



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – February 2023

BRIGID  1500





News Items

Major Milestone for Athy Distributor Road Project:

Kildare County Council announced details of the latest milestone in the Athy Distributor Road Project –installation of bridge beams for the new bridge over the River Barrow. (see page 7)

Local Authority Home Loan:

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced an increase in the Local Authority Home Loan price and income limits. The changes are to take effect from 1 March 2023. (see page 10).

Kildare Town

Preparation of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 is ongoing (see page 18).

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 (see page 37).

Brigid 1500 Programme Lights up Kildare:

Iconic sites and buildings across Kildare were lit up with light illustrations depicting St Brigid and her legacy on the 31 January 2023 and 1 February 2023. (see pages 50-53)

Kildare Pride of Premises Awards application deadline extended

Kildare County Council are delighted once again to launch Kildare Pride of Premises Awards .The awards will be presented to winners on Tuesday 7 March 2023 (see page 66)



Diary/Calendar

Ethics Declarations

Declarations must be completed and returned to the Ethics Officer by 28 February 2023 (see page 7).

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2022 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2023 (see page 8)

Heritage and Conservation

A number of Heritage and Conservation funds, grant schemes and programmes will be closing in February (see pages 22-24)

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The next Kildare clinic is on Monday 27 February 2023 (see page 24).

Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023 (see page 27).

Local Community Development Committee

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for Wednesday 29 March 2023 (see page 56).

Clane Library

The project will be submitted for Part 8 Planning on 16 February with the final date for public submissions 5:00 p.m. on Thursday 30 March. (see page 61local)



Local Enterprise Week 2023

Takes place from the 6 March 2023 to 10 March 2023 this year across the country.(see pages 64-65)

Women In Business Network

Kildare LEO Women in Business Cluster Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2023. (see pages 64-68)



March Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Feb 14:00 Communication Team Briefing Full Council 15:00 Full Council	28	1 Mar	2	3 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
6 15:00 County JPC	7 14:30 Audit Committee	8	9	10
13 14:30 Protocol	14 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	15 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	16	17
20 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG Meeting	21 11:00 Rural Water Monitoring Committee; Committee Room; Meetings	22	23 10:30 LTACC 15:00 Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	24 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Committee
27 15:00 Full Council Meeting	28	29 10:00 LCDC	30	31



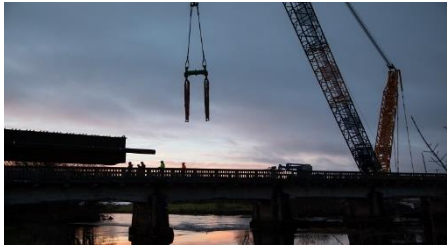
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Corporate Services

Major Milestone for Athy Distributor Road Project



Kildare County Council announced details of the latest milestone in the Athy Distributor Road Project – installation of bridge beams for the new bridge over the River Barrow. Striking images of the installation were issued to press and circulated across social media to update the public.

Brigid 1500 Programme Lights up Kildare



Working with the Community and external PR teams, the Communications Team supported and promoted the amazing programme of events across Kildare for the Council's Brigid 1500 programme. Events were

documented and promoted across the Council's social media channels and website as well as significant local, national and international media coverage. More information on events at pages 50-53.

Annual Ethics Declaration

On 04 January 2023, the Ethics Registrar issued notices to all councillors and relevant employees via email regarding their obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to submit an annual written declaration containing particulars of their declarable interests. Copies of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and declaration forms were circulated.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors, understand its meaning, and give an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the Code in the exercise of their functions. The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2023.

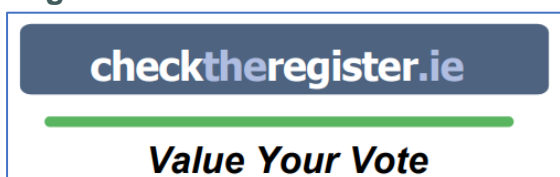
Electoral Commission now established.

[The seven-person Electoral Commission has now been established.](#) The Commission will have key functions as below:



- Explaining referenda and promote participation in referenda.
- Reviewing constituencies boundaries.
- Conduct research on electoral policy and procedure and make recommendations to the Minister.
- Provide information on electoral processes and encourage public participation.
- Prepare and maintain the Register of Political Parties.
- Oversee the electoral register.
- Regulate online political advertising.
- Protect the integrity of elections and referendums against online disinformation, misinformation and manipulative or inauthentic behaviour online.

Register of Electors



The council continue to encourage the public to visit www.checktheregister.ie as the Register of Electors is now continuously updated and no longer subject of the previous annual publication process every February. We are asking everyone to take a couple of minutes to visit

checktheregister.ie to confirm their details or add/edit their registration.

Kildare's Register Team are working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to design a single page double-sided leaflet that Elected Representatives may use when engaging with citizens online or in-person. It is hoped this will be finalised next week. Further awareness activities will be communicated to members as they are developed.

Polling Scheme

In light of population increases, statutory changes and in advance of the 2024 Local Elections, a review of the [2019 Polling Scheme](#) for the County will be initiated during this year. Data is being assembled to assist the process which will include engagement with the County Registrar regarding polling facilities.

This process is a reserve function and subject to a public consultation process set out in [regulations](#). As the process develops further information will be provided to Elected Members.



Finance and Information Technology

Financial Reports

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2022 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2023. It will be brought to Council when complete.

Schedule of Uncollected Rates

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2023, the total amount collected on Rates for 2022 was €55.6m compared to €45.8m for 2021.

The closing arrears balance has decreased from €11.8m for 2021 to €9.9m for 2022.

The overall collection percentage for 2022 is 86% an increase on the 2021 collection percentage of 82%.

The total amount of rate waivers for 2022 was €1.9m compared to €15m rate waivers for 2021.

Rates Demands 2023

The Rate Demands for 2023 will issue in February to all ratepayers.

Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure and budget reports for 2023 will be submitted to Council

as part of the monthly management report from March onwards.

Housing

Acquisitions 2023:

Delegated sanction for acquisition is being continued to June 2023, with the focus of the acquisition programme on homeless prevention and the provision of accessible units. Further details of the 2023 Acquisition Programme are awaited from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

Affordable Housing:

The Affordable Purchase Scheme of Priority was adopted by the Members in November 2022 and the council is in the process of building its Affordable Housing Team which will have responsibility to assess and implement the requirements of the Affordable Housing Regulations. The regulations have been amended to reflect recent changes in mortgage limits from 3.5 times gross income to 4 times gross income as the amount which first-time buyers are generally able to borrow, without their lender using an exemption.



The Council are currently running an Affordable Housing Purchase Survey to ascertain demand in Kildare for affordable housing; the result of this survey will provide the team with information on areas of demand and the type of unit needed and it is being advertised on social media and on the Kildare County Council website at the moment. In addition to the above, work is also ongoing on development of the detail and content of an online application portal to be used to advertise schemes and applications to same.

Local Authority Home Loan:

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced an increase in the Local Authority Home Loan price and income limits. The price limit in Kildare is increasing from €320,000 to €360,000, as applicants are required to have a 10% deposit the revised borrowing limit is €324,000. The gross income limits are increasing as follows:

- Single applicant: increasing from €65,000 to €70,000.
- Joint applicant: increasing from €75,000 to €85,000.

The changes are to take effect from 1 March 2023. More information on the

Local Authority Home Loan can be found at:

www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie

Planning and Development and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 2022:

This act has been signed into law and will result in temporary suspension of Part 8 requirements on housing provision “that is carried out by, on behalf of, or jointly or in partnership with, a local authority pursuant to a contract entered into by the local authority concerned, whether in its capacity as a planning authority or in any other capacity” and subject to certain conditions. Regulations and guidance documentation is awaited.

Housing Assessments:

Households (ten) removed from the list between 18 November 2022 to 31 December 2022 are being contacted to review their file in accordance with the revised income limits. If successful, their original date of approval will be re-instated. Applications are currently being assessed within the 12-week timeframe and input is being provided to the national working group regarding the review of income thresholds.



Housing Allocations:

During January 2023, the council allocated a total of 91 properties throughout the county. 16 were social properties and 75 were AHB properties. Among the locations that allocations took place in were Naas, Newbridge, Athy and Westfield, Leixlip. In order to address the number of refusals of offers of allocation, the use of Choice Based Lettings has been increased.

Homeless Services

Presentations have slightly reduced (9%) for the month of January 2023 when compared with the same period in 2022 (142-129). Exits from Emergency accommodation through a combination of allocations to tenancy, transitional accommodation and shared accommodation continue to be a priority with a reduction of five families in emergency accommodation in January.

Update on National Homeless Leads Meeting:

A meeting of the National Homeless Leads took place on 1 February 2023 with regions expressing concerns regarding the availability of Private Emergency Accommodation. There is limited availability in facilities in Kildare

at present and this was reported to the meeting.

Work is ongoing in relation to a protocol with the Irish Prison service. When finalised it will be advanced through the CCMA for agreement with the DHLGH.

The Local Connection Protocol relating to the assessment of housing need and homeless presentations from outside of county of origin was also discussed. A working group made up of Kildare, Galway and the LGMA was created to reach agreement and complete work in relation to the draft protocol in the coming weeks. This group is being led by Kildare County Council on behalf of the Mid-East Region.

Tenancy Sustainment:

There are currently 85 active cases with five successful discharges in January. Issues with rent compliance and prioritisation of utility payments are the most common difficulties being experienced by tenants. Referrals to MABs are being made and advice on budgeting is being provided. Visiting supports coupled with telephone contact are proving successful in sustaining and supporting these tenancies experiencing difficulties.



Homeless Outreach:

Street work was completed in January in the towns of Leixlip, Kildare, Sallins, Naas and Newbridge, and one new rough sleeper was identified. Offers of support continue to be made to these individuals. A review of the current rough sleepers list has been carried out and the team have contacted all individuals concerned. The team have now discharged nine rough sleepers from this list and have five in total on the list for January.

Further links have been established through a new clinic in the Athy family resource centre which will start next month. Meetings were held by the team in Kerdiffstown, Jigginstown and Aras with all managers to explore exit plans for clients.

Ukraine

The National Call for Unoccupied Homes [Offer a Home] commenced on 24 November 2022. To date 27 offers have been received in the county, five properties have been withdrawn or are unsuitable, four properties have been allocated, four properties are awaiting allocation, five properties have been referred for assessment, eight properties require minor works, one property has been assessed as suitable and is not yet available for

allocation. Liffey Lodge is operational as a Reception Centre for displaced persons from Ukraine and is being managed by The Peter McVerry Trust. The Centre has increased capacity to cater for up to 52 people. Occupants are placed in either shared or vacant properties from Liffey Lodge. There are 36 people accommodated at the moment.

Kildare County Council continues to process the shared pledges, 566 pledges received, 343 withdrawn, 96 allocated, 33 referred for allocation, remaining pledges require remedial works or were uncontactable.

It has recently been decided that Local Authorities will take responsibility for refurbishment projects, with further detail awaited. Kildare County Council will review the current list of properties, most of which are privately owned, to see if any of these projects can be progressed. A new regeneration tracker has been implemented to track these refurbishment projects with a view to prioritising projects on the basis of cost and their potential longer-term use.

Radon Testing Pilot Scheme

Resulting from Councillor Liston's motion at the Celbridge-Leixlip MD (July 2022) and its subsequent referral



to the Housing SPC, the Housing Department intends to commence a radon testing pilot scheme. The initial scheme will comprise fitting of radon testing units in up to 50 of our properties throughout the north of the county with an emphasis on properties in red and orange radon zones. Radon measurement units will be fitted over the coming weeks and will remain in

place for a duration of three months before being collected and tested. The expected processing time is four weeks maximum. Results will be collated and assessed based across the following criteria: location, age of property, range of results. The results of this pilot scheme will inform the need for further action.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works to commence on 20 March 2023.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Part 8 launched 4 November 2022. CE report prepared and Part 8 presentation to Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting scheduled for 15 February 2023.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala scheduled during Q1 2023.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team insurance approved. Framework now established. Appointment of consultants being processed.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 3 funding application submitted to DHLGH on the 23 January 2023.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Part 8 launched on 21 November 2022; observation period completed on 10 January



		2022. Part 8 scheduled to come before Clane-Maynooth MD in March.
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Tenders returned 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.
Ardrew, Athy	8 units	Applications submitted to ESB for diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Single stage approval received 23 August 2022. Part 8 proposed to launch Q1 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Minor Capital Works Single Stage Approval Process application submitted to DHLGH Q4 2022.
Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site included in Town Centre Living Design Competition. Design competition launched 26 th January.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to be considered by Celbridge-Leixlip MD at the February MD meeting.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to be considered by Athy MD at the February MD meeting.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Market engagement ongoing. Pre-Qualification Questionnaire issued in December and due back end of February from interested tenderers.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Design team being appointed in February 2023 and will commence design engagement thereafter.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 social units/40 affordable	Design team being appointed in February 2023 and will commence design engagement thereafter.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Phase 1 to deliver in Q1, phase 2 to deliver in Q2 2023.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid and now preparing preliminary design drawings.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	CAS Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Planning application lodged in August for this scheme. Response to request for FI being prepared.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023.



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodation and Family Hubs as of 31 January 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	27	48	36
6 - 12 Months	10	18	16
12 - 18 Months	3	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	1	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	5	6	5
	46	80	60

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 January 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	8	13	13
6 - 12 Months	3	4	5
12 - 18 Months	2	3	6
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	1	2	2
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	15	23	26



Acquisitions

	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023
Housing Acquisitions	39	13	41	2
Housing Turnkeys	107	27	82	
Part V Acquisitions	41	70	86	
Total complete	187	110	209	2

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	1	0	0	1	0
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	0	0	0	0	0

Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2022	309	241	7	7	362	378
January 2023	31	2	0	0	32	22

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP	69	Retrofit works complete to Ballyroe Athy (18 units) and Lacken View, Nass (18 Units). Works to commence in the next 2 weeks to Ottomy, Clane.
2023 EERP		Awaiting confirmation of the allocation for 2023 which will inform this years work programme.



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023 and replaces the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. In February 2023 Kildare County Council were notified of two applications to the High Court for leave to seek a judicial review of the Plan, specifically the housing targets and the addition of a structure to the Record of Protected Structures. These will be ongoing and updates will be provided as appropriate.

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

Preparation of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 is ongoing, with accompanying environmental and infrastructural assessments being completed. A briefing session with the Kildare Newbridge Elected Members is planned for the 15 February in advance of the publication of the draft plan later in Quarter 1 2023.

Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan

A Chief Executives report is being prepared by Kildare and Meath County Council in relation to the public consultation for the pre-draft stage of the Plan. This will be issued to both Local Authorities in Quarter 1 2023. Work is on-going in relation to evidence-based reports to support the draft plan, including the Area Based Transport Assessment for the plan area.



Development Management

Planning applications received	Residential Units Granted	Applications
Jan	No.	January
2020: 74	269	Total Granted: 77
2021: 100	51	Further information requested: 65
2022: 95	121	Total Refused: 23
2023 79	76	

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	06/09/22 Grant
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	25/08/22 Grant
22/313276	15/05/22	Land Development Agency	Former Devoy Barracks, Naas	219	13/10/22 Grant
22/312958	12/04/22	Glenveagh	Shackleton Road, Celbridge	152	28/06/22 (Overdue)
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/313825	17/06/22	Kieran Curtin	Ballyoulster, Celbridge	344	06/10/22 (Overdue)
22/314337	11/08/22	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22 (Overdue)
22/314564	07/09/22	Teresa Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	272	05/01/23 (Overdue)



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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/01	20/05/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	11/07/2022
2022/02	01/07/22	Westar	Finlay Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	08/07/2022
2022/03	27/07/22	William Neville	Main Street, Sallins	168	19/09/2022
2022/04	10/08/22	Debussy	Prosperous Road, Clane	190	03/10/2022
2022/05	20/09/22	MRP Oakland	Ruanbeg, Kildare Town	304	11/11/2022
2022/06	18/10/22	ESJ Blackparts	Blackparts, Athy	131	12/12/2022
2022/07	24/10/22	Makros Ltd	South Green Road, Kildare Town	164	16/12/2022



2022/08	27/10/22	Glenveigh Properties	Guinness Land, Leixlip	235	19/01/2023
2022/09	08/11/22	LADAS Property	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	11/01/2023

Large-scale Residential Developments – Planning Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
22/221052	26/08/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	Grant 20/10/22 Appealed
22/221502	16/12/22	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	134	Due 18/02/23

Heritage

Planning to date

Item	No
Planning referrals:	16
Preplanning:	2
LRD:	1
Part 8:	0
Total	19

Heritage Projects Progress

Brigid 1500

Heritage Officer sits on the spirituality, heritage and biodiversity working group of the Brigid 1500 steering group.

Turas Columbanus

Kildare County Council was successful along with Carlow, Wexford, Meath Laois, Cavan, Monaghan County Councils and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh DC and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon DC in securing €250,000 to prepare a Feasibility Study for Turas Columbanus from the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Turas Columbanus is a spiritual pilgrim route from Mount Leinster, the birthplace of Columbanus via Co Fermanagh to Bangor in Co Down



where Columbanus later set sail for Europe.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Plans completed for Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh. Project funded via Municipal District LPT fund.

MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) towns was launched in Nov (LPT Project). Funding was allocated in January 2023.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans Mentoring Programme

A mentoring programme for the 23 towns in Kildare with a LBAP will commence in Autumn 2023

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

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

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Proposed to have meeting in quarter 1 2023.

Public Realm

Heritage Officer has an Advisory role:

- Town Renewal Plans-Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.
- Curragh Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan
- Wonderful Barn.

Funding Applications

Heritage Plan Fund (€37,500)

Application for Heritage Plan fund was made for the following projects.

- Heritage Awareness 2023
- Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas
- Survey of Military Structures in Kildare.

Community Monuments Fund 2023

Applications in progress. Closing date for applications to NMS is 12 February 2023.

Irish Walled Towns Fund

Closing date for applications Thursday 9 March 2023.



National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

Applications in progress. Closing date for applications to NPWS 24 February 2023.

Creative Ireland

- Oral recording training No 2. Funding was secured in December 2023 for second round of oral recording, training will commence in Spring 2023.
- Wells of Kildare Publication and Exhibition €15,000
- Traditional Skills Event in Straffan with Meath County Council €5,000

Conservation

Planning Referrals:

Item	No
Planning referrals:	20
Section 57s	0
Section 5s	1
Preplanning:	1
LRD:	0
Part 8:	1
Total	23

Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS): 2023

BHIS allocation €126,400.

BHIS thatched allocation €13,334

32 applications received with a nomination date of 10 February 2023.

Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023:

Stream one – seven applications

Stream two – one application

HSF nominations due to department 10 February 2023

Thatched Cottage Grant:

2023 thatching grant to be advertised February 2023

Historic Towns Initiative (The Heritage Council):

The Potato Market, Naas was opened in November 2022. Final costs for conservation and restoration came to €272,000. €217,000 was funded by the Heritage Council under the Historic Towns Initiative.

The Conservation Section does not propose putting forward a HTI project for 2023.



Heritage Stewardship Scheme (The Heritage Council):

In 2022 a review of the Record of Protected Structure (RPS) commenced under the Heritage Stewardship scheme. c.150 structures reviewed and recorded.

An application for 2023 Heritage Stewardship Scheme was submitted 16 January 2023 for €25,200 funding towards a review of the RPS in Kilcock, Rathangan, Kilcullen and Castledermot.

Town Renewal Masterplan:

Advisory role with Public Realm Team of TRM for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.

Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications. Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn.

Infrastructure projects:

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

Water Services

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters Councillor Clinics are held online quarterly at 11:00 a.m. for approximately one hour on the dates specified.

The 2023 schedule of clinics is as follows:

- Monday 27 February 2023
- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023

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

Irish Water is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk.

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



Irish Water Framework

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

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

The existing Service Level Agreement will be replaced by a Master Agreement for the 31 local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority possibly by end of Quarter 2 2023 taking into consideration changes included the new Framework.

Environment and Climate Action Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council await the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period 2022 to 2027.

This document is expected to be published before the end of the year

and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

Enforcement Priorities 2023-2024

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

Environment Complaints

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



Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

Community Clean-ups

Green Kilometre groups continue to be very active.

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

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

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Kildare County Council Launches New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative



The council is keen to encourage dog owners to take positive action, to promote responsible dog ownership and encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog, bag the waste and safely bin it. The council has installed several audio or visual (LED) devices at key locations in the Municipal Districts to remind owners to clean up after their pet, and the council encourage people to use any bag, any public bin.”



Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The tender for consultants for the Athy Flood Relief Scheme has been advertised and will close on 19 January. The contract is scheduled for signing in February 2023, subject to a successful tender assessment process.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

Kerdiffstown Park project

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

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

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

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



being reviewed in line with funding availability.

Current plans are as follows:

Columbarium Walls

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

Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, Athy and Confey. Work will be progressing shortly for the completion of the columbarium walls at Rathangan and Crookstown.

Preliminary designs are currently being drafted and tender documents are being drafted.

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

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

Risk Management

A meeting of the gatekeepers for each department has taken place for the purpose of scoping all issues relating to the 2023 risk cycle.



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



Climate Action Teams (CATs)

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 seven, six, five, four,



three (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 1 2023.



Thematic Training

Training under this pillar responds to identified training needs of specific local authority groupings. Other training courses under this pillar are at various stages of design and progression towards delivery, including training aimed at/focusing on the Older Persons Council, Economic/Enterprise Opportunities and Roads Infrastructure.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with trainers working on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training

Group to ensure rollout to all outdoor staff across the 31 local authorities, in 2023.



Frontline Staff

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



Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The Minister has approved a business case for local authority climate action resources in respect of two roles. A letter of comfort has been issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), relating to the recruitment of these resources on a five-year term for the



purposes of developing and implementing the LA CAP as aligned with the provisions of the business case.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 was published by the Minister on the 21 December 2022 with the Annex of Actions due to published early in 2023.

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

The development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening is also being finalised.

Local Authority Progress Reporting

– Climate Adaptation Strategies:

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



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO, are in the process of finalising a contract with Codema to provide an energy service for local authorities in this sub-region.

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

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



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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. The sector has one of the largest fleets with approx. 6,500 vehicles.

Stage one saw completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Stage two is underway and will see the development of a more in-depth analysis document, with expected publication early in 2023. CARO are examining the development of a number of local authority case studies to support the solutions identified, including a HVO trial undertaken in Tipperary and Galway City; transition

to EVs in Cork City and Dublin City; as well as fleet management and eco driver training undertaken in Donegal.



Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action

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



GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:

Phase one of the Green Club Programme is now complete with toolkits almost finalised. Phase two will



commence at the beginning of 2023, with applications for an additional 70 clubs anticipated.

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

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

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

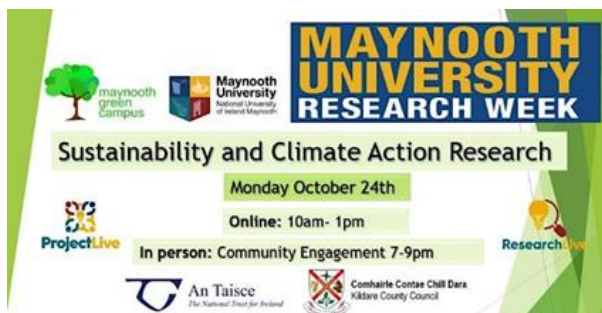
The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the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





Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Office and An Taisce successfully delivered information on the DZ and Low Carbon Community strategies to Maynooth University Academia and research faculties in the morning and the wider community in the evening. The sessions were hosted by the Green Forum within Maynooth University. An Taisce are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan also in Maynooth and it is advantageous to streamline public awareness and consultation where possible to foster continued good will.



The Climate action Office continues to align collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business

opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee was made aware of progress and updated during December's meeting. The DZ actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint LAP.

RPS group's fee proposal for the Decarbonising Zone, as allowed for under their bid as consultants to undertake the LA CAP, has been approved. The various elements can now be progressed under one consultant.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



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



county. There are currently 27 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan (EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA to streamline the administration for all parties involved.

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

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a social enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The initial expressions of interest received will be refined during the next stage to enable a community application to be made to SEAI to access grant funding to undertake energy upgrades in a number of properties across the county under the Better Energy program. Wicklow, Meath and Louth County Councils

have joined the effort based on Kildare's pilot.

Fleet Electrification



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

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



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

The Mid East Energy Unit



The three local authorities of Wicklow, Meath and Kildare County Councils have come together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of the Mid East Energy Unit. Kildare County Council signed an SLA with the lead Local authority Wicklow County Council in December.

The formation of the unit is to support the three LA's to meet their 2030 energy efficiency and carbon emissions targets and show leadership and CODEMA will provide core

services to the local authorities associated .

The unit will combine efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI's Pathfinder funding scheme to provide finance support for defined projects.

ICT Solutions

An opportunity to collaborate with Eir Evo <https://www.eirevo.ie/> to advance ICT solutions with regard to climate action is advancing at pace. The initial contact was made via our IT Department.

The development of an app linking plant passport statutory recording and tree surveys together with the potential for the creation of a dashboard. The dashboard will display an estimation of the carbon sequestration values of the trees under the council's remit.

Other potential avenues are being explored including a bonfire app, biodiversity values associated with vegetation and linking the existing app to cross department data to expand the information base. Advancement is dependent on funding allocations.

The programme is funded by Microsoft.



Climate Action Community Initiatives



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

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

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.

Site visits with though provoking interactive are being conducted on the various bogs during December to inform then project.

Other Initiatives

'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries submitted the project 'Stitching the Community Together' under the Creative Ireland Creativity in

Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective. Currently, the schools have been paired together with the nursing homes and have commenced their knitting projects. A second stage (working title 'A future Tapestry') is being advanced with creatives to bring a Virtual Reality (VR) element to the project with an exhibition at the end of the project to be potentially displayed from early 2023.

Gas Innovation Fund

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



project support from the Climate Action Office, Maynooth University, and engagement with Teagasc.

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award

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

Agri-Tourism Project

Climate Action Office, Into Kildare and CKLP continue to develop the agri-tourism project in Kildare targeted at cultivating diverse revenue streams for farmers in the county. The project has engaged with the farming community at several locations around the county and further feedback is awaited. The

feedback gathered at these events will be fed into an application for LEADER funding or other funding streams to facilitate the supports and resources needed for the project.

Climate Innovation Fund – First Round

Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

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

The Climate Hub

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

Climate Response Ireland

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

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



Forestry

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

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

Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The K-Climate eZine is quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and happenings from within the council and

other resources to support engagement and learning on climate action. The ezine is circulated to all council staff, councilors as well as being made available to the public via the Climate Action Office's [website](#).

Intranet Portal

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

 [SharePoint](#)



Climate & Energy

Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

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



the new depot at New Hall is looking at the potential of a fueling point to incorporate biogas into the fleet.



Research

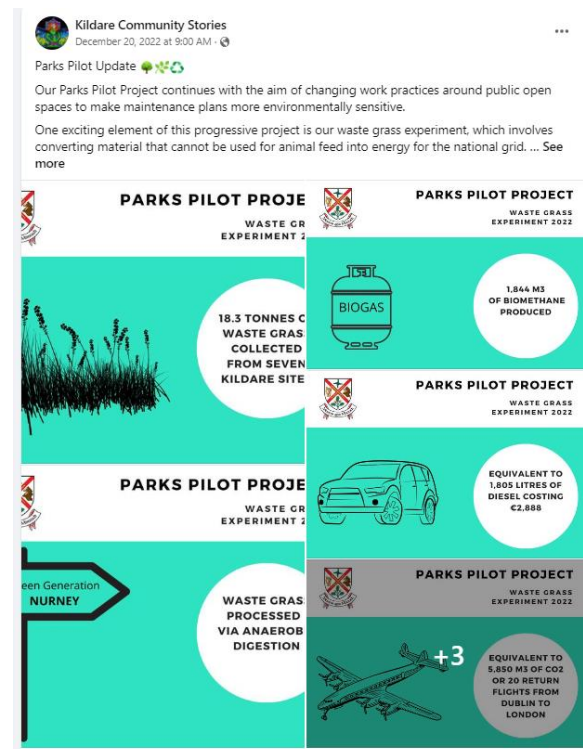
Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Ten local authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future. Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas. Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the

Naas town area. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates. The December post focuses on the results from the Grass 2 Gas experiments in conjunction with Green Generation. By utilizing the anaerobic digestion process waste grass is converted in bio-gas. The results continue to show positive data outputs.



Grass 2 Gas Pilot results 2022



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

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 five Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

The scheme is moving through the various steps required for Phase one (Concept and Feasibility), Phase two (Option Selection), Phase three (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase four (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road (BAM, Roughan and O Donovan)

Project is progressing in accordance with identified milestones, and progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing. A significant milestone has been reached with the successful lifting of the beams across the River Barrow.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn (Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

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

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (Roughan and O Donovan)

The CPO has been published and a decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala. 12 Submissions were submitted to the ABP

Maynooth Transport Strategy (Aecom)

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage.

Newbridge Transport Strategy (Aecom)

The compilation of the Newbridge Transport Strategy has commenced

Junction Programme

Roads Design Team are currently developing a Junction programme with an initial ten Junctions identified for upgrade in Phase one. A Consultant framework has been completed and the briefs are being compiled for tender)



Sustainable Transport Section



Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase five)

€90,000 allocation. Detailed design stage is being completed. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

€3,000,000 allocation. Construction continuing. An upgrade to the works including a link to the Fingal County boundary is being designed at present.

Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence detailed design.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

€240,000. Detailed design continuing. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

€5,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

€140,000 allocation. Design of permanent scheme progressing.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

€20,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

€160,000 allocation. Detailed design continuing.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

€2,675,000 allocation. Construction started in January 2023.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

€500,000 allocation. Detailed design commenced.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme

€60,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.



Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€90,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€150,000 allocation. Detailed design stage continuing.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

€110,000 allocation. Pilot schemes completed in January 2023.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Project on hold.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

€15,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

€800,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

€110,000 allocation. Detailed design stage is being completed. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Insufficient funding to commence project.

Safe Routes To School Round one Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

€50,000 allocation – St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane



Safe Routes To School Round two Schemes

€20,000 allocation – Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge.

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phadraig, Clane.

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas Active Travel Measures

€50,000 allocation. Insufficient funding to progress Project.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Correspondence from the Department of Transport is being considered.

Roads Maintenance

Municipal District Works

Winter Maintenance Plan is in place and monitoring is ongoing daily. To date 54 Salting runs over 30 days.

Kildare County Council drew down Department of Transport grant to value € 14.7 million ie Road restoration and surfacing works over 130 sites - total length 170 Km

Direct Labour Surface Dressing works at 104 km length covered approx. 4 %

of Kildare County Council Local and Regional Roads for third year in a row.

Submissions to Department of

Transport for Grant Categories in 2023

(a) Safety Improvement Works

(b) Climate Adaptation

(c) Former National Roads

Similar funding to 2022 expected for RI

(Road Restoration), RM schemes

(surface dressing)

All proposed work sites to be surveyed

and uploaded to MapRoad PMS for

2023

Surveys already carried out in 2022

and currently ongoing for PSCI values

on Local Road network – will be

reflected in KCC NOAC parameters

going forward.

Preventative Road Maintenance works

(opening of water cuts and gully

cleaning) is ongoing in advance of

potential storms.

Grant allocation for 2024 to be notified

by Department of Transport KCC in

mid-February – similar or greater than

2023 amount indicated. MD Engineers

are preparing schemes for this year's

Roads Programme.

Meeting took place with Consultants

Arup and Contractor Killaree Lighting

Services about planning for upgrade of

KCC public Lighting to LED as part of

Regional PLEEP contract. Survey to

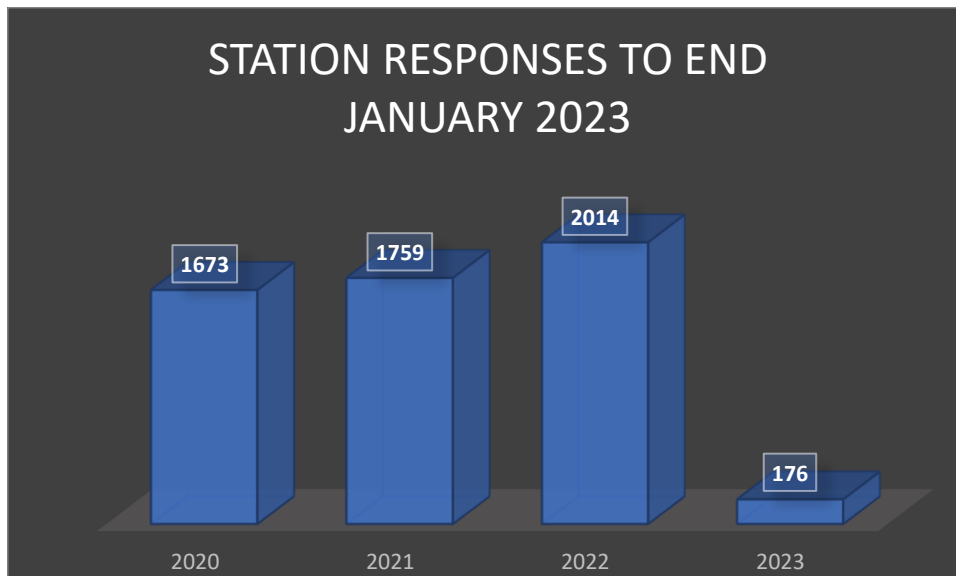
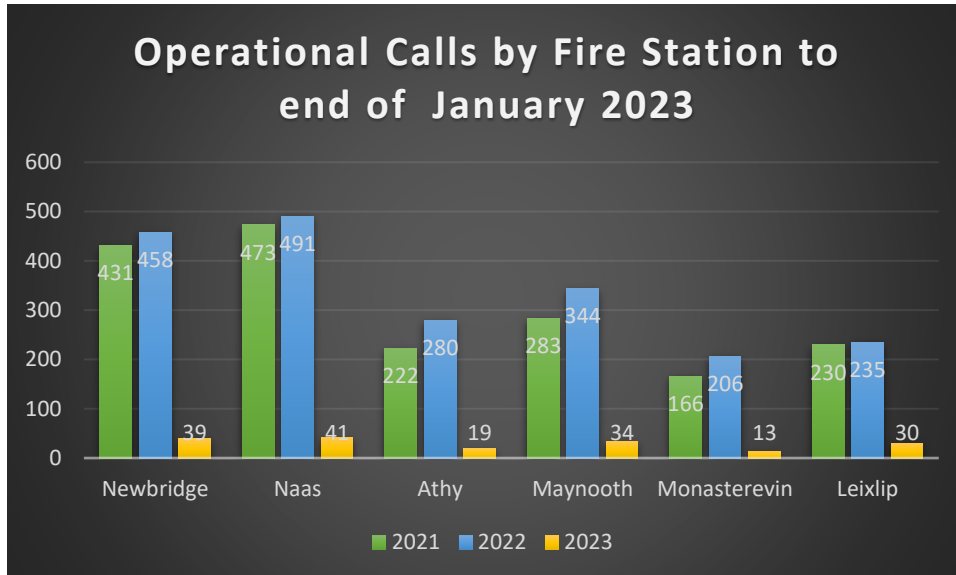
commence in September this year with



works on site to commence in Quarter 1/2 2024. Contract due for completion in Quarter 4 2024 will lead to annual

savings of approx. € 750,000 on energy and maintenance cost going forward.

Fire Service Operations: 2023 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

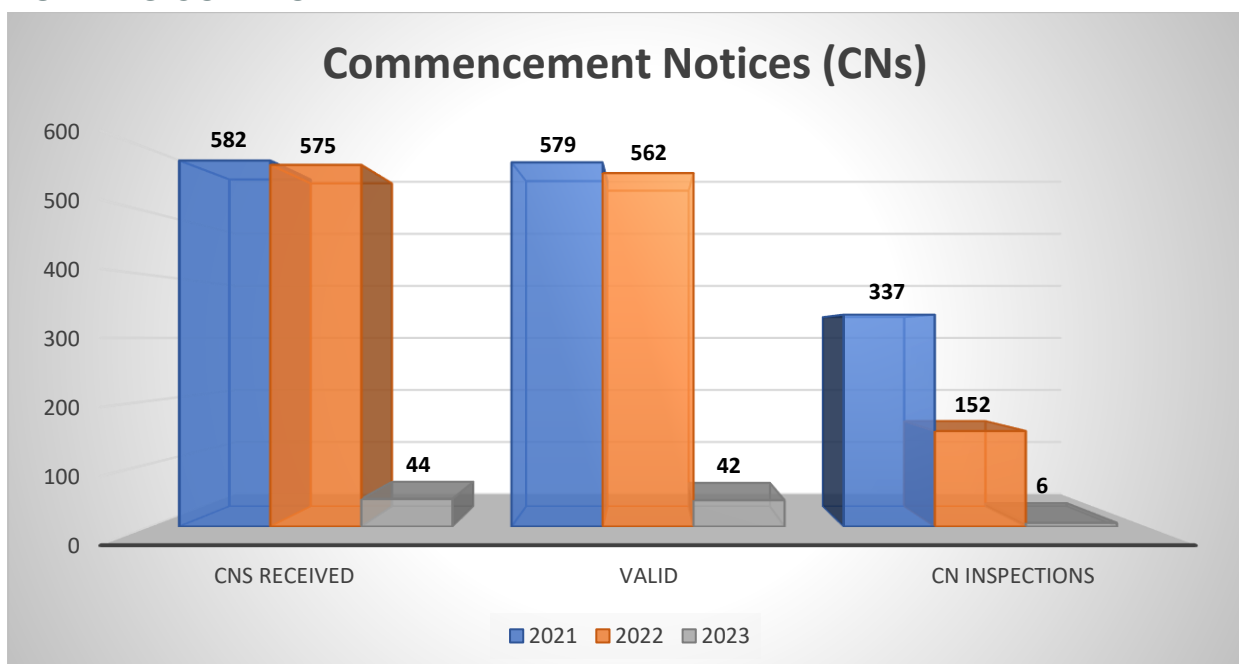
Applications received to the end of January 2023 compared with the totals received in previous years



Building and Development Control

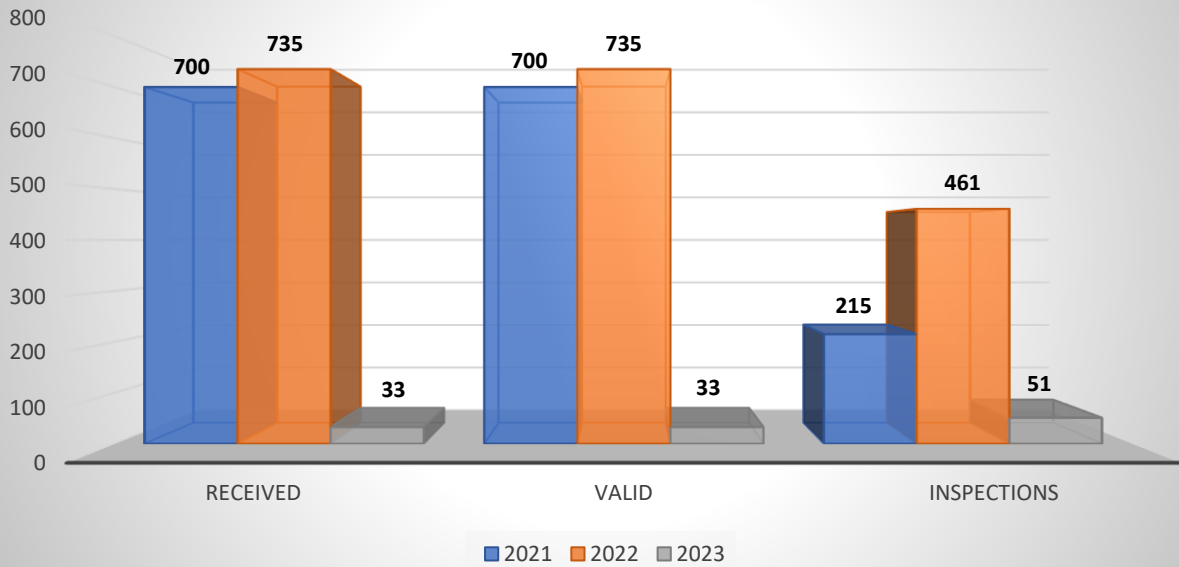
The following figures are cumulative up to end of January 2023 set against full year figures for 2021 and 2022.

BUILDING CONTROL

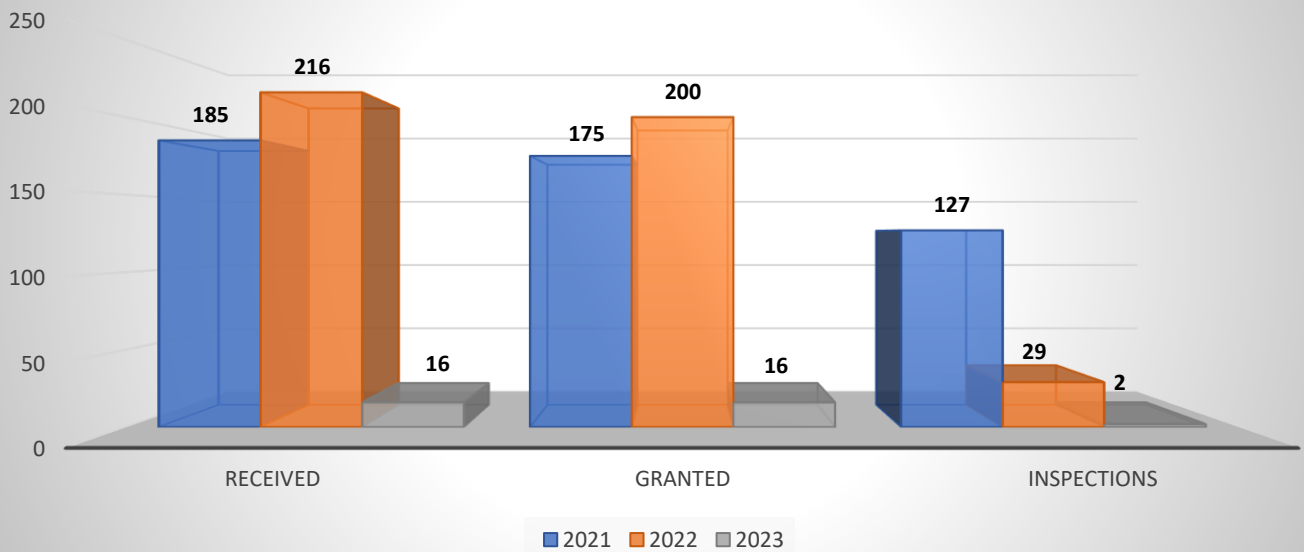




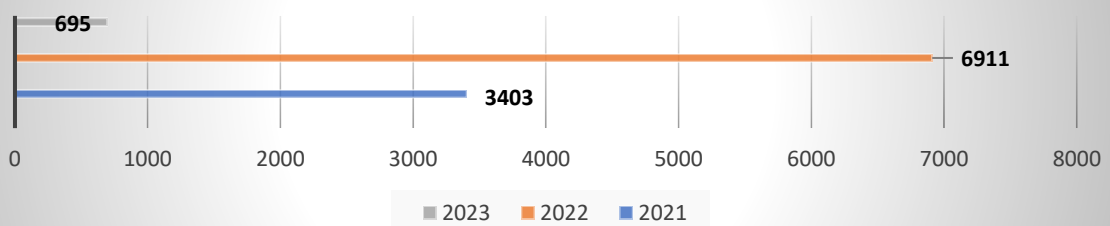
Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCCs)



Disability Access Certificates (DACs)

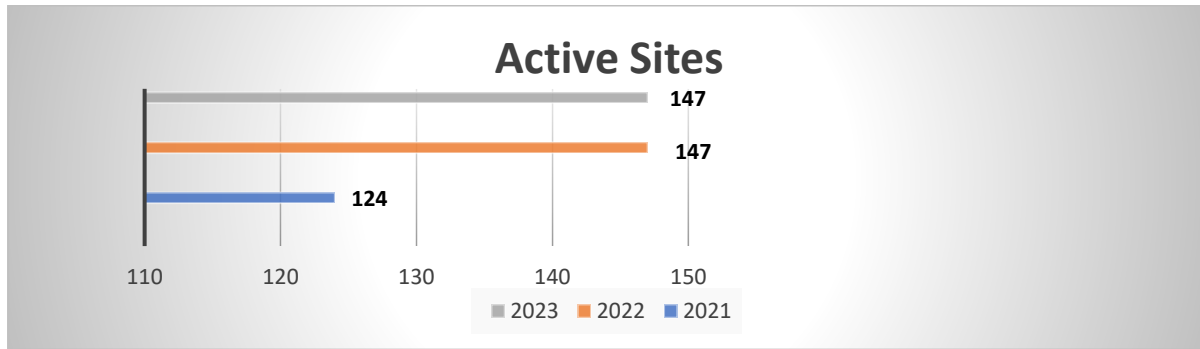


Number of Buildings Inspected





DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



Health and Safety:

Seven blended working DSE assessments completed.

Site visits /schedule of inspection planned for January -June 2023 prepared.

Five site inspections completed.

- (two) housing maintenance team.
- air monitoring team environment
- litter warden and community team
- Clerk of works team housing

Review of risk assessments and method statements and update in progress for the following:

- Development control team
- Housing maintenance team.
- Environment air monitoring team

- Litter and community warden team
- Housing clerk of works team

Induction for 26 new employees

Fire Prevention for Aras:

Fire Marshall training course

- attended by a total of 16 fire wardens currently based in Aras.
- additional training in fire warden duty scheduled for 7 February.
- requests outstanding for three additional fire wardens for Aras-line managers have been asked to return volunteers for this.

Covid lead worker reps meeting held.

Detailed ergonomic assessment completed for employee.



Work plan developed for 2023:

- Safety Inspections-Quarter 1-Quarter 4- 70 in total
- Accident and incident investigations-Quarter 1-Quarter 4
- Health and safety conference-Quarter 4
- Bimonthly health and safety management committee meetings- Quarter 1-Quarter 4
- DSE assessments for blended working- Quarter 1-Quarter 4
- Health screening and flu vaccinations-Quarter 3
- Implementation of recommendations from health screening report-Quarter 1-Quarter 4
- Lunchtime exercise classes e.g. HIIT, Yoga, Pilates
- Stress and Mental Health Focus- talks, training, digital wellbeing platform
- Encourage uptake of existing health and wellbeing supports within Kildare County Council

- Introduce ongoing health and wellbeing supports i.e. digital wellbeing platform
- Healthy eating demonstrations
- Scanning of historic accident and incident reports-Quarter 4
- Liaising with HR Training Section on the delivery of H&S programme-Quarter 1
- Annual review of Safety Statement -Quarter 2
- Review of risk assessments and method statements -linked to inspections -Quarter 1-Quarter 4.
- Review of LGMA Website v Kildare County Council- Quarter 1-Quarter 4.
- Annual H&S Report for 2022 to be completed - Quarter 1

Accessibility:

Work Plan developed for 2023:

- Monthly CKAN (County Kildare Access Network) meeting- Quarter 1-Quarter 4
- Monthly local access group meetings-Quarter 1- Quarter 4

- Naas
- Newbridge



- Athy
- Celbridge
- Leixlip
- Maynooth

Opening of Changing Places Facility

- Newbridge Sports Centre-Quarter 1
- Naas library-Quarter 4

Development of website for CKAN and associated training-Quarter 2

Purchase of promotional materials-Quarter 1

Series of events to mark Kildare

Disability Week-Quarter 4

Take Part in National Make Way Day

Campaign – in association with Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI)

Take part in National Back in five Campaign – in association with Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)

KISP (Kildare Inclusion Schools Project) The project is a partnership initiative between DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency), County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) and Kildare County Council.

The Kildare Inclusion in Schools project seeks to support County Kildare schools to become positive to

disability. This project aims to create positive understanding and awareness of disability and disability equality amongst children and young people and provide students with practical skills in ensuring their schools are accessible to all, with particular reference to physical accessibility and inclusive communications.-Quarter 1-Quarter 4

Video of achievements- Quarter 2

Update of Kildare County Council website-Quarter 2

Accessibility audit of all our public buildings-Quarter 4

- a. Libraries- 15
- b. Newbridge Town Hall
- c. Aras Chill Dara
- d. Kildare Town and Athy Heritage Centres

Walkability audits of towns-Quarter 3

Liaise with Libraries on expansion of TTT catalogue and Accessibility aids in general: -Quarter 1

- e. Touch Type Read Spell-(TTRS) is a multisensory, structured, online typing course which assists students to learn at their own pace. In addition to developing typing



skills, TTRS is designed to benefit students of all ages, in particular those who experience spelling, reading or writing difficulties.

Learners with dyslexia or literacy issues have also found it helpful.

Additional licenses required There are currently 45 licenses across seven libraries with a long waiting list as program is 18 months duration.

- f. The Fact Factory- The Fact Factory is tailored specifically for children (aged seven to eleven) with print disabilities such as visual impairment, as well as other marginalised readers, such as children with dyslexia, reluctant readers and children with English as a second language, to name but a few.
- g. Additional C Reader Pens –reduce waiting list
- h. Sensory Walls
- i. Portable Tovertafel-The Tovertafel (“Magic Table”) is an award-winning serious games system designed to create a more caring and inclusive world for people with

cognitive challenges. The Tovertafel's innovative light projections challenge players to develop or maintain their skills in a fun and playful way. Whether in senior care, nursing homes, or services for intellectual disabilities, through the power of purposeful play the Tovertafel provides care that is designed to create meaningful connections and enrich the quality of life.

- j. Sensory tents

Working what LGMA on access officer conference-Quarter 1

Finishing of Connecting Locally Project with Kare and UCD Centre for Disability Studies -Quarter 1

Completion of Social farming project with Kildare Leader Partnership-Quarter 1

Liaise with libraries on the generation of a report on the usage of all accessibility aids-Quarter 1



Economic, Community and Cultural Development Community Grants

2023 grants schemes:

The 2023 community, festival and residents' associations grants are being advertised with a closing date for applications of Friday 10 March 2023.

Brigid 1500

A full calendar of over 50 events and initiatives took place between 28 January to 7 February 2023 to celebrate and commemorate St. Brigid, the woman, the life and the legacy. Featuring light shows, concerts, literary events, walks and more.

The 2023 programme will set the scene for 2024, which marks the 1500 anniversary of the death of St. Brigid. The vision of 'Brigid 1500' is to create a meaningful cultural and societal legacy that appeals to a diverse contemporary audience and live long in the memory for years to come. 'Brigid 1500' is being delivered by Kildare County Council supported by a Steering Committee of

leading experts across the fields of arts and culture, academia, tourism,



industry, spirituality and faith, community, education and more.

'Brigid 1500' will engage communities with the story and heritage of St. Brigid, providing a tangible connection with the past, through events and programmes that have an ongoing meaning and relevance. The programme will engage with the values St. Brigid championed including faith and spirituality, biodiversity and sustainability, arts and culture, social justice, peace, hospitality and education.



Some of the highlights of the programme included:

Nothing Compares: A Celebration of Irish Women Artists



Imelda May, Eleanor McEvoy, Sabina Higgins, Tolu Makay, Susan O'Neill, Mary Stokes, Megan O'Neill and Gemma Dunleavy are among the artists who joined for a special celebration of Irish Women Artists for a concert held for Brigid's Day by Hot Press magazine and Kildare County Council, as part of the Brigid 1500 programme.

The event took place in the centre of Naas on 1 February 2023. which was specially lit in a celebratory style for the occasion.



Carrying Her Flame

A Fire and Light Procession - 'Carrying Her Flame'. This was produced by LUXE, the flame synonymous with St Brigid was brought from the top of Kildare Town and spread around the square before bringing the audience on a processional journey to a fiery finale. The feast of lanterns, procession, and fire to kindle Brigid's flame took place on Saturday, 4 February 2023 in Kildare Town Square.





A Concert for Brigid

On Sunday, 5 February 2023 'a Concert for Brigid 1500' was held at St. Brigid's Cathedral in Kildare Town featuring renowned Irish Soprano Eimear Quinn and friends. Eimear debuted her new song dedicated to Brigid, "The Mouth of Winter Dead", which she wrote together with renowned songwriter, Brendan Graham.



Illuminations

Iconic sites and buildings across Kildare were lit up with light illustrations depicting St Brigid and her legacy on the 31 January 2023 and 1 February 2023. Sites included Athy Library, Maynooth Castle, Naas Potato Market and Wonderful Barn in Leixlip. There was flame throwing performances at Wonderful Barn and Naas Potato Market during the illuminations.



School Programme

A school's resource pack has been commissioned. The resource pack includes information on legends associated with St. Brigid, worksheets, instructional videos on how to make a St. Brigid's, making a Bridóg doll, information on bio-diversity and pollination. This resource pack serves as a stand-alone resource for schools and compliments the school planting day. This resource pack was widely distributed to schools in advance of St. Brigid's Day. It is also available on the Brigid 1500 website.

School Planting

Over 60 primary schools in Kildare applied for a pair of cross-pollinating apple trees, sponsored by Naas Rotary Club. The school planting day took place on 31 January 2023. This is in-keeping with the theme of Brigid

1500 and 120 planted apple trees will form part of Brigid 1500's legacy.

Artists and Community Brigid1500 Grant Schemes

Two grant schemes were launched late in 2022 for artists and community groups in Kildare. Over 60 applications received. The standard of the projects submitted was extremely high and diverse. This is a pipeline of developmental projects throughout the next two years and beyond. Grant schemes will be refreshed and relaunched for 2024.

Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 25 January 2023 in the Merits building.

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2023 of €170,973 to respond to the Ukrainian crisis. The LCDC approved County



Kildare LEADER Partnership's plan on how they will utilise this funding at the January LCDC meeting.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme
County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The final plan for 2023, was approved by the LCDC at their January meeting.

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

LEADER Programme
Kildare County Council with the LCDC as the Local Action Group and County Kildare LEADER Partnership as the Implementing Partner have progressed to Stage two of the new LEADER Programme process to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the delivery of the 2023- 2027 LEADER programme for Kildare.

The current LEADER budget is allocated, with projects having until 31

December 2023 to complete their work.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities
Work is progressing very positively in Athy to roll out a range of evidence-based health programmes in addition to local supports to engage people in healthy activities.

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare.

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

Healthy Ireland (HI)
Healthy Ireland funding continued to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county in 2022. The application for HI Round four 2023-2025 was approved by the LCDC at their January meeting and submitted to Pobal for approval at the end of January. Priorities in relation to mental



health and physical activity are being proposed.

For further information contact Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator:
phone: 086-8858508 or email
lkelly@kildarecoco.ie

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy has been selected by DRCD as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are leading out on this initiative and have employed an outreach worker to roll out the programme.

Local Economic and Community Plan

Preparation is underway to commence the LECF. This will be a key focus on the LCDC in 2023.

Community Support Fund

Kildare LCDC has recently been allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs,

equipment and repairs. The Fund was advertised in late January 2023 and the closing date is Friday 24 February 2023.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 29 March 2023

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

A number of activities in relation to St. Brigid's Day - Brigid 1500 took place in January.

The St. Brigid's Audio Guide was finalised and completed in time for new bank holiday for locals and visitors to enjoy. A number of local personalities were involved with the recordings.





Kildare called for Pause for Peace globally on St. Brigid's Day. This initiative spearheaded by Into Kildare and Solas Bhríde, with the residents of County Kildare calling on people all around the world to stop for a minute's silence at 12:00 p.m. (local time) on the 1 February 2023. Media launch organised by Into Kildare on 12 January 2023 in Solas Bhríde.



As part of St. Brigid's Day celebrations, Into Kildare commissioned and outside broadcast of the RTE Today Show live from Kildare Market Square. This highlighted a number of attractions in Co. Kildare. Presenter Maura Derrane hosted the show and she visited St. Brigid's Cathedral, later featured a number of local food, fashion and activity interests. The Newbridge

Gospel Choir performed throughout the broadcast and Una O'Hagan spoke to Maura about St. Brigid.

Further promotion was secured by sponsoring prizes to Kildare on further broadcasts throughout the week.





visiting Kildare to cover articles on St. Brigid.



Into Kildare attended Tourism Ireland 2023 Marketing Plan launch and overseas Business exchange gathering meeting a number of Tourism Ireland international representatives.

In honour of St. Brigid – Brigid 1500, Into Kildare sponsored The Late Late Show viewers prize on Friday, 27 January 2023 in advance of the bank holiday weekend.



Brigid 1500 working groups were updated by Into Kildare on tourism activities in relation to St. Brigid. We also welcomed Failte Ireland journalist

Into Kildare, arranged filming and photocall of the annual message from the Taoiseach, for St. Brigid's day. Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar visited Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages in



Kildare where he gave his support for the Saint Brigid's Day and the Pause for Peace movement.



He also unveiled the new Self Guide St. Brigid Audio Trail.



Into Kildare attended a Fáilte Ireland Business Event to discuss the opportunities the Royal Canal Greenway presents to enterprises along the route.

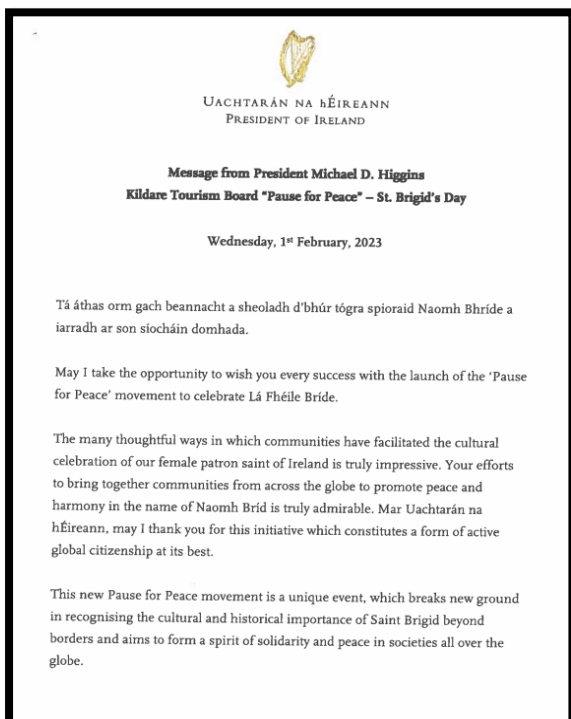


On 31 January 2023 and 1 February 2023 the Hill of Allen and Cupidstown Hill was illuminated as part of this year's festivities to celebrate the patron saint of Kildare, St. Brigid. International soprano and Kildare native, Celine Byrne sang 'A Candle for You', at the top of the hill and wore a St. Brigid inspired cloak.



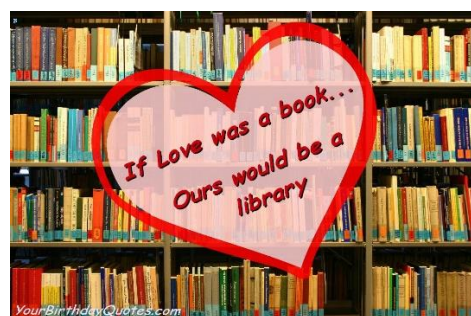


A Uachtarán, President Higgins sent a letter of support to Kildare Tourism for the Pause for Peace movement.



Preparations took place to organise Kildare delegation to visit St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London and Irish Embassy in London for St. Brigid's Day.

Library and Arts Service



Féile Bríde

Féile Bríde events kicked off on 28 January with an open morning in the library of St Brigid's Cross weaving, facilitated by Beth Murphy in Kildare Library.

Kildare Library are also proud to present the latest illuminated pages of The Book of Kildare, an exhibition of the magnificent work of Josephine Hardiman from January to end February with visitors from Ireland, the UK and Europe taking part.



Kildare Library was delighted to sign up a group of local nursing home residents for monthly visits from January 2023 and are looking forward to welcoming and establishing a Rehabcare Reading Group following their relocation to Kildare Town Centre.

Naas Library

Naas Library welcomed junior infant classes from Naas Community National School on the 24 January to “Meet People that Help us in the Community”. Children got to meet Garda Seamus and Soldier Emer and learn about how they serve in the community. Great questions and observations from the children – lots of future Gardai and Soldiers in the making! The children enjoyed lunch and a tour of the library before their bus trip back to the school.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing according to the latest revised programme.

The library will be open to the public in Summer 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Part 8 documentation is currently being finalised to address feedback following consultation in recent months with a number of stakeholders and, the council are delighted to confirm that we plan to launch the Part 8 for the new County Library in Newbridge in March (publication dates to be confirmed).

New Clane Library

Gillian Allen briefed the Clane-Maynooth MD on the plans at the February meeting. The project will be submitted for Part 8 Planning on 16 February with the final date for public submissions 5:00 p.m. on Thursday 30 March.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Archival, local history and genealogical queries.



Archivist attended 'Sprinting to Digital Preservation - Getting to grips with Digital Recordkeeping' organised by LGARM, LGMA and DRI.

Research into ancestry of Bruce Springsteen.

Historical articles for *The Pulse* eHistory Journal updated weekly.

Working with local history groups/schools.

Decade of Commemorations

Planning events for 2023.

Publications produced since 2013 now available via County Library's BorrowBox app.

Launch of *The Devil's Own* by Maria McDonald held in Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday 20 January.

The centenary of the burning of Palmerstown House marked with 'The Burning of the Big House' Seminar with a full audience held in Palmerstown Estate on Saturday 28 January 2023.

Kildare Arts Service

Arts Grants, Commissions and Bursary Award 2023 and Information Sessions

Four grant information sessions were hosted by Arts Officer Lucina Russell at Athy Library, The Riverbank, and Leixlip Library with 70 attendees across the three venues. Lucina also posted an information video on our [YouTube channel](#) which has been viewed 88 times so far.

Made of Athy plaque unveiling on International Holocaust Memorial Day

A plaque commemorating the late Zoltan Zinn-Collis, writer, activist, and Holocaust survivor was unveiled in Athy on International Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January. This is the latest plaque to be launched as part of the Made of Athy initiative and is located in People's Park. About 200 people attended the event while over 3,000 people [watched online](#).



Arts and Health publish case study of two County Kildare Choirs

Arts and Health, the national website for arts and health in Ireland, recently published a [case study](#) of two County Kildare choirs, Past Times and Voices of Spring. The case study highlighted the huge benefits of choral singing to mental health.

RTE Radio 1 show covers Kildare's rich culture

As part of the [Country Measure programme](#) with RTE Radio, Eilish Langton, Creative Places Athy and Laura Whelan, Community Development Athy, met with writer and broadcaster Vincent Woods at Athy Library to give him a sense of place and a sample of how the town is doing, creatively and collaboratively.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

Tenders for the playground have been assessed and clarifications from tenderers are currently being sought.

Leixlip Playground

Final design for the drainage of the site is being prepared. A Road safety audit has been completed. It is planned to advertise the Part 8 the drainage design is complete.

Tree Planting

All tree planting is due to be completed by the end of the month.

Monread Park Playground

New portable goalposts are due to be installed in Monread Park on two soccer pitches. The work is being funded from a Sports Capital Grant. It is hoped to have them in place by mid-February.

Oldtown Demense

Clearance of Laurel in the woodland is ongoing. This is to facilitate an topographical survey, improve the biodiversity of the woodland and facilitate resurfacing the paths later in the year. The topographical survey is also underway this is needed to properly map the land to facilitate the



development of a conservation plan and masterplan for the site.

Newbridge Linear Park

Consultants have prepared an outline design for the path between the strand and The Gables premises. The proposal is to widen the existing path to three metres and install a railing along the edge.

Local Enterprise Office

HUNDREDS OF EVENTS ANNOUNCED FOR LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2023

Small businesses and budding entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to sample hundreds of events helping them to start or grow their business as part of this year's Local Enterprise Week. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, supported by Enterprise Ireland and the local authorities, takes place from the 6 March to 10 March this year across the country.

While there are hundreds of events taking place, there are five National Spotlight events that are available for free online, with one taking place each day of Local Enterprise Week. These events will focus on Exporting with Enterprise Ireland, Digital Skills with Google, Sustainability and Cost Saving with top green and lean consultants and how to innovate within your business.

On behalf of the local government sector, Sonya Kavanagh, Chair of the CCMA Business, Tourism, Enterprise, Innovation and Urban/Town Economic Renewal Committee said: "Local Enterprise Week offers a great opportunity for anybody who wants to start or grow their business to get inspired and motivated. Events during the week will give you insights and add to your knowledge on important topics that can make a real difference to your business competitiveness. The week also puts a spotlight on the range of supports, advice and information available to businesses through their Local Enterprise Office. We would urge everyone to make the most of the



week and to remember that your Local Enterprise Office is also available year-round to help your business to thrive.”

Details for all the events taking place across the country during Local Enterprise Week, from 6 March to 10 March, are available at

www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Week

Five National Spotlight Events (Online and Free to attend)

Monday 6 March 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., **FIRST STEPS TO EXPORT SUCCESS**

Considering expanding into international markets? Or are you an early-stage exporter? Then this Spotlight event is for you. This webinar is designed to outline the steps to export success.

Tuesday 7 March from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., **YOU'RE THE BUSINESS @ LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK**

No matter where you are on your digital journey, You're the Business is the programme to help you go further. As part of Local Enterprise Week, Google are hosting three online trainings, live from Google in Dublin,

for businesses that are looking to Get Online, Grow Online, or Go Global.

Wednesday 8 March from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

GREEN, SUSTAINABILITY and COMPETITIVENESS

The Green Panel aims to inform, inspire, and engage owner managers and their key staff in how they can implement Green technologies, processes and products to their business in order to be more competitive.

Thursday 9 March – 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **DRIVE COST SAVINGS WITH LEAN**

Looking for ways to improve competitiveness and productivity in your business? This online panel discussion is a must for all businesses ambitious for growth.

Friday 10 March from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **INNOVATE FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS**

Innovate: to introduce improvements through new methods, ideas or products. Hosted by Noel Davidson of The Entrepreneurs Academy, this lively event will feature expert



speakers. It will also outline the range of government and financial supports to drive innovation in your business

Immediate business support:

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

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

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

Economic Support Services Retail Window Merchandising Grant

This scheme financially assists and supports independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme covers the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Autumn/Winter period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible

expenditure was made available. 22 businesses were awarded the funding.

Kildare Pride of Premises Awards application deadline extended

Kildare County Council are delighted once again to launch Kildare Pride of Premises Awards. The awards will be presented to winners on Tuesday 7 March 2023 in the MERITS Building adjacent to Aras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare.

The Kildare Pride of Premises Awards recognise the efforts business owners across the county have made throughout 2021 and 2022 in enhancing their shop front and street scapes using Kildare County Councils Retail Grant Schemes. Through the Shopfront, Accessibility and Age Friendly Grant Scheme and the Retail Window Merchandising schemes businesses across Kildare have been awarded funding to carry out works that have improved the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties



Entry is easy just complete the following application online
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Pride%20of%20Premises%20Awards/>

For more information, please contact Andrew Gaynor at agaynor@kildarecoco.ie or 045-980429
 closing date for applications is 27 February 2023

Women In Business Network

Kildare LEO Women in Business Cluster Meeting Tuesday, 21 February 2023, 11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

An introduction to Digital Start – Giving Small Business the Digital Edge

The Kildare LEO Women in Business Cluster meeting on Tuesday, February 21 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m., will introduce members to the Kildare LEO Digital Start Programme. Digital Start is a fully funded initiative by Kildare LEO. Digital Start aims to support your business in developing a digital strategy that will enhance your customers' digital experience in

accessing your goods and services. It can provide financial, technical and advisory support to assist you in creating a digital strategy based on your business requirements and stage of your digital journey. Our cluster meeting will include,

- Audrey Kirwan, Kildare LEO Women in Business Cluster Coordinator who will deliver a short presentation “An Introduction to Digital Start – Giving Small Business the Digital Edge”. She will discuss how Digital Start can improve your business opportunities through optimising your internal business processes and enhancing and streamlining your digital customer experience
- Claire Dunleavy, of Kildare LEO will discuss the eligibility criteria for Kildare based businesses and share with you all you need to know before applying for the Digital Start programme



- Erica Hargaden, CEO of Kildare-based business Babogue and a client of the Kildare LEO will speak to the cluster members and share her digital journey of how she used digital technologies to improve her business model, boost her revenue and business performance while enhancing her customers' personal digital experience

We will have plenty of time for QandA and to network with your peers as we kick off 2023 for the Kildare Women in Business Cluster.

Going GREEN for a brighter future

The Green for Micro Programme is the best place to start on your 'green journey.

We have worked with approximately 70 businesses across Kildare everything from restaurants and bars, craft manufacturers, food producers, services companies in the digital space, waste management and transport companies.

There are many benefits to taking part in Green for Micro, including helping understanding your carbon footprint - because if you understand your baseline, can measure it and then you can begin to take action. Also, it can help to develop opportunities to reduce energy costs, carbon emissions and develop a more sustainable business. We typically identify between 30 and 50% of energy costs savings in companies with a payback period of less than 4 years - and in all cases we identify a valid pathway to reduce emissions in line with Climate Science. "We enjoy working with Micro companies and learning the amazing stories of these businesses. For us, it provides us with an invaluable insight into decarbonisation for business as Micro companies have particular challenges which SMEs or large companies do not have. And helping to solve these challenges will ultimately support us in developing more effective solutions for companies of all scales."

The programme also helps companies to implement a Climate Action Strategy



– a step by step instructional to reduce emissions in line with Climate Science - and to understand the next steps to take on their ESG journey.

Common opportunities we see to reduce a company’s carbon footprint and energy costs include:

Renewable Energy such as Solar PV

Heating Controls and Upgrades

Building Fabric Upgrades

Equipment Power Down when not in use

Lighting and Other Miscellaneous controls

Waste Reduction

Electric Vehicles

Packaging selection

Material selection to reduce footprint

To access a Green consultant and begin the first steps on your

sustainable journey then contact

Kildare Local Enterprise Office

Trading Online Voucher

Irish consumers spend around €850,000 per hour, 24 hours a day online. With the trend ever increasing towards online spending it is estimated that only 30% of small Irish businesses

are engaged in any meaningful way in e-Commerce sales. For businesses employing less than ten people this percentage could be even lower. It is now believed that of online purchases made in Ireland that 70% of these are done in overseas markets.

A Trading Online Voucher (TOV) is a financial incentive developed by the Local Enterprise Office for small businesses with no more than ten employees, less than €2m turnover and who have been trading for at least six months. This voucher is designed to stimulate the applicant business to develop their online trading presence. The voucher is administered through your Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and takes the form of matched funding where the maximum amount payable will be €2,500 or 50% of the eligible cost (whichever is the lesser), exclusive of VAT.

Applicants interested in a Trading Online Voucher can now apply online using a link on Kildare Local Enterprise Office website. Those wishing to avail of a voucher, must attend an obligatory information seminar. At each seminar



attendees will be informed of the purpose of the scheme and how best to use and get value from the application of the voucher. You can book the next information seminar via the website.

Appendix: Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to their ongoing business needs **from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO**
[Website Localenterprise.ie/Kildare](http://Localenterprise.ie/Kildare)

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive