



Chief Executive's Management Report – March 2022

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



High Level Local Authority Transitional Good Practice Guidance for Continuing to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland continues to evolve in light of changing circumstances and risks. On 21st January 2022, the Government announced an easing of many of the public health restrictions. From 24th January, the requirement to work from home unless necessary to attend in person ended and a phased return to the physical workplace was allowed to commence.

On foot of the latest public health advice and to support the transition back to physical attendance in the workplace, and the continued safe operation of workplaces, a Transitional Protocol was prepared which evolved from the Work Safety Protocol. The document outlines the current advice and best practice guidance for employers and employees to maintain infection prevention and control and other measures to support a safe return and ongoing safe operating of workplaces.

As part of the phased 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.

Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including the self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or if 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. The pandemic is not over and the emergence of new variants with increased levels of transmissibility, immune escape and/or virulence remains a risk both nationally and globally. In this context, business continuity of essential services should always be considered.



Members of the public should continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at www.kildare.ie/county council/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) within six 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

Official Sod Turning – Athy Distributor Road

Kildare County Council held a Sod turning event on Thursday 03 March 2022 (see page 08).

Kildare Digital Strategy

Kildare County Council extended the deadline for the Digital Strategy Consultation (see page 08).

Creative and Arts Grants

Kildare County Council has announced a number of new grants to support artists and creatives in Kildare. Alongside existing grants and funding opportunities (see page 08).

Housing for All

The Chief Executive and Director of Services for Housing attended the Housing Summit on the 23 February (see page 12).

Conflict in Ukraine – Immediate Accommodation Needs, Impact on Emergency Accommodation and Planning implications of the provision of certain facilities

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is involved in cross-government discussions (see page 15).

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

The EPA have set out a new scheme of National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) to cover the period 2022-2024 (see page 34).

Updates on Cemeteries and the Cemetery Capital Programme

This programme is currently being reviewed in line with funding availability (see page 38).



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 (see page 43).

Other Environment and Climate Action Initiatives

Read about the ‘The People’s Patches’, ‘Stitching the Community Together’, Gas Innovation Fund, Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award and Agri-Tourism Project (see page 50).

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety - Key Highlights

Read about the First Social Farming Task Group Meeting setting out scope and objectives for group, CKAN, Athy, Newbridge and Leixlip Access Group meetings held and more (see page 54).

St Brigid’s Day

In February, celebrations for St Brigid’s Day were widespread across the county (see page 65).

Into Kildare Green Oak Leaf initiative

The Into Kildare Green Oak Leaf initiative launched this month which encourages tourism and hospitality providers across the county to make sustainable changes in their business (see page 67).

National Equine Innovation Centre

The programme of works at the Irish National Stud has now been completed and the tenants officially moved into the centre at the start of March (see page 75).

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Kildare County Council tendered for a Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator (see page 75).



Diary/Calendar

Draft Kildare County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

A copy of the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 – Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District may be viewed or inspected during the period from Thursday 03 March 2022 to Tuesday 19 April 2022 (see page 09).

County Development Plan

The Draft Plan was made with amendments and will now be published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March 2022. (see page 22).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

For the schedule of upcoming clinics in 2022 (see page 32).

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 (see page 34).

Local Community Development Committee

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 30 March 2022. (see page 65).

Spydus Go Live 29 March

Kildare Library and Arts are on track for our Go Live on 29 March (see page 69).



Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee Grants Schemes

A Community Grants Scheme has been publicised. Closing date is 21 March 2022 (see page 70).

Pilot Schools Project Competition

A pilot competition for primary schools in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District area was launched recently. Deadline for receipt of entries is 30 May (see page 70).

Centenary Event in Kildare Town on Saturday 16 April (Easter Saturday)

A full day programme of events to mark the centenary of the arrival of the Civic Guards (An Garda Síochána) into Kildare will take place, on 16 April. (see page 70).

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme will be officially relaunched in March and will remain open for applications until June 2022 (see page 74).



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 28 Mar 15:00 Full Council Meeting 11:00 Irish Water Clinic | 29 09:00 KWETB | 30 10:00 Local Community Development Committee LCDC | 31 | 1 Apr 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting |
| 4 09:00 O365 Training Elected Members; Online | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 09:00 O365 Training Elected Members; Online |
| 11 10:00 Athy MD Meeting | 12 15:30 Naas MD Meeting | 13 15:00 Coiste Gaeilge Committee | 14 14:00 Finance Committee | 15 |
| 18 | 19 14:00 CPG | 20 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting | 21 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee | 22 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting |
| 25 15:00 Full Council Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 11:30 County Twinning Committee | 29 |



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Corporate Services

Communications



Official Sod Turning – Athy Distributor Road

Kildare County Council held a Sod turning event on Thursday 03 March 2022, with Minister Hildegarde Naughton TD to mark the commencement of works on the new Athy Distributor Road. The event included speeches from local councillors, TDs and BAM Civil Limited, the main works contractor for the project. Local media were in attendance with images and press release issuing following the event which was also covered on social media.

Details of press release can be viewed [here](#).



Kildare Digital Strategy

Kildare County Council extended the deadline for the Digital Strategy Consultation to Friday 11th March, 2022, allowing time for further awareness building and media engagement. As the consultation period continued, Kildare County Council developed and released a promotional video outlining the goals and objectives of the digital strategy, and why the citizens of Kildare should have their say. Further local media engagement is also ongoing, to provide further detail and insight into the consultation.

The video can be viewed [here](#).

Press Release can be viewed [here](#).

Creative and Arts Grants





Kildare County Council has announced a number of new grants to support artists and creatives in Kildare.

Alongside existing grants and funding opportunities, the Council has confirmed total funding of more than €300,000 to support artist, arts groups and organisations, and artistic and creative projects in the county. The Council has now published details of 22 separate grants and award opportunities to support the development and presentation of creative and artistic projects in the coming year.

Details of press release can be viewed [here](#).

Draft Kildare County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District

Kildare County Council proposes to make bye-laws under the Casual Trading Act 1995, to designate casual trading areas at the locations outlined below:

| Proposed Designated Areas |
|---------------------------|
| Celbridge Town, The Slip |

| |
|--|
| St Catherine’s Park, Black Avenue Car Park, Leixlip |
| William Roantree Park, adjacent to Courtyard Car Park, Leixlip |
| Wonderful Barn, Celbridge Rd, Barnhall, Leixlip |

A copy of the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 – Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District may be viewed or inspected during the period from Thursday 03 March 2022 to Tuesday 19 April 2022 (both dates inclusive) at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Online here <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>
- Local libraries in Celbridge and Leixlip.
- Athy Customer Service Point, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.
- Corporate Services Department (Level 1), Kildare County Council offices (by appointment)

Appointments system:

<https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/> or call 045 980 200.



A copy of the draft bye-laws can be purchased from the Corporate Services Department for a fee of €5 or viewed on line at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>

Submissions or observations on the proposed bye-laws may be made:

- Online here <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> OR
- In writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department.

Please make your submission by one medium only i.e. online or hard copy. E-mail or faxed submissions will not be accepted.

Closing date for receipt of submissions/observations is 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19 April 2022. Any submission received before the closing date will be considered in the making of the bye-laws.

Details on privacy rights related to the consultation process is available <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/YourCouncil/GovernanceandCompliance/CasualTrading/>

Draft Kildare County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Kildare - Newbridge Municipal District

Public consultation on the above closed on 11 March at 5.00 p.m.

A report on the consultation and proposed bye laws will be given to the April 2022 Municipal District meeting, for the members decision in the matter.

Members Services

Meetings

Full Council

Meetings of Full Council resumed in Newbridge Town Hall in February. A Special meeting was held on Thursday 24 February to consider and make the Draft County Development Plan, followed by the February monthly meeting on Monday 28 February. The following guidance will continue to be implemented for council meetings and whilst social distancing is not now a requirement, we will continue to observe it in Newbridge Town Hall and in the Council Chamber as good practice during the transition period.



- Meeting room should be well ventilated during use ideally through open windows.
- Adherence to general hygiene procedures and ensure attendees have sanitised hands before going into a meeting.
- Welfare facilities/hand sanitiser / wipes to be made available at / adjacent to the meeting room.
- Record of meeting attendees advised to be kept for contact tracing purposes.
- Ensure attendees are advised in advance that they must not attend the meeting if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or feel unwell (or suspect they have been exposed to Cov 19).
- Ensure appropriate cleaning regime in place.

A special meeting of the Protocol Committee was held online on Monday 07 March to receive a presentation on the proposed upgrade to the Council Chamber. All members of Council were invited to attend. It was a very informative session with IT and Facilities welcoming the members feedback in advance of finalising the

Request for Tender (RFT) that will be advertised shortly. The presentation was circulated to the members and is available on the Members Information Portal.

Municipal Districts

Municipal District Committee meetings were held on-line and in-person in February and there were no issues arising. The members continue to consider the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022 to include the allocation of LPT funds, for their MDs.

Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2021 is on the March 2022 Full Council meeting.

Rates Demands 2022

The Rate Demands for 2022 issued in February to all ratepayers.

Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure budget reports for 2022 will be submitted to Full Council as part of the monthly management report from April onwards.



Housing

Housing for All

The Chief Executive and Director of Services for Housing attended the Housing Summit on the 23 February. Minister O'Brien provided the opening address and highlighted the following priority areas: the removal of obstacles to the large-scale delivery of social and affordable housing and tackling vacancy. Presentations were received on the following topics: Town Centre First, vacant homes, affordable and social housing delivery.

Affordable housing guidelines are awaited, and we await the outcome of a recent submission on staffing resources to deliver affordable housing.

Mortgage to Rent

Changes were introduced to the Mortgage to Rent (MTR) Scheme for private borrowers on 14 February 2022 which includes:

- An increase to the positive equity limits – Kildare allowable positive equity now €35,000 (Band 1)

- Purchase Price Thresholds Update – Kildare is in the Higher Threshold area - House €450,000 and Apartment/Townhouse €335,000
- Additional flexibility in the number of allowable bedrooms in a property will apply for borrowers aged 65 and above and also borrowers who have a disability or where a dependant has a disability.

According to figures from the Housing Agency, Kildare County Council has completed 105 MTR cases to date, which is the third highest number by Local Authority in the country.

Traveller Community

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



The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) considered the Final Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community (11/2021) at their meeting on 03 March last. Of the 84 recommendations (incl. health, education, employment), 18 relate specifically to accommodation. A Traveller identifier has been introduced nationally on the Social Housing Support Application from 14 March. This was recommended by the Joint Oireachtas Committee report.

A mid-term review of the current Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is expected to commence shortly (awaiting Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Circular).

The next meeting of the LTACC will take place on 02 June, 2022.

Homeless Services

Presentations by families continue to be a concern resulting in increased placements in Emergency Accommodation.

The Mid East Regional Homeless Forum

A meeting of the Forum was held on the 24 February. Among other items, an update was provided on COVID-19, Housing First and progress being made on actions contained in the Homeless Action Plan for the period 2021-2023. An increase in homelessness and the lack of private rental properties are issues which are present across the Mid East Region.

Update from National Homeless Leads Covid Meeting

National Leads Covid meeting was held on the 15 February with regions reporting an increase in family presentations.

It was agreed that COVID-19 Homeless meetings would be reduced to monthly and consideration given to amalgamating this meeting with the National Homeless Leads meeting which meets quarterly.

Housing First

Housing First Nationals new national director was announced on 02 March



and a Housing First Office has been established in the Housing agency.

Tenancy Support

Work in this area includes:

- Active caseload between two TSO's is 54
- Current waitlist consists of six clients
- 12 clients have been closed off TSO list (five clients in the month of January and seven in February)
- Currently conducting housing clinics with both Prosperous Family Hub and Athy Family Hub (PMVT)

Kildare County Council Homeless Outreach:

The Outreach Team continues to engage with rough sleepers and has focused on Athy and Kilcock in the month of February. A clinic was held in the Resource Centre in Newbridge and met with individuals seeking advice and assistance on 08 March.

Further placements for Housing First will be made in the immediate future which will reduce the number of rough sleepers to nine in March.

Jigginstown House Supported Accommodation:

The operator (Tiglin) continues to provide supported own front door accommodation and in cooperation with the homeless team will be adding an additional placement in the coming weeks.

Social Housing Assessments Form

The Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2022 provide for a revised social housing application form which will be introduced on 14 March 2022.

Summary of Changes to the existing form:

- Clarification in relation to the documentary evidence required for proof of income for the purpose of assessing income eligibility.
- The inclusion of a Traveller identifier question on the prescribed Social Housing Support application form in Part 8: Housing Requirements



As applicants may be currently completing the existing application form it has been agreed that the existing application form will be accepted up to the 31 March 2022.

Conflict in Ukraine

Immediate Accommodation Needs

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is involved in cross-government discussions, led by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, looking at options to meet the temporary accommodation needs of those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine and coming to Ireland. The International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) is currently preparing arrangements to receive those fleeing the conflict into IPAS accommodation either directly from airports to IPAS or to family and from there to IPAS. It should be noted that there is no obligation to present to IPAS and under the current visa waiver those fleeing the conflict have 90 days to present. In terms of offers of assistance for accommodation coming in through local authorities or

the public, the Red Cross will be the centre point for all these offers and further communication will issue later in this regard.

Impact on Emergency

Accommodation

There may be instances where those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine present to a local authority rather than directly to IPAS seeking assistance in terms of housing or emergency accommodation. In such instances, and where the household/individual identifies as seeking refuge from the conflict, they should be directed to IPAS. In any instance where an immediate humanitarian response is required, local authorities are asked to use discretion and provide accommodation. In this instance the local authority should then refer the case to IPAS.

Planning implications of the provision of certain facilities

The Department is also engaging with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and other relevant Government Departments regarding the types of



facilities and structures that may be required to provide accommodation for those fleeing the conflict and presenting in Ireland and the planning implications associated with the provision of any such facilities and structures. There are emergency power provisions in section 181 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), to enable the non-application of the Act to certain classes of development by or on behalf of a State authority. The Department will communicate further with local authorities on developments in this regard at the earliest date, including any legislative changes to the planning code to assist in addressing the situation.

An FAQ is being appended to this document and further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/d9f4-3-international-protection-accommodation-services-ipas/>

Updated Telephone Numbers

The telephone system in Housing has been re-organised and six new hunt groups have been set up. Hunt groups will allow customers to make direct contact with Housing Teams.

Following is a summary of the contact numbers for housing:

| Team | Contact Number |
|--|---|
| Allocations | 045 980705 |
| Assessment of housing applications | 045 980870 |
| HAP | 045 980818 |
| Grants | 045 980480 |
| Loans, Tenant Purchase and Conveyancing | 045 980780 |
| Homelessness & Homeless HAP | 045 980230 |
| Maintenance | 045 980200 (through main switch) |
| Rents and Traveller Accommodation | 045 980991 |



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 28 February 2022

| Duration | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults | Dependents |
|-----------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 6 Months | 29 | 43 | 48 |
| 6 - 12 Months | 8 | 12 | 10 |
| 12 - 18 Months | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 18 - 24 Months | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| 24 - 30 Months | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 36 Months + | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| | 53 | 78 | 80 |

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 28 February 2022

| Duration | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults | Dependents |
|-----------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 6 Months | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| 6 - 12 Months | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 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 |



Capital Programme

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|--|--|--|
| Approval Stage 4 | | |
| Athgarvan Village | 18 units | Engagement ongoing with DHLGH with regard to retendering of this project, possibly in Q2 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 on 15 February 2022. Programme for Part 8 being agreed with the design team. |
| Coill Dubh | 10 units | Stage 3 revised approval received January 2022. Tender will be advertised shortly. |
| Ardclough Road, Celbridge | 39 units | Stage 2 approval received on 21 February 2022. Preparation of Part 8 will be progressed Q1 2022. |
| Dispensary Site Carbury | 5 units | Stage 1 approval received. Consultant's tender documents being reviewed. Design Team Tender to be progressed Q1 2022. |
| Oldtown Mill, Celbridge | 57 units | Application submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022 for inclusion in Social Housing PPP Programme. |
| St Evin's Park Monasterevin | 16 units | Stage 2 application for approval for submission being prepared. Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations underway. No further update. |
| Ambassador Site, Kill | 33 units | Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Expected Part 8 launch Q1 2022. |
| Old Greenfield, Maynooth | Volumetric Framework 64 units | Stage 2 approval received 9 March 2022. |
| Approval Stage 1 | | |
| Caragh Road, Naas | 73 units | Development of 73 units [to include 15no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. |
| Andrew, Athy | 8 units | Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Review of approval ongoing. |



Infill Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Newtown House, Leixlip | 4 units | Part 8 to launch Q2 2022. |
| Glandore, Athy | 4 units | Stage 2 approval received 15 February 2022 with conditions. Part 8 to launch Q2 2022. |
| Patrician Ave, Naas | 2 new + 1 refurb | Part 8 launch Q1 2022. |
| Shamrock Stores, Athy | 2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units | Application for Stage 1 and 2 approval for new unit being prepared for submission to DHLGH. |

PPP Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Nancy's Lane, Clane | 77 units | Scheme completed; allocations ongoing |
| Ardrew, Athy | 73 Housing units + Community unit. | Part 8 for 73 social housing units at Ardrew, Athy readvertised on 1 February 2022. Submissions due by 15 th March 2022. |
| Oldtown Mill, Celbridge | 57 units | Application for inclusion in Social Housing PPP programme submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022. |
| Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare | 80 units | Application for inclusion of C1 lands in Social Housing PPP programme and masterplanning of C2 lands submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022. |
| Rickardstown, Newbridge | 80 social/40affordable units | Application for inclusion in Social Housing PPP programme for social and affordable scheme submitted to DHLGH on 17 February 2022. |

Approved Housing Body Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy | 35 units | Expected completion mid-June 2022. |
| Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins | 28 units | Completion now programmed for late April/early May depending on utilities connections. |
| Cluid, ESB site Leixlip | 27 units | Architect lead Design Team to be appointed Q1 2022. Discussions regarding relocation of mast to recommence. |
| Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas | 70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department) | Meeting held with the DHLGH November 2021. Current calculations of abnormal costs risk the viability of the project. Increasing density to be explored. |



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

| Approved Housing Body | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|--|--------------|---|
| KARE Craddockstown | 3 units | Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by Kildare County Council. |
| Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan | 27 units | Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 8th March to review comments from DHLGH on Stage 2 application. Proposed amendments being reviewed by design team for revised Stage 2 submission. |
| Cluid Dominican Lands Athy | 34 units | Revised CAS2 application submitted to the DHLGH having regard to amendments requested by DHLGH. |
| The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins | 4 units | Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by Kildare County Council. |

Acquisitions

| | Completed Units 2019 | Completed units 2020 | Completed 2021 | Completed 2022 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Housing Acquisitions | 231 | 39 | 13 | 2 |
| Housing Turnkeys | 81 | 107 | 27 | |
| Part V Acquisitions | 67 | 41 | 70 | |
| Total complete | 379 | 187 | 110 | 2 |

| Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District | | | | | |
|--|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|
| | Athy | Celbridge- Leixlip | Clane- Maynooth | Kildare- Newbridge | Naas |
| Acquisitions in 2022 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |



Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

| | 2020 | 2021 to date | 2022 to date |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Total Approved | €7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications) | €11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications) | €3,190,945 |
| Total Drawn Down | €2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals) | €4,284,754 (€3,232,795 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €1,051,956 from 2021 approvals) | €864,100 (€406,000 from 2021 approvals, €458,100 from 2020 approvals) |

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

| 2022 | Approval No. | Approval Amount | Approval Drawdown No (2021 apps) | Approval Drawdown Amount (2021 apps) | Expired No (2021 approvals) | Expired Amount (2021 approvals) |
|------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan | 9 | €2,029,945 | 2 | €406,000 | 2 | €576,000 |
| Feb | 5 | €1,161,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Year to date no loans approved under the Local Authority Home Loan scheme or the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme/ Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting

| Location | Programme | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|
| Beechgrove, Rathangan | MEERP | 14 | Phase 1 Beechgrove: Works ongoing, 4 units substantially complete, 3 further units commenced |
| Ashgrove, Derrinturn | MEERP | 21 | Works progressing well, circa. 16 of 18 houses substantially complete, final snag to be carried out before sign-off. |
| Bishopsland, Kildare | MEERP | 38 | Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurry: Letter of acceptance issued and works commenced. |
| St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin | MEERP | 15 | Phase 4 St Evins' Park: Works progressing |
| Cill Corban, Naas | EERP | 10 | First 5 units completed; and works to remaining 5 units has commenced |
| Clonmullion, Athy | EERP | 14 | Letter of acceptance ready to issue. |
| Loughnamona, Leixlip | EERP | 39 | Letter of acceptance issued; Works commenced 24/1/22 and progressing. |
| Vacants | MEERP/EERP | 24 | Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing |



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 County Development Plan. The Draft Plan was made with amendments and will now be published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March 2022.

Environmental Reports are also nearing completion.

The Forward Planning Team has prepared a Public Consultation Strategy to include the following;

- A Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 'Virtual Consultation Room'

- Kildare County Development Plan Podcast Series
- A series of online information sessions
- Recorded presentations
- Social Media & Website Consultation Strategy
- Consultation Portal
- Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Maynooth

Background work for the Maynooth 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 | |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| February | Year | February | February | |
| 2020: 129 | 203 | 269 | Total Granted: | 101 |
| 2021: 134 | 234 | 30 | Further information requested: | 66 |
| 2022: 125 | 220 | 109 | 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)

Large-scale Residential Development 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.

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.

Heritage Officer

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, Conservation and Public realm teams.

Heritage Plan Fund:

Kildare County Council has received funding for four projects under the scheme-€36,000

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 end March.



County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

Open for applications form community groups. Closing date was 11 March.

Irish Walled Town Network

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

Kilkea Rent Table

The Stone Table has now been restored and will be moved to Letterfrack Conservation for storage until such time as the Shackleton Museum is ready to receive it.

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

Meetings have been arranged with the Expert Advisory Group and the Royal sites steering group to progress outstanding items in order to progress the application.

Heritage and Biodiversity Actions for Climate- Webinar series

During February, the Local Authority Heritage Officer network hosted a webinar series to explore heritage and climate action. The seminar consisted of four topics:

- Embedding Climate in Heritage
- Wetlands Community and Climate
- Nature based solutions for Climate
- People Heritage and Climate

Recordings of the webinars can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxpztbwr8lkGnpJlouvdGZA>

The series was supported by the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network, the City and County Managers Association and the Heritage Council

Planning files:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Heritage reports | 66 |
|------------------|----|



Public Realm

Public Realm Funding Applications & other items

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 3

Works are complete on the following projects:

| Location | Total estimated project cost | Amount of T&V grant funding requested for this project |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Leixlip Town Centre | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Celbridge Town Centre | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Main Street, Naas and environs | €60,000 | €40,000 |
| Main Street, Maynooth and environs | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council | €11,000 | €10,000 |

The following projects with were successful under the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 are being progressed:

| Location | Proposal | Total Project Cost | Funding Requested | Comments |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Ardclough | Heritage Centre Phase 2 | €97,000 | €87,300 | Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding |
| Clane | Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre | €250,000 | €200,000 | Clane Maynooth LPT match funding |
| Athy | Enterprise Centre improvements | €99,000 | €89,100 | Enterprise Centre to provide match funding |



| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Sallins | Healthcheck & Town Renewal Plan | €70,000 | €63,000 | Naas LPT match funding |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|

The following public realm applications to Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund were successful and funding terms and conditions have been accepted:

| Location | Proposal | Total Project Cost | Funding Awarded | Comments |
|----------|--|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Naas | Town centre Masterplan & Cultural Quarter. | €4,662,000 | €3,490,000 | Consultant to be procured. |
| Maynooth | Town Centre Masterplan to include Main Street and adjoining laneways, Carton Avenue, Courthouse Square, Harbourfield and environs. | €2,545,000 | €1,900,000 | Consultant to be procured. |

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PUBLIC REALM TEAM
Updates in **GREEN**

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| 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. |
| 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 being published early 2022.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08 February 2022, on public display from 09 February 2022 – 09 March 2022. Public consultation open until 23 March 2022.

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.

Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13 April 2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19 May 2021. Detailed design will now progress.

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.

Tender Consultants and Design

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.

Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process.

Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.

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 September 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.

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 27 September 2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.



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| <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 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 September 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 September 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 Quarter 1 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 Quarter 1 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 September 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. Second phase of consultation complete with the</p> |



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| <p>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 Quarter 2 2022 and will take nine 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 Quarter 2 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 – Consultation on draft Masterplan complete and submissions being incorporated into draft Masterplan.</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> |



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| Detailed Design |
| 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. |
| 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. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021. |
| Construction |
| Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open. |
| Naas – MERITS – Works complete. Final fit out nearing completion. |
| 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. |



Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

Water Services

Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works carried out in Clane and Newbridge are substantially complete. The remaining pipeline works in Sallins on the main street were completed by the end of February. Similarly, the last section of pipeline installed in Naas close to the lake at Lakelands has been completed with reinstatement of the green area outstanding. Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins pumping stations.

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

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Operate (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020.

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 1 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

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 continues to stabilise from previous years. In February 2021, 443 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2022, this has reduced to 357 tonnes, in line with previous years.

Green Schools

An increase in queries from Green Schools was noted during February and it is hoped there will be an overall increase in activity with the schools this spring.

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 agric storage,
 - Pressures from agric 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 on by Director of Service and returned to the EPA. The council had a very busy and successful year behind us and a busier year planned ahead in 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

Tidy towns groups who have received financial assistance from the council in

2021 have been requested to provide a brief report on their grant-aided activities.

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

A general increase in queries on the Green Kilometre scheme and voluntary cleanups has been noticed. The environment section has purchased additional bags and litter pickers to equip the public for these cleanups and it is anticipated that activity will increase over the course of the year.

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&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.



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



CAP 2021

Following the publication of the National Climate Action Plan 2021, the Annex of Actions, to support the delivery

of the plan has now been approved and published. It is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223-e-climate-action-plan-2021/>.

The CARO has undertaken and distributed an examination of the CAP and Annex of Actions, to provide local authorities with details of the sections relevant to the sector.

Community Climate Action Programme



The Community Climate Action Programme, funded by the Climate Action Fund, will see €60 million invested in community climate action projects, initiatives, and capacity building, over the next three years.

Details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/de5d3-climate-action-fund/>



It will be rolled in two phases with €30 million allocated for the first phase.

The first phase is comprised of two strands:

Strand 1 - Action: Building Low Carbon Communities - €24 million is being provided to local authorities to support communities, large and small, rural and urban, to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way. An announcement on the roll out of this strand of funding is expected shortly.

Strand 2 - Education: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing - A total of €6 million is being provided to build community capacity in relation to climate action. There are two elements to this strand:



A - Open Call for Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing Projects:
€5 million will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of the Environment Climate and

Communications (DECC).

Applications opened on the 15 November 2021 and closed on 14 January 2022.



B - Creative Climate Action: €1 million which has already been allocated. This scheme is administered by Creative Ireland.



Capacity Building

The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, to implement on behalf of the local government sector, a national training programme for all elected members and local authority staff. The training programme includes six pillars and has received CPD accreditation from a number of bodies (Engineers Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, CIWEM). Over the course of 2021 and to date this year, the training programme has delivered training to 13,581 staff and



elected members across all local authorities. Currently a review of training to date is being undertaken and will help inform future training under this programme. The review will be completed in March/April 2022.



Elected Members/Senior Staff

This programme has been delivered to 939 senior management and staff, in 26 local authorities to date. The remaining five local authorities will complete the programme by March 2022. For those who have been unable to attend within their local authority, a Championing Leadership Webinar will take place in April 2022.



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, is aimed at

members of local authority Climate Action Teams. The course takes place over six half days and to date, has been delivered to CAT members in all local authorities. In 2022, under this pillar, additional support training on specific themes will be offered to CAT members via webinar.



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 11,703 staff at grades 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and equivalents participate. 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. Work is continuing to develop training under this pillar, focusing specifically on translating climate policy to particular functions of local authorities.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with 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. There are currently five in-person

training sessions scheduled for 2022, targeting each of the four CARO regions.



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 5 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 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 recognized 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.

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 greenhouse 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 3 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 & 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

Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

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

Intranet Portal

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

 SharePoint



Climate & Energy

The 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.



Kildare Community Stories
February 28 at 9:35 AM · 🌐

Kildare's Top Pollinator Site 🐝🐝🐝

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

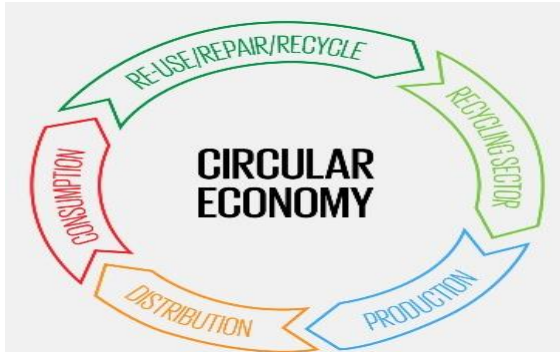
One exciting element of this progressive project is Kildare County Council's partnership with Maynooth University on a funded MSc Scholarship in Sustainable Management Practices.

T... See more



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

Accessibility

Key Highlights:

- First Social Farming Task Group Meeting setting out scope and objectives for group
- CKAN, Athy, Newbridge and Leixlip Access Group meetings held
- Attended Webinar with AHEAD on Disclosure of a Disability to an employer
- Review of Access issues in Kilcock
- Meetings re: cycling infrastructure in Newbridge and cycling awareness campaign
- Walkability Audit Leixlip
- Kildare Inclusion Schools Project Presentation re: current status and future plans
- Purchase of 14 Reader Pens for Libraries - promotes independent reading and learning for any student suffering from reading difficulties such as dyslexia



Digital Strategy for Kildare

Work has now commenced 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. The video can be viewed [here](#). Press Release can be viewed [here](#).

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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

4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road

Contractor is now on site. Main works are fencing and site clearance. Project teams are in place. Progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings ongoing.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Tender assessment is underway. It is expected to have a main contractor on site for Quarter 2 2022.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

A meeting with the LIHAF landowners took place on 10 February to provide an update on progress to date and the next step towards the commencement of the CPO process. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

It is anticipated that the second non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2,



presenting the emerging preferred route option will commence shortly.

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 in March 2022.

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. Consultants (ATKINS) have been recently appointed. It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 1 2022.

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Kildare Town Transport Strategy is complete and has been published on the Kildare County Council website.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

AECOM Consultants have been appointed to the develop of the

Maynooth Transport Strategy. The baseline analysis is broadly complete and AECOM are moving onto the strategy optioneering stage.

Naas Permeability Improvement Project

The non-statutory public consultation (via a leaflet drop and online survey) took place in December and submissions are being examined.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Four bridge projects funded by the Department of Transport for 2021 were awarded to TRUIR to be completed by Quarter 1 2022.

The Monasterevin Bridge has significant structural issues in two centre-pier cutwaters. Rehabilitation works are ongoing on-site.

Brook bridge has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2022.

Caragh Bridge Update

Ministerial Order has been approved and emergency works are proceeding to construction phase.



Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

The section of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road (NSRR) between the Newbridge to Naas dual carriageway (R445) and the Great Connell road is now substantially complete and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of snags, the transfer of lands and the submission of the taking in charge documentation.

NTA-funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Work Programme for 2022 has been agreed with the NTA.

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

AECOM appointed to complete the detailed design of the Mill Street works.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth- Leixlip)

Contractor to be appointed in Quarter 1 2022 subject to signing legal agreements with Waterways Ireland.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Preliminary design ongoing and a revised Part 8 process will follow.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Documents being finalized for a Part 8 Public Consultation process.

Celbridge Bridge

Documents being finalized 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

Documents being finalized for a Part 8 Public Consultation process.

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 and
Monasterevin)**

Documents for the Part 8 process are being prepared.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Detailed design phase underway with the scheme expected to start construction in 2022.

**Kildare County Council Speed Limit
Review**

Meetings being held with each Municipal District Committee to discuss amendments.

Roads Maintenance

Department of Transport Road Grant Allocation announced on 15 February:

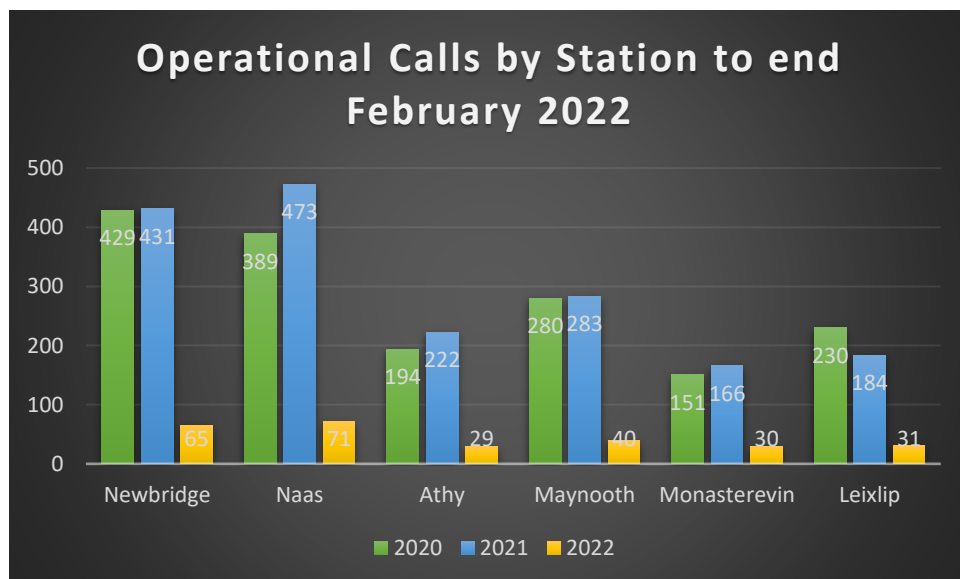
Fire Service Operations: 2021 Summary

Overall Maintenance Grant is €17.46M 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 and very mild conditions are noted with minimal gritting required.

The 2022 programmes of work in each Municipal District are also being finalised.





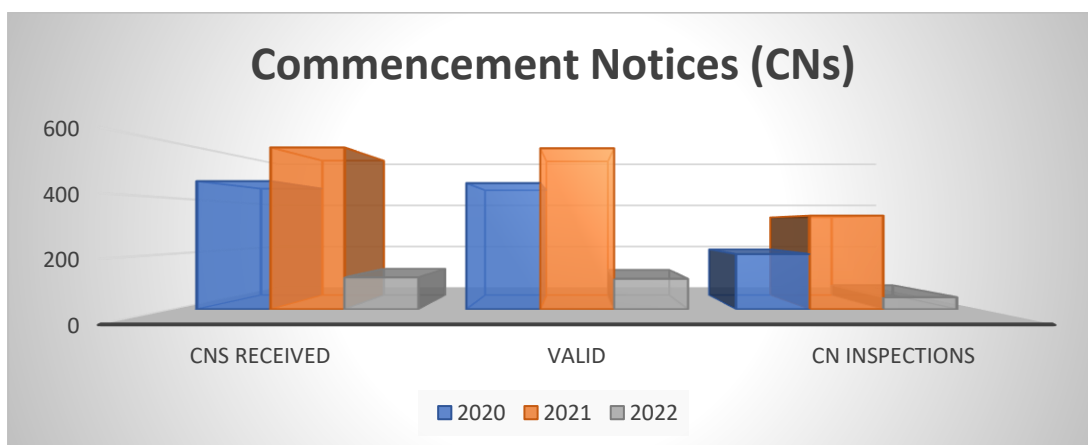
Applications received to the end of February 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

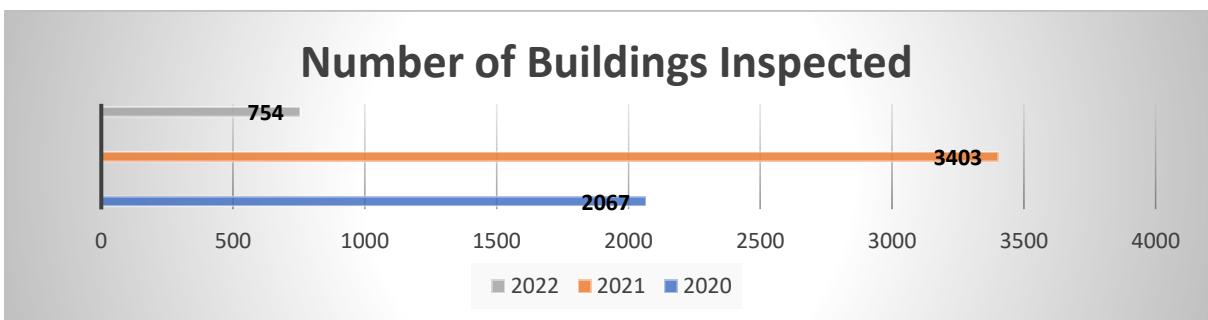
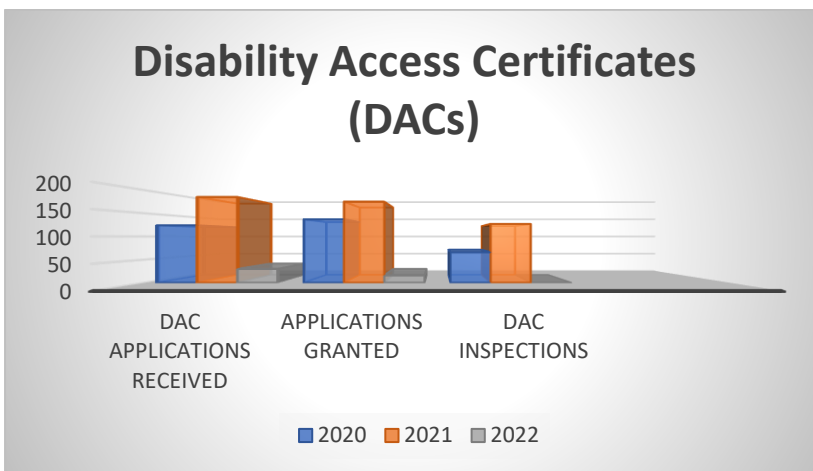
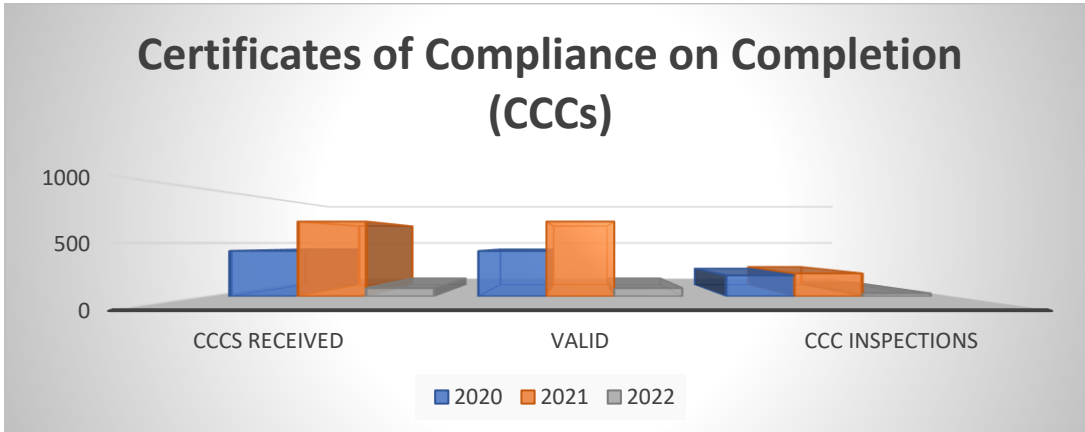


Building and Development Control

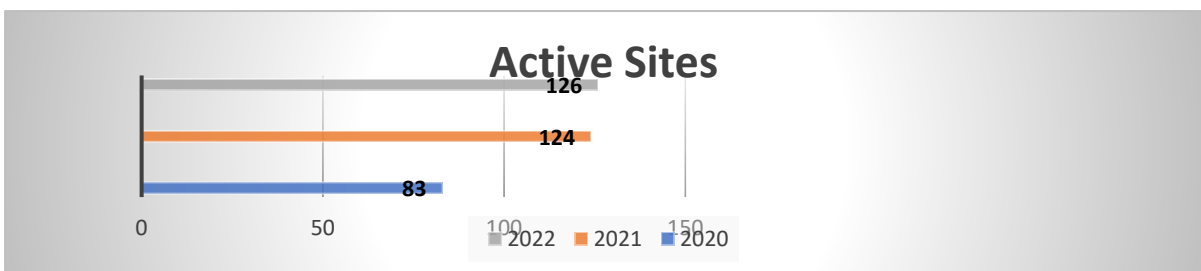
The following figures are cumulative up to end of February 2022, set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL





DEVELOPMENT CONTROL





HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key Highlights February:

- Site inspections recommenced
– Three completed
- Two online assessments completed
- Meetings with Lead Worker Representatives, Safety Rep, Staff App Project Team and Health and Safety Management Committee
- Local Authority Safety Officers Group (LASOG) Meeting
- Attended LGMA webinar – Wellbeing Strategy
- Staff App Project Team Meeting
- Annual review of Safety Statement completed
- Research on implementation of a lone working system
- Review of national Standard Operating Guidance (SOGS) organisational committee LGMA – retraction of SOGs post covid (30 reduced to 4)
- Review of the following documentation:

- Gritting/salting of streets in severe weather Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS)
- Working in Severe weather RAMS
- Tender Documentation for Architects
- Accidents and Incidents:
 - Four accidents resulting in a reporting requirement to HSA.

Two incidents – resulting in a reporting to HSA as a dangerous occurrence



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

| All Grants Awarded 2021 | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Type | No. | Amount |
| Community Grants | 134 | €236,066 |
| Festival Grants | 56 | €44,605 |
| Local Property Tax | 380 | €703,555 |
| Private Estates Res. Assoc. | 300 | €111,517 |
| Local Authority Res. Assoc. | 71 | €44,573 |
| Drehid Grants | 28 | €201,697 |
| Community Enhancement Programme | 27 | €148,013 |
| Education Bursaries | 35 | €24,750 |
| Total | 1031 | €1,514,776 |

2022 grants schemes

Community, festival, Drehid and residents' associations grants were advertised at the end of January. Closing date for online applications for all schemes was Friday 11 March 2022. Assessments start on 14 March.

Local property tax grants

Details of grants are awaited from MD meetings.

LCDC Community Activities Fund for 2022

€296,027 has been allocated to Kildare. The LCDC has commenced assessments and proposed awards will be notified in due course.

Local Community

Development Committee

March 2022

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held online on 24 November 2021.

Local Economic and Community Plan

Online workshops are commencing nationally to support the process of developing the next LECP.

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. The recruitment of the Slaintecare Local Development Officer is finalised with Maria Healy due to commence work on the 21 March. The People's Park project in Athy is underway with upgrading commencing shortly.

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

A total of 77 applications were received. The LCDC evaluation committee meeting met on the 09 March. Work to assess applications will continue as it is expected to recommend the awards at the next LCDC meeting.

Healthy Ireland

Work to progress the Healthy Ireland Programme of the LCDC and CYPSC continues to take place. A Healthy Kildare Plan is currently being written and consultations are commencing. Further information on Healthy Ireland is available by contacting:

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: 086 8858508
healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie

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.

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

LEADER Programme

A position paper developed between Kildare LCDC, County Kildare LEADER Partnership and Kildare County Council to highlight the need for additional funding in any future LEADER programme was submitted to Minister Humphreys. This will be used to highlight the work to date and to raise awareness of the need for increased funding for Kildare
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 30 March 2022.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

In February, celebrations for St Brigid's Day were widespread across the county.

The Light Up Kildare campaign for St. Brigid's Day continued into early February. Towns and communities across the county connected to the flame of St Brigid on the Hill of Allen and the beacon of light at Cupidstown Hill by lighting candles in their homes and businesses. These flames were shared across social media with the hashtag #LightUpKildare.



Jack Lukeman at the Hill of Allen

The promotion of St Brigid's Day in Kildare secured extensive media coverage in the run up to the festival

and following Light Up Kildare, which included a performance of the 'Curragh of Kildare' from Kildare native, Jack Lukeman. It featured in the Kildare Nationalist, RTÉ Lifestyle, Leinster Leader and Kildare Now amongst other publications and on KFM and Today (RTE).



Light Up Kildare, Today (RTE)

The Light Up Kildare video gained wide reach, impressions and engagement across all social channels and featured

Many communities joined us to Light Up Kildare including students from St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare town, who sent a message for St Brigid's Day across Into Kildare social channels.

Images from diaspora around the world were shared using the hashtag #LightUpKildare, while An Taoiseach and Uachtarán na hÉireann also lit a candle to connect with the people of Kildare. Kildare Fáilte attended several events during Féile Bríde and the Kiltel St Brigid's Arts Festival.



From the end of January, restrictions ended for live events, bars and theatres, which was welcomed by the industry. Kildare Fáilte supported venues by promoting their events on the Into Kildare website and across social. While Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland hosted industry briefings to ensure all tourism providers were equipped for the much-anticipated easing of restrictions.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Royal Canal Greenway Marketing Steering Group Meeting where Tandem presented their findings and discussed how the visitor experience along the Royal Canal Greenway can be enhanced. The four local authorities, represented by tourism officers, gave feedback which will be included in the final report.

Fáilte Ireland held an industry event in Dublin Convention Centre called 'From Survival to Recovery' and shared their upcoming campaigns and marketing plans to support the recovery of the tourism industry following the pandemic. The domestic market will continue to be important until the overseas market recovers to 2019

numbers, which is predicted to be 2025. A workshop took place during the event to support the industry in recruiting staff.



Paul Kelly, CEO Fáilte Ireland presenting at From Survival to Recovery Industry Event

A virtual briefing 'Building for the Future' took place where Fáilte Ireland detailed the investment in new and enhanced visitor experiences up to 2025. Year-round outdoor recreation experiences will continue to be a key driver for visitors.

Kildare Fáilte also attended Tourism Ireland's St Patrick's Day Industry Briefing where their plans for Global Greening and St Patrick's Festival were presented to industry. This year the festival will be hybrid with virtual and in person events taking place around the world.



Destination Newbridge, a community led initiative, and Kildare Fáilte continued to work together to enhance maps in the town for both tourists use and residents. The monthly meeting also took place and updates on work carried out was shared and next steps discussed.

Meetings with the Rose of Tralee committee were held to prepare for the Kildare selection in May and the International festival which takes place in August.



The Into Kildare Green Oak Leaf initiative launched this month which encourages tourism and hospitality providers across the county to make sustainable changes in their business. Those who are making efforts to be more eco-friendly and are members of sustainable programs will have the Into Kildare Green Oak Leaf embedded on their intokildare.ie website listing. Several experiences in the county were featured in Irish Country

Magazine following a press trip that took place late last year.

Communication and messaging in February concerned Valentine's Day gifts, offers and experiences as well as inspiration for family day trips and staycations over the February mid-term break.



Kildare
Trips & Guides

See all  

These messages were communicated across social media and in eZines to the Into Kildare database. Dedicated webpages were created for both campaigns.

Engagement on digital channels continued to be strong with a high interest in events taking place across the county, St Brigid's Day, hotel breaks and family activities.



Library and Arts Service

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

Féile Bríde 2022

The Book of Kildare Art Exhibition by Josephine Hardiman

Solas Bhríde and Kildare Town Library hosted the 'The Book of Kildare 2022' exhibition in Kildare library for February.

Reader Services – Right to Read Activities

Small Steps to Literacy Launch

Kildare Libraries, in partnership with Wicklow Libraries and County Kildare LEADER Partnership recently launched the Small Steps to Literacy videos. These videos are available in English, Romanian and Czech Roma and offer suggestions and tips for parents on how best to support reading and language development, in children; birth – five years old.

The launch is available to watch here:

<https://vimeo.com/675556122>

Videos in English are available to watch here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/smallsteps>
[eng](#)

Ireland Reads

Libraries in Kildare took part in the Ireland Reads campaign to get the whole country reading in February.

The campaign asked everyone to 'squeeze in a read' on Ireland Reads Day, Friday, 25 February.

Kildare Libraries hosted online Ireland Reads events with Emma Donoghue, Dave Rudden, Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan and Declan O'Rourke and a talk on Dyslexia in Adults.

Toys, Technology and Training Programme 2022

The Spring 2022 series of TTT events, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities was launched in February by Dr Pauline Frizelle (UCC).

Full details of all our events at:

<https://www.kildare.ie/Library/media/TTTEventsSpring2022.pdf>

Ranganna Gaeilge

An 8-week daytime series of Online Irish Language classes for staff and members of the public is currently underway, organised in conjunction with Cill Dara le Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge.



Period Poverty

Kildare Library Services have been awarded €25,000 from the Department of Health to pilot a project to combat period poverty.

BHIS

Kildare County Council have been awarded €8,900 under the BHIS scheme for the re-instatement of architectural features on Naas Town Hall new Library Project.

Athy Library Shines

Athy Library recently played host to a visit from the Norwegian Ambassador and is set to host the Mayor of Manchester on 16 March as part of the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Athy.

Staffing

Kildare Library Service has filled 7 Library Assistant posts and is interviewing shortly for a caretaker panel which will alleviate some of the pressure on the service.

Spydus Go Live 29 March

Kildare Library and Arts are on track for our Go Live on 29 March of our new national Library Management System (LMS) called Spydus. There will be some down time the week of 22

to 28 March as our data migrates from our old LMS.

Our social media team are working on the messaging to make the public aware. It's an exciting time as the public will have a much more user friendly and dynamic user interface. There will be minor disruption while we do the switch over on 29 March and people must reset their PINS but will be met with a much improved and visually appealing user interface.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project is progressing well. Kildare Library and Arts expect to open the library to the public in Autumn 2022.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

Design Team are working with the Public Realm and Special Projects Team and the Library Service on the design. Kildare County Council inter-departmental pre-planning consultation will take place in March. Kildare Library and Arts hope to submit the plans for Part 8 Planning by May 2022.



New Clane Library

The Design Team, Architects and Library Service working on drawings in preparation for Part 8 Planning process later this year.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Staff continue to deal with queries. Items of relevance to County Kildare continue to be acquired and work is ongoing to preserve collections: volumes of The Liffey Champion, Leinster Leader and Kildare Nationalist have been bound in recent months.

Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee Grants Schemes

A Community Grants Scheme has been publicised. Closing date is 21 March 2022. Maximum grant to be awarded is €2500; specific grants available for each of the five municipal districts.

Artistic and Creative Bursary Award 2022

Applications are also welcome from individual artists, art, and community groups from the county for artistic and creative community-led responses that relate in some way to County Kildare in the 1922-1923 period.

Pilot Schools Project Competition

A pilot competition for primary schools in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District area, supported by the Decade of Commemorations Committee, was launched recently. Deadline for receipt of entries is Monday 30 May.

Centenary Event in Kildare Town on Saturday 16 April (Easter Saturday)

A full day programme of events to mark the centenary of the arrival of the Civic Guards (An Garda Síochána) into Kildare will take place, on the 16 April.

Kildare Arts Service

Funding of more than €300,000 confirmed for creative and arts projects

In addition to the suite of Creative & Arts Grants announced in January, Kildare County Council announced further grant opportunities this month, confirming funding of more than €300,000 to supports artists, arts groups/organization's, and artistic and creative projects in the county.



Kildare Arts Service hosts online Information Sessions on Creative and Arts Grants

In early February, Kildare Arts Officer Lucina Russell hosted two online Information sessions to provide guidance on all Arts Grants, Creative Ireland and Decade of Commemorations Bursary Award and Commission opportunities available through Kildare County Council in 2022. The sessions were recorded, and the session is now available to view via [Kildare Arts Service's YouTube channel](#).

Creative Places Athy programme updates

The Creative Places Athy programme announced the Lunch and Talks initiative, intended to be an opportunity for the people and communities of Athy to begin conversations about all things to do with art and creativity. Six meetings will be hosted in various locations around Athy February - April. The first of these was held on 25 February with attendance more than 30 local artists, representatives of community groups and members of the public. Contact Creative Places Athy Coordinator Eilish on

elangton@kildarecoco.ie or phone 087 6334736 for further information.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Work is continuing on the tender for the playground. Ground investigation works have been organised to inform the tender particularly the construction of the pump track and multi use games area.

Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge

Path upgrade surfacing work and repairs have been completed in Liffey Linear Park. This involved the replacement of a section of footpath from St Conleths Bridge to The Watering Gates. Other repairs were made around the strand area of the park.

Work has also started on the preparation of a tender to have the towpath to the Athgarvan Road redesigned to facilitate safer access along this section of the park.

Tree Planting 2022

A programme of tree planting to replace locations where trees have



been removed and where new trees are required has been awarded to SAP Landscapes. This work will be carried out in the next month. The planting of semi mature trees included in the programme may have to be delayed to the end of the year due a shortage in the supply of trees in the country.

Grass Maintenance

Grass maintenance will recommence this month across the county. An additional 20 sites have been added for reduced mowing this year. This makes a total of 72 sites across the county.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) March 2022

| Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 28 February 2022 | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| | No. Businesses | Amount Received |
| Web Development Grant | 18 | 35,627.25 |
| Feasibility Study Grant | 2 | 10,340 |
| Priming Grant | 3 | 132,435 |
| Business Expansion Grant | 7 | 134,115 |

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) | 2 | 4,748 |
|---|---|-------|

National Enterprise Awards

Acorn Star Limited of Robertstown, Naas, led by Siobhan and Cathal, have been selected as Kildare's finalist for the NEA. Interviews took place on 4th March and the winner was selected by an independent committee. This highly innovative company provide educational technology solutions through virtual reality for business and educational institutions both in Ireland and abroad. The national finals will take place in June.

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, 329 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.

Food Starter Programme

[Expressions of interest](#) are sought
from food entrepreneurs less than two
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.

Showcase 2022 – 27 February to 03 March 2022

Showcase - Ireland's Creative Expo
"International craft, gift, fashion and
interiors fair" at the RDS Dublin.

Each year LEO Kildare support and
subsidise stands for our clients this
year four Kildare clients were
supported and subsidised to exhibit at
the show and will continue to be
supported throughout 2023.

Aoife Rooney of A o i f e Lifestyle,
Naas MD

Ruth Cahill of Duck Blue, Clane-
Maynooth MD

Magdalena Seymour of Pure Oskar,
Kildare-Newbridge MD

Vanessa Murtagh of Vanessa Ree
Jewellery, Naas MD

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](#).

Economic Support Services

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme will be officially relaunched in March and will remain open for applications until June 2022. Details of the scheme will be posted on social media and our website

*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

Applications are streaming in for the LEO funded MERITS Genesis programme which begins this month. This programme will take people from Ideation stage to Minimum Viable Product. This will be the first programme delivered from the MERITS building, with all 2021 programmes having been delivered on line.

Last week MERITS held a networking event for the local tech StartUp Ecosystem, including bringing together everyone who participated on Programmes during 2021.

This month's guest on our podcast/webinar series Backstage with Tech Founders Geraldine Gibson of Maynooth-based, International FinTech sensation AQMetrics. Registration is available at:



https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k-A8qw7kTiejwS1JyAIDuw

The conferencing facilities and Audio Visual fitout of the building is completed and the facilities are proving to be very popular with members and non-members alike.

National Equine Innovation Centre

The programme of works at the Irish National Stud has now been completed and the tenants officially moved into the centre at the start of March. Kildare LEO will work closely with all tenants to support their development.

Kildare Hub Strategy Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

Minor external clearance have commenced to prepare the site for future construction. Following the announcement of a new round of RRDF funding, the project team are currently preparing an application in advance of the deadline in April.

Kildare Hub Strategy

A final version of the strategy was presented and approved at the December SPC meeting. The strategy is currently undergoing design and will

be presented to full council for their approval in Quarter 2.

Kildare Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The Economic Development team worked closely with the regional stakeholders to consult and prepare the final draft of the Mid-East REP to 2024. The plan was officially launched on Thursday 3rd March by Minister Damien English. Kildare County Council will work closely with all regional stakeholders to support the five strategic objectives. A copy of the plan can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e1d10-mid-east-regional-enterprise-plan-to-2024/>

Recruitment is currently underway for the position of Programme Manager to oversee the implementation of the plan.

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Kildare County Council tendered for a Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator. Manzor Marketing have been appointed to co-ordinate the network and implement the actions of the food strategy for the next 12 months. The Economic Development



team have submitted an application for funding under the Rural Innovation Development Fund to support the activities of the network.

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 |
| Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales | Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating |



| Communications: | |
|---|--|
| Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications | The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join our Newsletter. |
| Access to LEO team and specialists | The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838 |

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive