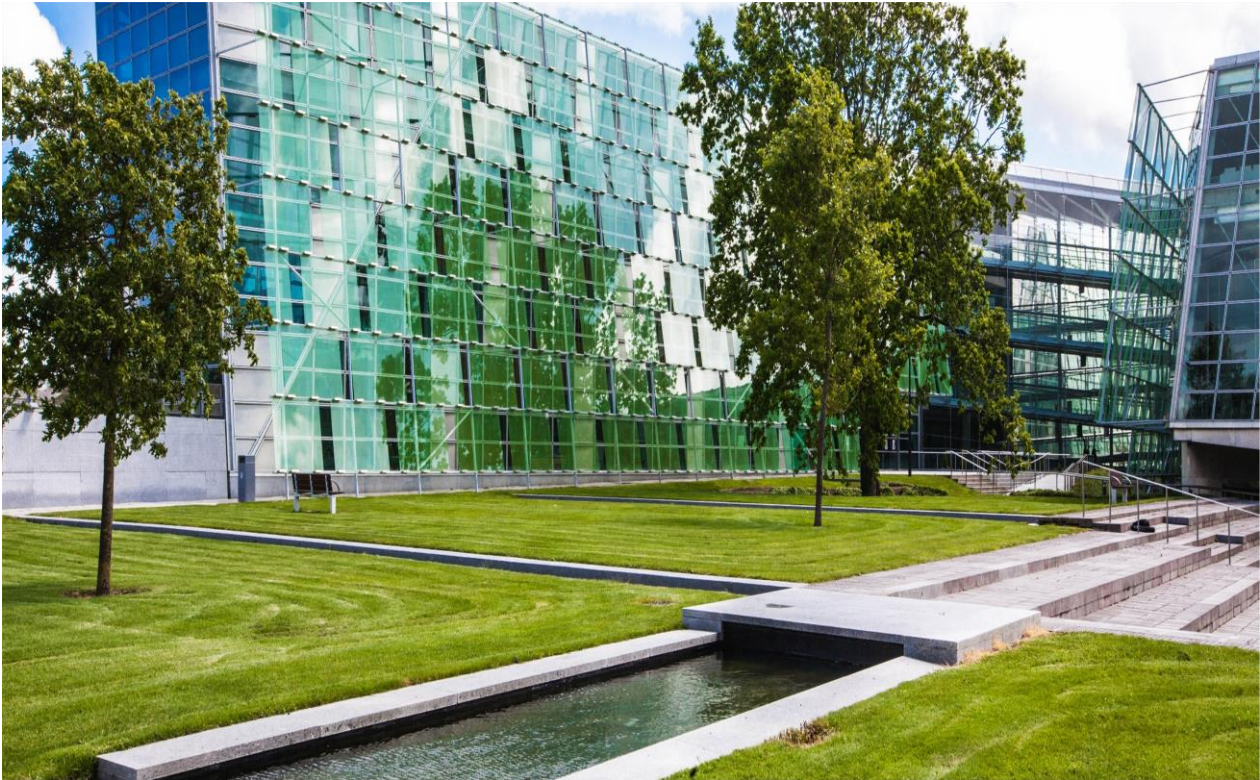




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – January 2023





News Items

Kildare County Council Publishes 2022 Gender Pay Gap Report

Kildare County Council published the Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022 which showed a Gender Pay Gap (see page 8).

Formation of the Electoral Commission under the Electoral Reform Act 2022

The Government is in the process of forming the seven-person Electoral Commission as set out in the Act (see page 8).

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 (the Act)

Kildare County Council has engaged translation services of a provider from the Office of Government Procurement Translation Services Framework (see page 9).

Alcohol Bye Laws

Bye Law Signage regarding the prohibitions around consumption of alcohol in public places has been erected across municipal districts (see page 10).

Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Amendment Act 2022 came into force on 01 January 2023 (see page 11).

Housing Assessments

The Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022 came into operation on 01 January 2023 (see page 12).

Local Authority Home Loan – Mortgage Protection

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) has appointed New Ireland as the new underwriter of the Scheme from 01 January 2023 (see page 14).

Housing Allocations

In 2022 494 social and 328 AHB units were allocated. This is an overall total of 822 units for the entire year of 2022 (see page 14).



IBAL Survey

Naas has again topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their most recent survey (see page 31).

Kildare County Council Launches – New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative

The Cathaoirleach of the county of Kildare, Councillor Fintan Brett, launched a new anti-dog fouling initiative in Rathmore National School (see page 34).

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Construction of the scheme has commenced. A construction period of 18 months is programmed for the works (see page 49).

Library and Arts Service – Membership Drive

Kildare Libraries will undertake a major membership drive in 2023 (see page 59).



Diary/Calendar

Ethics Declarations

Declarations must be completed and returned to the Ethics Officer by 28th February 2023 (see page 10).

Political Donation Statements 2022

The legislation requires that completed forms must be returned by the 31 January 2023 (see page 10).

Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029

The new CDP will now come into effect on 28 January 2023 (see page 23).

Kildare Town Plan

A briefing session with the Kildare Newbridge Elected Members is planned for the 17 February in advance of the publication of the draft plan (see page 23).

Heritage and Conservation

A number of Heritage and Conservation funds, grant schemes and programmes will be closing in January and February (see pages 26 and 27).

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 30).

Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023 (see page 35).

Community Grants Scheme 2023

The 2023 community, festival and residents' associations grants are being advertised with a closing date for applications of Friday 10 March (see page 55).

Local Community Development Committee

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for Wednesday 25 January 2023 (see page 57).



Kildare Fáilte – Royal Canal Greenway

Fáilte Ireland will host an event on 31 January for partners, businesses and tourism stakeholders to identify ways to develop relationships with providers (see page 57).

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The library will be open to the public in early Summer 2023 (see page 60).



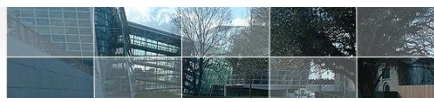
February Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>30 Jan</p> <p>14:00 Housing Maintenance Presentation Full Council</p> <p>15:00 Full Council</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 Feb</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30 Local Community And Culture SPC</p> <p>14:30 Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC 2.00</p>	<p>3</p> <p>09:00 Clane Maynooth JPC</p> <p>10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>08:00 Climate Action SPC 10.00 am</p> <p>14:00 Environmental Services & Water SPC 2.30</p>	<p>9</p> <p>14:30 Housing SPC</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>14:30 JPC Naas MD</p> <p>15:30 Naas MD</p>	<p>15</p> <p>09:00 JPC Kildare Newbridge</p> <p>10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>09:00 JPC Celbridge Leixlip</p> <p>10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting</p>
<p>20</p> <p>09:00 Athy JPC</p> <p>10:00 Athy MD</p> <p>14:30 CPG</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>27</p> <p>14:00 Communication Team Briefing Full Council</p> <p>15:00 Full Council</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1 Mar</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting</p>



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Corporate Services

Communications



Kildare County Council Publishes 2022 Gender Pay Gap Report

Kildare County Council published the Gender Pay Gap Report for 2022 which showed a Gender Pay Gap of -0.07% Mean and -7.23% Median. Publishing the gender pay gap data helps the council to reinforce its focus on supporting an open and inclusive workplace at Kildare County Council.

Formation of the Electoral Commission under the Electoral Reform Act 2022 (the Act)

The Government are in the process of forming the seven person Electoral Commission as set out in the Act, following an [announcement in December 2022](#) of the approval of the four ordinary members nominated. When established the Commission will have nine key functions:

- Explaining information for referenda and to promote participation in referenda.

- Reviewing Dail and European constituencies and report to the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee
- Reviewing local electoral boundaries and to report to the Minister
- 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 the dissemination or publication of online disinformation, online 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. The way we register to vote has changed and we are asking everyone to take a couple of minutes to visit [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie) to confirm their details or add/edit their registration. Checking, updating, or registering has never been easier.

There are helpful FAQs on the site - www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/faqs

The main statutory changes since October 2022 are:

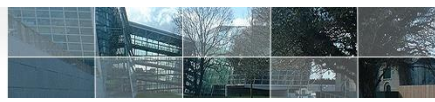
- A move from fixed periods for updating details to rolling updates: previously people could only update their details in November or via the supplement which required a visit to a Garda station but now the continuous or rolling registration will allow updates or additions at any time of year.
- Streamlining of the application process through use of PPSNs: The use of PPSNs enables a simple identity data cross-check to protect and improve the integrity of the register, while streamlining the process for electors. This means that most

people will not have to visit a Garda station to have their forms witnessed.

- Registering to vote for the first time is now possible online: PPSNs also enable online applications - for the first-time people can register to vote or update their details online at any time.
- 16 and 17 year olds are able to pre-register to vote: The introduction of a pending electors list enables those 16 and 17 to pre-register and be automatically added to the register from when they turn 18.
- New provisions make the register more accessible to all: The new process includes measures to facilitate electors whose safety might be at risk if their address details were to be published on the register and those who have no address.

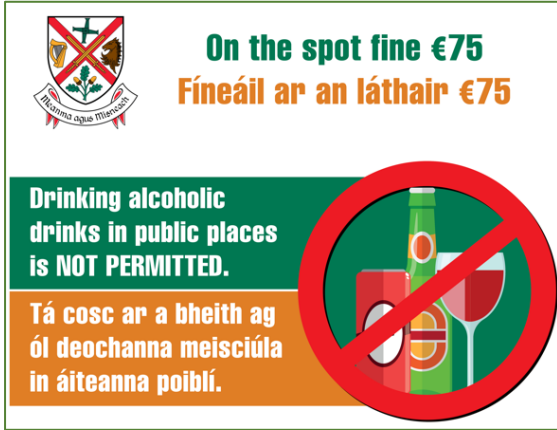
Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 (the Act)

Kildare County Council has engaged translation services of a provider from the Office of Government Procurement Translation Services Framework to assist in meeting requirements related to use of the Irish Language in



advertising by the council, as set out [under Section 10A of the Act](#), which commenced in October 2022.

Alcohol Bye Laws



The erection of Bye Law signage regarding the prohibitions around consumption of alcohol in public places is nearing completion across all five municipal districts following engagement with An Garda Síochána and Municipal District Engineers. Details of the bye laws are [available online](#).

FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2022	Total received Quarter 2, 2022	Total received Quarter 3, 2022	Total received Quarter 4, 2022	Total 2022
Freedom of Information requests	40	38	42	30	150
Freedom of Information appeals	2	1	3	2	8

Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	1	1
Data Access Requests	15	14	7	10	46
Ombudsman	7	0	10	7	24

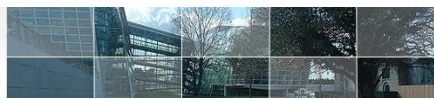
Members Services

Annual Ethics Declarations

On 04 January 2023, the Ethics Registrar (Paula Comerford) 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 blank 2023 declaration forms were attached to the notice.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that Councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors and that they understand its meaning, and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in the exercise of their functions.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2023.



Political Donation Statements 2022

Under Local Elections (Disclosure of Donation and Expenditure) Act 1999 elected members are required to submit statements of any Political Donations received in the previous calendar year. On the 19 December Political Donation Statements for 2022 were issued to Elected members for completion.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be returned by the 31 January 2023.

Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Act has been amended by the [Protected Disclosures \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#).

The new legislation came into force on 01 January 2023.

The new legislation imposes new requirements on employers in both the public and private sectors and for prescribed persons.

The scope of the act has been widened to include board members (this includes Councillors), shareholders, job applicants and volunteers.

The Minister has issued interim guidance for public bodies and prescribed persons. Updated policies for the local authority sector are being

prepared and will be made available as soon as possible.

Christine O’Grady SEO Corporate Services is the Designated Officer for receipt of protected disclosures 045-980721. The internal channel email for workers to make disclosures to is cogrady@kildarecoco.ie

Protecteddisclosures@kildarecoco.ie is the email address for the external channel for the making of protected disclosures to the Prescribed Person. The Chief Executive is the prescribed person in each local authority. The Designated Officer will also handle disclosures made on the external channel.

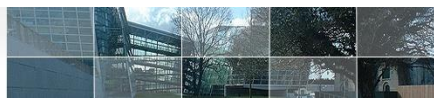
Council Chamber AV upgrade

It is planned to have the RFT for the Chamber AV project up on eTenders next week. Once the RFT is on eTenders, under procurement rules we will need to wait six weeks before making a final decision. It is hoped to have a preferred vendor selected by the beginning of March.

Finance and Information Technology

Finance

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2022 is currently being prepared.



Housing

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations increased by 10% in 2022 when compared with the previous year.

There has been a recent increase in the number of Family Reunification Cases resulting in increased family placements in emergency accommodation. The National Homeless Leads have been asked to link-in with the Department of Justice to investigate the protocol for such presentations.

The Homeless Team arranged for the purchase, collection of, packaging and delivery of Christmas gifts for vulnerable families in Emergency Accommodation. The team also ensured that all individuals and families in Emergency Accommodation were accommodated for Christmas dinner and referrals were made to the appropriate charity should any issue arise in relation to this.

The Out-of-Hours Free Phone service provided by The Peter McVerry Trust on behalf of Kildare County Council was in operation throughout the Christmas and New Year period and provided accommodation and supports where required.

Tenancy Sustainment

There are currently 89 active cases and one successful discharge from support in December. In December the Sustainment Team also carried out checks on emergency facilities including Bed and Breakfasts, Hotels and transitional accommodation.

Homeless Outreach

The five municipal districts were covered in the month of December by the outreach team, with a rough sleeper count of 10 verified. Offers of support and engagement with services were carried out for these cases. A clinic was held in Cuan Mhuire and 15 new engagements were made and a clinic was held in the Newbridge Resource Centre with two new engagements established. Two Housing First tenancies were created and a shared transitional unit in Naas is operational and fully occupied with three adult females in occupation.

Housing Assessments

The Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2022, which came into operation on 01 January 2023, increase the base income threshold for Social Housing Support for Kildare County Council.



All applications currently being assessed and those that were on hand on the announcement of the introduction of these regulations, are being assessed having regard to the new income threshold. Further to Income Eligibility Guidelines issued by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the 08 December 2022, a review is also taking place of households removed from the housing list on income grounds in the period 18 November 2022 to 31 December 2022. On initial assessment, it appears the number

that falls into this category is small. These families will be contacted without delay in order that they can re-apply to determine if they will qualify under the new income thresholds. If this is the case in accordance with the guidelines these households will be re-instated to their original qualification date. It is anticipated that nationally an additional 16,000 households will qualify for social housing. A national working group has been established to review income thresholds.

Details of the Income Thresholds are contained in the table below:

Income Bands - 2023 Kildare County Council					
1 Adult	40,000				
1 Adult Child	2,000				
1 Child (Max 4)	1,000				
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	<u>3 Children</u>	4 Children
1 Adult	40,000	41,000	42,000	43,000	44,000
2 Adults	42,000	43,000	44,000	45,000	46,000
3 Adults	44,000	45,000	46,000	47,000	48,000

Ukraine

The National Call for Unoccupied Homes commenced on 24 November 2022. To date 15 offers have been received in the county. All assessed,

with two offers not suitable, one offer withdrawn, two offers allocated.

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.

The Serviced Accommodation Contribution Policy is now in effect and will commence with the renewal of the contracts currently in place with DCEDIY. The contribution towards meals will be €10 per adult and €5 per child per day. The policy is not in operation in Liffey Lodge, occupants provide their own meals.

Kildare County Council continues to process the shared pledges, 566 pledges received, 340 withdrawn, 92 allocated, remaining pledges require remedial works or were uncontactable.

Local Authority Home Loan – Mortgage Protection

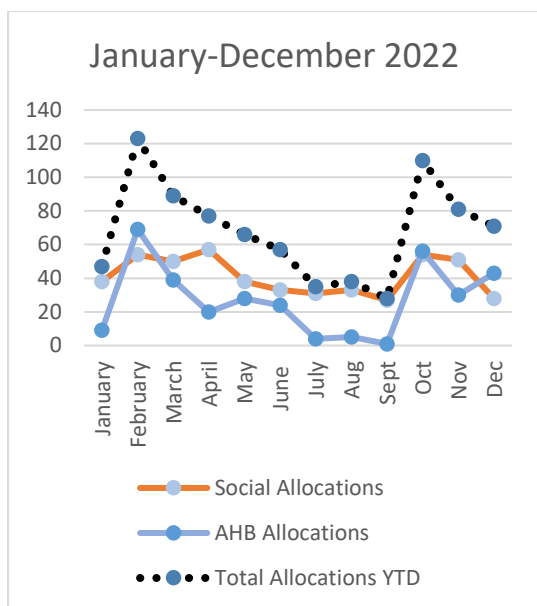
The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) carried out a public procurement competition for the provision and administration of the Mortgage Protection Insurance Scheme. Following this, the LGMA has appointed New Ireland as the new underwriter of the Scheme from 01 January 2023. This will result in a significant reduction in costs for borrowers. The Scheme will provide

Life Cover only (0.182%) for new Local Authority MPI applicants. Existing borrowers and the rental portion of Shared Ownership who currently have life and disability cover will have a new premium of 0.3382% (previously 0.5348%) as of 01 January 2023, for this level of cover.

Housing Allocations

In 2022 494 social and 328 AHB units were allocated. This is an overall total of 822 units for the entire year of 2022. There were 790 units allocated during 2021.

During December, we allocated 28 social and 43 AHB properties. A pre-Tenancy group induction/ training session took place with the new tenants of Hemmingway Park in December and the tenants met with staff from Housing, Finance, Community, Environment and the Fire Service. Allocations continued for 30, 3-bed units in Riverside, Kilcullen during December 2022.



Housing Acquisitions

Local Authorities have been given approval to continue to purchase properties, in limited circumstances such as where a tenant is at risk of homelessness, up to the end of June 2023.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Successful contractor identified. Anticipated commencement on site mid Q1 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. Observation period completed 16 December 2022.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala during Q1 2023.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Awaiting Design Team insurance clearance. Appointment of consultants to follow.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Part 8 was approved in full by Naas MD on 11 October 2022. Stage 3 funding application to be submitted to DHLGH.



Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Part 8 launched on 21 November 2022; Observation period completed on 10 January 2022.
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.
Andrew, 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
Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition. Final decision from DHLGH on inclusion in design competition pending.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 launched 27 September 2022. Housing report issued to Planning.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 launched 15 October 2022. Housing report issued to Planning.
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
Andrew, 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 January 2023 and will commence design engagement thereafter.



Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 social units/40 affordable	Design team being appointed in January 2023 and will commence design engagement thereafter.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Confirmation that this site is provisionally on the list for Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 6 received 22 December 2022. Awaiting confirmation and commencing design brief
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Confirmation that this site is provisionally on the list for Social Housing PPP Programme Bundle 6 received 22 December 2022. Awaiting confirmation and commencing design brief

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	The completion date was extended due to the requirement to re-route and re-lay services. Phase 1 to deliver in Q1, phase 2 to deliver in Q2.
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 & 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by KCC.

Homeless Presentations

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



Quarter 2, 2022	312	113	199
Quarter 3, 2022	338	134	204
Quarter 4, 2022	411	167	244
Total, 2022	1357	506	851

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2021	Adults	Dependents
Total	363	310
2022	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1, 2022	99	81
Quarter 2, 2022	133	83
Quarter 3, 2022	164	125
Quarter 4, 2022	199	149
Total, 2022	595	438

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	29	49	46
6 - 12 Months	12	18	14
12 - 18 Months	4	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	1	1
24 - 30 Months	2	2	0
36 Months +	5	9	7
	53	86	71



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as 31 December

2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	6	10	11
6 - 12 Months	4	5	8
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
Total	13	19	23

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86
Total complete	379	187	110	209

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	21	74	33	56	23
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	21	64	18	75	83



Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022
Total Approved	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,386,045 (from 2021 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€2,172,000 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)

Local Authority Home Loan (Launched 2022)

2022	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Q1	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Q2	12	€2,304,039	0	0	0	0
Q3	10	€2,326,607	0	0	0	0
Q4	6	€1,310,000	3	€611,550	6	€1,256,375

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
2021	390	332	16	16	347	269
2022- Q1	59	72	3	5	83	144
2022- Q2	78	43	0	0	89	86
2022- Q3	110	60	0	0	107	40
2022- Q4	62	66	4	3	83	108
Total 2022	309	241	7	8	362	378

Social Housing Assessments

2021	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	81	79	646	6	151
2022	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals



Q1 2022	(14) 24	(16) 18	(88) 283	(2) 1	(38) 47
Q2 2022	(23) 24	(10) 17	(112) 246	(1) 2	(76) 58
Q3 2022	(54) 57	(2) 7	(86) 92	(0) 1	(94) 76
Q4 2022	52	0	21	3	105
Total 2022	157	42	642	7	286

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2021	90	66	8,185	6,623
Q1, 2022	27	16	2,395	1,782
Q2, 2022	41	10	1,846	1,763
Q3, 2022	38	13	2,169	1,974
Q4, 2022	21	6	2,951	2,756
Total	127	45	9,361	8,275

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme		No. of Units	Updated Status
MEERP and 2021 EERP		175 (To confirm number of vacants completed)	EERP and MERP: Payments have now been received for the majority of the works under MEERP and EERP with final claims to be concluded and the council are assessing the performance of all units installed to date.
2022 EERP	EERP	69	2022 EERP: Works substantially complete to Ballyroe. Works ongoing to Lacken View. A number of residents from Ballyroe and Lacken View withdrew from the works. Works to commence this week to Ottomy Clane.

Differential Rents Scheme - Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA HAP Review
2021 Total	1077	510	498



2022 Q1	299	74	132
2022 Q2	275	103	106
2022 Q3	271	80	92
2022 Q4	491	77	149
2022 Total	1336	334	479

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

An increase in discretionary flexibility available in respect of the HAP rent limits (Circular 29/2022) was implemented in July 2022. These changes have benefited both existing and new recipients.

2021	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Total	604	120	434
2022	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
Q1, 2022	89	19	85
Q2, 2022	117	42	92
Q3, 2022	89	16	59
Q4, 2022	88	21	88
Total	383	98	324

Tenant Purchase Scheme

2021	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
Total	40	7	20
2022	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
Quarter 1	5	1	0
Quarter 2	10	0	3
Quarter 3	9	0	2
Quarter 4	0	0	1
Total	24	1	6



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan were placed on public display between 28 September and 27 October 2022 during which time 266 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's Report was subsequently prepared which summarised all issues raised and included a response and recommendation from the Chief Executive in relation to same. The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the Elected Members on 14 November for their consideration. Motions from the Elected Members were subsequently invited.

At a Special Meeting of the Elected Members on 09 December 2022, the County Kildare Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP) was made, having regard to all submissions and motions

received. The new CDP will now come into effect on 28 January 2023.

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

Preparation of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 is underway, with accompanying environmental and infrastructural assessments being completed. A briefing session with the Kildare Newbridge Elected Members is planned for the 17 February in advance of the publication of the draft plan later in Quarter 1 2023.

Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan

A 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 Planning 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	
Dec	Year	No.	December	
2020:	165	1,615	4,341	Total Granted: 59
2021:	151	1,839	1,277	Further information requested: 54
2022:	109	1,540	995	Total Refused: 20

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 Chief

Executive reports for these outstanding applications have been finalised, Kildare County Council will have completed its responsibilities



under the 2016 Act save for compliance conditions. All new applications for greater than 100 residential units or 200 student bed spaces will be dealt with through the LRD procedures.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in

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

Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/01	20/05/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	11/07/2022
2022/02	01/07/22	Westar	Finlay Park, Caragh Rd, Naas	148	23/08/2022
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

1. Planning

Planning Applications / Conditions referrals total 2022: 364
Forward Planning: Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare Town, Newbridge to commence this year.
Part 8: Heritage Officer inputs in service department's part 8 detail.

2. 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.

3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans Mentoring Programme

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

4. MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme

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

5. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Proposed to have meeting in quarter 1 2023.

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

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.

7. Community Monuments Fund 2023

Closing date for applications to the council is 31 January 2023.



8. Heritage Plan Fund 2023

Closing date for applications is 23 January 2023.

9. Creative Ireland (€10,000)

Oral recording training. Funding was secured in December 2023 for the second round of oral recording training. Will commence in Spring 2023.

Conservation

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 /

Section 57:

2022:

Planning referrals / conditions: 140

Section 57: 4

Section 5: 4

LRD's: 3

Part 8's: Architectural Conservation Officer inputs in service department's part 8 detail.

Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions, RPS review (Monasterevin, Newbridge)

2. Built Heritage investment Scheme

(BHIS): – 2022 15 grants awarded €126,400

BHIS scheme complete. Eight grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €72,328.00.

2023 BHIS allocation €126,400, applications due to department 10 February 2023

2023 BHIS Thatched Structures allocation €13,334, applications due to department 10 February 2023.

3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) : -

2022 two grants awarded HSF scheme complete. Two grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €100,000.

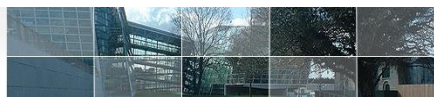
2023 HSF applications due to department 10 February 2023.

4. Thatched Cottage Grant:

2023 thatching grant

5. 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.



Deadline for Historic Towns Initiative February 2023.

6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme

(The Heritage Council):

In 2022 a review of the RPS commenced under the Heritage Stewardship scheme. c.150 structures reviewed and recorded. 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 Casteldermot.

7. Town Renewal Masterplan:

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

8. Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.

Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn.

9. Infrastructure projects:

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

**Strategic Projects and Public Realm
Kildare-Newbridge Municipal
District**

1. Newbridge Cultural Quarter –

Phase 1 County Library & Archive

Part 8 was presented to the Municipal District on 21 September 2022. Final details to Part 8 being resolved re agreement with neighbour and design details with Sustainable Transport team. Feasibility Study completed for the New Sustainability and Climate Action Centre – final edits issued to the design team to incorporate into the final draft.

2. St Brigid's Well – Drainage works

have been completed by the Parks Department and grass matting placed – site is still very wet. Temporary grid will be provided for St Brigids Day. Five benches on order, railings at bridge to entrance to be installed. Yellow Box lining and signage to prevent blocking of adjoining residences to be provided in the coming week. Interpretation signage on order for entrance. Hazel Tree to be planted.

3. Kildare Square – Phase 1 – Stage

1 design and consultation completed. Final Design details to



be worked out having regard to access requirements for local businesses/residents. Meeting to take place with Cathedral reps. Meeting with Failte Ireland took place to update on project progress and another meeting is scheduled for Quarter 1 2023.

4. Kildare Square – Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. Kildare County Council Agent meeting with the owners of the two bungalows took place – deal expected to be possible.
5. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen – TII have agreed to fund. Detailed design underway topographical surveys complete, ground investigation works to commence in February. Phase 2 will be delivered in three sections, with first section expected to commence Quarter 2 2023
6. Rathangan Market Square – Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but

no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.

7. Kilcullen Market Square – Part 8 Approved but no funding secured yet to advance.
8. Curragh Plains Strategy –Final Draft for review

Athy Municipal District

1. Barrow Blueway – Unbound surface to be complete end Feb 2023. 4 responses received to Road Crossing tender from competent contractors, assessment of submissions under way. The contract is expected to be awarded in early February, and subject to there being no legal challenge, work should commence in March. Placemaking Plan received and under review.
2. Emily Square – Tender documents in progress,
3. Shackleton Museum – Stage 1 of 2 stage tender process advertised on etenders, closing date 17 February 2023



Celbridge–Leixlip Municipal District

1. Wonderful Barn – open day consultation took place on Sunday 13 November. Estimated over 500 people attended. Feedback from consultation currently being collated. Business Case to be prepared.
2. Celbridge Parochial House – TBD.
3. Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans – Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Design team fees being agreed for inclusion of additional items to original tender brief.

Clane–Maynooth Municipal District:

1. Bawnoques Community Centre – Fully funded by Kildare County Council; was due for completion in October 2022 but will run into Quarter 1 2023.
2. Harbourfield – Part 8 approved, but funding shortfall to be addressed, in next round of URDF applications.
3. URDF Town Renewal Masterplan for Maynooth: Business Case completed and to be issued to Housing URDF

Naas Municipal District

1. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: From Aylmer Bridge to Sallins Contractor commenced on site October 2022. 12-month contract to complete. TII have committed to funding the scheme based on the tender return/€6m.

Water Services

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Waters Councillor Clinics are held online quarterly at 11:00 a.m. for approx. one hour on dates specified. The 2023 schedule of clinics is as follows

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

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

IBAL Survey

Naas has again topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their most recent survey.

Maynooth also performed strongly, coming in tied second with Kilkenny, its best ever result.

An Taisce, who conduct the surveys on behalf of IBAL, described the main

street of Naas as 'exceptionally well presented and maintained' and praised the town for attaining 'a level of cleanliness and presentation that should inspire local authorities across the country'.



Mayor of Naas Municipal District Councillor Evie Sammon is presented with the trophy by Conor Horgan from IBAL, after Naas town was named first place in the IBAL (Irish Business against Litter) rankings for the last year.

Councillor Evie Sammon, Mayor of the Naas Municipal District welcomed the announcement saying: "It's a wonderful start to the New Year for Naas, and to retain the title again is fantastic. We're very proud of our Main Street in Naas and to have it acknowledged as "exceptionally well presented and maintained" is a great honour."

"This award is all down to the work of Naas Tidy Towns volunteers who are out picking litter and cleaning the streets from dawn until dusk every day. It's also an acknowledgment of



volunteerism and of the cooperation between Naas Tidy Towns and Kildare County Council, in particular the Environment and District Engineer Departments of the council.”



The national IBAL litter survey showed cleanliness improvement levels of 6% nationwide, with three quarters of the 40 cities and towns surveyed being deemed clean, compared to just over half this time last year.

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council awaits 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 (NWCPO) 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.

Christmas Recycling and Waste Management

Arrangements were put in place during December to provide eight sites across the county to accept Christmas trees from the public for recycling. Sites have been advertised extensively for this popular scheme.

Recycling sites - discussions were had with the contractor to ensure all the glass and can recycling bank sites would be serviced adequately. Environment staff also increased

cleaning of sites and this arrangement is working well.

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 arising 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



Thursday 01 December, The Cathaoirleach of the county of Kildare, Councillor Fintan Brett, launched a new anti-dog fouling initiative in Rathmore National School. Following a schools poster competition run by Kildare County Council encouraging pupils in every Kildare primary school to design a new sign reminding dog owners to clean up after their pet. The winning entry was designed by a fourth-class pupil in Rathmore National School, Cian Browne. The winning design has now been turned into signs that are made available to community groups to install at key locations to raise awareness at local level. The council is keen to encourage dog owners to take positive action, the idea is to promote responsible dog ownership and encourage them 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 we 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 closed 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

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/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, Monasterial, 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 risk management gatekeepers, relating to all Depts, is scheduled to take place shortly in order to scope all issues relating to the review of the 2023 Departmental risk registers.



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 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme, with a total of 13,561 (78%) having completed the programme. The programme is undergoing review and updating, with re-launch for new entrants and refresher training planned for Quarter 1 2023.



Thematic Training

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



Opportunities and Roads
Infrastructure.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with 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 targets 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 be 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 bureaux 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 Southeast 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 1 saw completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Stage 2 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 Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (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 1 of the Green Club Programme is now complete with toolkits almost finalised. Phase 2 will commence at the beginning of 2023, with applications for an additional 70 clubs anticipated.

The programme successfully secured €100k funding through Strand 2 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 has also committed funding for phases 2 and 3 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)

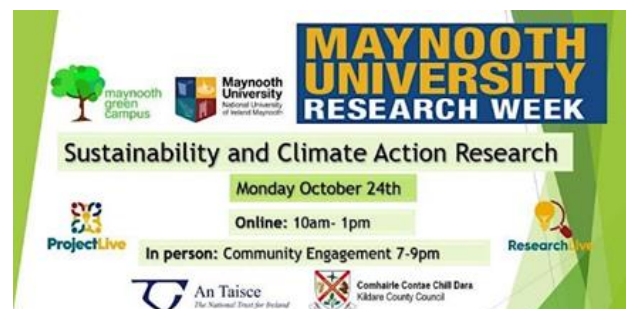
The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 was issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the 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 2021. 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.

Climate Action Energy Management Team

The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 09

November on-line facilitating those both working from home and in the office settings.

New members were made welcome and the team introductions made.

Updates on actions were provided by all. Conor Leahy of CODEMA gave an outline of the concept and purpose of the Energy unit for Meath, Wicklow and Kildare LA's. The upcoming roles for the Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer were discussed.

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 third meeting was held in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town on 15 October. 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; this is a welcome development which gives direction for Local Authorities as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently has 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 in 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

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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

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

Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

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

The Climate Hub

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

Climate Response Ireland

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

The Climate Innovation Fund is reissuing a second call for projects for Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas and



Clane-Maynooth. See below for details.



Climate Innovation Fund – Second Round

The 2022 Climate Innovation Fund was launched earlier in the year and has already allocated funding to a number of projects across the county. The second call was launched earlier in August at the Information and Community Networking Night hosted by the Climate Action Office in Naas Library. The aim of the fund is to foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. The remaining Climate Innovation 2022 funding is available through the Municipal Districts as follows Athy Municipal District (€25,000), Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District (€25,000), Naas Municipal District (€25,000), and Clane-Maynooth Municipal District (€18,400). Closing date for application submissions was Sunday 11 September at 23:59 p.m.

Despite many potential projects being developed none met the criteria set. The fund is still at the embedding stage and will be further examined with a view to developing the research and developed potential with other stakeholders.

Forestry

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

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. 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 currently on its third issue in 2022 and is circulated to all council staff, councilors as well as being made available to the public via the Climate Action Office's [website](#).

Intranet Portal

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

SharePoint



Climate & Energy

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.

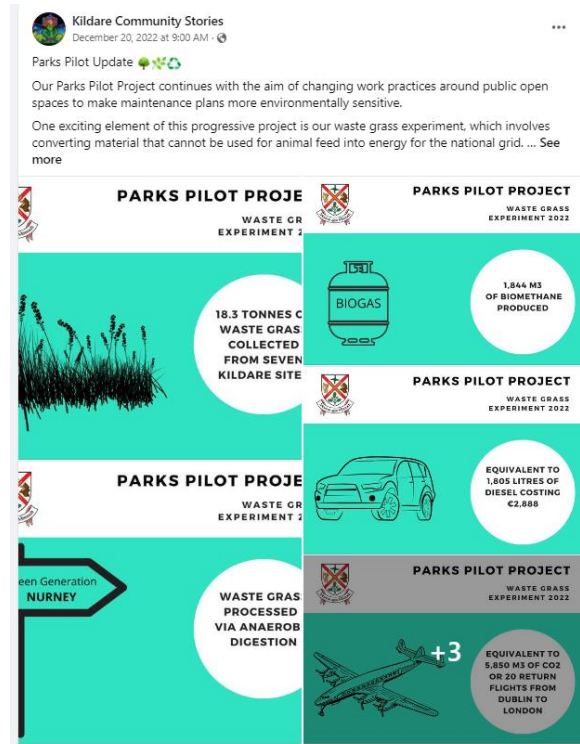
10 Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future. Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments 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. A presentation was given in late October to Teagasc students on the initial Entomology qualitative data.

The Climate Action Office present on the Grass 2 Gas project at 'Climate Action within an Evolving Economic Context Local Authorities Building Resilience and Nurturing Opportunities' held in Kilkenny Castle on 15 November and organized by Co-operation Ireland.

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 into biogas. 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 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme is moving through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.



Athy Distributor Road

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

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Construction is ongoing on site.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The team are currently working through the CPO processes.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage.

Junction Programme

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

Sustainable Transport Section



Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Detailed design stage being completed.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Construction of the scheme has commenced. A construction period of 18 months is programmed for the works. An upgrade to the works including a link to the Fingal County boundary is being designed at present.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Part 8 Chief Executive Report approved by municipal district elected members in December 2022.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Detailed design continuing.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Preliminary design continuing.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Design of permanent scheme progressing.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Detailed design continuing.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Preliminary design continuing.



**Kilcock Road Cycle Route,
Maynooth**

Preliminary design continuing.

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

Detailed design commenced.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Contractor appointed and construction starting in January 2023.

Celbridge Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge

Detailed design commenced.

**Athy College Campus to Southern
Distributor Road Cycle Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Monread Road (Naas) Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Detailed design stage continuing.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

Pilot schemes being installed in Quarter 1 2023.

**Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle
Scheme**

Project on hold.

Monasterevin Cycle Network

Preliminary design continuing.

**Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle
Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Newbridge Main Street & Station
Road Cycle Scheme**

Preliminary design continuing.

**Cycle Safety Infrastructure at
Signalised Junctions**

Construction continuing.

**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.

Month of December was exceptionally cold – 36 Salting runs over 19 days.

Kildare County Council drew down Department of Transport grant to value €14.7 million i.e. 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.

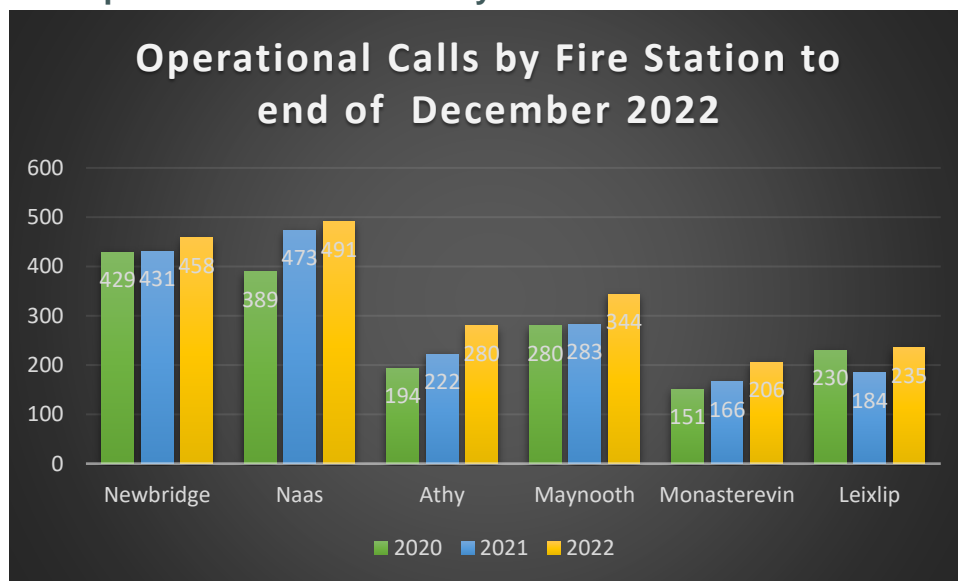
All proposed work sites to be surveyed and uploaded to MapRoad PMS for 2023.

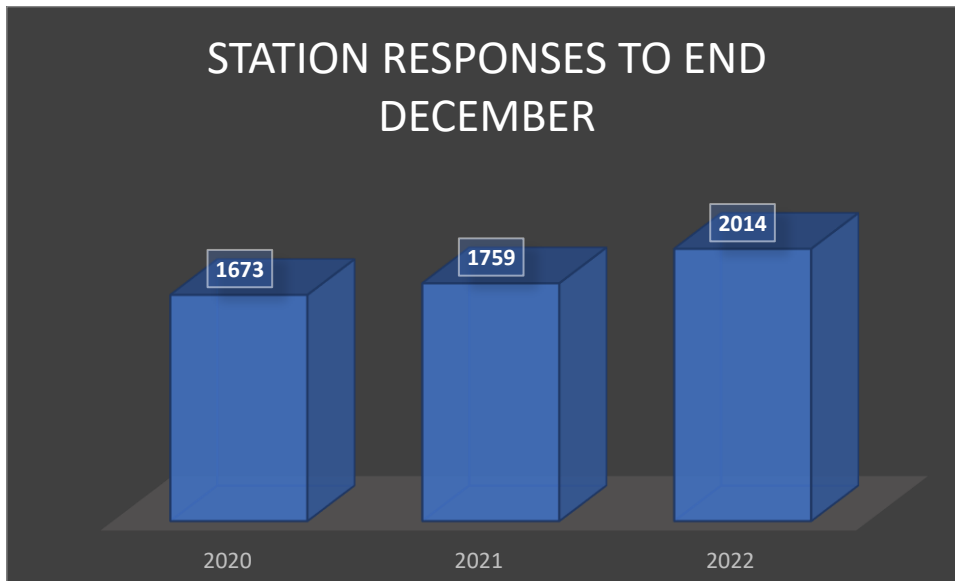
Surveys already carried out in 2022 and currently ongoing for PSCI values on Local Road network – will be reflected in Kildare County Council NOAC parameters going forward.

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)

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

Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

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

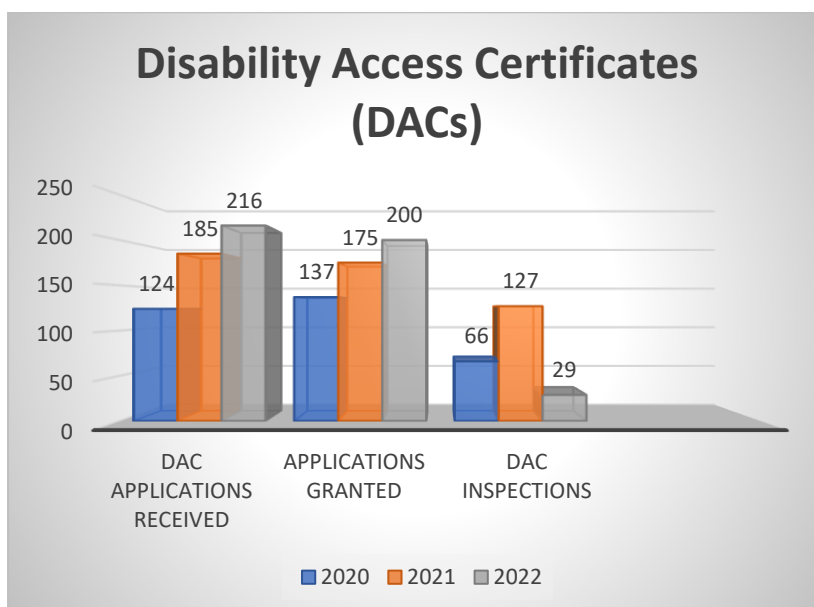
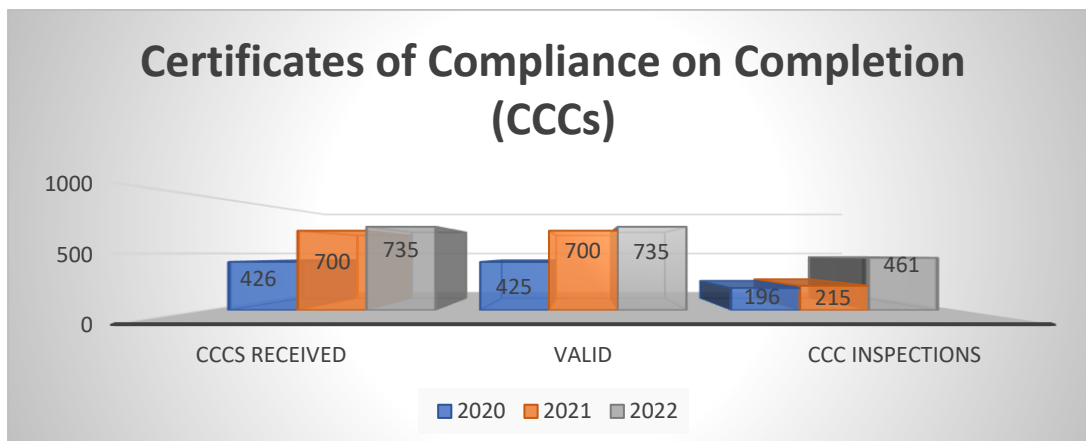
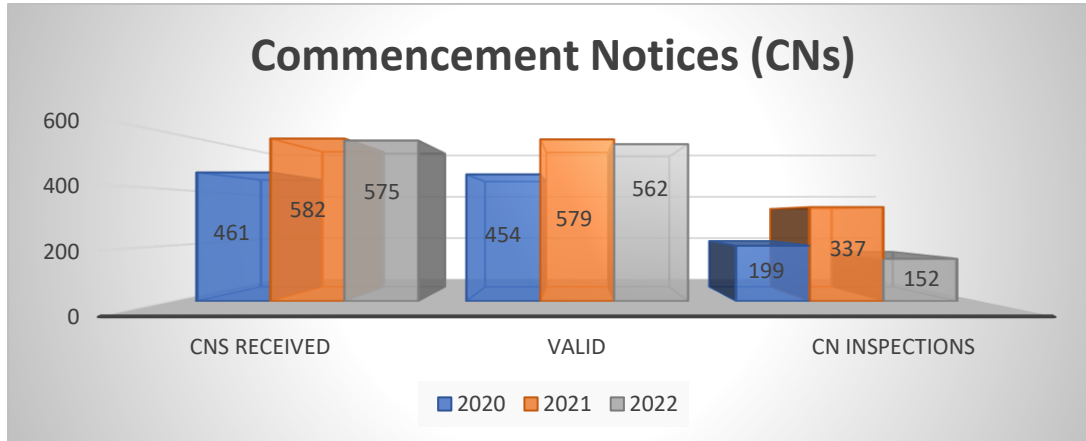




Building and Development Control

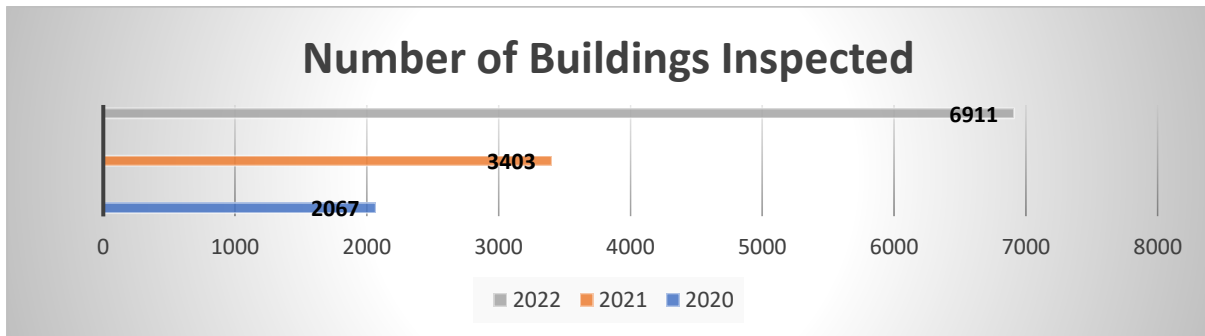
The following figures are cumulative up to end of December 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL

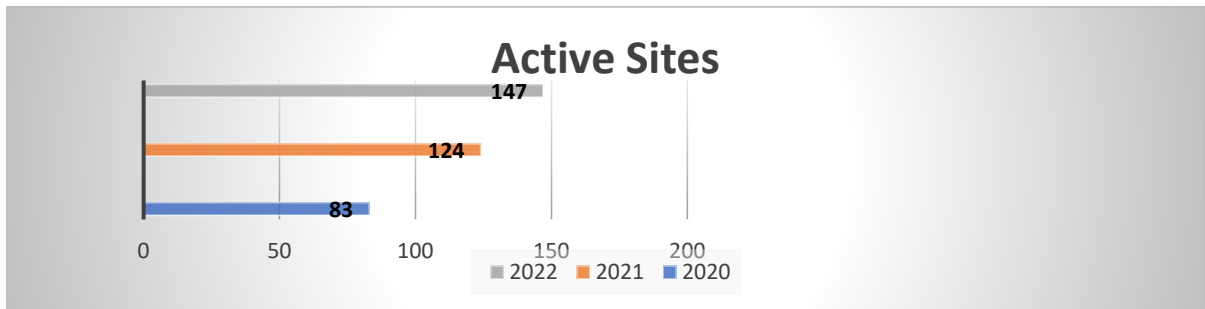




2022 was the busiest year for DAC applications since their going live on the Building Control Management System. All applications were dealt with within the statutory timelines



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



In 2022, twenty-four estates were taken in charge across the county.

outstanding bonds on a number of estates.

There are 84 estates where requests to take in charge have been submitted, 15 of which were received in 2022.

Regarding the departure of KBC and Ulster Bank from the Irish market, KBC has not provided any bonds for developments in County Kildare.

Ulster Bank is engaging positively with Development Control and has confirmed that they will pay out the



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded in 2022.

All Grants 2022			
Type	No.	Amount	
Community Grants	161	€286,047	
Festival Grants	65	€77,287	
Private Residents' Associations Grants	276	€200,128	Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	64	€58,433	Incl LPT
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744	
Community Activities Rd 2	51	€76,282	
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	173	€820,259	
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	90	€184,823	
Education Bursaries	45	€35,000	
Total	978	€1,958,003	

2023 grants schemes

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

Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 30 November 2022 in the Merits building with a special Local Action Group meeting held on 09 December held on TEAMS.

Ukrainian Community Response Forum

Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2023 of €170,973 to respond to the Ukrainian crisis. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are presenting the plan on how to utilise this funding at the upcoming LCDC meeting for approval.

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 will be presented to the LCDC for their approval at their upcoming meeting.

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

LEADER Programme

An expression was made by Kildare County Council with the LCDC as the Local Action Group and County Kildare LEADER Partnership as the Implementing Partner for the new LEADER Programme for 2023-2027. A response from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) is awaited.

The current LEADER budget is allocated, with projects having until 31 December 2023 to complete their work. A special meeting was held in December to award the final project of €13,665.75 to Monasterevin Development Association to carry out a strategic business plan for a Community Sports Hub.

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

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county in 2022. The submission date for HI Round 4 2023-2025 is 27 January 2023 with a budget of €75,000 for the year. The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator is working on this submission which will be presented to the LCDC at their next meeting for approval. Priorities in relation to mental health and physical activity are being proposed.

For further information contact Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: ph. 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 will lead on this programme and employ staff.

Local Economic and Community Plan

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

Community Support Fund

Kildare has recently been allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment and repairs. This will be advertised in late January 2023.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 January 2023.

Kildare Fáilte

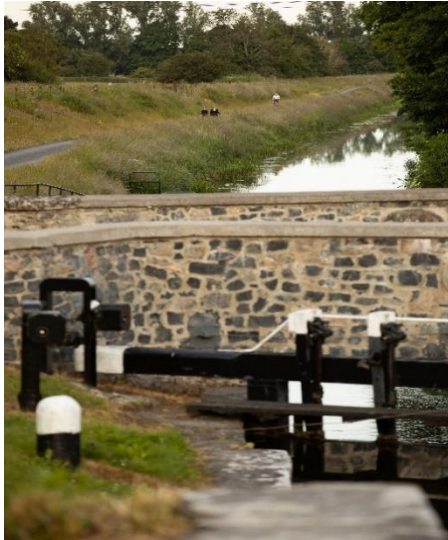
With a restriction free Christmas for the first time since the pandemic this was reflected in the wide variety of seasonal events and activities available for all. From Christmas Markets, exciting Santa experiences to festive dining and parties, Kildare Fáilte were delighted to support the tourism and hospitality industry over this busy period.



IntoKildare attended meeting with Waterways Ireland and the other local authorities in Mullingar on the best way to connect businesses and maximize their opportunity along the Royal Canal Greenway. Fáilte Ireland will host an event on the 31 January for industry partners, businesses and tourism stakeholders along its route to identify ways to develop relationships with other providers. IntoKildare supported communication of this through local



tourism and hospitality stakeholders, the council, LEO, Chamber of Commerce and network. A further Kildare cluster meeting to follow up is planned for March 2023.



Kildare Fáilte Board Meeting was hosted by the Silken Thomas to discuss budgets and plans for 2023.

St Brigid's Day and Brigid 1500 preparations are continuing. A number of KF Board members and the CE attended a St Brigid 1500 celebration lunch meeting in Leinster House hosted by the Ceann Comhairle. In partnership with Solas Bríde, plans for a Pause for Peace on 01 February at noon are being put in place for next month's launch. The Chief Executive met with The Embassy of Ireland, St Brides Church, Fleet St and Tourism

Ireland in London in preparation for events there to include the Irish Diaspora, business community and media on 01 February 2023.



Irish Embassy

Discussions on collaboration to promote Co. Kildare at the St Brigid events were positive and will be further explored.



St Brides Church Fleet St.

The audio guide for St Brigid's Trail is in progress with work on signage design and audio content continuing.



Other activities include planning of lighting up Kildare and promotion of St Brigid's Day in Kildare across all media platforms. On social media the communication continued to focus on the wide range of activities, events and offers for Christmas and the New Year taking place around the county.

Visitor engagement on all channels remains strong, with Into Kildare consistently in the top five search results for events and the top search result for many Christmas and New Year's activities such as Christmas markets and experiences. We are very satisfied users could use these channels to book or purchase an experience.

Library and Arts Service

The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the

wars in history. — Carl Thomas Rowan

Membership Drive

Kildare Libraries will undertake a major membership drive in 2023 to focus on pre-COVID membership levels and users of the library who may not be actual members.

Athy Library

Athy Community Library are pleased to welcome the new Ukrainian families to the Abbey hotel in town. Athy Community Library are liaising with the manager of the facility there and organising visits to the library. Athy Community Library is hoping to welcome some of the families to our regular Toddler time (every Friday morning in Athy Library) songs, stories and play for the very young and our regular Lego club on Saturday.

Kildare Library donned purple in support of our local KARE branch in Disability Week Kildare with a photo shoot including refreshments and introduction to our Sensory Pod.

Family Reader Services Time at Your Library



Right to Read is the national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy, in addition to local programming. Family Time at Your Library events take place in Kildare libraries every December to support a family-focused approach to reading with children and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. There were 43 events throughout the month of December and 668 participants.

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 early Summer 2023.

Small Capital Works

All permissions and agreements for the windows in Kildare Library have been finally signed off and work will start in late Spring.

Climate

Libraries were delighted to host some climate conscious events in time for Christmas

Low Waste, Low-Cost Christmas with Netanya, Unpacked, Kildare - Your local plastic-free food and home store
How can you have a festive and fulfilling winter while using natural decor, fabric wrapping and gift bags, second-hand gift suggestions, food and drink as well as giving freely of your precious time?

Libraries also hosted workshops on eco-Christmas card making with Mary Gibson.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

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

New Clane Library

The project will be submitted for Part 8 Planning at the end of January.



Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

- Archival, local history & genealogical queries.
- County Archives has added two autograph books from the Curragh Internment Camps to its [online archives](#) service. Listing & digitising of archival material; Data Governance & Records Management Steering Group & Open Data Team.
- Historical articles for The Pulse.
- eHistory Journal updated weekly.
- Working with local history groups/schools.

Decade of Commemorations

- Developing programme and planning events/publications for 2023.
- Administration of programme.
- Over 250 people braved the icy cold and fog on 12 December, at the Curragh Racecourse for the launch of Nine Lives in commemoration of the Rathbride Column, executed on 19 December 1922.
- The Decade of Commemorations team worked with community

groups, Irish Defence Forces, and relatives over the subsequent week to commemorate what was the single largest execution in the Irish Civil War

- Archivist, Karel Kiely and historian, James Durney participated in workshops in Newbridge Library as part of the UCD project, Poetry as Commemoration.
- Promotion via local and social media, national DOC website/newsletter.
- Liaising with community groups/individuals.

Kildare Arts Service

Arts Grants, Commissions and Bursary Award 2023 and Information Sessions

The Kildare County Council Arts Service have generated call outs and application forms for 19 separate Arts Grants Awards to supports creative and artistic projects in the county next year. More details of awards and grants are published on <https://kildarecoco.ie/ArtsService/GrantSandOpportunities/> interested parties have been invited to register to attend one of [four information sessions](#) that



will be hosted by Arts Officer Lucina Russell at Athy Library, The Riverbank, and Leixlip Library in January 2023.

Kildare County Council Short Grass Film Commission 2019 Official Live Release

'We Don't Choose How' is now available to [view online](#). The short film, which premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh 2020, was shot on location in County Kildare. It was directed by Natasha Waugh and was written, produced, edited, graded, and filmed by David C Lynch.

Dētrīmentum exhibition closed at Riverbank

Dētrīmentum, a video and photographic installation by Kildare artist Katie Whyte ran in the McKenna Gallery until 22 December.

PlayActing Youth Theatre Show and Podcast Launch

PlayActing Youth Theatre presented a short play devised by PlayActing members reflecting the magic and mayhem of Christmas at Castletown House and officially launched their

new podcast, 'A Tale as Cold as Crime'. Supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service.

Griese Youth Theatre winter concerts at the Meeting House in Ballitore

Songs by the Fireside with Kevin Morrin took place on Saturday 10 December, and A Winter Solstice Celebration, a programme of poetry accompanied by artist Brian Hughes on uilleann pipes and tin whistles, took place on Wednesday 21 December. This project was supported by Creative Places Athy and Kildare County Council Arts Service.

Ardclough Youth Theatre presented 'The Moderns: A Celebration of Irish Artwork'

A performance of The Moderns took place in Straffan Community Hall on Friday 02 December. Written and performed by 22 young people from across north Kildare, **The Moderns** is a moving, playful, and exhilarating play about Irish art during the formation of the state. A publication of writing and artwork from the group was available after the performance.



PopUpArt Newbridge Christmas Art Fair

PopUpArt returned to Newbridge Town Hall on Saturday 03 and Sunday 04 December where Kildare-connected artists of all genres came together to showcase and sell their work.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

Tenders received are being assessed. It is hoped to have a contractor appointed by the end of February.

Tree Works Programme

Tree works are due to be awarded for Celbridge-Leixlip and Kildare-Newbridge Municipal Districts. Work has started on compiling a tender for the Naas Municipal District.

Leixlip Playground

Work is continuing on the Part 8 for the playground. A final layout of the car park area around the current playground site and the newly proposed site is currently being prepared. Once this is finalized the Part 8 will be advertised.

Tree Planting

A tender has been awarded for tree planting in each of the municipal districts. The work is due to be completed by the end of March.

Monread Park

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.

St Brigids Well

Seating and new handrails over the bridge are being installed. Resin surfacing on the paths is also going in subject to weather conditions.

Temporary matting is to be installed on the grass paths for St Brigids Day. Part of the works and preparing the site for St Brigids Day involves the removal of items attached to the trees at this location and other memorial features. The council respectfully requests that any items of sentimental value be retrieved by Friday 20 January 2023.

Any items remaining after this date will be removed by Kildare County Council and stored for a period of one month.



Local Enterprise Office

2023 dates for the review of meetings for review of grant applications.

Completed applications for consideration must be received online two weeks in advance of each monthly meeting and early discussions with the office are advisable to afford the client to get as much support in the preparation of the application as possible.

- 1 February
- 8 March
- 12 April
- 9 May
- 14 June
- 12 July
- No August meeting
- 13 September
- 11 October
- 8 November
- 13 December

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. The Brigid 1500 Retail Merchandising Grant has also been launched. The opening of this Grant Scheme provides our retail community with an opportunity to become involved in the celebrations and generate excitement and display their creativity ahead of St Brigid's Day on 1 February 2023.



Further details can be found at <https://brigid1500.ie/GetInvolved/Enterprise/>

Kildare Pride of Premises Awards

Kildare County Council are delighted once again to launch the Kildare Pride of Premises Awards. The awards will be presented to winners on Tuesday 7 March in the MERITS Building adjacent to Áras 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 streetscapes using Kildare County Councils Retail Grant Schemes.

Through the Shopfront, Accessibility & 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 call 045-980429

closing date for applications is

17 February 2022

Women In Business Network

This year's St Brigid's Day 1 Feb 2023 event will celebrate the achievements of women and acknowledge women's contribution in our community. It will focus on the transformative and empowering nature of women's contribution to all spheres of life.

February 1 2023 honours St Brigid, the fifth-century nun from County Kildare reputed to have performed miracles and healed the sick. The legend of Brigid stretches back to pre-Christian mythology, when she, as daughter of the chief of the gods, was a goddess herself, associated with poets, healers, childbirth and inspiration. Originally a pagan festival, St Brigid's feast day on February 1 marks the beginning of spring.

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office chose St Brigid's



Day to showcase women in our society and kicks off the Women in Business Network program for 2023. This event hosted by the local Enterprise office on Wednesday Morning 1 Feb , 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the Osprey hotel will deliver networking, superb talks and panel discussions showcasing “trailblazing women who are making their mark in diverse fields such as business and entrepreneurship, and media ”. Among the participants will be Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council and keynote speaker will be Joanne O’Riordan who is an Irish activist and sports journalist who contributes to [The Irish Times](#)

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub

Kildare LEO has published a tender to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed building of the Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub in Kildare Town; the deadline for submissions was 21 December 2022. The tenders are currently being evaluated. The Local Enterprise Development Plan (2021 – 2024) outlines Craft as a dynamic, green and sustainability

focus sector. It is proposed that a dedicated Craft, Creativity and Design Hub will be built to act as a sectoral stimulus to develop a hub of enterprise, innovation, commercialisation, and learning.

Feasibility Study at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock

Following the tender process, consultants have been appointed to conduct a feasibility study to examine the use of lands at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock, Co Kildare. The study has commenced and should be concluded at the beginning of quarter two.

Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Athy has been confirmed as one of 26 towns in Ireland that have been selected to receive up to €100,000 in funding as part of the initiative. Under the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies. Over 20 applicants expressed an interest in applying for funding and the proposal



for the scheme has been sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The scheme will open fully to applicants in the coming weeks.

Training Programmes 2023

Kildare LEO will launch and promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes during the first week in February 2023 to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities of our clients.

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can now avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. We launched radio and social media campaign aimed at the Kildare Retail sector to avail of a one to one mentoring session in MERITS on 16 and 30 November that will help businesses understand and reduce energy costs in their business. Both dates were fully booked and positive feedback received from all attendees. A number of attendees currently applying for the full “Green for Micro” program.

Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Enterprise Ireland launched a new funding intervention to support

manufacturing and international trading businesses who are currently viable but financially vulnerable as a result of the direct and indirect effects of the crisis.

Aid will be approved in the form of grants and repayable advances. Scheme suitable LEO clients are invited to attend an information briefing on Thursday 17 November.

LEO staff are now supporting active applications to bring suitable cases to EVAC in 2023.

Full details on the scheme can be found here:

[Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme - Enterprise Ireland \(enterprise-ireland.com\)](https://www.enterpriseireland.com)

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**

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive