basis to help develop the LECP. The consultation outcomes from this process and data collated are particularly critical.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative. Slaintecare meetings are continuing with the HSE/Tusla locally. Maria Healy commenced work as the Local Development Officer on the 21 March. She is currently meeting key agencies and groups. As a new programme nationally, significant work is underway to develop the programmes assigned to this initiative.

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

A total of 77 applications were received. The LCDC approved the grant awards at their meeting. Applicants are being notified of the



decision and a list will be published shortly.

Healthy Ireland

Work to progress the Healthy Ireland Programme of the LCDC and CYPSC is now complete since 31 March. A Healthy Kildare Plan is at its final phase. Announcements are being awaited in relation to a further programme HI4 which is expected shortly. Funding has been secured for the HI Co-ordinator post for a period of three years.

Further information on Healthy Ireland is available by contacting:

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: 086 8858508

healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie

@Healthy_Kildare

Connected Hubs – Osprey Hotel

Osprey Hotel through the Prem Group have as part of the funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development 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.

Four organisations are being contacted by the Prem Group following their expressions. This is an ongoing rolling process which will be advertised on an ongoing basis.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focussing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities a) Traveller/Roma, b) Older People, c) Mental Health (including Youth mental health), d) Long Term Unemployed e) New Communities (particularly direct provision) in addition to young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early. The plan for 2022 was approved at the last LCDC meeting.

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

LEADER Programme

A meeting with Oireachtas members is being scheduled to inform the members of the current programme which is due to conclude in 2022 and



priorities for future LEADER programmes.

Grant aid was approved for the following projects totaling €260,827.95.

1. County Kildare Leader Partnership – Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan were grant aided €29,663.10 to develop a placemaking plan for the Barrow Blueway.
2. Athgarrett Farms Ltd t/a Athgarrett Malt were grant aided €138,187.50 to invest in a larger plant to increase production capacity for its malting business.
3. Brogan Hoof Care and Scanning Ltd were grant aided €38,863.75 towards the purchase of specialised equipment to start a new farm services business specialising in cattle and hoof care and livestock scanning.
4. Robertstown Community Amenities CLG were granted aided €41,051 towards “Phase 2” Restoration of Heritage Barge 52M for use as a heritage museum, community facility and visitor attraction.

5. Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages CLG were grant aided €13,062.60 for a landscape architect to develop a detailed design for a proposed “Cosmic Garden” at Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages.

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

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 May 2022.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

In March, tourism and hospitality business prepared for the return of St. Patrick’s Day parades and events. The additional public holiday was welcomed to support the recovery of the industry. Kildare Fáilte supported community organisations across the county in promoting St. Patrick’s Day parades that were taking place. In addition, a suite of itineraries was curated to encourage visitors to spend the long weekend in Kildare and these were promoted across the Into Kildare social channels and website.



St. Patrick's Day celebrations are finally back in action and Kildare is not holding back on the festivities.
 From hotel offers to over the top parades, Kildare is putting out all the stops to make St. Patrick's Day 2022 unforgettable. If you're looking for something to spend the day on, look no further than our 4 recommendations.
 We hope it's right up with the girls on a girls' getaway - we have got you covered.



Kildare Fáilte assisted in with the organisation of the visit of the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of the City of Manchester to Kildare and attended the Jumped-Up Country Boys event in Athy Library. The event officially welcomed the Lord Mayor and Mayoress to Kildare. Kildare native Jack L, accompanied by piper Brian Hughes, performed for the which was well received by all. The Lord Mayor and Mayoress were honoured to be appointed the Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Athy and spoke highly of their Kildare heritage.



Lord Mayor and Mayoress of the City of Manchester, musician Jack L and piper Brian Hughes



Lord Mayor and Mayoress of the City of Manchester with An Cathaoirleach Athy Municipal District Ivan Keatly, Athy local representatives, Director of Services Ms Marian Higgins and Ms Annette Aspell, Ms Patricia Berry Athy Town Promotors, Ms Elaine Donnelly Kildare County Council Assistant Arts Officer.

As a part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening and Green Button campaign, businesses turned green which was shared online by Kildare Fáilte with the message "Kildare Goes Green". A message from An Cathaoirleach Naoise Ó'Ceairúil and Ms Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare at the illuminated Hill of Allen was shared internationally.



Irish National Stud and Gardens Greening



Community tourism group, Destination Newbridge, continue to work towards their objectives set out at the meeting facilitated by Kildare Fáilte in November 2021. Committee and sub-committee meetings took place, Kildare Fáilte attended to support the actions agreed.

Kildare Fáilte invited a selection of tourism businesses to experience a preview of the new Behind The Scenes Tour of the Curragh Racecourse. The new tour, which launches at the end of March, will be promoted across Into Kildare social channels and website to encourage visitors to visit the racecourse on non-race days.



Mr. Paul Keane Curragh Racecourse, Kildare Fáilte team and members of the industry at the Behind the Scenes Tour

As Kildare is a sponsor of the Rose of Tralee, in conjunction with Barberstown Castle, planning meetings with the Rose of Tralee

committee took place. To support tourism and hospitality businesses, the international festival will visit Kildare on 14 August to 15 August. Kildare Fáilte met with some of the potential Kildare Roses at the launch in Barberstown Castle.



Kildare Rose candidates in Barberstown Castle at the launch of the Kildare Rose

Royal Canal Greenway Steering Group meetings took place to discuss upcoming promotions for the anniversary of the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway, the outcome of the Tandem report and a review of the visitor data collated by Tracis. In the first year of operation, the Royal Canal Greenway attracted over 640,000 visitors with a weighted average spend of €27. It was reported that 30% of users accessed the route via Kildare (Maynooth and Kilcock), showing the importance of this experience for the county.



The celebration of the first anniversary of the Greenway took place at Mullingar Harbour and was attended by Waterways Ireland, Cathaoirleach from each of the local authorities and tourism representatives.



Ms. Aine Mangan, Into Kildare; Leas Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Carmel Kelly and Waterways Ireland Chief Executive, John McDonagh

To support businesses in Naas town, Kildare Fáilte and Punchestown Racecourse will collaborate on Paint the Town Red to encourage racegoers to visit and experience the town pre and post racing during the Punchestown Festival.

Mother's Day Gifting ideas were also communicated as Kildare Fáilte encouraged shopping local across social channels, eZines and the Into Kildare website. Dining and staycation offers in Kildare were promoted as a part of this message.



Engagement on digital channels continued to be strong with a high interest in events taking place for St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day experiences in Kildare and outdoor walks and trails.

Library and Arts Service

A library could show you everything if you knew where to look. — Pat Conroy
Kildare Libraries and the Ukrainian Refugees

Kildare Libraries have been working with the Community Department to provide content for the new public information part of the council's website as well as procuring toys and furniture for the Rest Centre. Staff have also provided extensive lists of Ukrainian resources accessible via our public PCs and the internet as well as translating our membership form for ease of access to our services. English



classes will be provided in Kildare Town Library.

Library Management System

Spydus: GO LIVE

On Tuesday 29 March after a week of Offline Circulations all Kildare Libraries branches went live on our new national Library Management System (LMS) called Spydus. Spydus is a much more intuitive, user-friendly interface, with enriched content. Library members can search and log into their accounts here <https://kildare.spydus.ie/> Huge amount of work by staff to get the system up and running for the benefit of our users. Kildare Libraries are delighted to get to this point after a year of anticipation and preparation.

Reader Services – Right to Read Activities

Kildare Libraries Story Trails

Kildare Libraries have installed the Dee the Bee Story Trail in Linear Park, Newbridge. A story trail is an outside story walk that everyone can enjoy. Anyone can follow a story trail from beginning to end, just like a book, with family and friends. The public are asked to follow the trail and pick up a box of seed bombs from Newbridge

Library to plant wildflowers at home once they have read the story trail.

Dee the Bee is a beautiful book, all about pollination, written and illustrated by Dolores Keaveney. The book helps us to understand how important bees are to the natural world, by exploring the ways that bees help all the plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables in our gardens.

My Little Library Book Bag

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between the library and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of the initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for each child starting junior infants in 2022 to help them to prepare for this big step. Children and their parents or guardians can collect the bags at any Kildare library. This initiative will be ongoing throughout the year.

Climate Action Event with Maynooth Zero Waste

Maynooth Zero waste will be hosting a drop-in information session in Maynooth Community Library on the second Saturday of each month, which began on Saturday 09 April.



They will be facilitating a ladies' clothing swap, a toy swap, providing information on cloth nappies and information on how to reduce waste at home.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Staff in Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries.

New Decade of Commemorations Publication

An illustrated poster containing a timeline of notable dates/events of the Civil War in county Kildare has been produced and is being made available to the public and schools via the library network and at commemorative events around the county.

Irish Military Seminar 2022

The programme and venues for the above have been finalised and a brochure is currently being produced to promote it. The seminar will be comprised of four events in three locations, Celbridge, Newbridge and Naas, with the keynote speaker, Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter and a unique event in Castletown House featuring renowned author, Stella Tillyard.

Civic Guards/An Garda Síochána 100 Anniversary event

Final preparations are underway for this event, which will take place on 16 April, centered around Market Square, Kildare Town. The event has been extensively promoted on social and local media.

Kildare Arts Service

Creative and Arts Grants 2022

The deadline for receipt of application to Arts Grants, Arts Act Grants, Local Live Performance Programming, Creative Ireland Bursaries and Decade of Commemoration Artistic and Creative Bursary Awards was Monday 21 March. Applications are currently being assessed with recommendations for funding to be presented for approval at Municipal District meetings in the coming weeks.

Creative Places Athy programme

The Creative Places Athy (CPA) Tea and Chats continued throughout the month, providing an opportunity for artists and community groups to come together to discuss new creative projects for the town. The deadline for applications to a suite of CPA project and artist supports grants was extended to April.



Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) project funding confirmed

The Arts Service shared the announcement of a €75,000 award under the Arts Council's 2022 'Invitation to Collaboration' scheme. Carlow County Council are the lead authority in partnership with Kildare and Meath County Council's. Rathangan is one of three communities that will benefit from this funding award with artist Monica de Bath confirmed as collaborating artist. The scheme promotes collaborations and high-quality access to and engagement with the arts. The Kildare component will be led by Kildare Arts Service, supported by the Climate Action Office and the Climate Action Regional Office.

Platform 31 artist development scheme

The Association of Local Authority Arts Offices, of which Kildare Arts Service is a member, and the Arts Council of Ireland announced a callout for 2022 applications to PLATFORM 31, a nationwide artist development scheme. A Kildare-based artist will be one of 31 mid-career artists supported through this initiative. The deadline was 30 March.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Ground investigation works have been completed and we are awaiting the report on these. It is hoped to finalise the tender once this is received.

Sallins Amenity Land Part 8

A report on the public consultation is currently being compiled and will be forwarded to the Planning Department for consideration before the end of the month.

Tree Planting 2022

A programme of tree planting has been completed. The planting of semi mature trees included in the programme will take place at the end of the year.

The Peoples Park, Athy

A tender for improvement works in The Peoples Park Athy was issued and closed for submissions on the 12 April. It is hoped to have the work awarded by the early May.

Leixlip Summer Bedding

A tender for the annual summer bedding in Leixlip was issued and is due to close on 15 April. It is planned



to have the tender awarded by the end of the month. The bedding will be in place for the June Bank Holiday.

Monread Park

Paths with flooding issues in Monread Park were upgraded to resolve this ongoing issue.

Monread Park Playground

A grant of €15,852 has been awarded by the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth towards the upgrade of the playground. This will be used to install 1-2 pieces of new equipment in the playground.

Tree Surgery Works

Tree surgery works in Celbridge Leixlip have started and are due to be completed by the end of the month.

Communications Board

Work on the development of a template design for the board is ongoing. A graphic design company has been procured to complete this.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January– 31 March 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	23	42,262.25
Feasibility Study Grant	2	10,340
Priming Grant	3	132,435
Business Expansion Grant	7	134,115
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	5	7,248

Export Development Programme

The Kildare and Wicklow Local Enterprise Offices have partnered with OCO Global to deliver a transformative programme designed to significantly scale export sales in our client companies. Buíoch Irish Chocolates (Robertstown), Rigotech (Straffan), Fused by Fiona, Emma by Jane, Beara Bitters and Moon and Mellow (all Naas) have been selected to join the eight programme.

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or



grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics are available.

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

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

For Brexit and Export support, email afrese@kildarecoco.ie

For all other queries email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or call 045980838.

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

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Spring Training Programmes 2022

LEO Kildare continue to promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities of our clients. To date, 645 clients availed of these training opportunities which can be booked here.

Flavours of Kildare Food Network

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food Network to ensure that food and drink heritage in the County benefits from the attention it deserves.

Food and drink businesses are invited to apply to join the network -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/126>

Food Starter Programme

[Expressions of interest](#) are sought from food entrepreneurs less than 2 years in business. This programme, in collaboration with Bord Bia and SuperValu, aims to provide food marketing expertise to new and early-stage food businesses.

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. Online applications can be made [here](#).

Lean for Micro Programme

The training programme introduces Lean concepts to participating businesses to improve efficiencies and drive competitiveness.



LEO welcomes [new applications](#) on an ongoing basis.

Ongoing Business Advice

Business Advice clinics continue weekly. Participants benefit from the guidance of an experienced Business Advisor. Appointments can be requested [online](#).

Student Enterprise Programme County Final

The Student Enterprise County Final was held virtually on Wednesday 30 March 2022. This year over 1000 students from 17 secondary schools from across the county took part in the programme. Students from St. Wolstan's Community School, Celbridge with their mini company Horseshoes 4U were awarded the top prize this year. The students will now compete against approximately 80 student enterprises from all over the country for a place in the Top 15 shortlisted teams to make it to a live event on Wednesday 18 May at The Helix in Dublin.

Economic Support Services

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and will remain open for applications until Tuesday 31 May. Details of the scheme are available at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme/>

*2022 Budget Allocation

Kildare/Newbridge	€40,000
Athy	€40,000
Naas	€40,000
Clane Maynooth	€40,000
Celbridge Leixlip	€40,000

Diaspora Project

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



Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS

The LEO funded MERITS *Genesis* programme kicked off this month with another 10 very exciting founders seeking to take their ideas through to Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage. This programme will run to the end of May. Applicants are now open

for TechHatch, another LEO supported MERITS programme for companies that want to move from MVP to revenue generation.

The conferencing facilities and Audio Visual fitout of the building is completed and the facilities are in high demand with members and non-members alike. A number of new members were onboarded this month across all membership categories.

Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19. All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO [Website](#)

Objective	Support
Financial:	
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business loan – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.
Grow online sales	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to attend our next TOV seminar to learn more about this opportunity and how to make an application.
Advisory:	
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors
Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines	Free 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work



<p>Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales</p>	<p>Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating</p>
<p>Communications:</p>	
<p>Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications</p>	<p>The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join our Newsletter.</p>
<p>Access to LEO team and specialists</p>	<p>The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838</p>

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive