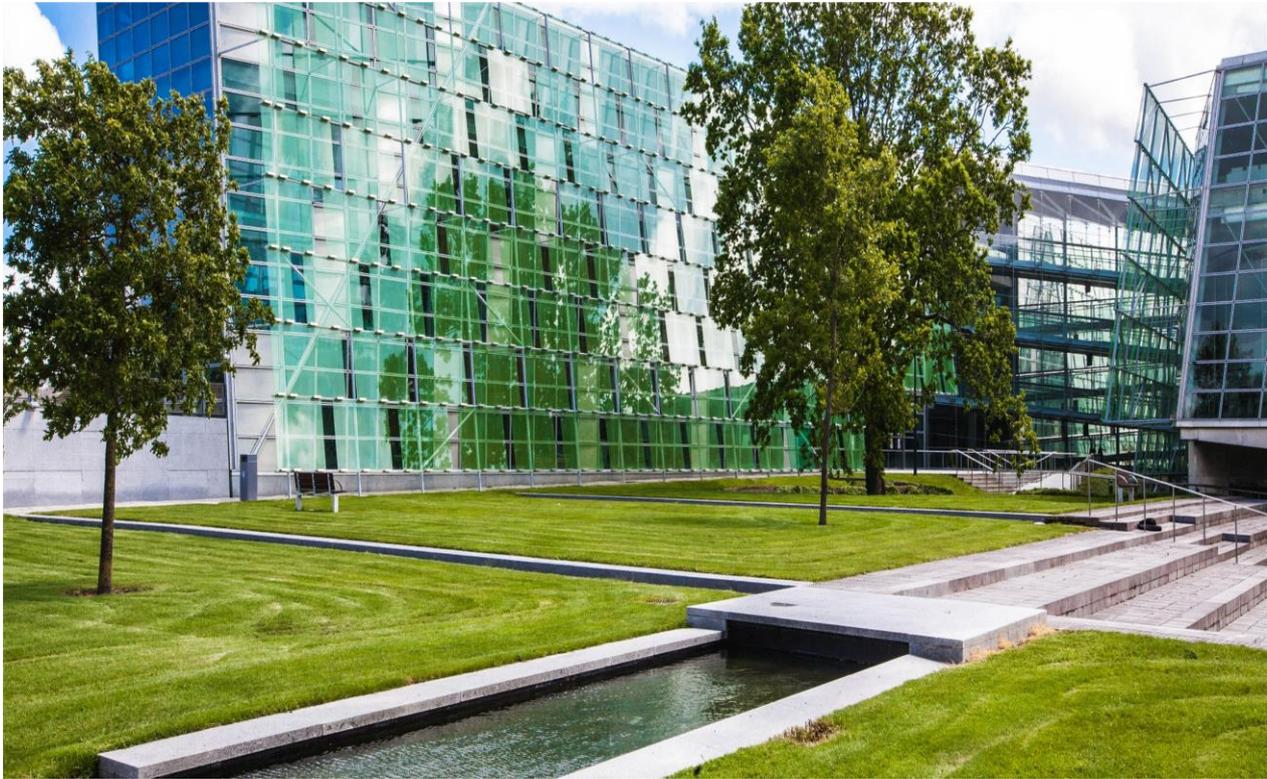




**Kildare County Council**

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





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## **News Items**

### **Announcement of Development Plans for new Community Facility and Library**

Kildare County Council announced an agreement between the Council and the parish of St. Patrick and St. Brigid to purchase the Parochial House and lands, Main Street, Celbridge (see page 08).

### **Kildare County Council announces Three Education Bursary Schemes for 2022**

Kildare County Council is awarding three bursaries, which are designed to provide an opportunity to study at third level, to persons who may not be in a position to undertake a course of study because of serious disadvantage or disability (see page 08).

### **Kildare County Council Publishes 2021 Annual Report**

Kildare County Council published its Annual Report for 2021, giving an overview of the Council's programme of work delivered in 2021 (see page 09).

### **Appointment of new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach**

The elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Fintan Brett and Councillor Joe Neville as Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach (see page 09).

### **Protected Disclosures**

The Annual Report on protected disclosures to 30 June 2022 has been published on the website (see page 13).

### **Local Property Tax – Notice of consideration of setting a local adjustment factor**

Closing date for submissions is 19 August 2022 at 5.00pm (see page 17)

### **First Home Scheme launched**

The 'First Home Scheme' (home loan) has been launched (Thursday 07 July) as part of the Government's 'Housing for All' strategy (see page 17).



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### **Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Key Highlights**

Accessibility, Health and Safety, Building and Development Control and the Digital Strategy for Kildare (see page 54).

### **Ukrainian Community Response Forum**

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met three times. Emergency accommodation has been provided recently through Maynooth University and Burt House Athy (see page 66).

### **Healthy Ireland**

Laura Kelly was successful in the recruitment for the Healthy Ireland post through Kildare County Council (see page 67).

### **LEADER Programme**

One project was approved by the LCDC/LAG on 06 July totalling €19,512.90 (see page 68).

### **Kildare Fáilte – Kildare Derby Festival**

The Kildare Derby Festival took place in Kildare town in the week leading up to the DDF Irish Derby (see page 70).

### **Kildare Fáilte – Arth Café, Ardclough**

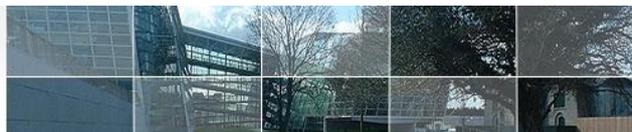
County Kildare Fáilte assisted a volunteer group in the official opening of a new café in Ardclough, Arth Café (see page 71).

### **Cruinniú na nÓg**

Cruinniú na nÓg Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, took place on Saturday 11 June (see page 71).

### **Sensory Boxes**

Following a request by Maynooth Access group, Kildare County Councils Access Officer has agreed to purchase sensory boxes (see page 73).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **New Casual Trading Bye Laws adopted by elected members**

Casual Trading Bye Laws have been made for the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. Commencing on 01 September, applications are now invited for licences to trade (see page 11).

### **Housing Assistance Payment – Change in rates**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has announced details of an increase in discretionary flexibility available in respect of the HAP rent limits (Circular 29/2022), effective from the 11 July (see page 17).

### **Traveller Accommodation**

A Mid Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019- 2024 has been requested by the DHLGH (Housing Circular 28/2022). The review must be completed by the 31 August next (see page 19).

### **Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029**

The Forward Planning Section is preparing the Chief Executive's report on submissions received during the public consultation period for the Draft CDP. A copy of the report will be furnished to the elected members in July with a Special Council meeting to discuss same to be held in September (see page 27).

### **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. Elected representatives are encouraged to send any items they would like discussed at the clinic (see page 32).

### **Local Community Development Committee**

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for Wednesday 28 September 2022 (see page 68).



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### **Clocha Rince Library**

Library IT and our Reader Services team have begun work in adding items and borrowers to the system and training and expect to re-launch in September 2022 (see page 72).

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

There will be road closures on Moat Lane and Town Hall Lane from 26 July to 23 August to allow contractors to do upgrades to public lighting on the lanes and duct wiring below ground (see page 74).

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

The next meeting of the LEO Kildare Women In Business Cluster takes place on Wednesday 20 July (see page 77).

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

The next meeting of the LEO Kildare Craft and Creative Cluster takes place on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 July (see page 77).

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

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and closed on Friday 08 July (see page 78).



## September Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Aug	30	31	<b>1 Sep</b> 10:30 LTACC 14:00 Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC	2 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC Meeting 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting	3
5	6 14:30 Audit Committee Meeting 15:00 County JPC	7	8 14:30 Housing SPC	9	10
12 14:30 Protocol	13 10:00 Special Meeting to Consider the Chief Executive Report on Submissions to the Dr... 14:30 Naas JPC Meeting 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	14 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services & Water SPC	15	16 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Co...	17
19 09:00 Athy JPC Meeting 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	20 11:00 Rural Water Monitoring Committee	21 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	22 15:00 Strategic Development & Planning SPC	23	24
26 15:00 Full Council Meeting	27 09:00 KWETB	28 10:00 LCDC	29	30	<b>1 Oct</b>



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## Corporate Services

### Communications

#### **Kildare County Council announces Development Plans for new Community Facility and Library**



Kildare County Council announced an agreement between the Council and the parish of St. Patrick and St. Brigid to purchase the Parochial House and lands, Main Street, Celbridge. Kildare County Council have exciting plans to redevelop this significant building and site on the Main Street for the use of the community in Celbridge and the wider community of North Kildare. The Council is committed to delivering a major community facility in Celbridge and the site of the Parochial House offers great potential. The vision is that this key, town-centre site will house a new multi-purpose community facility including a library and cultural centre, meeting spaces, a playground, outdoor performance location, sensory garden and outdoor amenities for all ages in Celbridge.

#### **Kildare County Council announces Three Education Bursary Schemes for 2022**

Kildare County Council is awarding three bursaries, which are designed to provide an opportunity to study at third level, to persons who may not be in a position to undertake a course of study because of serious disadvantage or disability. These bursaries are as follows:

- The William G. Carroll Bursary is mainly, but not exclusively, for third level courses in the field of community development.
- The Kildare Education Bursary for people with disabilities is for any third level course.
- The Kildare County Council Memorial Bursary for DEIS schools is for any third level course being undertaken by a former pupil of a DEIS school.

Applications are invited from persons living in county Kildare who wish to undertake a degree course at a recognised third level institution in Ireland. The course being undertaken should be at undergraduate level. Bursaries are not normally available for Post Leaving Certificate courses or



Postgraduate courses, but applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Kildare County Council Publishes 2021 Annual Report**



Kildare County Council published its Annual Report for 2021, giving an overview of the Council's programme of work delivered in 2021.

Maintaining essential services and providing additional supports was a priority for Kildare County Council in 2021, operating against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenges it presented. The 2021 Annual Report also highlights some the innovations, creativity, and learnings from the pandemic as well as the changing landscape and environment in which Kildare County Council operates. Significant changes in the lifestyles of citizens and the

operations of businesses across the county, which emerged last year, in areas such as blended working, increased use of outdoor spaces, community development, infrastructure and more, were areas of focus for Kildare County Council in 2021.

Press Release and supporting images were issued to local press to coincide with the publication of the report, highlighting some of the key stats and work delivered in 2021. This provided an opportunity to raise awareness among citizens and audiences in Kildare of the work carried out by the Council in 2021.

### **Members Services**

#### **Full Council**

#### **Appointment of new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach**



The elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Fintan Brett and Councillor Joe Neville as Cathaoirleach and Leas



Cathaoirleach of the county of Kildare respectively, at the Annual Meeting which took place in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara on Friday 24 June.

The members and the executive wished them both well in their new roles and thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach Councillor Naoise Ó'Ceairúil and Leas-Cathaoirleach Councillor Carmel Kelly for their work over the previous term.

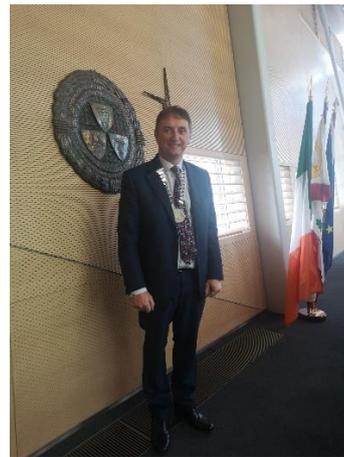
### Municipal District Committees

The Annual Meetings of the Municipal District Committees are taking place in July with the following appointments made thus far:

- **Athy** – Annual Meeting takes place on Monday 18 July
- **Celbridge-Leixlip** – Councillor Vanessa Liston was appointed Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nuala Killeen was appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach



- **Clane-Maynooth MD** – Councillor Darragh Fitzpatrick was appointed Cathaoirleach, Councillor Naoise Ó'Ceairúil was appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach.



- **Kildare-Newbridge MD** – Annual Meeting takes place on Wednesday 20 July
- **Naas MD** – Councillor Evie Sammon was appointed Mayor, Councillor Colm Kenny was appointed Deputy Mayor.





**New Casual Trading Bye Laws adopted by elected members.**

Casual Trading Bye Laws have been made for the Kildare Newbridge District.

Commencing on 01 September, applications are now invited for licences to trade as below. Person's trading in this District from 01 September must do so under licence in the designated areas as set out below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Number of Pitches</b>	<b>Cost per Pitch</b>
Kildare Town, Market Square*	Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays	10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.	Layout indicative, subject to demand.	€100-€300
Kildare Town, Market Square*	Friday Evening	5:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Layout indicative, subject to demand.	€100 - €300
Kildare Town, Market Square	Thursday	8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.	23 Pitches	€100 - €300
Newbridge Market Square	Saturdays	10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	14 Pitches (3mx3m)	€100
Newbridge George's Street	Saturdays	10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	6 Pitches (3mx3m)	€100
Newbridge Edward Street	Wednesday-Saturday	7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	1 Pitch Only, including vehicle	€300
Monasterevin Main Street	Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays	8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	1 Pitch Only, including vehicle	€200
Kilcullen Market Square	Sunday	10.00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Layout indicative (max of 15 3m x 3m Pitches)	€100-€200



\*Casual trading licences shall not be granted for casual trading at the location indicated, during the period of the Kildare Derby Festival and St. Brigid's Festival.

The elected members for Celbridge Leixlip District have adopted casual trading byelaws for their District. These have been advertised and will commence at start of August.

Location	Days	Times	Number of Pitches	Cost per Pitch
The Slip, Celbridge*	Friday and Bank Holiday Mondays	Friday: 10.00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  Bank Holiday Mondays 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Layout indicative, subject to demand.	€100-€300
William Roantree Park, adjacent to Courtyard Car Park, Leixlip**	Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays	10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	3 (3m x 3m)	€100.00

\*Casual trading licences shall not be granted for casual trading at the location indicated, during the period of the Celbridge Festival.

\*\*Casual trading licences shall not be granted for casual trading at the location indicated, during the period of the Leixlip Festival.

Before making an application, applicants are strongly advised to:

- Visit locations they propose to apply to trade in
- Consult the relevant Casual Trading Bye Laws, see the bye laws at the end of this page.

- Consult the Casual Trading Selection Policy ([Casual Trading Selection Policy 31 May 2021 Approved.pdf](#) ([kildarecoco.ie](http://kildarecoco.ie)))
- Consult representative or advisory bodies such as the Irish Organisation, Market and



**Street Traders**

(<https://www.iomst.ie/>) or Markets Alive Support Team Ltd. (<https://www.mast.ie/>), particularly if new to casual trading

- Consider advice from other bodies such as Bord Bia (<https://www.bordbia.ie/>) if trading in foodstuffs.
- Contact the Kildare County Council with queries:

Email:

[customerservice@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@kildarecoco.ie)

Phone:

045 980657

The full bye laws and application forms are available on Kildare County

Council’s website

(<https://kildarecoco.ie/YourCouncil/GovernanceandCompliance/CasualTrading/Casual%20Trading%20Selection%20Policy%2031%20May%202021%20Approved.pdf>)

Completed applications should be submitted to:

Athy Customer Service Point,  
Rathstewart,  
Monasterevin Road,  
Athy,  
Co. Kildare,  
R14 Y163

**Protected Disclosures**

The Annual Report on protected disclosures to 30 June 2022 has been published on the website. There was 1 protected disclosure and it was dealt with in accordance with the policy on receipt of protected disclosures which is available on the website. The policy on receipt of disclosures on financial reporting and other financial matters adopted by the audit committee is also available on the website.

**Freedom of Information**

**Data Requests and Ombudsman**

	Total received Quarter 1, 2022	Total received Quarter 2, 2022	Total
Freedom of Information requests	40	38	78
Freedom of Information appeals	2	1	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	15	14	29
Ombudsman	7	5	12



## **Finance and Information**

### **Technology**

Budget 2022 was framed in the context of a recovering economy, albeit with some sectors still having difficulties post-pandemic. The Central Bank's forecast was generally positive with an expectation of a sustained period of robust growth. The economic predictions were for a period of mild inflation that would taper off towards the end of 2022 and into 2023.

However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February has sparked a chain of events that presents significant challenges to the outlook for inflation and growth. Although the Central Bank continues to project the economy to grow, they are now predicting a slower pace of expansion with markedly higher inflation over the short term than previously expected. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a humanitarian tragedy for the people of Ukraine, with the economic consequences of this war being felt all across Europe. Ireland does not have significant economic ties to either Russia or the Ukraine, but as a small open economy with a high dependence on imported fuel and

energy products, we are very exposed to the volatility of energy and other commodities. Supply chain issues are also driving up costs for raw materials in sectors such as construction which is having a significant impact on Kildare County Council, especially in the Housing Maintenance, Roads Maintenance and other infrastructure delivery sections.

As the elected members will be aware, the budget in the public sector represents the ceiling to funding provision of a service – i.e. excluding additional grants, the budget amount is the maximum spend that can be incurred.

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure.

This compares to private sector budgeting where a budget is not merely a sum of money to be spent – here budgeting is activity related and may be flexed during the year as it is an allocation of resources that reflects



the amount needed to provide a service.

As such, where inflation occurs the budgets in local authorities still act as a 'limit' on spend, and as such the extent of service delivery decreases. Where there are savings, (for example in 2022 there will be some savings in payroll due to delays in vacancies being filled) the monies are diverted to maintain similar levels of service

provision in areas where there is a shortfall in the budget.

The table below shows some of the areas where expenditure would need to increase substantially in order to maintain 2021 service levels. The savings generated by the delays in vacancies being filled will be diverted here. There are also overtime costs being incurred to maximise service delivery.

Expenditure Headings from 2021 AFS	2021 €	% change based on inflation/ CPI:	2022 outturn - if no change to activity levels: €	Increase if no change to activity levels: €
Repairs & Maintenance (Housing)	1,888,912	19.20%	2,251,583	362,671
Contract payments (Housing)	1,705,671	19.20%	2,033,160	327,489
Materials	1,657,471	19.20%	1,975,705	318,234
Energy Costs (metered only)	658,187	48%	816,152	157,965 <i>from 1st July 2022</i>
Fuel	619,730	41.60%	877,538	257,808
Advertising (loc and nat newspapers)	290,473	19%	318,068	27,595 <i>from 1st July 2022</i>

In addition, Kildare County Council is conscious of the cost of energy and its impact on our tenants; as such we have critically looked at savings in payroll (due to the delays in vacancies being filled) and are working towards increasing our expenditure in our own stock of houses in the areas of energy

efficiency and replacement of windows and doors in 2022. This scheme was advised to Council as part of the June Chief Executive report.

In June 2022 we were advised of a revaluation of a number of the 'globals' - these are the rates charged on utilities. This revaluation has resulted

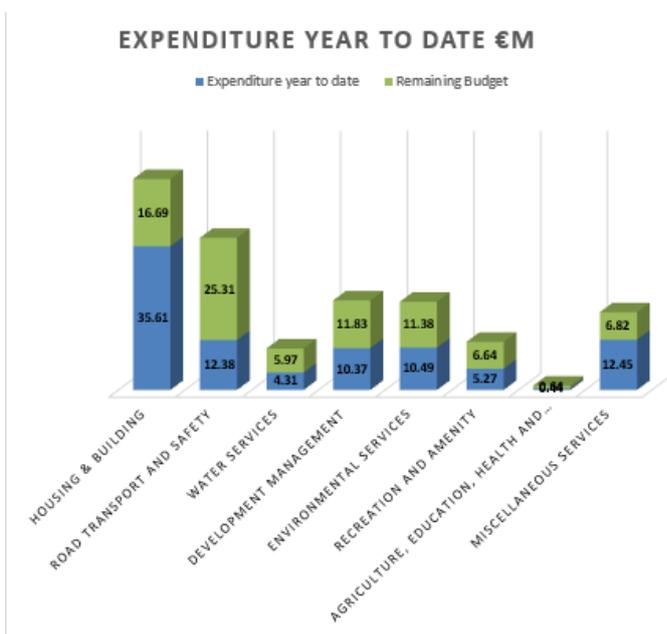


in a reduction of circa €200k per annum in rates – these revaluations to be back-dated to 2020 and 2021 as they were the subject of appeals. The executive is very conscious of the need to monitor and manage expenditure and to ensure that overall budgets are not exceeded whilst at the same time delivering services in

accordance with the budget agreed by the elected members.

Revenue expenditure is currently running at 52% - this is slightly ahead of budget as it includes savings in the non-spend of Retained LPT, however senior management will continue to review this situation to ensure the year out-turns on target.

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 June 2022								
Division	Expenditure				Income			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	35,611	52,300	68%	16,689	33,174	44,828	74%	11,654
Road Transport and Safety	12,381	37,692	33%	25,311	2,166	19,290	11%	17,124
Water Services	4,314	10,281	42%	5,967	2,273	10,082	23%	7,809
Development Management	10,369	22,196	47%	11,827	5,617	7,758	72%	2,141
Environmental Services	10,488	21,869	48%	11,381	3,384	7,062	48%	3,678
Recreation and Amenity	5,271	11,916	44%	6,645	1,133	1,079	105%	54
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	442	1,081	41%	639	105	348	30%	243
Miscellaneous Services	12,446	19,267	65%	6,821	5,014	6,026	83%	1,012
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-	9,145	18,289	50%	9,144
					30,517	61,837	49%	31,320
	91,322	176,602	52%	85,280	92,528	176,599	52%	84,071





## **Local Property Tax – Notice of consideration of setting a local adjustment factor**

In accordance with SI 296/2014 Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014, whereby the ‘local authority shall consult with the public in its administrative area in relation to its consideration of the setting of a local adjustment factor...’ Kildare County Council has included the prescribed notification in three local newspapers, on the council website and through its various social media channels. Closing date for submissions is 19 August 2022 at 5.00pm. A report, summarising the written submissions, shall be brought to the September meeting.

## **Housing Housing Assistance Payment – Change in rates**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has announced details of an increase in discretionary flexibility available in respect of the HAP rent limits (Circular 29/2022), effective from the 11 July. These changes are as follows:

1. An increase in the HAP discretion rate from the current 20% to a

maximum of 35% for all local authority areas. This will apply to both new and existing tenancies.

2. Additional flexibility allowing local authorities to apply a couple rate to a single person household, where required. This will apply to new tenancies only and will only be allowed where the 35% discretion is not adequate.

The circular provides the following affordability guidelines regarding the maximum combined differential rent payment and landlord top up:

Households in employment: 35%  
Households solely reliant on social welfare: 30%

The single rate excluding the discretionary amount is €575

The couple rate excluding the discretionary amount is €750

## **First Home Scheme launched**

The ‘First Home Scheme’ (home loan) has been launched (Thursday 07 July) as part of the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ strategy, in conjunction with participating mortgage lenders to support the purchase of new homes in the private market. The scheme uses an equity share model, to ‘bridge the gap’ between the purchase price and the amount a person can raise through



a mortgage. The scheme can provide support of up to 30% of the purchase price (or 20% if Help to Buy is used), in return for an equity stake in the home. The house price ceiling in Kildare is €400,000.

To be eligible for the scheme an applicant must be a First-Time Buyer, who is defined as a person who: has not previously purchased or built a dwelling in Ireland for his/her/their occupation and does not own or is not beneficially entitled to an estate, or has interest in any dwelling in Ireland or elsewhere and, has a right to reside in Ireland, and is aged over 18.

A number of exemptions have been introduced which mean applicants may also be eligible despite previously purchasing or building a property in Ireland if: they did so with a spouse, civil partner, or partner, and that relationship has ended.

The applicant must not retain a beneficial interest in the previous property, or they have sold (or divested of) that property as part of a personal insolvency or bankruptcy arrangement, or other legal process as a consequence of insolvency.

Further details are available at [www.firsthomescheme.ie](http://www.firsthomescheme.ie).

### **Homeless Services**

Family homeless presentations remain high resulting from Notices to Quit and lack of available HAP and Homeless HAP properties. Jigginstown Manor in Naas was officially opened by the President on the 14 June with 12 young single adults currently being accommodated and receiving supports to achieve progressions to full tenancies and longer-term accommodation.

### **Homeless Outreach**

The Outreach Team completed the following work in June

- Four municipal district areas visited and supported for the Month (Athy, Naas, Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge).
- One Housing First Tenancy created.
- Rough Sleeper Count 11 (all verified and offers of support given).
- Monthly Clinic in the resource Centre in Newbridge - One new engagement.
- Clinic held in Cuan Mhuire - Three new engagements-clinic to be held Monthly going forward.



- One client moved to treatment from a Supported Temporary Accommodation placement.
- One Homeless HAP tenancy created from Rough sleeping.
- One allocation of Social Housing from Rough sleeping.
- Street work - Two sessions complete in June (Athy, Celbridge-Leixlip).
- Engagement at the Southwest Regional Drug Task Force Committee meeting.

### **Tenancy Support**

61 families are on the active caseload for tenancy support and an additional Tenancy Support Officer is now in place to strengthen this service. Since January 2022 the team have successfully discharged 33 families/individuals from this service allowing for the team to provide more supports where required. The team also manages supports with the Family Hubs which presently consists of four families in Prosperous and nine in Athy.

### **Homeless HAP**

28 Homeless HAP tenancies have been completed (year to date). The Homeless HAP Placefinder continues to operate to seek suitable properties

with private landlords. Ten of the placements were for tenants exiting emergency accommodation.

### **HAP Tenancies**

A total of 179 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,156 active tenancies are now in place.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

A Mid Term Review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019- 2024 has been requested by the DPHLG (Housing Circular 28/2022). This will be progressed in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC). The review must be completed by the 31 August next. 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.

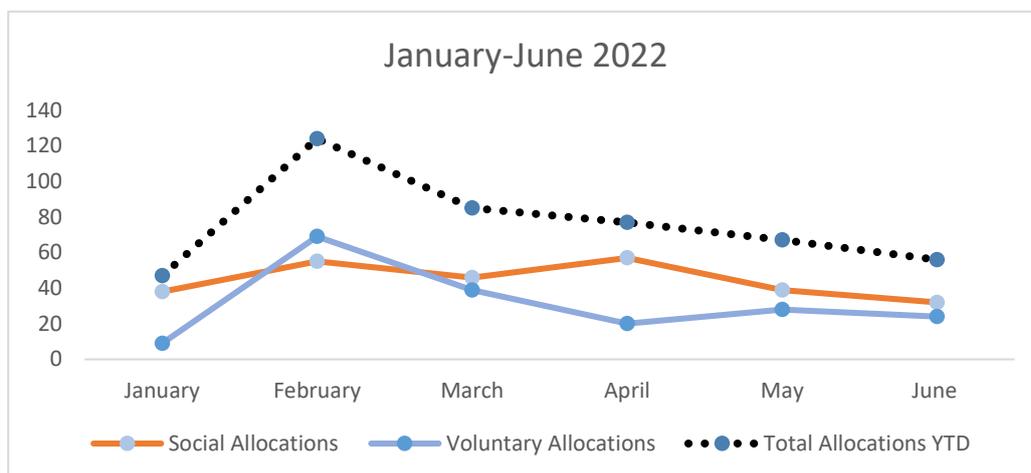
### **Housing Allocations**

32 social housing units and 24 AHB units were allocated in June 2022. To date in 2022, there were 267 social and 189 voluntary units allocated.

This is an overall total of 456 units and



favorably compares with an overall total of 398 for the same period last year.



## Housing Loans

Rates applicable from 01 July 2022

Type of Loan	Duration	Previous Rate	Rate from 1st July 2022
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan/Local Authority Home Loan	25 years	2.495%	2.845%
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan/Local Authority Home Loan	30 years	2.745%	2.945%

## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	<b>Mountain View, Athgarvan [18 units]:</b> Tenders received and currently being assessed.
<b>Approval Stage 3</b>		
Coill Dubh	10 units	Tender return date extended to 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 due to construction Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Cooperation Framework.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		



St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 2 approval received. Final Part 8 documentation being reviewed. Briefing to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District members and issue of update proposal to residents to follow; planned for mid-July before Part 8 is launched
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Briefing to Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members held on 14 June 2022. Planning Application being finalised.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team Tender published; tenders received 26 June 2022.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Part 8 launched 29 June 2022 with latest date for observations on 12 August 2022.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Revised Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH
<b>Approval - Stage 1</b>		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations issued to DHLGH and approved to proceed to stage 2. Tender prepared for appointment of Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Stage 1 - redesigned proposals have been submitted to DHLGH for comment prior to presentation to residents. Applications submitted to ESB for diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables.
<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Station Road, Kildare	12-14 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition on 28 March 2022 and notice of shortlisting received 11 May 2022. Additional information submitted to DHLGH 3 June 2022.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 3 2022.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 CE Report to be brought to Naas Municipal District meeting on 12 July 2022.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for single stage approval for new unit submitted to DHLGH.



25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Part 8 observation period closed. Housing Report being prepared for submission to Planning Department.
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### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Scheme completed; allocations ongoing.
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 agreed by Athy Municipal District on 16 May 2022. Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate applications submitted. Workshops held with Participating Local Authorities in advance of preparation of tender documents.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Procurement of Design Team commenced.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 units	Confirmation that site has been included in Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 5 received 9 June 2022. Adjacent Kildare County Council lands being master-planned as part of PPP development. Procurement of Design Team commenced.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Confirmation that site is under consideration for future Social Housing PPP bundles received 9 June 2022. Additional brief and site information to be provided.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

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

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

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



Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 to review revised proposals in line with Kildare County Council and DHLGH comments. Revised proposals issued to Kildare County Council Sections for comment prior to finalising Stage 2 application.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Briefing delivered to Athy Municipal District members on 20 June 2022. Planning application being finalised by Cluid.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by Kildare County Council.

### Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed Units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	11
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	7
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>18</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge- Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	7	2	7	1	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	9	2	1	3	2

### Social Housing Applications

	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
<b>2021</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>151</b>
Q1 2022	14	0	88	2	38
Q2 2022	23	0	112	12	76

### Homeless Presentations

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



Quarter 2	312	113	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>403</b>

**Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown**

<b>2021</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Total	363	310
<b>2021</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
Quarter 1	99	81
Quarter 2	133	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>164</b>

**Families in Private Emergency Accommodation (including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs) as at 30 June 2022**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	26	43	41
6 - 12 Months	6	10	7
12 - 18 Months	3	4	4
18 - 24 Months	3	3	3
24 - 30 Months	2	2	2
36 Months +	5	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>64</b>

**Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2022**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Households with Dependents</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
0 - 6 Months	6	7	8
6 - 12 Months	4	6	9
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0



+ 36 Months	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>

### Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
<b>2021</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8,185</b>	<b>6,623</b>
Q 1, 2022	27	16	2,523	1,874
Q 2, 2022	41	10	2,624	1,939

### Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

### National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	<b>Phase 1 Beechgrove:</b> Substantially complete; to agree final account.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	<b>Phase 2 Ashbrook:</b> Final account agreed.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	<b>Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurray View:</b> Substantially complete; to agree final account.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	<b>Phase 4 St Evin's Park:</b> All units substantially complete; to agree final account.
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed; works to remaining 5 units substantially complete
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Works progressing well, expect to complete end of July
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Works progressing well, expect to complete end of July.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing.
<b>2022 EERP</b>	EERP	69	Tender documents prepared for Lacken View for final read down and tender documents well advanced for Ottomy and Castleroe. Expect to tender Lacken View Monday 11 July and Ottomy/Castleroe 1/2 weeks thereafter.



### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022 to date
<b>Total Approved</b>	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,272,045 (from 2021 applications)
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€1,915,500 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)

### Local Authority Home Loan (Launched 2022)

Quarter	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Q1	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Q2	13	€2,454,039	0	0	0	0

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued (including applications from previous years)
2021	39	1	29
Q1, 2022	3	0	7
Q2, 2022	11	0	8

### Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
<b>2021</b>	390	332	16	16	347	269
<b>2022- Q1</b>	59	72	3	5	83	144
<b>2022- Q2</b>	78	43	0	0	89	86



**Rent Assessments**

<b>Year</b>	<b>LA Rents</b>	<b>LA New HAP</b>	<b>LA HAP Review</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1077</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>498</b>
<b>Q1 2022</b>	325	74	132
<b>Q2 2022</b>	299	103	106
<b>Total YTD</b>	624	177	238

**Planning and Strategic  
Development and Public  
Realm**

**Kildare County Development Plan  
2023-2029**

The Forward Planning Section is preparing the Chief Executive’s report on submissions received during the public consultation period for the Draft County Development Plan, during which 612 submissions were received. The report will include a summary of all the issues raised along with a Chief Executive’s response and recommendation in relation to the issues raised. A copy of the report will be furnished to the elected members in

July with a Special Council meeting to discuss same to be held in September.

**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.



### Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
June	Year	No.	June	
2020: 143	695	1,614	Total Granted:	82
2021: 196	962	405	Further information requested:	50
2022: 135	802	473	Total Refused:	22

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

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	02/06/22 (Overdue)
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	15/06/22 (Overdue)
22/313276	15/05/22	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	219	02/08/22
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22

### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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	Finaly Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	08/07/2022
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## Conservation

### 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

### Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

Two grants awarded

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

### Historic Towns Initiative

The council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration

project between Heritage and Conservation. A Part 8 application will be developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team in coming months. Site clearance including asbestos removal is near completion. Tender due to be issued shortly.

### Heritage Stewardship Scheme

The Heritage Council awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin under the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse, proposes to update the RPS and to include a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure was successful. Tender process is complete, and letters will issue.

### Heritage

#### 1. Planning

Planning Applications to date: 181  
Forward Planning: Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare. Review of CDP heritage related submissions.

#### 2. Heritage Week 2022

Heritage Week 2022 runs from 13 August – 21 August. Preparation



has commenced for Heritage Week 2022.

### **3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans**

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

### **4. Biodiversity Training for Residents Associations**

Training in each municipal district completed on Tuesday 21 June (five evening meetings). A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations will be launched in Sept (LPT project).

### **5. Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme**

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations will be launched in September (LPT Project).

### **6. Geophysical Survey-Old Kilcullen**

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

Kilcullen Development Group Sept 2022

### **7. County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022**

Consultants have been appointed and survey will commence June 2022

### **8. Gordon Bennett Videos**

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

### **9. Historic Towns Initiative**

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

### **10. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee**

Currently compiling works programme for 2022 with Conservation Officer.

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

A decision regarding the final tentative list is expected in June 2022. Students for Washington State University are on site for a summer school with archaeologist



Dr Susan Johnstown. An open day will be facilitated on Sunday 11 July.

#### **12. Hymalan Balsam Control pilot**

Consultants have been appointed to develop a community project and trail in late summer.

#### **13. Invasive species training**

Not commenced as yet.

#### **14. Kildare Wetlands Story Map and book**

Designer appointed and draft due end June 2022.

#### **15. County Biodiversity Kildare Profile**

Not commenced as yet.

#### **16. St Michaels Church, Athy- Community Monuments Fund Project.**

Funding: Community Monuments Fund.

Tenders have been assessed by conservation engineer and contractors appointed. Work will commence on site end July for completion end October.

#### **17. Kildare Round Tower**

Funding: Community Monuments Fund.

Private application. Conservation of the round Tower has commenced.

#### **18. Moone Tower, Moone**

Funding: Community Monuments Fund.

Private application. Conservation Plan has commenced.

#### **19. Castledermot Wall Conservation**

Funding: Irish Walled Towns Network.

Tender documents being developed.

#### **20. Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan Naas Town Walls.**

Funding: Irish Walled Towns Network

Consultants appointed.

#### **21. Kildare Cathedral Walls**

Funding: LPT Kildare Municipal District Conservation Plan has commenced



## Water Services

### Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

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

### Small town and villages Growth programme

#### Allenwood

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

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

## Irish Water Councillor Clinics

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 that 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](http://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates)



## **Environment and Climate Action**

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

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided. Nearly all local authorities have discontinued the direct collection of waste but they continue to provide a range of services either directly or through shared service arrangements such as waste management planning, enforcement, permitting, transfrontier shipment and the operation of civic amenity sites and bring centres. Local Authorities are required to make a waste plan either individually or collectively to provide a roadmap for management of waste arisings in accordance with European Union and National Policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular



Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans. The current plans are available on [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

### Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre. The public awareness campaign is asking households and commercial premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste. By doing so they will make an important contribution to meeting the climate challenge as well as improving the quantity and quality of recyclable material collected and help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and incineration.



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

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

Dry Recyclables

Food and Compostable Waste

Residual Waste

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

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

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



dispose of their waste in an authorised manner.

If people live in an urban area with a population of greater than 500 people, their authorised waste collector is obliged to provide them with a compostable bin collection service. These simple actions will greatly improve the quality of recyclables collected and significantly minimise the volume of residual wastes that are disposed of at landfill. In addition, there will be significant community benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

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

Further information is available from:

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

or

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

### **Recycling Banks**

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to stabilise from previous years.

In the past month, 401 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at 39 sites countywide

### **Green Schools**

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

### **Water Framework Directive**

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

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

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

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



- Pressures from agricultural spreading,
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,
- Discharge licenses,
- Water quality monitoring
- Air Priorities
  - Solid fuel regulations,
  - Air monitoring programme,
  - Noise directive,
  - Air/noise control, and
  - Ongoing air/noise enforcement

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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

### **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

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

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

Naas has been awarded the top spot in the 2022 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League's cleanest towns. Maynooth was ranked sixth out of 40 towns and cities countrywide. Naas has been making noticeable strides in IBAL as well the national tidy towns competition where it is now a multiple gold medal winner. Signage indicated 'Naas Heritage Trail' throughout the town; Reverse Vending Machines in operation; the signage relating to Tidy Towns initiatives regarding historical sites and the local Greenway Cycle (in conjunction with local business) were some of the elements that were noted.

### **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. The operational options and type of contract are being assessed currently before going out to the market.

### **Catchment Flooding**

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

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further

works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and Killeenmore commencing.

Archaeology has been found in one landholding and is currently being investigated. It is unlikely that this will affect the programme of the works.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

Kildare County Council and the OPW Steering Group have commenced developing the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme and documentation to advance this is currently being finalised. The scheme will be assessed under the CEEQUAL



sustainability scheme, giving an independent verification of the design and constructions sustainability performance.

### Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme is a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. The combined hydrology and hydraulics reports are now being finalised. A Public Information Day will be held at the end of July to present the revised mapping. A presentation to the Municipal District members will be held on the same day.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

### Kerdiffstown

Capping works and installation of over liner progressing. Directional drilling to provide connection to Johnstown Pumping station has commenced. Finalising works ahead of commissioning of the mechanical and electrical infrastructure for leachate collection and treatment.



Fig 1: Infrastructure Compound

Installation of floodlights and fencing to pitches.



Fig 2. Pitch with fencing and floodlights

Installation of walkways around the park progressing.



Fig 3. Walkways to NW of site

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



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

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence.

This will continue through the works.

The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website:

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

### **Historic Landfill Programme**

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

The status of these are as follows:

### **Carigeen, Clane**

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

### **Digby Bridge, Sallins**

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

### **Pollardstown, The Curragh**

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Site investigation works have since been completed and a detailed ERA is expected by mid-August which will form the basis for a CoA application to the EPA.

### **Knocknagarm, The Curragh**

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Site investigation works have since been completed and a detailed ERA is expected by end of July which will form the basis for a CoA application to the EPA.

### **Greenhills, Athy**



Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

### **Prusselstown, Athy**

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

Current plans are as follows:

#### **Confey**

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

#### **Bodenstown**

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

#### **Allen**

Draft Part 8 drawings finalised and on the agenda for discussion with the municipal district elected members at the upcoming July municipal district meeting.

### **Newbridge Cemetery Car Park**

Works ongoing by contractor on behalf of Kildare County Council

Transportation Department to widen the main road which will result in slight reduction in size of existing car park. Works due for completion by middle July. Plan to then advance with capital upgrade works to include for lighting, drainage, pedestrian crossing, barrier and resurfacing. Hopeful for works to begin by end of Quarter 4, 2022.

### **Columbarium Walls**

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

Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, and Athy. Preliminary designs are currently being drafted and 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.

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

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

Tenders recently issued for Naas St. Corban's cemetery for dishing the kerbing in various locations so as to improve accessibility. Additional plans to resurface some sections and stabilise areas beside existing roads and paths. Hoping to start works in coming weeks and have completed by end July.

Castledermot: Contractor appointed for footpath and road improvement works. Hoping to commence in coming weeks and have completed by end July.

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

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

### **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](http://www.caro.ie)



## Community Climate Action Programme



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



### Capacity Building

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme commenced in January 2021 and the first phase of training courses delivered to the sector has seen circa 16,600 staff and elected members receive training. Attention is now turning to the second

phase of training which will include focus on the development of local authority climate action plans. A review of the training programme was undertaken and the process of implementing the review recommendations is underway.



### Elected Members/Senior Staff

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



### Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, has now been delivered to local authorities across the four CARO regions. Over 300 members of Climate Action Teams completed the training during 2021.



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. In 2021, this pillar delivered the Planning for Climate Change training and Flood Risk Management training to almost 600 staff across all local authorities. The rollout of training on Green Public Procurement and Implementation commenced in May 2022, delivered by Greenville Academy. Other training courses under this pillar are at various stages of design and progression towards delivery, including training aimed at/focusing on the Older Persons Council, Economic/Enterprise Opportunities and Roads Infrastructure.



### Outdoor Staff

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



across the 31 local authorities, in 2022 to 2023.



### Frontline Staff

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



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

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation

and adaptation measures to be adopted. The CAROs worked in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA under the guidance of a project advisory group to develop guidelines for local authorities in support of the development of their climate action plans.

The draft guidelines have been developed and were circulated through the governance channels of both the County and City Management Association and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. (DECC) With the transfer of responsibility for 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. It is anticipated these frameworks will be in place by mid/late July. 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, this will be published on e-tenders shortly and it is hoped to have the framework in place by the end of August.



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

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

bureaus or regional energy efficiency projects.

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

Proposed scope has been developed and is currently being reviewed.

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

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the Three Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) to engage with CARO and the SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being



drafted at present by 3CEA. Tipperary County Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement.

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



**Reimagining Local Authority Fleet:**  
The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. Stage 1 of the Project was the completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Surveys were returned between December and January. A draft early interventions document has been developed and is currently under review by the County and City Management Association (CCMA)

working group. A seminar to present this document to local authority fleet managers 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 team undertook an in-person orientation session on 19 May with Ciaran Hayes, retired Chief Executive of Sligo County Council. A requirement of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 is for each local authority to prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP) once guidance is provided. The session was in preparation for the development of CAP by discussing learnings taken from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, identifying collaborators and how to streamline processes internally. Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R) The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is changing during 2022 to capture more energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel. The focus is now being placed on 2030 targets under The Climate Action Plan 2021 requiring 51% reduction in energy greenhouse gases emissions through 50% improvement in energy efficiency and space heating to be 50% renewable. The first returns have been given under the new requirements.



## Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



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

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

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

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program

under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a business formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The first meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 21 May with two further workshops planned over the summer months.

## Fleet Electrification



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

As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater



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

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

### Climate Action Community Initiatives

#### Items Awarded:

#### Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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 Neighbourhood



Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand Two.

'The People's Patches' is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas.

### **'Stitching the Community Together'**

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

### **Gas Innovation Fund**

The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland's Gas Innovation Fund in conjunction with Maynooth University's Terrain-Ai research group and Teagasc. This project aims to assess the potential for

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

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

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

### **Agri-Tourism Project**

Climate Action Office, Into Kildare and CKLP continue to develop the agri-tourism project in Kildare targeted at



cultivating diverse revenue streams for farmers in the county. Currently, the project is at its planning stage where the engagement and feedback events for farmers are being planned. The feedback gathered at these events will be fed into an application for LEADER funding or other funding streams to facilitate the supports and resources needed for the project.

### Climate Innovation Fund

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PHFtsOIfE>

### Murals

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county. Presently an artist has been engaged to create a mural on two sides of the ICA building in Harbour Field, Maynooth. It is proposed that work will commence late June in cooperation with the local community.

### Forestry

The finalised document 'Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme' was released on 28 May 2021. The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer has five potential sites chosen to be assessed provisionally. The templates for tendering have been finalised and are available to utilize.

### Communications and Mainstreaming

#### Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The first 2022 issue of the K-Climate eZine was released in February to the



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

### Intranet Portal

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



### Climate & Energy

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

### Just Transition

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

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



### Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced biogas could be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI



presented to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland.

## Research

### Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

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

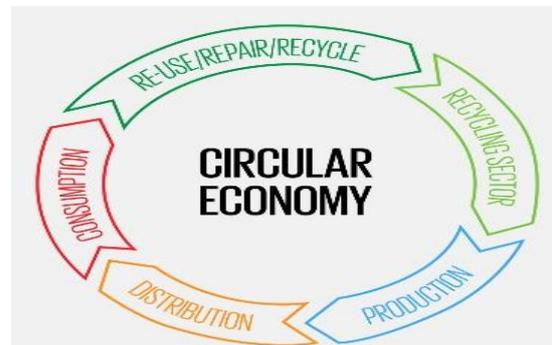
Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue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

Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The May post

showcases the practical experiments using sheared wool and biodegradable clear plastic as potential weed control measures.



Screenshot of Community Stories Post 26 May 2022.



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



## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### Key Highlights:

#### Accessibility:

- Purchase of 15 additional C Reader Pens
- Purchase of Cubbie Sensory Hub
- Purchase of Sensory Boxes for libraries

#### Health and Safety:

- Safety Leadership Training – using live dramatization of worst aviation disaster in history

#### Development Control:

- Number of residential estate active sites across the county now exceeds 130.
- The council has taken in charge Five estates so far this year; Barretstown Meadows (Phase 2), Newbridge; White Abbey Court, Kildare Town; Togher Wood, Monasterevin; Carrighill Lower, Calverstown; Cluain Bearú, Athy.

#### Building Control:

- Number of buildings inspected in first half of 2022 exceeds total number inspected in 2020; 2266 against 2067 respectively.

## Digital Strategy for Kildare

The first Kildare Strategy was adopted by the council in June.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

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

### Athy Distributor Road

BAM have generally completed mainline fencing and site clearance with drainage, earthworks, capping and bridge piling well underway. Progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing.

### New Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Approval to proceed received from Department of Transport (Salt Barn)



and preferred bidder has now been notified. Winning bidder is currently assessing their position with regard to current construction pricing inflation pressures.

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

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

Response from DHLGH indicates a full financial review of LIHAF projects will be undertaken later in summer. Kildare County Council has sought a minimum 30% uplift on 2017 application.

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

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2 has been completed and consultants are in process of completing a submission report. Habitat surveys are also underway along the emerging preferred route.

### **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.

### **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 to 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



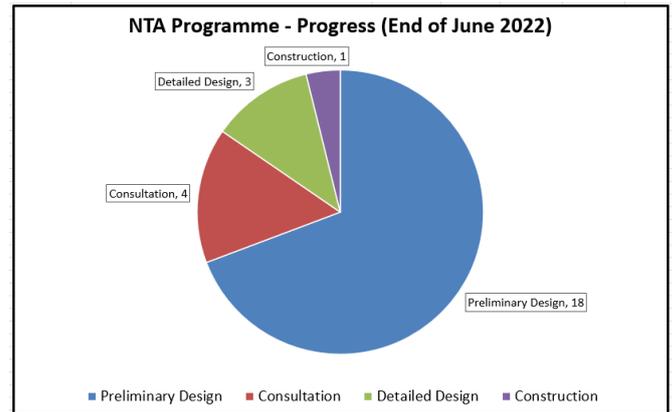
3. Aston Ltd have applied to An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development – Case No 311390 on the route of the section of NSORR between the Great Connell Roundabout and the Liffey. This is subject to planning permission, however if granted this will deliver the section of road from Great Connell 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.

### NTA Sustainable Transport 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 Quarter 3 2022. Design work on the upgrading of the Greenway is continuing.

### Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Part 8 Process is due to commence in Quarter 3 2022.

### Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Part 8 Public Consultation CE Report to be presented to Municipal District for approval in July 2022.

### Naas to Sallins Greenway

Part 8 Public Consultation Process due to commence in Quarter 4 2022.



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

Construction of the interim scheme continuing. Preliminary design of permanent works continuing.

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

Part 8 Public Consultation CE Report to be presented to Municipal District for approval in July 2022.

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

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

### **Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth**

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

### **Naas Permeability Routes**

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

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

Part 8 Public Consultation Process commenced on 05 July 2022.

### **Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas**

Scheme being tendered for construction in Quarter 3 2022.

### **Celbridge Pedestrian Bridge**

Part 8 Public Consultation CE Report being prepared for presentation to the Municipal District in September 2022.

### **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**

Detailed design stage continuing.

### **Vulnerable Road User Improvement Measures**

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

### **Cycle Parking**

Expression of Interest for Schools and Sports Clubs published and responses being evaluated.



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

Section 38 Consultation Process commenced on 04 July 2022.

### **Monasterevin Cycle Network**

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in Quarter 4 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.

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

Appointment process for consultants has been paused.

### **Supplementary Schemes**

The full NTA allocation of €13.67M in 2022 will not be drawdown therefore

supplementary schemes totalling approximately €5M, have been proposed to the NTA to infill the shortfall of expenditure. An update on this process will be issued to the elected members in due course.

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

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

### **Roads Maintenance**

Surface Dressing season commenced on 30 May by direct labour works and expected to last for 8-9 weeks as is weather dependent. - 50 % complete w/e 08 July

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

### **Local Improvement Scheme**

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



a secondary list has also been prepared.

Review of Winter Maintenance operations will be carried out in Quarter 3 of this year.

Staff continue to update our Roads Schedule on MapRoad PMS as new housing estates are taken in charge – this is a requirement of Road Management Office and Department of Transport annual grants are related to total length of roads.

Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Surveys are being carried out on local primary roads, as resources,

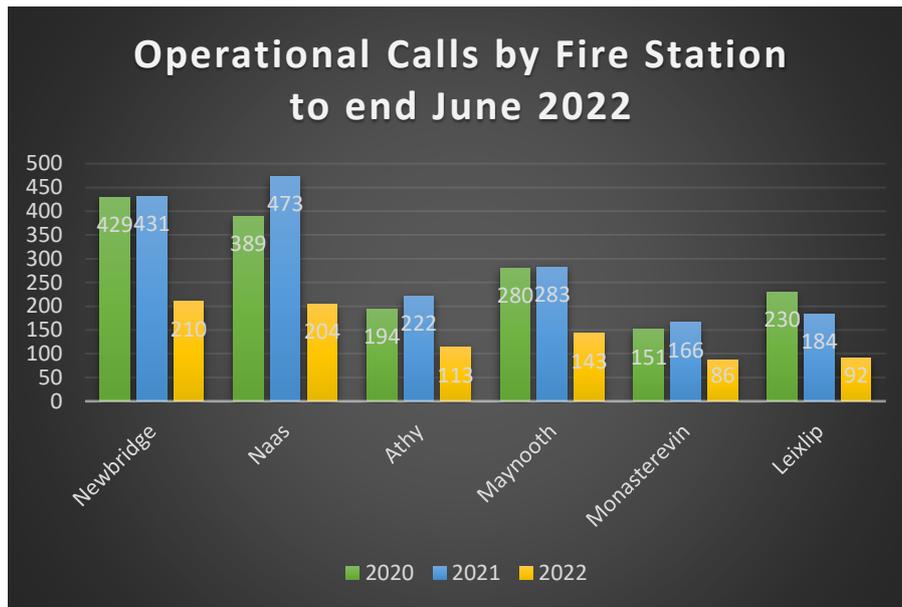
allow to ensure compliance with NOAC service indicators.

Interviews for the post of General Operative will commence shortly to fill vacancies in Roads Municipal District areas with the aim of maintaining existing numbers so that essential annual maintenance is completed. Driver vacancies to be advertised in near future.

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 June 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

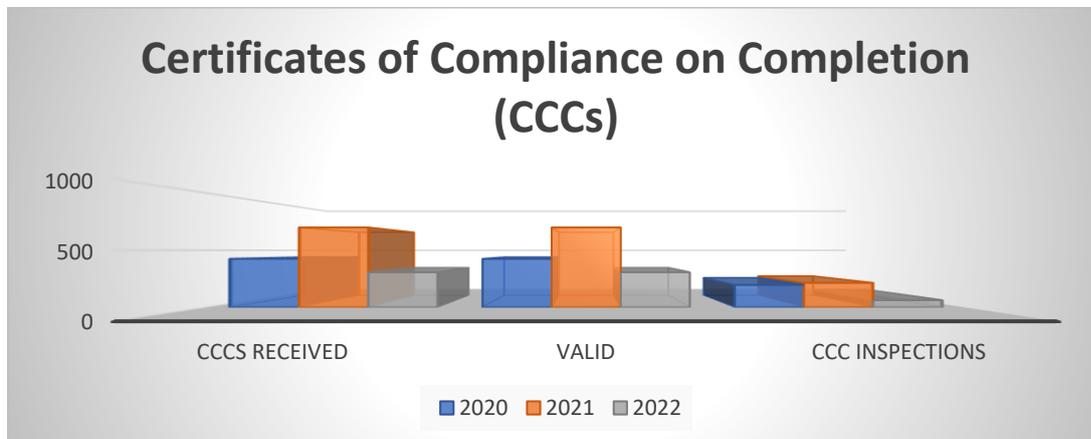
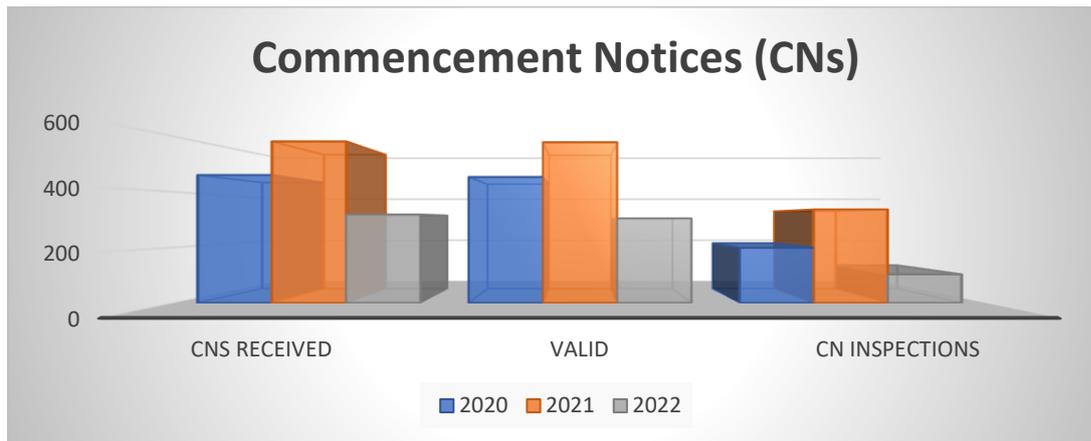


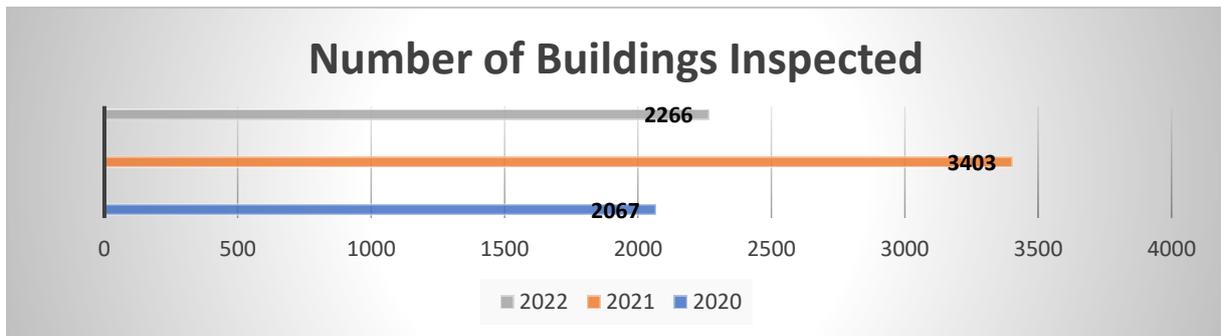


## Building and Development Control

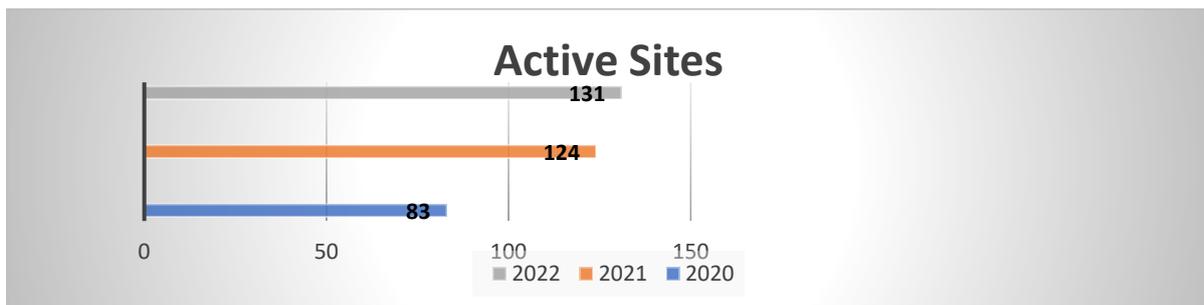
The following figures are cumulative up to end of June 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

### BUILDING CONTROL





## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

- ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) scheduled – 26 September and 27 September.
- Uploaded content onto staff app
- Tender Preparation for Flu Vaccinations and Health Screening
- Safety Committee Meeting with Safety Representatives



- Safety Leadership Training with Health and Safety Management Committee -using a live multimedia dramatization of the aviation disaster in 1977- 'Tenerife 583'
- Review of National Event management Guidance Document and submission made to LGMA.
- Eight site inspections completed
- Review and update of 8 national guidance documents
- One VDU assessment completed
- Meetings- Roads Team Meeting, MEMC meeting, Lead Worker Reps, Staff App Project Team Meetings
- One incident involving damage to fire appliance and one accident involving a member of the public who fell on front steps of building and one accident involving a contractor – minor leg injury.
- Working with UCD on additional funding streams for Connecting Locally Project
- Preparatory work on the Changing Places Launch
- Attended Social Farming Ireland Conference – related towards our project with Kildare Leader Partnership
- Worked on report on compliance by local authorities and State bodies with Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005 and which has to be submitted to the National Disability Authority
- Purchased 15 additional C Reader Pens:



The Reader Pen promotes independent reading and learning for any student suffering from reading difficulties such as dyslexia. The pen allows the user to scan text to have words read aloud with natural speaking voices and defined with highest tier dictionaries instantly. The Reader Pen also features a voice recorder and supports storing scanned text. Everything

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Athy, Newbridge, Naas Access Groups and CKAN



is built-in, and there is no need or requirement for an internet connection. The digital highlighter – alongside the text-to-speech function – supports multi-sensory learning and aid language retention.

29 C Reader Pens have been purchased in total with three in each of the seven main libraries and one in each of the part time libraries.

Usage:

19 loans to date up to 30 June 2022

Currently 40 on waiting list to take on loan.

- Purchased Cubbie Sensory Hub:



The Cubbie Sensory Hub is aimed at people with sensory processing disorders and offers a sensory management system for both children and adults.

What makes the Cubbie unique to other products and services is:

- Personalised Sensory Regulation – Unique to Cubbie, programmes are limited in time (Sensory Sprint avg. 10 minutes) which delivers more access to users, less lost time and greater daily participation for the user.
- Adaptable Safe Space – Cubbie is the only product that automatically adapts its environment to all four types of sensory need
- Integrated seating options – Cubbie is the only product of its type that has integrated swings
- Touchscreen Control – Unique to Cubbie, fitted as standard, allowing users to create their own sensory experience with an easy-to-use familiar interface.
- Universal Design – Suitable for all age groups and easily cleaned.
- Wheelchair accessible – Cubbie is the only product of its type that is wheelchair accessible (each Cubbie includes an access ramp, 900mm wide door opening



and a floor space sized to accommodate 180° turning circle).

The Cubbie will be onsite and operational for staff and members of the public from the 20 July. It will be located in our Head Office until the new library in Naas is open and then the Cubbie will be moved there.



The sensory box is a portable box filled with a variety of stress and anxiety reducing fidgets that promote a whole host of sense engagement interactions and fun and there will be 1 box located in each of the 15 libraries

- Purchased 15 Sensory Boxes:

## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

All Grants 2022		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	141	€243,955
Festival Grants	64	€68,425
Private Residents Associations Grants	276	€200,128 incl. LPT
Local Authority Residents Associations Grants	64	€58,433 incl. LPT
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	96	€588,459
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	28	€51,715
Education Bursaries		
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>€1,430,859</b>

### 2022 revenue grants schemes

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

### Local property tax grants

Community section has processed specific grant awards where possible and is rolling out LPT mini schemes currently as resources allow.



### **Education bursaries**

The scheme is currently open and can be applied for until the end of August approximately.

### **Local Community**

#### **Development Committee**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was blended (in person and TEAMS) on 06 July 2022

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

The Ukrainian Community Response Forum is established and has met three times. Emergency accommodation has been provided recently through Maynooth University and Burt House Athy. Both sites were supported to identify key agencies/groups to engage in meetings specific to the accommodation of Ukrainians in their sites. 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 coordinator through County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP), 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](mailto:helen@countykildarelp.ie) telephone: 086 8360901.

Kildare County Council continue to update the portal site. This portal provides a singular point of access to information on essential services at local and national level as well as useful links and contacts to help citizens navigate services available to them. Information on housing, transport, education, and health, amongst other services are available on the new portal to assist and support Ukrainian citizens to integrate into life here in county Kildare.

#### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

Work continues to roll out this programme with a number of HSE funded initiatives taking place in Athy. The Slaintecare Local Development Officer (Maria Healy) who commenced work in March continues to meet key personnel and is working closely with the HSE lead (Áine Buggy). Work is concluding on the Peoples Park Athy, which has received funding under



Slaintecare Healthy Communities €250,000. A launch is being planned in October in line with national guidance. A presentation was given by Maria at the last LCDC meeting.

### Healthy Ireland

Laura Kelly was successful in the recruitment for the Healthy Ireland post through Kildare County Council. She will commence 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.

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland

Coordinator: 086 8858508

[healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie](mailto:healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie)

[@Healthy\\_Kildare](#)

### Connected Hubs- Osprey Hotel

Osprey Hotel through the Prem Group have as part of the funding received from Department of Rural and Community Development to develop their working hub space, made office and meeting space available to community/voluntary groups

particularly with a focus on disadvantage. An expression of interest process has been developed. This is an ongoing rolling process which will be advertised on an ongoing basis. Any groups interested should complete the application process.

### SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities

- a) Traveller/Roma
- b) Older People
- c) Mental Health (including Youth mental health)
- d) Long Term Unemployed e) New Communities (particularly direct provision) in addition to young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early.

The LCDC approved the mid-year review, which provided an opportunity to monitor progress closely. The work is on target to reach its' goals and allocate its funding.

For further information contact County Kildare LEADER Partnership

[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie) or telephone 045 895450



## LEADER Programme

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

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. This project will support this new bike hire business in Sallins.

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](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045 895450

## Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The process for commencing the LECP in Kildare is delayed due to resourcing and competing priorities e.g. Ukrainian Crisis. This is also experienced in other LCDCs.

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

## Kildare Fáilte

The month commenced with a warm welcome provided to the twinning committee from Bad-Lippspringe in Germany. County Kildare Fáilte was delighted to meet with them at Solas Bhríde and do a short presentation on the importance of tourism to County Kildare. In addition, we collaborated with the Twinning Committee in Kildare and Kildare County Council on their itinerary and welcome packs.



Welcome reception for the Bad-Lippspringe Twinning Committee at Solas Bhríde  
The Paul Hogarth Company facilitated the Kilcullen Design Statement consultation meeting with stakeholders, which was attended by County Kildare Fáilte.

County Kildare Fáilte attended a Digital Trails webinar alongside other local authorities. The presentation focussed on the opportunity for destinations to use virtual reality to compliment and augment visitor



experiences using a virtual tour guide to bring the story to life.

As a sponsor of the International Rose of Tralee Festival in August, County Kildare Fáilte were delighted to congratulate Ms Ashleigh Byrne from Newbridge who will represent Kildare at the Festival. County Kildare Fáilte will welcome 33 Roses to Kildare in August on a tour of the County.



Ms Áine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte) pictured with the Ms Ashleigh Byrne who will represent Kildare at the International Rose of Tralee Festival in August

Newbridge Silverware launched a new exhibition in the Museum of Style Icons, “Betty White’s Golden Moments”. The exhibition will be on display until September and provides a new story for visitors to experience. County Kildare Fáilte supported the launch event and are promoting the exhibition on social media channels.



“Betty White’s Golden Moments” in the Museum of Style Icons, Newbridge Silverware

In June, the marketing message focussed on promoting festivals and events to encourage visitors to plan and visit County Kildare. Social media growth group by over 45% with the highest engagement coming from planning and inspirational posts and events. Event listings on the Into Kildare website continue to feature in the top five search results.

County Kildare Fáilte supported the promotion of June Fest and shared suggested itineraries to experience around Newbridge to compliment festival activity. This encourages visitors to spend longer in the region and explore more of the County.

The launch of the Kildare Derby Festival and Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival took place at the Curragh Racecourse with guest



speaker, jockey Steve Cauthen and was attended by key stakeholders from tourism and hospitality businesses around Kildare.



Ms Sonya Kavanagh (Kildare County Council) with Mr Ted Robinson (Barberstown Castle), Cathaoirleach Naoise Ó'Ceairúil, Ms Amanda Torrens and Ms Áine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte) at the launch of the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh Racecourse

The Kildare Derby Festival took place in Kildare town in the week leading up to the DDF Irish Derby and, as a key project, was supported by County Kildare Fáilte through website content creation. The festival and individual events were also promoted on Into Kildare social media channels, radio and in press. Itineraries promoting Kildare town and its environs were shared to drive visitor numbers to the towns and villages ahead of and during the racing festival.

A County Kildare Fáilte networking event with several members of the tourism and hospitality trade took place on Friday night of the racing

festival at the Curragh Racecourse and Ms Áine Mangan attended as a guest of Dubai Duty Free on Irish Derby Day. Interviews with Racing TV and KFM to promote County Kildare as a destination this summer and the upcoming Taste of Kildare food festival at the Curragh Racecourse in September, during the autumn racing festival took place.



Ms Áine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte) at the DDF Irish Derby promoting Taste of Kildare with Racing TV

A number of planning meetings for Taste of Kildare took place and a volunteer sub-committee was established. A meeting took place with the Restaurant Association of Ireland to secure support for the event. Invitations to take part in the Taste of Kildare Festival were sent to food and drink producers and restaurants around County Kildare with a strong response received.



As part of the continuing Thoroughbred Country partnership, County Kildare Fáilte met with Tipperary Tourism to discuss the collaborative actions in the Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Plan.

County Kildare Fáilte assisted a volunteer group in the official opening of a new café in Ardclough, Arth Café and organised Mr Paul Lenehan – President of the Restaurant Association of Ireland to open the café. The café will add another element to the tourism offering in Ardclough and is ideally situated close to the Grand Canal for walkers and cyclists enjoying the trail.



Minister Bernard Durkan TD, Ms Áine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte), Minister Catherine Murphy TD, Mr John Whelan (From Malt to Vault, Ardclough), Mr Paul Lenehan (Restaurant Association of Ireland and Kildare restaurant owner), Ms Paula Brown (Arth Café) and Leas-Cathaoirleach Joe Neville

Ms Áine Mangan recorded an interview to promote Kildare as a destination this summer. The content will be used on in-flight entertainment on inbound flights from North America and on IrishCentral.com (3.1m unique visitors per month).

Monthly calls took place with Fáilte Ireland and content was supplied for a Kildare Keep Discovering ad which was included in the Irish Examiner on 11 June. Tourism Ireland industry briefings were also attended.

Meetings with tourism and hospitality businesses also took place as many properties seek support to develop their current offering for visitors.

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights – Library Service

"A library is the delivery room for the birth of ideas - a place where history comes to life." - Norman Cousins

### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, took place on Saturday 11 June. There was a wide range of cultural and creative activities for



everyone to enjoy. Events showcased on the day and can be viewed through the following link

<https://cruinni.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>

Kildare hosted 30 events throughout the county with an overall audience of 1,224.

### **Summer Stars 2022**

The national reading challenge is now in full swing. Children are encouraged to read up to eight books over the summer months. There are fantastic free events organised throughout July and August in all Kildare Libraries. More information is available here: [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie)

### **Reader Pens**

The library service has received funding from the Accessibility Officer Kildare County Council to purchase an additional 15 Reader Pens due to demand. These pens aid those with visual impairments and those learning English.

### **Ukrainian Support**

A free Beginner English for Ukrainian Speakers Course is available now through Kildare Library Service on Transparent Language Online.

Created specifically with Ukrainian refugees in mind, the course includes 100 plus hours of lessons that can be mixed and matched to build the basic English knowledge and skills they need most.

English classes will run in Kildare, Maynooth and Newbridge over the summer months. Kildare Libraries provided a series of events on campus in June for the families staying in Maynooth University

### **Clocha Rince Library**

Clocha Rince Library which is a unique partnership between the primary school there and Kildare Library Service to provide a public library to the community has been in existence since 2008. However, it has always used an independent manual system and not connected to our other libraries. So, this year with the advent of Spydus Library Management System we saw it as an opportunity to join Clocha Rince to our new system. Library IT and our Reader Services team have begun work in adding items and borrowers to the system and training. We expect to re-launch in September 2022.



### **Sensory Boxes:**

Following a request by Maynooth Access group, Kildare County Councils Access Officer has agreed to purchase sensory boxes filled with a variety of stress and anxiety reducing fidgets for each of our 15 Libraries in Kildare. The boxes will be available over the coming weeks.

### **Home Energy Kits**

The aim of the Home Energy Saving Kit is to help householders make sense of the energy they use every day. These kits contain five practical energy saving tools so that you can carry out a mini energy audit of your home and find the easiest and most important areas to save energy. Due to high demand seven additional Home Energy Kits were purchased and distributed to the main libraries for lending which brings the total to 22 kits available through the Kildare library network.

## **STEM Programming for Kildare Libraries**

### **Science Foundation Ireland grant for family STEM workshops**

Kildare Library Service received a grant for €9,000 from the Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme 2022 to fund a family STEM programme of workshops across our libraries which will run this summer from June to August. The workshops are aimed at encouraging parents to explore and engage with STEM topics alongside their children to raise parents' confidence in STEM and to better equip them to support their children in this area. There will be 21 workshops in total and they will focus on three distinct STEM areas: robotics, 3D printing and digital fabrication, and chemistry.

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Announcement of Celbridge Library Capital Project**

Kildare County Council has announced an agreement between the Council and the parish of St. Patrick and St. Brigid to purchase the Parochial House and lands, Main Street Celbridge. The vision is that this key, town-centre site will house a new multi-purpose community facility



including a library and cultural centre, meeting spaces, a playground, outdoor performance location, sensory garden, and outdoor amenities for all ages in Celbridge.

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

There will be road Closures on Moat Lane and Town Hall Lane from 26 July to 23 August to allow contractors to do upgrades to public lighting on the lanes and duct wiring below ground. At an onsite meeting last week, the shelving layout and materials were finalised. Roofing work is almost complete and once the building is weather tight internal work will progress. We expect the library will be open to the public in late Spring 2023.

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

Staff in Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries. On foot of a proposal to invite Bruce Springsteen to visit his ancestral village of Rathangan in 2023, work has commenced on further research into his family history by the archivist. The collection of material relating to the history and heritage of County Kildare continues.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Local Live Performance**

#### **Programming Scheme (Phase III)**

Following successful presentations in previous weeks, in June Kildare County Council supported several live performances, through funding provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.

#### **Live at .... series of gigs - St Mary's Church of Ireland, Maynooth | 01, 08 and 15 June**

A series of gigs featuring Kildare-based artists Eimear Crehan, Megan O'Neill, and an evening of poetry and spoken word curated by Tapasya Narang PhD, lecturer in English at Dublin City University. The evening featured contributions from Sophie L. Clarke, Darren Donohue, Max Zanga, Róisín Ní Neachtain and Tobi Omoteso.

#### **Live at the Local: Lawlor's Hotel, Naas | 13 June**

An evening of live performances by musicians Emma Langford and Sive, and poet / performer FeliSpeaks.



## **A Handful of Dreams | Irish National Stud and Gardens | 17, 18 and 19 June**

An awe-inspiring and heart-warming outdoor show from Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company, combining aerial and circus arts with live Irish traditional music and dance (six performances).

## **Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) Lifelong Learning Webinars**

Kildare Arts Service once again partnered with Visual Artists Ireland to deliver a series of Lifelong Learning events for Kildare-based artists this summer. These events are in addition to the VAI's full programme of events which can be viewed at

<https://visualartists.ie/professional-development-#!/event-list>

## **Special Screening of Oisín**

A special screening of two short films, Oisín and The Essay from writer-director Alba Fernandez and produced by Danilo Zambrano took place in the Riverbank Arts Centre followed by a Q and A panel session (29 June). Oisín is a Kildare Short Grass Film commission, funded by Dormant Account funding and was shot on location in County Kildare. The event was introduced by Lucina Russell, County Arts Officer.

## **Parks**

### **News and Highlights**

#### **Allenwood Playground**

One tender was received for Allenwood Playground and this is currently being assessed.

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

Work has been completed on the widening and resurfacing of the paths in the park. Eight new seating areas have been installed with paved aprons to make them accessible. The completion of four accessible picnic tables should be complete by the end of the month. Work is ongoing on the design and installation of a communications board for the playground.

#### **Tree Surgery Works**

Works Clane Maynooth municipal district have been completed. Tree works in the Athy and Kildare/Newbridge municipal areas are ongoing.

#### **Outdoor Youth Facility, Celbridge**

A draft report on the findings of the consultation workshops for the Outdoor Youth Facility in Celbridge has been prepared. It is hoped to communicate the findings of the report in September.



### The Grove, Celbridge

Tenders for the installation of a path across the open space between The Grove and Hazelhatch Park have been completed and the work has been awarded.

[localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

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

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

For all other queries

email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

or call 045980838.

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

### Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded		
From 01 January – 08 July 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	57	115,068.43
Feasibility Study Grant	6	42,602.00
Priming Grant	5	141,059.00
Business Expansion Grant	11	221,915.00
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	6	13,675.30

### Entrepreneurship Support Services

#### Training Programmes 2022

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

To date, 1,173 clients availed of these training opportunities which can be booked here. Mentoring and Business Advice numbers stand at 212 clients.

To utilise this service joining below: -

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

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



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

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

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

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

The last meeting of the LEO Kildare Flavours of Kildare Network took place on Tuesday 21 June.

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

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

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

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

The next meeting of the LEO Kildare Women In Business Cluster takes place on Wednesday 20 July

## **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 18 and Tuesday 19 July

## **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](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare))

### Economic Support Services

#### Shopfront Enhancement Grant

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

\*2022 Budget Allocation

Municipal District	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare-Newbridge	14	37299
Athy	9	20460
Naas	9	30917
Clane-Maynooth	7	19505
Celbridge-Leixlip	0	0

39 applications have been approved to date

#### 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 Spring/Summer



period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure is available. The scheme opened on the 5th of May and closed on Friday 8th July. A further Retail Window Merchandising Grant Scheme will be launched in the Autumn.

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>No. of Apps</b>	<b>Value of App Approved</b>
Kildare/Newbridge	1	€263
Athy	0	0
Naas	1	€500
Clane/Maynooth	2	994
Celbridge/Leixlip	3	€1,318

7 applications have been approved to date

### **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.

### **Economic Development – Capital Projects**

#### **National Equine Innovation Centre**

A consultant is due to be appointed to commence the feasibility study for potential expansion of the NEIC. The ED team will meet with the consultant in July.

#### **Kildare Hub Strategy/ Kildare Hub Network**

Following the successful funding under Connected Hubs, a project management team has been appointed to draft a tender and manage the works required across NEIC, MERITS and Athy Community Enterprise Centre. The team are also submitting an application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for €50,000 to support the marketing and promotion of all of the hubs in the county and a decision on that application is expected by the end of the year.

#### **MERITS**

Its been a very busy month for MERITS as it continues to onboard more Tech founders and StartUps. A recent billboard campaign at bus stops, Sallins train station and on the



N7 was very successful in increasing the profile of the building and greatly increased enquiries and bookings.

MERITS is participating in the national ConnectedHubs voucher scheme and started to host “hot deskers” this week under a voucher scheme which will see it recoup costs directly from the Department for every hot desk rental.

The team welcomed State of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and First Lady Yumi Hogan too recently. A partnership is being negotiated with the Governor's Department of Commerce to provide soft landing support to #US companies seeking to enter the Irish and #EU markets and

Irish companies seeking to enter the US market.

On 30 June the participants on MERITS' LEO-funded TechHatch programme presented their pitches to investors and received invaluable feedback on the next steps for their businesses.

The MERITS tech network had their summer meeting on 23 June with a keynote address from Brendan Noud, the Kildare founder of LearnUpon - a globally successful EdTech company. It was a full house on the evening with presentations from Plugged – an online legal service for SMEs – and PitchIt – a new platform for crowd funding for StartUps.

### Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

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

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



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

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