



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – September 2022

To the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elected Members for their continued support and their endorsement of the Public Appointments Service process which resulted in my appointment on a permanent basis. I am hugely honoured to take on the role and I very much look forward to working with you all.

As you know Kildare County Council is a dynamic and fast paced Local Authority with a combined Revenue and Capital spend of €358 million p.a. serving a growing population of almost 250,000 people. Kildare is also a county with a significant urban / rural mix which brings with it its own opportunities and challenges. I intend to use my knowledge of the County, and its key stakeholders, to facilitate the continued delivery of essential services and the progression of major strategic capital projects.

There is no doubt that there are significant challenges ahead for Local Government and for families, businesses, and communities in our County. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has had a significant impact globally and will present challenges on a number of fronts.

There are also significant opportunities for our County. We are driving forward to meet our Housing for All targets. There will be a focus on Town Centre First and the regeneration and revitalisation of our Town and Village Centres. In 2023 we will prepare a Local Climate Action Plan and move ahead with plans for a Decarbonisation Zone. Actions from our Economic Development Strategy are well under way with the creation of a cluster of hubs. Tourism Development is also a key focus with the redevelopment of the Shackleton Museum, Brigid 1500 and the new Thoroughbred Country brand supported by Failte Ireland. Community infrastructure will also continue to be a key focus and I expect to see significant capital projects moving ahead despite the challenges that we are all aware of.

I am very much looking forward to positive engagement with the Elected Members over the term of my office. I know that the Elected Members share my ambition for Kildare and that we can work together to drive sustainable, economic, social, and cultural development in a climate resilient County Kildare.

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive



News Items

Kildare County Council Announces Details of 2022 Annual Play Day

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce details of its 2022 annual Play Day event (see page 08).

Kildare County Council installs 'Cubbie' Sensory Hub

Kildare County Council has opened a fully accessible 'Cubbie' facility for people with autism and sensory needs in the Council Offices, Aras Chill Dara, Naas (see page 08).

Electoral Reform and voter registration

The Minister has written to all elected representatives to inform them of the effects of the Electoral Reform Act 2022, which was signed into law by the President on 25 July 2022 (see page 09).

Revamp of Council Chamber

Following the engagement of Procurement consultants to assist with the AV tender procurement process it was recommended to use a 'Competitive Procedure with Negotiation' process rather than the traditional 'Open Procedure' (see page 11).

Affordable Housing

The council has prepared a draft Scheme of Priority for the allocation of sales of affordable housing units; this scheme was presented to the Housing SPC at its meeting on the 08 September (see page 14).

Vacant Homes

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund has been launched (see page 15).

Cost Rental Accommodation

Two cost rental schemes were recently advertised (see page 15).



Targeted Leasing Scheme

DHLGH recently launched the Targeted Leasing Scheme. This scheme is being managed by The Housing Agency (see page 15).

Ukraine – Pledged Accommodation

Responsibility for the inspection and matching of pledged property has transferred from the Irish Red Cross to local authorities (see page 16).

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 (see page 28).

Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023 (see page 31).

International Rose of Tralee Festival

As one of the sponsors of the International Rose of Tralee Festival, in August Kildare Fáilte was delighted to welcome the International Roses to Kildare on a pre-festival tour (see page 60).

Made of Athy plaque to Brian Huges unveiled

A plaque to celebrate the significant musical contribution of Brian Huges was unveiled on Saturday 27 August at Athy Community Library (see page 66).

National Heritage Week

As part of National Heritage Week tours of the De Burgh Gardens, Oldtown Demesne, Naas were very successful (see page 67).

Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster to ensure that Female Entrepreneurship supports are a key highlight in the County (see page 70).



Diary/Calendar

Culture Night Kildare 2022

Kildare County Council announced details of the Kildare programme for Culture Night 2022 which will take place on Friday 23 September 2022 from 4:00 p.m. till late (see page 08).

Kildare County Council announces return of Kildare Readers Festival 2022

Kildare County Council is delighted to confirm that Kildare Readers Festival returns to venues across the county from Monday 03 October to Sunday, 09 October 2022 (see page 08).

October MD Meetings

The Draft Budgetary Plan will be discussed at all October Municipal District meetings (see page 10).

Training

An online briefing for members and relevant staff has been arranged with the Corporate Enforcement Office for Monday 10 October 2022 online (see page 11).

Housing for All – Housing Delivery Action Plan

The Housing Delivery Action Plan has been published. A briefing for the Members has been organised on Friday, 23 September at 2:00 p.m. (see page 14).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 24 October 2022 (see page 28).

Sustainable Development Goal Week – 20 to 26 September

Ireland's first SDG week is from 20 to 26 September as part of the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) (see page 45).

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 28 September 2022 (see page 58).



Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (Phase IV)

Five grants of €15,000/award were offered to suitably qualified artists, producers, and promoters to deliver live performance events in Kildare during September – October 2022 (see page 65).

Kildare LEO Craft and Creative Cluster

The next meeting of the LEO Kildare Craft and Creative Cluster takes place on Monday 19 September (see page 70).

Taste of Kildare 2022

On Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September, the Taste of Kildare takes place at the Curragh Racecourse (see page 71).

Ploughing Championships

The National Ploughing Championships will return to Ratheniska in 2022, taking place from 20 to 22 September (see page 72).

Retail Window Merchandising Grant

The scheme re-opens on Wednesday 21 September and closes on the 11 November. In order to apply for the grant, applicants must attend the Retail Visual Merchandising Workshop that will take place on the 21 September 2022 at 11:00 a.m. (see page 73).



October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Sep 15:00 Full Council Meeting	27 09:00 KWETB 09:30 Social Media Practical	28 10:00 LCDC	29 09:30 Social Media Practical	30
3 14:00 Finance Committee Meeting	4 10:00 Social Media Governance	5	6 11:30 Local Community & Culture SPC	7 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
10 ODCE Training Provisional Booking for this week; Online; David Hegarty 14:30 Protocol	11 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	12 15:00 Coiste Gaeilge Committee	13	14
17 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 12:00 Naas Special Meeting Draft Budge... 14:30 CPG	18	19 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	20 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee	21 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 10:00 CLane Maynooth Draft Budgetary Meeting; Teams
24 11:00 Irish Water Clinic 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Meetings	25	26	27 11:30 County Twinning Committee	28
31	1 Nov	2 14:00 Finance Committee Meeting	3 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee 14:00 Transportation, Safety & Emergency S...	4 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC Meeting 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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Corporate Services

Communications

Culture Night Kildare 2022



Kildare County Council announced details of the Kildare programme for [Culture Night](#) 2022 which will take place on Friday 23 September 2022 from 4:00 p.m. till late. free of charge.

Full details -

<https://kildarecoco.ie/PressReleasesAdvverts/CULTURENIGHTKILDARE2022.html>

Kildare County Council announces return of Kildare Readers Festival 2022/



Kildare County Council is delighted to confirm that Kildare Readers Festival

returns to venues across the county from Monday 03 October to Sunday, 09 October 2022.

Full details:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/PressReleasesAdvverts/KildareCountyCouncilannouncereturnofKildareReadersFestival2022.html>

Kildare County Council installs 'Cubbie' Sensory Hub

Kildare County Council has opened a fully accessible 'Cubbie' facility for people with autism and sensory needs in the Council Offices, Aras Chill Dara, Naas

Full details:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/PressReleasesAdvverts/KildareCountyCouncilinstallsCubbieSensoryHub.html>

Kildare County Council Announces Details of 2022 Annual Play Day

Kildare County Council was delighted to announce details of its 2022 annual Play Day event. From 10 September to 17 September a Treasure Hunt took place across the county.

The theme of this year's event was All Play Together.

Full details:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/PressReleasesA>



[dverts/KildareCountyCouncilAnnouncesDetailsof2022AnnualPlayDay.html](#)

Register of Electors

Electoral Reform and voter registration

The Minister has written to all elected representatives to inform them of the effects of [the Electoral Reform Act 2022](#), which was signed into law by the President on 25 July 2022.

This Act introduces a range of significant electoral reforms:

- the establishment of an independent electoral commission – An Coimisiún Toghcháin;
- the modernisation of our electoral registration process to deliver greater accessibility and improved integrity;
- the regulation of online political advertising to provide for transparency during electoral campaigns and ensure that our elections remain free from hidden influences on how we vote;
- the protection of the integrity of our electoral processes which will see the regulation of electoral process information, and online electoral information in order to guard against manipulative or inauthentic behaviour during electoral campaigns;

- the strengthening of our regulatory regime in respect of political donations and accounts, including the provision of new investigatory and enforcement powers to the Standards in Public Office Commission;
- amendments to electoral law to provide that voting on the islands will take place on the same day as for the rest of the country; and
- amendments to facilitate voting when Covid-19 type restrictions are in place.

It is planned that the provisions relating to the modernisation of the electoral registration process will be commenced in October 2022.

Kildare County Council has been working towards this change during 2022, engaging with persons joining the register this year, and with postal voters especially.

A national public communications campaign is in development to support registration authorities in seeking engagement of electors, both new and existing to check and complete their information with PPSN, Eircodes and Date of Birth.



Kildare County Council will participate in awareness activities regarding this major change when they are briefed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and would encourage elected members to attend briefings that the Department is seeking to arrange through representative bodies.

Members Services

Municipal District Committees

Athy Municipal District

The Annual Meeting of the Athy Municipal District Committee took place on 18 July.

Councillor Brian Dooley was appointed Cathaoirleach and Councillor Vera Louise Behan was appointed Leas Cathaoirleach.



Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

The Annual Meeting of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District Committee took place on 20 July Councillor Suzanne Doyle was appointed Mayor and Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was appointed Deputy Mayor.



October MD Meetings

The Draft Budgetary Plan will be discussed at all October Municipal District meetings

As Clane Maynooth and Naas monthly MD meetings fall outside the prescribed period Special meetings have been arranged to discuss the Draft Budgetary Plan for these Municipal Districts



Training

Corporate Governance Training

An online briefing for members and relevant staff has been arranged with the Corporate Enforcement Office for Monday 10 October, 2022 online.

Social Media Training

The Communications team has scheduled Social Media Training dedicated to helping Councillors improve their use of social media across key platforms.

The online training will focus on the key platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and also look at the potential of Tik Tok together with advice on mitigating risk on social media.

The training will take place across four sessions:

- Social Media Practical: 22 September - 9.30-12pm; 27 - 9.30-12pm; 29 - 9.30-12pm
- Social Media Governance: 04 October: 10am – 12pm

The training is designed to:

- Significantly improve the social media knowledge and understanding among Councillors

- Enable Councillors to improve communication via highly popular social media platforms

Revamp of Council Chamber

Following the engagement of Procurement consultants to assist with the AV tender procurement process it was recommended to use a 'Competitive Procedure with Negotiation' process rather than the traditional 'Open Procedure'.

This means the tender process has two stages, the first stage which is referred to as the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) requests the bidders to provide: -

- their tax status,
- financial turnover and insurance coverage information,
- verification of their bona fides,
- details on required resources,
- customer references,
- adherence to health and safety standards
- adherence to an appropriate quality standard.

From this exercise Kildare County Council will shortlist a maximum of five vendors. These five vendors will then be issued with the 'Request for



Tender' (RFT) which will include requirements to

- Satisfy technical specifications,
- outline project methodology
- provide costs.

Because of the cost of this project the tender is also published on EU wide tender platforms.

- **PQQ**

The PQQ was published to eTenders on the 18 August (eTenders reference 220765) with a close date of submission on the 19 September. To date 28 suppliers have 'expressed an interest' in the tender.

- **Shortlisting**

After the 19 September Kildare County Council will start the process of

verification of submissions. This can be a particularly slow exercise which can take up to several weeks.

- **Issuing the RFT**

Once the shortlisting is complete and suppliers are notified the shortlisted vendors will receive the RFT.

- **The overall project**

the following table provides an indicative time scale for the project.

Part 8 for Storage Facility at Military Road Industrial Park

The part 8 above for the Cotton Mills beside Aras Chill Dara will be presented to the Naas MD on 20th September, 2022.

Task	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Write RFT							
Submit to eTenders							
Tender Phase							
Select preferred Vendor *							
Start Implementation							

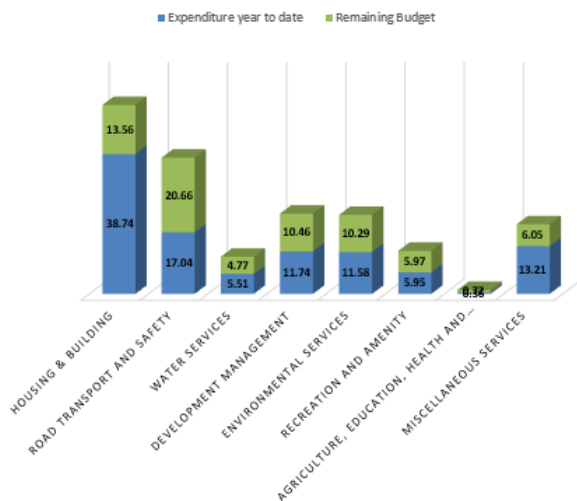


Finance and Information Technology

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 Aug 2022				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	38,740	52,300	74%	13,560
Road Transport and Safety	17,036	37,692	45%	20,656
Water Services	5,509	10,281	54%	4,772
Development Management	11,735	22,196	53%	10,461
Environmental Services	11,577	21,869	53%	10,292
Recreation and Amenity	5,946	11,916	50%	5,970
Agriculture, Education, Health and Well	360	1,081	33%	721
Miscellaneous Services	13,213	19,267	69%	6,054
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	104,117	176,602	59%	72,485

EXPENDITURE YEAR TO DATE €M



Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 Aug 2022				
Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	35,044	44,828	78%	9,784
Road Transport and Safety	6,130	19,290	32%	13,160
Water Services	2,303	10,082	23%	7,779
Development Management	5,747	7,758	74%	2,011
Environmental Services	4,549	7,062	64%	2,513
Recreation and Amenity	794	1,079	74%	285
Agriculture, Education, Health and Well	122	348	35%	226
Miscellaneous Services	3,206	6,026	53%	2,820
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates	12,192	18,289	67%	6,097
	35,662	61,837	58%	26,175
	105,751	176,599	60%	70,848

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 Aug 2022							
	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/08/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,405,823	1,052,058	1,867,893	70,271,195	44,481,734	25,789,461
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	10,735,614	18,260	-	11,948,279	10,689,250	1,259,029
Housing Loans	2,023,590	1,933,341	-	-	3,956,931	3,014,340	942,591

Cashflow/Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 August 2022.

2021 Audit

The Local Government Auditor is currently auditing the 2021 Annual Financial Statements.

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, the council accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045980920.

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



motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045980920.

Finance Customer Portal and App for Rates and Rent Customers

The Finance Department continues to encourage rates and rents customers to avail of the customer portal and app. This enables rates and rent customers to make payments and view their account information online via their smartphone, tablet or PC.

The link to this portal is on <https://kildare.ie/county council/YourCouncil/Finance/LocalAuthorityCustomerPortal/>

Housing

Housing for All

Housing Delivery Action Plan

The Housing Delivery Action Plan has been published. A briefing for the Members has been organised for Friday, 23 September at 2:00 p.m. This briefing will take place on MS Teams. An invitation has issued to all Members.

Affordable Housing

The council has prepared a draft Scheme of Priority for the allocation of sales of affordable housing units; this

scheme was presented to the Housing SPC at its meeting on the 08 September. This scheme is subject to Ministerial approval. Following are the main provisions of the scheme:

- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available properties, 70% of eligible applicants will be prioritised by the time and date of application.
- The remaining 30% of eligible applicants will prioritised based on proof of residency in County Kildare for a period equal to or greater than five years, with further priority granted based on the time and date of application.
- The accommodation need will be determined as follows:
 - One-bedroom dwelling:
Single or two-person household.
 - Two-bedroom dwelling:
Two or four-person household.
 - Three-bedroom dwelling:
Three to five-person household.
 - Four-bedroom dwelling:
Four or more-person household.

The council submitted proposals in March 2022 for staff resources to



support the Affordable Housing Programme; a decision is awaited from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). In the absence of staff resources it will not be possible to progress affordable housing delivery.

Vacant Homes

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund has been launched. This scheme provides grants of up to a maximum of €30,000 for the refurbishment of vacant properties in urban areas for occupation as a principal private residence. Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €30,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous) bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €50,000. The grant is available to first time buyers, those who have particular needs (eg. older people) or those selling a home and moving to a town or village setting.

Cost Rental Accommodation

Two cost rental schemes were recently advertised:

- Cluid Housing Association opened applications for 50 cost rental units in Phase Two of The Paddocks, Newbridge. Delivery is due in October 2022. This scheme is delivering one, two and three-bedroom apartments, with respective monthly rents of €1, 000, €1, 240, €1, 350.
- Tuath Housing Association opened applications for 50 cost rental units in Belin Woods, Newbridge. Delivery is due in October 2022. This scheme is delivering two- and three-bedroom houses, with respective monthly rents of €1, 130 and €1, 300.

Targeted Leasing Scheme

DHLGH recently launched the Targeted Leasing Scheme. This scheme is being managed by The Housing Agency. Following are the key features of the scheme:

- Overall national target is 1, 000 units.
- Targeting recently built or schemes with planning permission where units are due for delivery in the period 2023-2025.



- Leases will be for a period of 25 or 30 years.
- Rent Assessment will be carried out by the Housing Agency.
- The decision criteria is suitability for use as social housing and sustainability.
- Call for Expressions of Interest advertised on the E-Tenders website.
- Extra discounts above standard leasing.

Ukraine

It is estimated that 48,000 people have arrived into the country from Ukraine.

Pledged Accommodation

Responsibility for the inspection and matching of pledged property has transferred from the Irish Red Cross to local authorities. The council contacted all remaining property owners who pledged accommodation to determine their interest in continuing with their pledge, as a result 160 properties are currently being inspected. The majority of these properties are shared properties with property owners offering a bedroom in their own home. The next stage of the process is matching people to the properties. A further call for pledged

accommodation is being planned and will be managed by local authorities. The funding of this call is currently being reviewed by DPER.

Liffey Lodge

Funding has been secured for upgrade works to Liffey Lodge, the works will involve upgrades to the heating and plumbing systems and bathroom and kitchen facilities. The Housing Department in partnership with the Peter McVerry Trust have been sourcing alternative accommodation for the residents of Liffey Lodge. It is anticipated that the property will shortly be vacant and works will commence as soon as possible thereafter. Once the works are completed Liffey Lodge will resume accommodating displaced persons from Ukraine.

Staffing

A small team is being set up to manage the workload associated with the response to the war in Ukraine. This team will consist of an Administrative Officer and an Assistant Staff Officer.

Modular Housing

Two sites in Kildare have been selected for the provision of modular



housing. The sites are located at Lakeside, Newbridge and Beechgrove, Rathangan. The Office of Public Works is responsible for the provision of modular housing.

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations by families are increasing in the county as a result of notices to quit received. Move on options for people in emergency accommodation continue to be developed and explored and these include allocations to tenancies, shared housing, and increased transitional housing. Availability of emergency accommodation in Kildare is very limited at present and every effort is being made to engage with new providers to address this. A meeting of the Mid-East Region Homelessness Forum was held on the 08 September with increased participation and engagement from the various stakeholders evident. Similar issues and pressures related to rented and emergency accommodation are being experienced across the region.

Homeless Outreach

Outreach work has continued, including progressions to allocations, Homeless HAP, Housing First. The

council was represented at the South West Regional Drug Task Force Committee meeting and conducted street work in 4 MDs in recent weeks. A clinic was also held in Cuan Mhuire and will be a feature of the work of Homeless Outreach in the future, with a representative of the HSE also in attendance.

Tenancy Support

Tenancy support for 59 families is currently in progress. Supports are also provided for families in the Family Hubs and for families in HAP and Homeless HAP tenancies that are experiencing difficulties with arrears.

HAP Tenancies

A total of 217 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,100 active tenancies are now in place. Year to date 403 HAP tenancies have ceased. The following is the breakdown of reasons for cessation: social housing allocation (249), notice to quit from landlord (78), voluntary exit (48), movement within HAP (15), other (13).

Housing Assessments

Forms relating to the Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2022 will be posted to housing



applicants in the coming days. Only applicants who were approved for social housing support prior to 31 December 2010 are required to reply to this assessment. The closing date for receipt of these assessment forms is 3 October 2022. Council, HAP, RAS or transfer tenants are not included in this assessment.

Traveller Accommodation

The Mid-Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019- 2024 is being finalised (Housing Circular 28/2022). This has been progressed in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC). A public consultation was also undertaken in August.

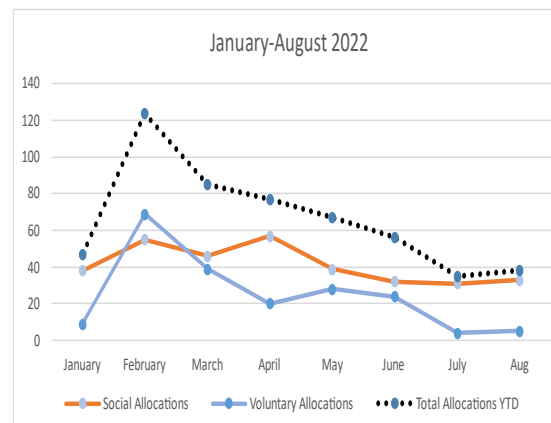
The Council has been approved for funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund (€38,500) to carry out improvement works at the Blacklion Halting Site. Repainting of home exteriors and landscaping works will be carried out over the coming weeks. Traveller accommodation continues to require resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council’s social work service is high and the team is maintaining regular

contact with Traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

The last meeting of the LTACC took place on 15 September. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 01 December.

Housing Allocations

33 Kildare County Council housing units and 5 AHB units were allocated in August 2022. To date, in 2022, there were 331 social and 198 voluntary units allocated. This is an overall total of 529 units for this year, to date.





Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

A workshop with the Elected Members was held on 24 August prior to the submission of motions by Members to the next stage of the CDP process. Closing date for motions was 12:00 p.m. on 30 August.

The Forward Planning Section has prepared a meeting's report to be circulated to members for discussion/approval/amendment at a Special Council meeting scheduled for 12 September next in the Council Chamber (the 13 September has also been reserved as a second date should it be required). The report includes all proposed material alterations arising from the Chief

Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
Jul/Aug	Year	No.	July/August	
2020: 304	999	2,475	Total Granted:	153
2021: 293	1,255	524	Further information requested:	108
2022: 272	1,074	533	Total Refused:	40

Executive's report as circulated to members earlier in the summer as well as responses and recommendations to the 240 motions submitted by the Elected Members.

The CDP is expected to be adopted in December 2022.

Local Area Plans

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.

Maynooth

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



Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

All potential SHD applications have now been received and there are no further anticipated in accordance with the current legislation. Once the Chief Executive reports for these outstanding applications have been finalised Kildare County Council will have completed its responsibilities under the 2016 Act save for compliance conditions. All new applications for greater than 100 residential units or 200 student bed spaces will be dealt with through the LRD procedures.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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



Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion

Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/01	20/05/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	11/07/2022
2022/02	01/07/22	Westar	Finlay Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	08/07/2022
2022/03	27/07/22	William Neville	Main Street, Sallins	168	19/09/2022
2022/04	10/08/22	Debussy	Prosperous Road, Clane	190	03/10/2022

Large-scale Residential Developments – Planning Applications Submitted

Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
22/221052	26/08/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	20/10/2022

Conservation

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 /

Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 102
Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions.

2. Built Heritage investment Scheme

(BHIS): – 15 grants awarded
€126,400

Five grants are not proceeding in 2022. The grants proceeding are;

Harristown House,
Brannockstown
The Firs, Naas
Thatch Cottage, Nurney
Naas Town Hall (clock)
Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town
Gothic Hall, Thomastown
Glebe House, Leixlip
Burtown House, Burtown
Thatch House, Thomastown
Presentation Convent, Kildare Town



3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) : -
Two grants awarded
Abbeylands House, Clane
St. David's Castle, Naas.
4. Thatched Cottage Grant:
Scheme was advertised on 01
March 2022, closing date 22 March
2022. Two applications received.
Both applicants awarded €5,000 for
rethatching of properties.
5. Historic Towns Initiative:
The council was successful in
securing €168,931 for the heritage-
led regeneration project at the
Potato Market, Naas. This is a
collaboration project between
Heritage and Conservation. A Part
8 application will be developed in
collaboration with Public Realm
Team in coming months. Work
commenced on site early
September and the project is due
to be completed at the end of
October.
6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme:
The Heritage Council awarded
€21,000 for a pilot scheme study of
Monasterevin under the Heritage
Stewardship Scheme. The
application titled, RPS: Reform and
Reuse, proposes to update the
RPS and to include a record of the
level of dereliction and vacancy of
each structure. Alison Rea
Architects was successful tenderer
and the project commenced late
July. The scheme is due for
completion late October.
7. Town and Village Renewal - BAM
scheme:
Advising Kildare County Council on
vacant and derelict historic
buildings / protected structures as
potential candidates for €400,000
funding for purchase and
repurposing buildings for
community use.
8. Town Renewal Masterplan:
Review of TRM for Leixlip and
Celbridge which are both
Architectural Conservation Areas
9. Part 8's:
Ongoing advice on Part 8
applications including the
Wonderful Barn, Lyreen Bridge etc.
10. Infrastructure projects:
Ongoing advice with regard to
architectural conservation related
issues in essential infrastructure
projects.



Public Realm

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

Concept
<p>Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .</p>
<p>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. Tender to carry out drainage works to the site complete; drainage works to commence on agreement with neighbouring residence</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan and Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. Business Case for Maynooth URDF submitted and Department response seeking updated costs in line with inflation.</p>
<p>Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. NTA funded interim traffic management measures underway. Tender for consultant to work on Healthcheck and develop Town Renewal Masterplan with Public Realm team published with a closed 13.04.2022. 4 no. tender submissions received. Successful design team are now appointed and due to commence masterplan process.</p>
Part 8
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08.02.2022, on public display from 09.02.2022 – 09.03.2022. Public consultation closed 23.03.2022. 27 submissions received. Part 8 approved. Additional funding to be sought to complete the project</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment –</p> <p>Stage 1 of the Part 8 Design is completed. Consultation with the Town Team, MD and businesses/residents on-going with formal consultations completed. Delivery matrix and online survey circulated to the businesses on the square. All feedback from consultation and survey being collated and will inform the development of the Stage 2 design for Part 8.</p> <p>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 on temporary pilot completed with on-going maintenance/ access issues under review.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021. Detailed design progressing well.</p>



Celbridge-Leixlip – Wonderful Barn - A new design team (led by Metropolitan Workshop with Conservation Architects Howley Hayes) has been appointed and they are currently progressing the initial survey work for the Preliminary Design Stage. An Open Day for informal public feedback to aid develop the Preliminary Design to be agreed in October. It is anticipated that the Part 8 will be advertised in December.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 5.10.2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. **Part 8 approved by Clane Maynooth MD at Feb meeting.**

Tender Consultants and Design

Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 28km of 36km towpath works complete with 8.5km remaining of which 2.7 is in progress, due to be complete Feb 2023 **First 5km complete formally opened to the public by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.**

Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan. Public consultation on Draft Masterplan launched from 29.03.2022 to 26.04.2022. **Town Renewal Masterplan is finalised subject to completion of an AA screening.**

Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum- **Shackleton branding formally unveiled by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.** Detail design complete. Meeting arranged with Department to discuss additional funds required as a result of inflation.

Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. **TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening.**

Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27.09.2021 and submissions incorporated into Draft TRMP. **Internal Department and MD feedback received and being collated for issue to the design team to incorporate into the final draft. Additional sites including the new Library and Acre project to be incorporated with high level spatial analysis**

Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - 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 incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Masterplan. **Internal Department and MD feedback received and being collated for issue to the design team to incorporate into the final draft**

Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - 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. [TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening.](#)

Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and Masterplan (TRMP) - Online survey completed. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. [TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening.](#)

Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. [TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening.](#)

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 – tbc’ed.](#)

Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage – tbc’ed.

Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. [TRMP is finalised subject to completion of AA screening.](#)

Tender Consultants

Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands Masterplan -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan [completed and](#) reviewed by Public Realm team. [A Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment has to be carried out before the masterplan can be developed further. Tender documents are being prepared in collaboration with Environment Dept.](#)

Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. 2nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation. [Briefing to Elected reps, TD’s and Senators scheduled for September 20th, to be followed by both online and in person consultation on the Interpretation and wayfinding plan.](#)



<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q2 2022 and will take 9 months to complete. Tender for Works Contractor complete, successful tenderer identified. Pre Award meeting held.</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. Only 1 response to Tender and prequal documents were not issued within the required timeframe. In consultation with the Department regarding funding.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square - Detailed design 80% complete. Tender for construction to be launched Q4 2022.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor not appointed. Details awaited by SPPR from community. Funding to be confirmed with Dept</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway. Part 8 due to be launched following briefing to the MD on September 20th.</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 - The Town Renewal Masterplan was issued to the Town Team for feedback and is now completed. AA screening to be completed prior to publication of the TRMP</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Masterplan formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022. AA screening process on-going. TRMP to be published on completion of AA screening.</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 Part 8 ready to be published following presentation to the MD on September 20th. Feasibility Study commissioned and now completed and being reviewed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised following agreement of additional work to be completed by the design team (in consideration of the Town Centre First Policy etc)</p>



<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held. To be confirmed if incorporated into Town Centre Masterplan (subject to DRCD approval).</p>
<p>Detail Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p>Naas – parklets on Main Street, Fáilte Ireland funded. Detailed design on-going. Consultation with businesses to begin subject to agreement with MD to proceed.</p>
<p>On Hold</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured.</p>
<p>Construction</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08.06.2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre. Construction will be complete Nov 2022 with fit out to commence Nov/Dec 2022.</p>
<p>Complete subject to completion of an AA screening</p>
<p>Town Renewal Masterplans in the following towns and villages– Kildare, Monasterevin, Castledermot, Athgarvan, Derrinturn, Ardclough, Johnstown Bridge, Straffan.</p>
<p>Complete subject to on-going maintenance/monitoring and review</p>
<p>Covid-19 response projects - Kildare Market Sq., Newbridge Market Sq., Poplar Sq., parklets at Celbridge and Leixlip, seating at Harbourfield, Maynooth. Parklet in Naas</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Athy - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>
<p>Naas – MERITS building</p>
<p>Naas – parklet at Grá café – Works completed (with recent damaged planter repaired and planted).</p>
<p>Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since 04.12.2021.</p>



Water Services

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

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

Small town and villages Growth Programme

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 Waters quarterly Councillor

Clinics are held online for approximately one hour.

Five members attended the Clinic on the 27 June. Irish Water is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk.

The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 24 October 2022. Elected representatives are encouraged to send any items they would like discussed at the clinic and Irish Water would be happy to answer them.

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

Irish Water's Regional Communications team also provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works which may cause disruption to customers are regularly updated on the Irish Water website

at www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates



Irish Water Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published on 24 June 2022, setting out the Government policy on Irish Water taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services.

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

Transformation of management will begin from Quarter 1 2023

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

Environment and Climate Action

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

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

The current plans are available on www.mywaste.ie

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding households and commercial premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste.

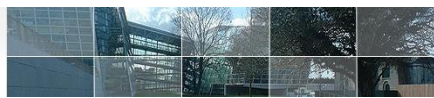


Recycling Banks

There are concerns that the council may lose a number of existing bring bank locations. Efforts are continuing to find appropriate additional / replacement sites in the county.

Water Framework Directive

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



the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,
 - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
 - Household and Commercial Waste,
 - Producer Responsibility Initiative's and local priorities
- Water Priorities
 - Pressures from agricultural storage,
 - Pressures from agricultural spreading,
 - Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,
 - Discharge licenses,
 - Water quality monitoring
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring programme,

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal.

Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: www.nwcpo.ie

The national "COVID-19" derogation in removing restrictions on waste collection times by household kerbside waste collectors has been rescinded with effect from 01 September 2022.

Tidy Towns

Tidy Town signage has now been updated to reflect last year's awarded medals.

Community Clean-ups

Green Kilometre groups continue to be very active.

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

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



New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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



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

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.

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

A Public Information Day was held at the end of July to present the revised mapping.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.





Kerdiffstown Park project

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

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

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

A 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed 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 Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. An Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice must be carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for

approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Current plans are as follows:

Allen

Draft Part 8 drawings being finalised. Plans were outlined to the municipal district elected members at their July Municipal District meeting.

Columbarium Walls

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

Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, and Athy. Preliminary designs are currently being drafted and tender documents are being drafted, it is hoped to advance to tender within Quarter 3 with the expectation that works will commence onsite in Quarter 4, 2022.



Cemetery Maintenance Programme

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

St. Conleth's Newbridge: Works have recently been completed on footpath, roadway and drainage improvement works within the cemetery.

Completion of old Columbarium Walls: Plans in place to complete partly built CW's in Rathangan and Crookstown. Resurfacing and kerbing works have commenced at Naas St. Corban's cemetery

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

Staplestown: Plans in place to get newly developed area to the rear ready for interments.

Risk Management

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



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support 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

A review of the LA training programme was undertaken and the process of implementing the review recommendations is underway.

Climate Action Teams (CATs)

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



Online Training

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



Thematic Training

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

Opportunities and Roads Infrastructure.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with recruitment ongoing to secure a trainer(s), who will work on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group to ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 to 2023.



Frontline Staff

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



Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The draft guidelines have been developed and were circulated through the governance channels of both the County and City Management Association and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. (DECC) With the transfer of responsibility for Decarbonizing Zones from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the DECC, the guidelines are currently undergoing further revision to facilitate the inclusion of Decarbonising Zones (DZs) within Local Authority Climate Action Plans. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, who has until December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans. To support local authorities in the development of their Climate Action Plans, CARO are establishing three national frameworks of suitable consultants for county wide BEIs

(Baseline Emission Inventories), Climate Change Risk Assessments as well as BEIs for DZs and planning and implementation activities linked to Climate Action Plans or commitments under the Local Authority Climate Action Charter. An information pack, including mini-tender templates will be provided to local authorities as an additional support.

Work has also commenced on the development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO, have entered discussions with a third party to provide an energy service for local authorities in this sub-region.



Proposed scope has been developed and is currently being reviewed.

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

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the Three Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) to engage with CARO and the SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being drafted at present by 3CEA. Tipperary County Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon County Council has entered an agreement to become the

fifth member of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA). The MEA local authorities with the support of SEAI, have formed a working group, to focus on the task of signing the region up to Pathfinder Capital Support.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet:

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. Stage 1 of the Project was the completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Surveys were returned between December and January. A draft early interventions document has been developed and is currently under review by the County and City Management Association (CCMA) working group. A seminar to present this document to local authority fleet managers took place in Castlebar on 16 June.



Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

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

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



Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee

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



Climate Action Energy Management Team

The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met in early June to conduct a site visit of Kerdiffstown to see the progress that has been made over the years on one of the most significant remediation cases in the country. In September, the team is directing their focus to preparing for the Climate Action Plan guidelines that are to be released by the Department imminently.



Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the

county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA.

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

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

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a business formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The second meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 18 June with a further workshop planned for the Autumn. It is envisaged a community application will be made to SEAI to access grant funding to undertake energy upgrades



in a number of homes across the county under the Better Energy program.

Fleet Electrification



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

potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

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

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

Other Initiatives

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

'The People's Patches'

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

Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand Two. 'The People's Patches' is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas.

'Stitching the Community Together'

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

Gas Innovation Fund

The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland's Gas



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

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award

The Climate Action Office supported a local artist and community organisation with a successful application to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project called 'We Hold the Power' involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community groups and the artist Marta Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect the imagery of the community centre's history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station. Currently the project will

commence in the Autumn and the Climate Action Office will support its delivery where needed.

Agri-Tourism Project

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

Climate Innovation Fund – First Round

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

Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

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



The Climate Hub

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

Climate Response Ireland

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

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

Climate Innovation Fund – Second Round

The 2022 Climate Innovation Fund was launched earlier in the year and has already allocated funding to a number of projects across the county. The second call was launched earlier in August at the Information and Community Networking Night hosted by the Climate Action Office in Naas Library. The aim of the fund is to foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. The remaining Climate Innovation 2022 funding is available through the

Municipal Districts as follows Athy Municipal District (€25,000), Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District (€25,000), Naas Municipal District (€25,000), and Clane-Maynooth Municipal District (€18,400). Closing date for application submissions was Sunday 11 September at 23:59 p.m. More details are available on the Consultation Portal [here](#).



Murals

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county. Kildare's latest mural was designed by the artist Lisa Keegan and is located along the ICA building in Harbour Field, Maynooth. The mural depicts local wildlife inspired by Maynooth's surroundings and embedded in a honeycomb framework.



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 K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The K-Climate eZine is quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and happenings from within the council and other resources to support engagement and learning on climate action. The ezine is currently on its second issue in 2022 and is circulated to all council staff, councilors as well as being made available to the public via the Climate Action Office's [website](#).

Intranet Portal

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

 [SharePoint](#)



Climate & Energy

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

Just Transition

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



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



Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced biogas could be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI presented to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland.

Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

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

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area.

Currently, we are conducting a community survey on the Millennium Link Road to hear from the public on what alternative maintenance method looks the best, while maintaining the surrounding public space. We invite



any members of the public that visit the Millennium Link Road between the Applegreen to the Caragh Roundabout to take part. Simply, look for our signs along the road (pictured below) and use the QR code to fill out the survey.



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.

Sustainable Development Goal

Week – 20 to 26 September

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

notified the Communications Team and the members of the Climate Action and Energy Team about the week to enable the SDG's to be embedded into the existing events and programmes in place. Libraries are being very proactive and have discussed potential opportunities with the Climate Action Office and are finalising a programme at local level. Given work is already taking place that aligns with the SDG's some sections will be highlighting the SDG's of significance for example the LEO may consider the Green for Micro programme, the PPN 's Climate weekend programme and others. The events, work and ideas can be registered on [the ESDW website](#) and promotion of the initiatives can take place from 18 September to 08 October.



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

The Roads Transport, Emergency Services and Public Safety SPC

The SPC met on 01 September 2022.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme is moving through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road

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

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Contract has been awarded and due to commencement in September.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Awaiting communication from DHLGH on the outcome of a financial review of LIHAF which has been commenced to address a funding shortfall on a number of LIHAF projects.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2, presenting the emerging preferred route option is underway.

Newhall Junction Improvement

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

Maynooth Transport Strategy

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



Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

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

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Road Number	Location		LA Allocation
R445	R445	Monasterevin Bridge, Monasterevin Co. Kildare	€177,200
Kildare	S.2045	Brooke Bridge, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare	€70,200
Kildare	R102	Moone Village Bridge, Moore Co. Kildare	€73,500
Kildare	R407	Orangebotte Bridge	€68,500
Kildare	R6060	Corn Mill Bridge	€10,500
Kildare	L2004	Hestown Bridge	€55,500
Total			€655,400

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

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

1. The council is actively working with the owners of the private road between the Newbridge - Naas road (Lidl Roundabout) and the Great Connell Roundabout with a view to having the road opened and taken in charge. It is expected that this process will be largely complete by the second half of 2022.

2. Glenveagh Homes are currently constructing part of the NSORR between the Athgarvan Road and the Liffey, through their Belin Woods development

3. Aston Ltd have applied to An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development – Case No 311390 on the route of the section of NSORR between the Great Connell Roundabout and the Liffey. This is

subject to planning permission, however if granted this will deliver the section of road from Great Connell to the Liffey.

4. In relation to the remaining portion between the Aston Development and the Glenveagh Development, which is essentially the bridge over the Liffey, Kildare County Council continues to work to move the project through the project planning stages, notwithstanding the fact that funding has not been identified to date for the construction of the bridge.

Junction Programme

Roads Design Team are currently developing a Junction programme with an initial 10 Junctions identified for upgrade in Phase 1.

Sustainable Transport Section



Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Detailed design of the Mill Street works is continuing.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Scheme retendered and due to start construction in Q4 2022. Design work



on the upgrading of the Greenway is continuing.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Part 8 Process commencing in September 2022.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Detailed design continuing.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Part 8 Process to commence in Q4 2022.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Construction of the interim scheme completed.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Detailed design continuing.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Process to commence in Q4 2022.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Process to commence in Q4 2022.

Safe Routes to School Programme (Craddockstown, Naas)

Detailed design to commence in Q4 2022 pending Part 8 approval.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Scheme has been tendered for construction.

Celbridge Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge

Detailed design to commence in Q4 2022 pending Part 8 approval.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Design stage continuing.

Vulnerable Road User Improvement Measures

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



Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

Pilot schemes selected for installation in 2022.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

Section 38 Consultation Process completed and review being undertaken of submissions.

Monasterevin Cycle Network

Part 8 Process to commence in Q4 2022.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme

Option selection and preliminary design stage continuing.

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

Improvements for cyclists and pedestrians to be implemented at the

Young's Cross Junction and the Clane/Celbridge Road Junction. Cycle detection to be installed in Naas Town Centre to improve the detection of cyclists.

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Minor Footpath Schemes

Construction continuing in cooperation with the MD Engineer.

Leixlip Permeability Schemes

Construction continuing in cooperation with the MD Engineer.

Non Safe Route To School Infrastructure

Construction completed in cooperation with the MD Engineer.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Speed Limit Review was not approved at the July Full Council Meeting. An appeal has been submitted to the Department of Transport.

Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract 2022-2024

Appointment of contractor completed.



Traffic Related Communications and CCTV Maintenance Contract 2022-2024

Appointment of contractor completed.

Roads Maintenance

The surface dressing season is now completed. Works were carried out on 58 sites representing circa 4%/100km of Local/Regional.

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

Winter Maintenance

Plans are being examined for coming season, which is due to commence in mid October.

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

Local Improvement Scheme

Works are being completed.

General Operative nine vacancies across all municipal districts are currently being filled from new panel.

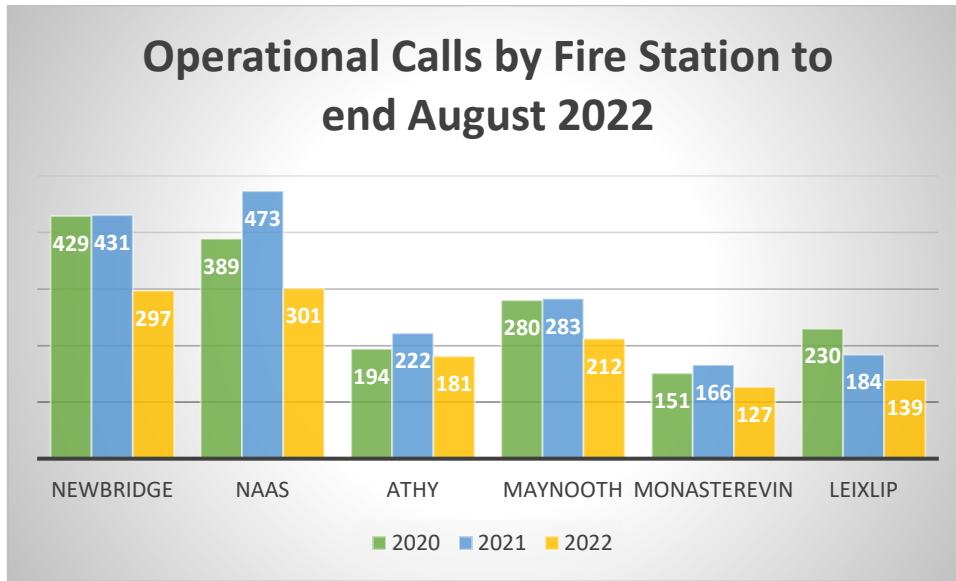
Shortlisting for Drivers posts in ongoing. Roads municipal district

areas with the aim of maintaining existing staff numbers.

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



Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

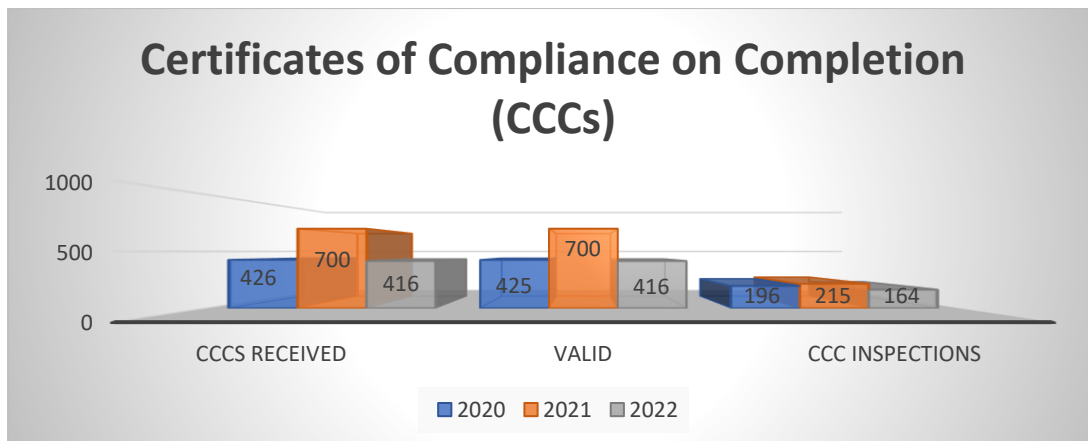
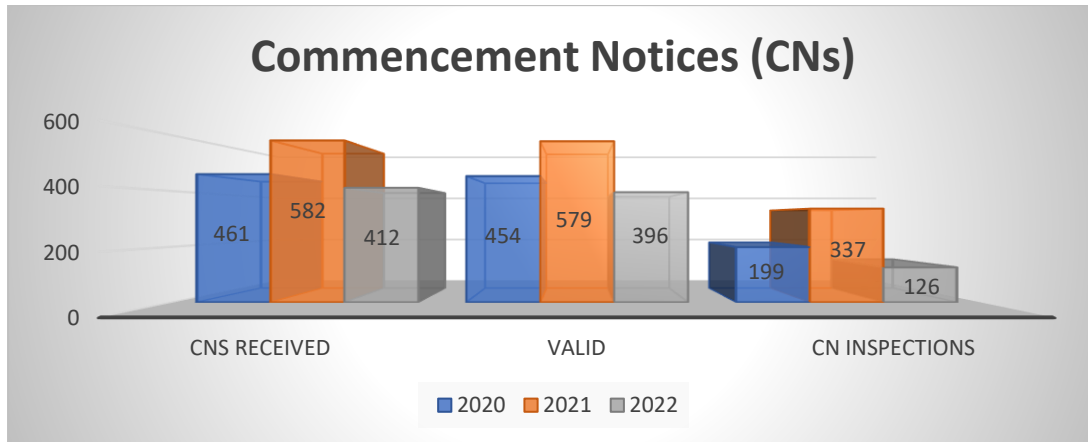


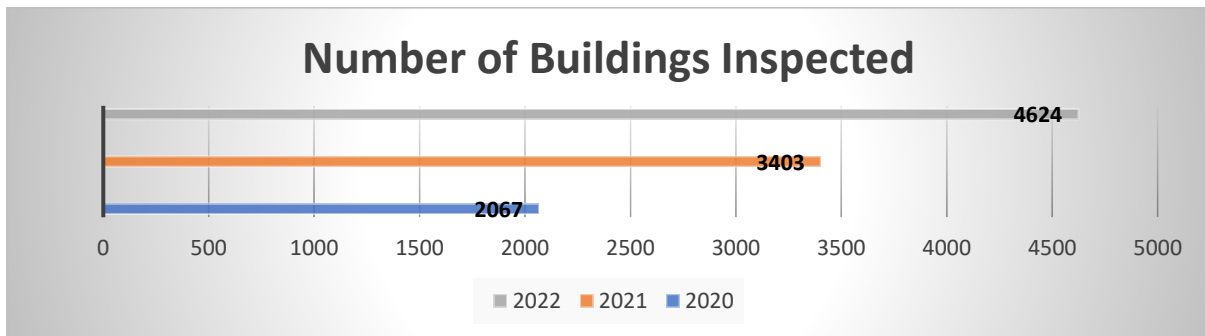
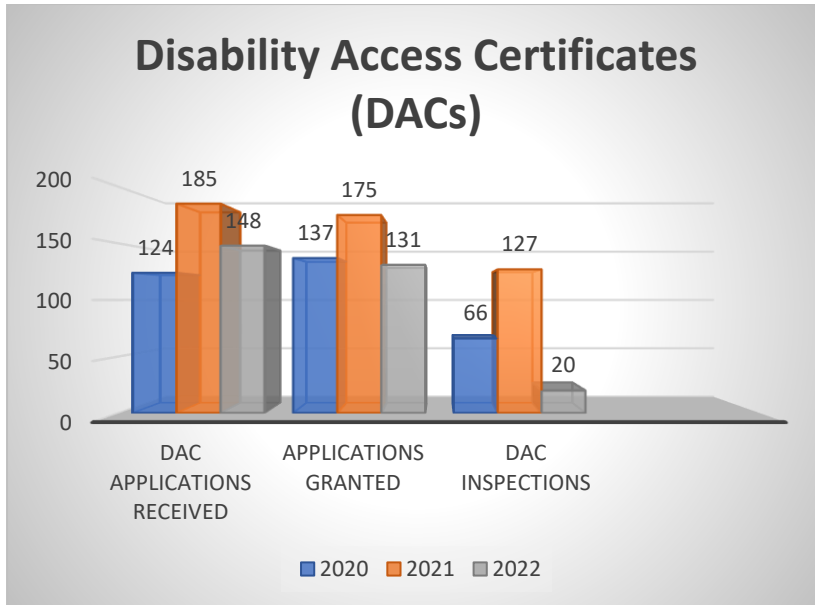


Building and Development Control

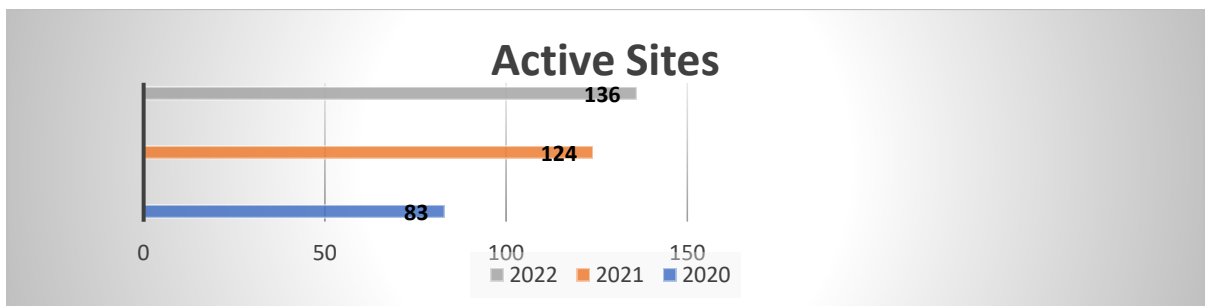
The following figures are cumulative up to end of August 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL





DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Health Screening Rollout to commence in September:
 - 3 locations
 - 3 packages for staff to choose from with option

of additional extras (councillors have been included)



<u>Location</u>	<u>Booked appts</u>
Naas	208
Maynooth	37
Athy	29
<u>Totals</u>	<u>274</u>

- 6 site inspections
- Review and update of 7 national guidance documents
- Update of Risk Assessments for Halting Sites and Head Office
- 1 VDU assessment completed
- Lead Worker Reps Meeting
- Staff App Project Team Meetings
- Preparation for Green Ribbon Campaign and Light Up Green to end stigma of Mental health
- 5 accidents reported and investigated

ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Leixlip, Athy, Newbridge, Naas Access Groups and CKAN
- Online booking system went live for Cubbie Sensory Hub
- Launch of Changing Places facility in Aras Chill Dara



- Changing Places facility finished in Newbridge Sports centre – currently working on registration of facility
- Meeting with Into Kildare on the promotion of Universal Accessibility in Kildare
- Working with Parks Department and Leixlip Access Group on the design and delivery of a fully accessible playground for Leixlip
- Kildare Inclusion Schools Project:

The project entails the delivery of disability equality workshops to Transition Year (TY) students and the development of a KISP toolkit and training programme for County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) members.

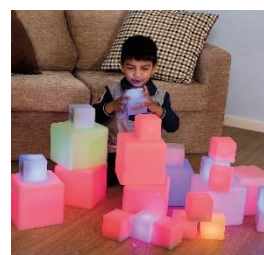
To date, 24 Transition Year students in the Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge, Co. Kildare participated in a 6-week training programme on disability equality. The training



aimed to enhance students' understanding of disability and the barriers disabled people face to full and equal participation. A key element of this training entailed students undertaking access audits within their school and local community.

3 schools chosen for 2022/2023
St Marys College Naas,
Salesian College Celbridge,
Maynooth Education Campus

- Purchase of 12 additional items for the Toys, Technology Training Collection



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

All Grants 2022			
Type	No.	Amount	
Community Grants	157	€275,575	
Festival Grants	65	€77,287	
Private Residents Associations Grants	276	€200,128	Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents Associations Grants	64	€58,433	Incl LPT
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744	
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	119	€644,988	
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	73	€141,715	
Education Bursaries			
Total	807	€1,617,870	

2022 revenue grants schemes

The 2022 community, festival and residents' associations grants were

approved at municipal district meetings in April.



Local property tax grants

Community section has processed specific grant awards where possible and all larger LPT mini schemes have been completed.

Education bursaries

The scheme closed on Friday 08 September and applications will be assessed as soon as possible.

Local Community

Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 06 July 2022 as a blended meeting (in person and MS Teams)

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met four times. Emergency accommodation has been provided recently through Maynooth University and Burt House Athy. Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme nationally with €100,585 secured for Kildare. The LCDC approved the employment of a co-ordinator through County Kildare LEADER Partnership,

who implement this programme, and for the funding to be used towards transport, emergency provisions, trauma supports and costs that emerge as a result of the emergency. CKLP have seconded Helen Mulhall to the role. She can be contacted at helen@countykildarelp.ie telephone: 086 8360901.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work continues to roll out this programme with a number of HSE funded initiatives taking place in Athy, alongside Seed Funded initiatives supported by the Slaintecare Local Development Officer. The Local Development Officer continues to meet key personnel and is working closely with the HSE lead on all aspects of the programme. Work has concluded on the Peoples Park Athy, which has received funding under Slaintecare



Healthy Communities €250,000. An underspend from this fund has been approved for additional enhancement works along the Barrow Walkway and Monasterevin Road and works are due to commence by mid-October. In accordance with national guidance a launch is being planned for Friday 14 October and a Local Implementation Group has been established. This group held its first meeting on Tuesday 06 September in Athy Library. A presentation was given by the Local Development Officer at the last LCDC meeting.

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

mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Laura Kelly was successful in the recruitment for the Healthy Ireland post through Kildare County Council. She commenced employment with Kildare County Council as part of the LCDC team on 18 July. The Healthy Ireland Round 3 programme has concluded with the final returns submitted to Pobal. €40,000 has been secured for Healthy Ireland through the LCDC and details of the Children and Young Peoples Services Committee allocation are awaited.

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

lkelly@kildarecoco.ie

Connected Hubs - Osprey Hotel

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

Community Activities Programme (CAF) – Round 2 Running Costs

CAF funding of €76,282.72 under running costs was not allocated earlier in 2022. This was mainly due to not having enough applications completing the form satisfactorily for example, no evidence of bills. The fund was re-advertised with a closing date of 31 August 2022. 104 applications were received, and these will be evaluated by a Subgroup of the LCDC in the coming weeks.



SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The work is on target to reach its' goals and allocate its funding for 2022. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450

LEADER Programme

One project was approved by the LCDC/LAG on 06 July totally €19,512.90.

1. Sallins Canal Stores Ltd were grant aided €19,512.90 towards the purchase of bicycles and accessories, tools, software for the business and a promotional website plus signage costs.

The project budget available for Kildare is almost fully allocated and details on future funding are awaited. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership www.countykildarelp.ie, or telephone 045-895450

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy has been selected by DRCD as a target area for a trial of a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. It is proposed that a Community Development Engagement Worker will be employed by County Kildare LEADER Partnership who will have a facilitation role in bringing local actors together to identify areas of overlap or gaps in services. The LCDC will have an enabling and support role in the programme and further details are to follow.

Local Economic and Community Plan

A draft proposal to commence the development of the LECP is being prepared and will be presented to the LCDC at their next meeting for discussion.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 28 September 2022.



Kildare Fáilte

July and August are a key tourist period. The marketing message to support tourism and hospitality businesses during these months focussed on summer break inspiration and offers, daycations, events, summer camps and activities and summer BBQ essentials.

In addition, on social media channels Biodiversity Week, National Bike Week and Heritage Week were supported.

County Kildare Fáilte launched a Taste of Kildare on 19 July at the Curragh Racecourse.



Kildare restaurants, producers and chefs attending the Launch of Taste of Kildare

An information event was held in advance of the launch for all food and drink producers, restaurants and chefs interested in taking part. The event is supported by Kildare Local Enterprise Office and will be a collective

collaboration to assist food businesses around the county.



Ms Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare, Mr David Mongey Chairman Into Kildare, Ms Jacqui McNabb Head of Economic Development and Enterprise Local Enterprise Office Kildare

Media reach from the launch event was almost 500k with publications such as Irish Country Magazine, Irish Examiner, Irish Field, trade publications and local media noting the event.

A targeted media campaign to promote the event and drive ticket sales continued through to August, with online and offline messaging to purchase tickets and find out more information on www.tasteofkildare.ie.

Regular stakeholder meetings took place including Flavours of Kildare, the Curragh and participating chefs and properties.



Also in July, Kildare Fáilte had the privilege to be invited to Leinster House by the Ceann Comhairle Sean O’Fearghail and join other local authorities and those with a passion for promoting St Brigid to start the planning process for Brigid 1500. A follow up meeting is scheduled to take place.



Ms Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare with Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Sr Rita Minihan, Solas Bhríde in front of Leinster House

Kildare Fáilte co-ordinated a meeting between senior management of Kildare Village and Directors of Kildare County Council.

A presentation on the developments at Kildare Village was shared followed by a tour of the property, and in particular the most recent phase constructed.



Some of the management team from Kildare Village with Mr Eoghan Ryan and Ms Marian Higgins, Kildare County Council

As one of the sponsors of the International Rose of Tralee Festival, in August Kildare Fáilte was delighted to welcome the International Roses to Kildare on a pre-festival tour. A packed itinerary was organised to bring them on the trail of Arthur Guinness. They visited Ardclough Village Centre to meet Arthur Guinness and created St Brigid’s Cloak before cycling down the Grand Canal to the Cliff at Lyons.

Following a tour of the farm and gardens, they enjoyed a true farm to fork lunch overlooking the watermill.



Leas Cathaoirleach Joe Neville welcoming the Roses to Kildare at the Cliff at Lyons

In the afternoon, the schedule included a tour of Leixlip Castle with Mr Patrick Guinness and a visit to Celbridge to meet the designer of the Arthur Guinness statue before a delicious afternoon tea in Fairmont Carton House.



Afternoon tea in the Gold Salon at Carton House, a Fairmont Managed Hotel

The day ended with off-road driving and axe throwing on the grounds of Fairmont Carton House and some golf tips from the pros at the K Club.



Mr Gary Murphy Head Pro at the K Club and Mr Connor Russell Director of Golf at the K Club on the Palmer Course with some of the International Roses.

Coverage of the visit had a media reach of just under 1 million, nationally and internationally including a piece on RTE just prior to the announcement of the winner. The Rose of Tralee was watched live in over 80 countries. On social media the content had over 100 thousand views.

The pre-festival tour was a great opportunity to showcase Kildare on a world stage, and in particular to include a piece on St Brigid and the K Club where the Horizon Irish Open will be held from next year.

Kildare Fáilte attended County Twinning meetings to prepare for the visit of the Lexington Sister City Committee which will take place in September. The group will be celebrating 30 years of twinning with



Kildare and the trip will include visits to stud farms.

Community tourism is an important element of the visitor experience and Kildare Fáilte attended several meetings to develop tourism including one with Ballymore Eustace to promote their new looped trail.

The popular Tow Path Trails is currently being updated to include the new Greenways and Blueway.

Kildare Fáilte participated in a fact-finding mission to Austria to see sustainable tourism infrastructure and experiences in practice. Seven other local authorities also attended, alongside Fáilte Ireland, Coillte and Bord na Mona.



Attendees of fact-finding mission to Austria to experience best practice in sustainable tourism experiences

Monthly calls took place with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland industry briefings were also attended.

Meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses also took place as many properties seek support to develop their current offering for visitors, as well as look at ways to increase sustainability.

Library and Arts Service

[I ransack public libraries and find them full of sunk treasure. Virginia Woolf's](#)

Summer Stars 2022

The national reading challenge, Summer Stars has now ended. Kildare libraries are inviting children to events to collect their certificates and medals. 3,065 children signed up to Summer Stars reading challenge this year in Kildare.

Clocha Rince

The opening hours at Clocha Rince have been extended to include Saturdays from September. The library is also now fully automated, thanks to our new cloud-based library management system. Customers now also have the benefit of twice weekly deliveries for inter-library loans.



Kilcullen

Opening hours have been aligned with late night openings in other libraries. New furniture, signage and an additional public computer are also being installed.

Climate Innovation

Naas Library facilitated Kildare County Council's Climate Action Office by hosting the Climate Innovation Fund, which was a workshop for communities to brainstorm, network and develop projects.

Ukrainian Support

Maynooth Library were pleased to offer four outreach workshops in the branch for Ukrainian refugees in temporary accommodation on the Maynooth University Campus. Library service provided activities, toys, snacks, board games and some films in Ukrainian. The drop-in mornings were very well received with around 150 parents and children in attendance.

As many Ukrainians were in temporary accommodation in the college over the summer, Maynooth Library also facilitated English classes for beginners over the month of August. A group called Fáilte Isteach had two

well-attended classes weekly, when they had finished their course. Maynooth Library also hosted twice-weekly English for beginners on behalf of the KWETB.

Heritage Week

Naas Library celebrated Heritage Week with a walk on the canal led by Paddy Behan of Naas Local History and Fiona Duigan of Naas Biodiversity Group followed by refreshments in Naas Library. There is wonderful interest in our heritage, history, and environment with almost one hundred people attending the event.

Heritage week in Kildare Library brought Dr Pádraig Ó Ruairc from Cork to demonstrate and lecture on the old traditions of 'The Mummies' or 'Straw Boys' or 'Biddy Boys'. Kildare Library also had family workshops on the art of calligraphy and illustrating Ireland's butterflies by Artist and Calligrapher Josephine Hardiman.

Kildare Readers Festival 2022

Kildare Readers Festival takes place from Monday, 03 to Sunday, 09 October.

List of speakers and events can be found through the following link



www.kildarecoco.ie/library/kildareadersfestival

Period Poverty

Following a grant application submitted through Kildare Library Service, Kildare County Council has been awarded €25,000 by the Department of Health to install free period product vending machines in the public toilets across all fourteen libraries, Riverbank Arts Centre, and Aras Chill Dara. Providing free products within public buildings such as council offices and libraries will help prevent Period Poverty. The vending machines are currently being installed and a press release will issue.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing according to the revised contractor schedule. The new date that the library will be open to the public is estimated to be Spring 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

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

application. It is hoped that the application will be ready for submission in the next few weeks.

New Clane Library

The Design Team, Architects and Library Service are currently responding to the Kildare County Council inter-departmental technical submissions in preparation for Part 8 Planning.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Staff continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries. James Durney participated in a recent filming of a celebrity with a Co. Kildare connection for an episode of Who Do You Think You Are? in the GPO, Dublin. The county archivist is a member of the Data Governance and Records Management Steering Group. Cleaning and listing of archival material are ongoing. The first of a series of historical articles was published in The Pulse, September edition, which also included an article on the team.

Decade of Commemorations

A Timeline of the Civil War in Co. Kildare 2022-2024 has been launched



in Maynooth, Athy and Kildare Town Libraries. Copies are available free in Co. Kildare's libraries and the Kildare Decade of Commemorations page.

Remembering the Rathbride Company

Presentation given by Mario Corrigan and James Durney, Milltown Inn, 16 August, as part of Heritage Week.

Continued promotion of centenary events via local newspapers, radio, social media, and the National DOC website and newsletter. Liaising with community groups and individuals to deliver the programme and administration in relation to the DOC programme.

Publication of historical articles in local newspapers.

Kildare Arts Service Kildare County Council Arts Strategy 2023 – 2027

Kildare Arts Service initiated a review of the current Arts Strategy 2018-2022, to inform the focus and priorities of new strategy (2023 – 2027). As part of this process, the Arts Service published online surveys to solicit the insights and opinions of the citizens of county Kildare about their experiences

in engaging in the arts, and what they hope to see into the future. The Arts Service also published an open invitation to attend the Public Consultation on the Kildare County Council Arts Strategy 2023 – 2027 to be held in The Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge on Tuesday 13 September.

Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (Phase IV)

Kildare Arts Service published a call out for Phase IV of the Kildare Local Live Performance Programming Scheme, funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. In this round, five grants of €15,000/award were offered to suitably qualified artists, producers, and promoters to deliver live performance events in Kildare during September – October 2022. The deadline for applications was 15 August.

Creative Places Athy Making Connections Award

In August Creative Places Athy published details of the Making Connections Award, a new grant to support to collaborative projects between artists/creatives and communities to deliver an art project



that connects people. It is hoped that projects will support opportunities for civic, social and community groups and individuals to resource themselves to creatively engage and connect with each other. Deadline for applications: 16 September (extended).

Creative Places Athy – Your Skate Park, Your Design

Creative Places Athy published a call out to young people aged 12 – 18 to get involved in this new public mural project. Workshops to brainstorm ideas about a new mural design in the Skatepark, Meeting Lane, Athy were held with artist Paul Bokslag.

Workshops dates: Friday 05, Monday 08 and Wednesday 17 August.

Artist in Residence programme at The ACRE Project

The Arts Service and The ACRE Project, Celbridge announced a new partnership via an Artist in Residence programme. The pilot residency is supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service, as part of its Arts, Health and Wellbeing programme, with grant aid from the Arts Council of Ireland. The programme will provide a professional artist with a resourced 30-week residency at The ACRE

(beginning Autumn 2022), an Artist in Residence Bursary Award (€15,000) and includes elements of engagement with the public and local communities. The deadline for applications was 31 August. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview in mid-September.

Local writers announced as recipients of Words Ireland Mentoring in Kildare

Local writers Catherine Gander and Siobhán Hoy were announced as having been selected by the Irish Writers Centre as the Kildare-based writers to receive professional literary mentoring over the next eight months from acclaimed Irish writers of their choice. After a national call out, 37 writers from across the country have been selected from a total of over three hundred applicants. This mentoring programme is supported Kildare County Council Arts Service, other local authorities nationwide and the Arts Council.

Made of Athy plaque to Brian Hughes unveiled

A plaque to celebrate the significant musical contribution of Brian Hughes was unveiled on Saturday 27 August at Athy Community Library. The Made



of Athy initiative, supported by Kildare Council Council has produced a series of plaques throughout the town celebrating Athy's connections with well-known names and faces in music and the arts.

Parks

News and Highlights

National Heritage Week

As part of National Heritage Week 13-21 August, tours of the De Burgh Gardens, Oldtown Demesne, Naas were very successful with a large turnout for each tour. To assist with the tours and provide for visitor comfort and safety, cycle stands were installed at an entrance gate and some pedestrian bridges were repaired.

Leixlip Playground

A Preliminary design has been completed and internal departmental consultation is due to be completed in September. An Ecologist has been appointed to carry out AA and EIAR screening, and a timeline for the Part 8 has been agreed with the Planning Department.

Allenwod Playground

One tender for the construction of the play park was received in June 2022.

As this tender exceeded the available budget it was not accepted. A new tendering strategy has been agreed upon for the playpark and the tendering documents are currently being prepared.

National Playday 2022

National Playday 2022 took place from Saturday 10 – Saturday 17 September, with the theme of 'All Play Together', and a treasure hunt event for children organised in conjunction with the Library Service.

An Taisce, Green Flag Awards

An Taisce, Green Flag Award judging of Monread Park, Naas will be undertaken by visiting judges in September.

The Grove, Celbridge

The installation of a path across the open space between The Grove and Hazelhatch Park, Celbridge has been completed.



Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January– 31 August 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	73	153,872.90
Feasibility Study Grant	6	42,602
Priming Grant	7	177,758
Business Expansion Grant	14	335,302
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	10	21,458.05

Innovation Partnership Programme

DMA Cost Management Specialists Ireland Limited t/a Green Procurement who are located in Celbridge have been successful in securing Feasibility funding of €8,919.05 through the [IPP Fund](#). The research proposal seeks to use blockchain technology to facilitate the transaction of solar energy on an independent microgrid. For example, clusters such as farmers in Ireland and abroad, neighbourhoods or housing compounds in developing countries.

Grow Digital

Former Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Robert Troy TD, launched

[Grow Digital initiatives](#) for the Mid-East region in MERITS Kildare to assist businesses as they navigate the process of digitalisation.



There are supports for companies at all stages of their digital journey – from going online to facilitating exporting and to using digital technologies to reach new markets and improve their productivity and competitiveness.

GradStart

Carve On Limited, Made Personal Limited (both Kildare/Newbridge) and Lonergan Corporate Gifts Limited (Celbridge) [GradStart](#) applications were approved each availing of grant support over 2 years to support recruitment of a graduate position.

Priming Grants Approved

Bogdan Stan from UTender Limited (Celbridge/Leixlip) was approved funding of €15,000 to support recruitment of 2 new employees.



Andrew Archbold from Subbymate Limited (Celbridge/Leixlip) was approved funding of € 21,699 to recruit the first employee in the company and support final technical development of the Subbymate platform.

Expansion Grants Approved

Ross Murphy from PCP Group Limited (Naas) was approved employment support of €15,000.



Dominic Peel from Picel Limited was approved €43,637 for development of his food production facility in Athy.

Nick Lalor t/a Lalor Enterprises (Clane / Maynooth) was approved €49,750 towards a new employee and capital equipment.

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 Training Programmes 2022

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

To date, 1,354 clients have availed themselves of these training opportunities which can be booked here. Mentoring and Business Advice



numbers stand at 276 clients. To utilise this service join below: -
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster

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

Women In Business Entrepreneurs are invited to apply to join the cluster -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/165>

The most recent meeting of the LEO Kildare Women In Business Cluster took place on Tuesday 13 September.

Kildare LEO Craft and Creative Cluster

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

Craft and Creative businesses are invited to apply to join the network -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/164>

The next meeting of the LEO Kildare Craft and Creative Cluster takes place on Monday 19 September

Green for Micro Programme

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

<https://leo.submit.com/show/1>

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.

Businesses can apply at

<https://leo.submit.com//show/6>

Ongoing Business Advice

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

To apply for this support, please complete the following form -

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



Digital Start Tender

LEO Kildare sought tenders Digital Start Programme. To date 15 suppliers have been awarded tenders. Clients can find out more about the Digital Start programme here -

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Digital%20Start/>

Training Needs Analysis Co-Ordinator

Interactions Ltd have been appointed Training Needs Analysis Co-Ordinator through LEO Kildare. Research will be carried out with LEO clients to ascertain relevant training and mentoring needs directly with clients. Full details on the LEO website (www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare)

Naas Wild Food Festival 2022

The Naas Wild Food Festival took place this year from 9 September – 11 September 2022. Kildare LEO were a key sponsor and a number of our clients in the food sector showcased and sold their products under the brand Kildare LEO Flavours of Kildare Food and Drinks Network.

Taste of Kildare 2022

On Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September, the Taste of Kildare takes

place at the Curragh Racecourse. Kildare LEO are one of the main sponsors of the event and will be offering up to 20 clients in the food sector under the brand Kildare LEO Flavours of Kildare Food and Drinks Network. It is a fantastic opportunity to showcase their products at the Champion's Hall at The Curragh.

Student Enterprise Programme 2022/2023

Kildare Student Enterprise Programme is now open for registration for the academic year 2022/23. The Student Enterprise Programme is an educational and fun-packed initiative that teaches second level students what it's really like to be an entrepreneur and set up and run their own business over the course of the academic year. The Programme is open to all students from 1st year to 6th year and all secondary schools are invited to participate. If you would like to learn more full details on how the Programme works are available on our website on www.studententerprise.ie. Our co-ordinators Whizzkids Training will be liaising with the schools and providing student workshops on behalf of the Local Enterprise Office.



National Women's Enterprise Day 2022

Celebrating our first in person event since Covid 19 - A half-day event presented jointly by LEO Kildare and LEO Wicklow with a great line up of speakers and an ideal opportunity for cross-county business networking. Panel discussion hosted by MC Susan Keogh with Leading Lights from Kildare and Wicklow, Tara Lane (Centrepiece Rosettes) and Kate Dempsey (Aqua license Ltd. - recent overall winner of the LEO National Enterprise Awards 2022), along with Guest Speaker Nina Carberry, Entrepreneur, retired Irish female National Hunt jockey and TV personality. A number of LEO clients will also join the panel to discuss their journey and the support they received from their Local Enterprise Office. Followed by exhibition area showcasing a number of Kildare based female- led local businesses, music and networking.

Ploughing Championships

Following a callout to all our clients Tradeforus Ltd. an Online platform for Producer Organisations and Farm-to-Farm Livestock Advertising and Sales based in Naas MD were selected to

represent Kildare at this year's event. They will get a chance to exhibit their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village. The National Ploughing Championships will return to Ratheniska in 2022, taking place from 20 to 22 September.

Economic Support Services Shopfront Enhancement Grant/ Retail Window Merchandising Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and closed on Friday 08 July.

*2022 Budget Allocation

MD	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	17	€ 44261
Athy	11	€ 25123
Naas	10	€ 35167
Clane/Maynooth	11	€ 28507
Celbridge/Leixlip	0	0

56 applications with a value of €133,058 were approved in 2022.



Retail Window Merchandising Grant

This scheme financially assists and supports independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme covers the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Autumn/Winter period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure will be available. The scheme re-opens on Wednesday 21 September and closes on the 11 November.

In order to apply for the grant, applicants must attend the Retail Visual Merchandising Workshop that will take place on the 21 September 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Retail%20Window%20Merchandising%20Grant/>

Rev Up Retail

Kildare LEO are presenting 'Rev Up Online' - a mini accelerator programme designed to drive sales for Kildare

based e-Commerce and High St. Retailer that will take place over 5 workshops during September and October. This newly designed programme features industry experts who will guide participants on digital decisions that will grow brand awareness and drive e-Commerce and/or footfall to increase High Street sales.

Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Rev%20Up%20Retail/>

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. The economic development team presented the strategy to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC in July for their consideration and it will now go forward to Full Council for approval in September



Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Athy has been confirmed as one of 26 towns in Ireland that have been selected to receive up to €100,000 in funding as part of the initiative. Under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the

facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies. An expression of interest form has been published on the Kildare LEO website which will assist in identifying properties and areas within the towns that may wish to benefit from the scheme. The scheme will open fully to applicants in Quarter 4 2022.

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	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



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

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive