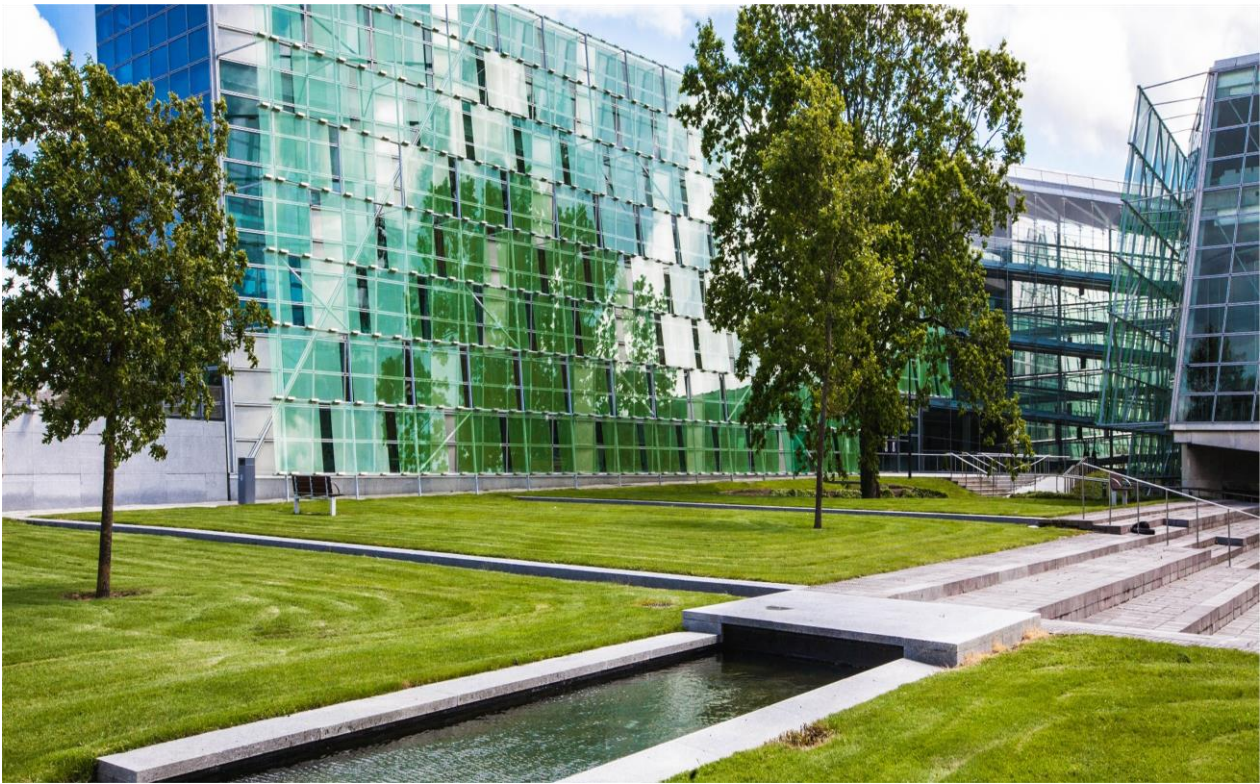




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – June 2023





News Items

Age Friendly

As part of the national Age Friendly Programme, Kildare Libraries have been working on achieving Age Friendly Status for their libraries (see page 7)

Kildare Allotment Strategy

The Council are preparing to develop a 'Kildare Allotment Strategy' (see page 8).

Libraries

Libraries celebrated Africa Day on 6 May 2023 through book displays, storytelling sessions and Maynooth Library staff attended the outreach celebrations in Maynooth (see page 11).

Arts Grants and Awards

Reports of Arts Grants and Awards have been prepared for approval by the five Municipal Districts at their June meetings (see page 13).

2022 Audit

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2022 Annual Financial Statements in July 2023 (see page 17).

Innovation

A key Innovation action for 2023 is to establish an Innovation Pathway (see page 18).

Affordable Housing Delivery

The application process will close at midnight on the 24 June 2023 (see page 19).



Stitching the Community Together

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries section were successful in attaining funding from Creative Ireland for the project ‘Stitching the Community Together’ (see page 52).

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

The Part 8 for the M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures was presented at the February 2023 Council meeting and was approved (see page 58).

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Fund

This grant scheme has been announced (see page 64).

Kildare Failte

Into Kildare were delighted to attend Bloom Festival 2023 for the first time (see page 73).

Economic Support Services

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme grant is open to all applicants until Friday 30 June 2023 (see page 76).

Hub Activity

15 participants completed the MERITS pre-accelerator in May with the programme culminating in a live pitch-day before a panel of investors and support agency representatives (see page 78).



Diary/Calendar

Annual Meeting

The Council Annual Meeting is on 23 June 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (see page 10).

My Little Library Book Bag

Bags are now available in all Kildare library branches for children starting Junior Infants in September 2023 (see page 12).

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

The remaining clinics in 2023 are scheduled for: Monday 26 June 2023 and Monday 23 October 2023 (see page 34).

Climate Action SPC

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 September 2023 (see page 49).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 5 July 2023 (see page 58).

Play Day

Planning for Play day on the 16 September 2023 has started and will continue over the summer (see page 63).

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Date of first HMAC meeting now set for 4 July 2023 (see page 66).

BUSINESS CLINICS:

Mentoring will be provided on demand over the summer months and clinics resuming 14 September 2023 (see page 75).



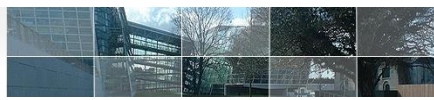
July Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Jul	4	5 10:00 LCDC	6 11:30 Local Community and Culture SPC	7 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
10 14:30 Protocol	11 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	12	13	14
17 10:00 Athy MD Meeting	18 Kildare Newbridge LAP	19 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	20	21 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting
24 14:00 CPG	25	26	27	28
31 15:00 Full Council Meeting	1 Aug	2	3	4



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate, People and Cultural Services	7
Library and Arts Service	10
Health and Safety	14
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation.....	16
Housing and Regeneration.....	19
Public Realm.....	25
Climate, Community, Environment and Water	33
Water Services	34
Environment	34
Local Community Development Committee	57
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces	58
Roads	58
Parks	63
Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services.....	64
Building and Development Control	69
Kildare Fáilte.....	71
Local Enterprise Office	73



Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Communications

Launch of Kildare Age Friendly Strategy



Minister of State in the Department of Health with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler TD was guest of honour at the launch of the Kildare Age Friendly Strategy 2023 – 2027 in McAuley Place, Naas on Thursday 25 May 2023. The Strategy sets out the shared ambitions and goals to ensure the creation of an age-friendly county and one which is a good place to grow old.

Attendees at the launch in McAuley Place, Naas also had the opportunity to experience 'Future Tapestry' a newly commissioned virtual reality artwork which is an artistic response to the current state of sheep farming and wool production in Ireland. Directed

and produced by John Conway and written by Aisling Byrne, with visual by NOHO Dublin. The artwork was Commissioned by Kildare County Council Library Service, Climate Action and Age Friendly Co-ordinators and funded by Creative Ireland through the Creativity in Older Age Scheme.

Kildare County Council Welcomes Funding from Community Recognition Fund



Kildare County Council has welcomed the announcement by the Government of over €768,000 in funding for ten projects in Kildare as part of the first ever Community Recognition Fund. The major initiative of over €50 million in funding for over 880 projects across the country is designed to support and reward communities that have welcomed families and citizens from Ukraine and other countries. In Kildare, the successful projects range from community buildings,



upgrade works to sports facilities to installation of new heating systems, age friendly facilities, multi-purpose facilities, equipment for sports clubs and much more.

Kildare County Council Awards Contract for Major Rehabilitation Works on M7 Bridges



Kildare County Council confirmed that the Civils works contract for Major bridge rehabilitation works on the M7 has been awarded to GLAS Civil Engineering Limited. The successful contractor has been appointed following an extensive tender process. The Major bridge rehabilitation works, which are being funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, are being undertaken at the M7, Junction 10, Newbridge Road Overbridge and the M7, Newhall Overbridge (Rathangan Road). Upon completion, the structures will be re-waterproofed,

resurfaced and their parapets upgraded. At the M7, Newhall Overbridge a shared cycleway and footway is also being constructed to facilitate a future active travel route across the M7 motorway.

Kildare County Council prepares Kildare Allotment Strategy



Kildare County Council are preparing to develop a '**Kildare Allotment Strategy**', from which one potential allotment location may be identified in each of the five Municipal Districts: Leixlip-Celbridge; Clane-Maynooth; Naas; Newbridge-Kildare; and Athy. Whether you are an individual or part of a local community group, we're inviting submissions of ideas for suitable locations for allotments in your town/village that are in accessible locations, are easily serviced, and are large enough to facilitate potential allotment developments.



Kildare County Council encourages road users to drive responsibly over May Bank Holiday



Kildare County Council supported An Garda Síochána and The Road Safety Authority's national road safety campaign for the May Bank Holiday Weekend. The campaign encouraged people to take care on the roads over the weekend and be mindful of extra traffic and vulnerable people using the roads.

Register of Electors



[Census 2022 has now been published](#), therefore, the Electoral Commission is

required to produce their report recommending any boundary changes or changes in representation related to the Dáil and European election Constituencies in the coming months. Check www.electoralcommission.ie for more information.

Members Services

AV Upgrade in Council Chamber

The revamp of the Chamber has commenced. To go live with the new revamped chamber in September a detailed project plan needed to be put in place. There are three main vendors involved in the revamp of the Chamber, the joiners (M and C Joiners), electricians (Jones Electrical) and SKS Communications who are looking after the Audio-Visual upgrade.

The Chamber will need to be completely rewired and this encompasses both electrical and network requirements and includes an upgraded induction loop to support the new AV equipment. As the panels on the desks will need to be replaced new desktops will also need to be installed on each desk, this requires custom-made work for each desktop.



The templates for the new desktops have been created and work has already started with the joiners. The plan is to do the full rewiring in July and the installation of the new desktops and AV equipment in August with time for testing and training.

The upgrade will include screens on each side of the chamber, a new speaker system and individual speakers on each desk with plug-in for earphones. Members speaking will be highlighted on screen for the benefit of both those in the chamber and those online. Separately, testing is ongoing on an electronic voting app for members attending in person or remotely to vote on their phone or laptop.

The Council Annual Meeting is on 23 June 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Due to upgrade works on the chamber the meetings for July of both the Municipal Districts and Council are being relocated. To date the following have been agreed for Municipal District's. Clane/Maynooth will be in Robertstown, Naas will be in Punchestown, Athy will be in Athy Offices Rathstewart, Celbridge/Leixlip will be in the Boardroom Aras Chill Dara.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library Service

“Libraries raised me; I believe in libraries because most students don't have any money... I couldn't go to college, so I went to the library three days a week for ten years.” Ray Bradbury

Hospital Service

Naas Library are back providing a library service to Naas Hospital every Wednesday. The feedback is wonderful.

Age Friendly

As part of the national Age Friendly Programme, Kildare Libraries have been working on achieving Age Friendly Status for their libraries. Age Friendly Champions identified necessary actions through talking with users, surveys, and walkability studies with Kildare Older Person's Council. All sixteen Kildare libraries have now achieved their Age Friendly Library Recognition Charters. Kildare Libraries Age Friendly Day on Friday 26 May 2023 was an opportunity to show users how hard we work to make our libraries Age Friendly. Libraries provided music,



song, exhibitions, seed sowing, crafts, film screening, history talks and exercise, all with tea/coffee and chat.

Climate Action

Sewing Masterclass workshops using re-cycled materials continued in Kildare Town Library. There was a huge response to the 'Growing Vegetables in an Irish Garden' with Master Organic Gardener Klaus Laitenberger, including members of the local Community Garden Group.

Rehabcare Reading Group

The Book Club meetings are ongoing following the Rehab relocation to Kildare Town Centre with users from the RehabCare Centre coming in daily to borrow books and read.

Libraries had a very busy **Biodiversity Week**, 19 May 2023 to 28 May 2023 with Back Garden Biodiversity, Right Tree Right Place, and biodiversity sketching workshops.

Libraries celebrated **Africa Day** on 6 May 2023 through book displays, storytelling sessions and Maynooth Library staff attended the outreach celebrations in Maynooth; they provided an information stand, circus skills workshop, face painting and balloons.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Handover from the contractor is expected in August and the library will be open to the public in Autumn 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Part 8 public consultation for the proposed County Library and Archives in Newbridge is now open for submissions via the Kildare County Council portal with a closing date of 21 June.

New Clane Library

The Part 8 for the new Clane Library was approved at the June, Clane-Maynooth Municipal District. The project is now at the detailed design phase in advance of the construction tender.

Reader Services

Better Basics Boosting Reading

Kildare Libraries in partnership with County Kildare LEADER Partnership have completed this year's Better Basics Boosting Reading Programme. This is a reading enhancement programme with paired one-to-one reading with a volunteer, twice a week for 15 weeks, aimed at primary school children who are not in receipt of



mainstream supports but who are struggling to keep up in class. We celebrated the end of this year's programme with a prize giving in St. Bridget's School, Kildare Town. This year we had 32 children participate in the programme, 5 schools and 15 volunteers. The reading improved on average by approximately 12 months.

Football Association of Ireland (FAI) Women's World Cup Activity Book

The FAI Activity Books are available to collect from all Kildare Libraries now. The activity book is aimed at third to sixth class primary school children and the FAI are keen to get this out to as many children as possible, before and during the World Cup this summer.

My Little Library Book Bag

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between the library and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. The bags are now available in all Kildare library branches to collect by parents/guardians of children starting Junior Infants in September 2023.

Summer Stars

Summer Stars, the annual summer reading challenge for primary school

children, begins on Monday, 12 June 2023 with events in all our libraries throughout the summer.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Organising the move to Naas, including boxing the collection in preparation for move to Naas in the autumn, planning layout of building for archives collection etc.

The Archivist is a member of the Digital Recordkeeping Policy working group comprised of archivists, Digital Repository of Ireland and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) which is working on a draft document around Digital Preservation including Cloud Storage, Open Data, Records Preservation, Records Retention, Storage and backup. Survey on digitisation of local studies and archival material completed for the LGMA.

Historical articles for The Pulse and Kildare eHistory Journal.

Decade of Commemorations

The Irish Military Seminar took place in Riverbank Arts Centre on 19 May 2023 and 20 May 2023 and was a great success. The Friday night Irish Defence Forces night attracted a capacity audience, including elected



members, serving and former members of the Defence Forces (including the General Officer Commanding of the Curragh Camp Brigadier General Brendan McGuinness and the Army Cadet class). Saturday's line-up included a strong line-up of talks by published authors exploring aspects of Ireland's military history.

The Military Seminar also included the launch of Stand you now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of County Kildare republican activists 1913-23 by historian and Library Service employee James Durney.

Recent Events

The Irish Defence Forces 1922-2022 by Dr Eoin Kinsella took place on Tuesday 7 June in association with Newbridge Local History Group and JuneFest.

A very successful prize-giving event for the 'Sense of our Past' schools essay competition took place in Celbridge Library on Tuesday 16 May 2023.

Arts Service

Arts Grants and Awards

Reports outlining the recommendations from the independent selection panels from the

suite of Arts Grants and Awards have been prepared for approval by the five Municipal Districts at their June meetings.

Public Art

Initial meeting with engineers on **Athy Distributor Road to progress a Per Cent for Art scheme**, value €64,000, for a permanent art feature. A request for additional funding of €60,000 was made to Athy Municipal District members from LPT to augment the scheme.

A Per Cent for Art Scheme for Naas Library is being progressed, following a two-stage process. Final selection to take place on Monday 12 June 2023.

Creative Ireland Recruitment of a Creative Communities Engagement Officer, to support the delivery of Kildare's Creative Ireland programme (five Year Contract/Grade five) is underway. Deadline for applications was 1 June 2023.

The programme for **Cruinniú na nÓg**, the national day celebrating creativity of children and young people took place on Saturday 10 June 2023.

Kildare's programme is available here [Cruinniú na nÓg \(creativeireland.gov.ie\)](https://creativeireland.gov.ie)



Health and Safety

- LASOG (Local Authority Safety Officers Group) Meeting.
- Meeting with Area Engineers and GSS.
- Lead Worker Reps Meeting.
- Meeting with Proworks Team re including Health and Safety Section for incident reporting etc onto Proworks App.
- 14 DSE (Display Screen Equipment) Assessments completed as part of blended working application.
- Nine Site Inspections completed.
- Health and safety briefing session with Civil Defence.
- Four Pregnancy Risk Assessments and four Visual Display Unit (VDU) Assessments
- Review of Health and Safety Management System- five documents reviewed – HS001to HS005.
- Update of Corrective Action Database
- Meeting with LGMA re Transition to Uisce Eireann – have responsibility for the governance of delivery of Health and Safety.
- Review of Safety Committee
 - a. Possible selection of new safety representatives
 - b. Training being organised for all safety representatives.
- Support and advice
 - a. Event safety management plan – Sports Partnership
 - b. Housing – Rental Inspectors – dealing with aggressive tenants.
 - c. Community – return to work assessment.

Accessibility:

- Athy Access Group Meeting
- Submission made to Chambers Ireland – Making County Kildare Inclusive and Accessible to All
- Video completed highlighting all accessibility initiatives including but not limited to:
 - Changing Places
 - Cubbie
 - JAM Card
 - 360 degree virtual tours
 - Sensory Pods
 - Kildare Inclusion Schools Projects
- Commenced work on development of a website for CKAN (County Kildare Access Network)



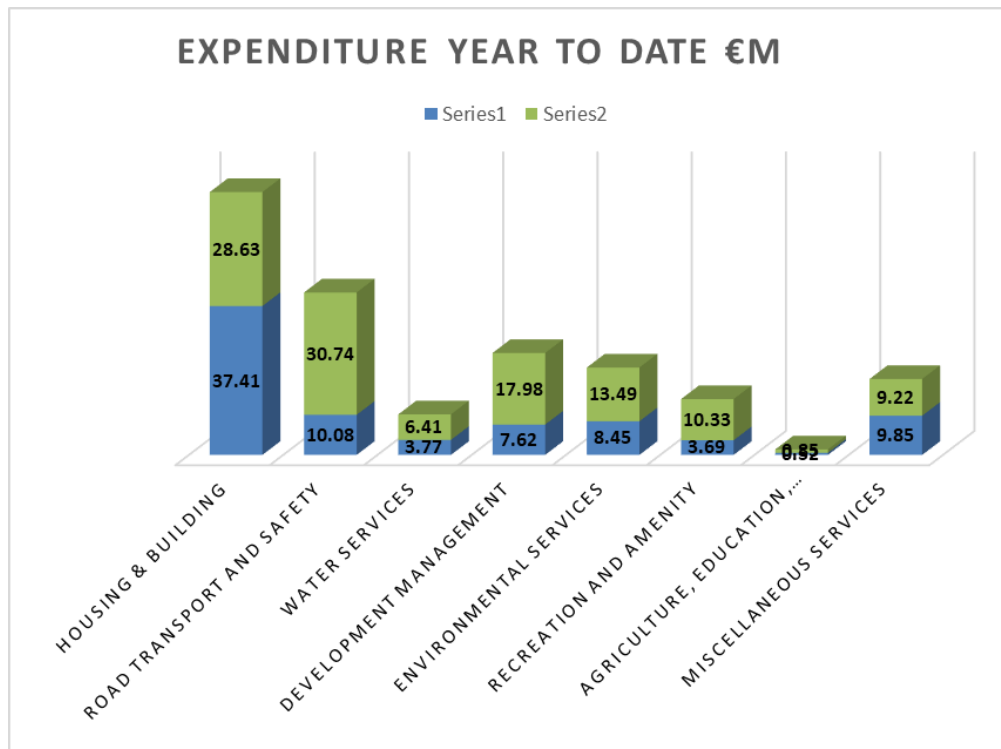
- Connecting Locally Webinar as part of Connecting Locally Project with KARE and UCD Centre Disability Studies
- Steering Group Meeting with Connecting Locally -KARE
- CKAN Meeting
- Meeting with IWA (Irish Wheelchair Association) re accessibility.
- Working with consultant on development of CKAN Website.
- Review of first draft of Accessibility Highlights video.
- Meeting with Newbridge Library to discuss findings of KARE Connecting Locally Audit.
- Review of finding of Accessibility Audit of Leixlip Library with O’Herlihy Access Consultancy.
- Attended Digital Accessibility Webinar – Danish Embassy- case study of what is done in Danish Councils.
- Completed “Did You Know” page for inclusion in Johnny Magory Disability Book Project and meetings with the writer to discuss first draft.
- Final Project reports sent to Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth re Disability Participation Awareness Fund 2021:
- Connecting Locally – KARE and UCD Centre for Disability Studies.
- Social Farming – Kildare Leader Partnership.



Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council				
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2023				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	37,407	66,041	57%	28,634
Road Transport and Safety	10,076	40,812	25%	30,736
Water Services	3,766	10,174	37%	6,408
Development Management	7,625	25,606	30%	17,981
Environmental Services	8,454	21,947	39%	13,493
Recreation and Amenity	3,689	14,018	26%	10,329
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	522	1,376	38%	854
Miscellaneous Services	9,846	19,070	52%	9,224
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	81,383	199,044	41%	117,661





Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2023

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	27,973	57,222	49%	29,249
Road Transport and Safety	1,623	20,555	8%	18,932
Water Services	2,855	10,009	29%	7,154
Development Management	3,999	10,004	40%	6,005
Environmental Services	1,641	6,467	25%	4,826
Recreation and Amenity	1,050	1,389	76%	339
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	76	380	20%	304
Miscellaneous Services	630	10,747	6%	10,117
Local Property Tax Allocation	6,427	19,283	33%	12,856
Rates	26,242	62,988	42%	36,746
				-
	72,515	199,044	36%	126,529

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

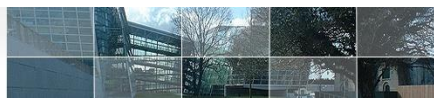
Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 May 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/05/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	929,692	50,371	71,883,418	27,598,086	44,285,332
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	7,332,915	36,811	-	8,639,350	7,214,619	1,424,731
Housing Loans	1,623,567	1,649,458	-	-	3,273,025	1,672,464	1,600,561

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1 January to 31 May 2023.

2022 Audit

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2022 Annual Financial Statements in July 2023. Members will be notified of the formal commencement date by email.



Risk Management

The current cycle for reviewing risk registers is in progress. IPB insurance are rolling out a new methodology for identifying and addressing the significant risks to achieving objectives with a number of Local Authority's. Kildare County Council's senior staff are scheduled to workshop risk with IPB over the coming weeks.

Innovation

A key Innovation action for 2023 is to establish an **Innovation Pathway** – a mechanism where we can tap into the hugely valuable asset that is our staff to innovate and realise new ways of working.

To this end a **“Call for Ideas”** initiative was recently launched asking staff to come forward with any idea that might have the potential to benefit staff, our organisation and/or the citizens of Kildare.

The Innovation Team were delighted with the response to the initiative which saw 59 submissions received from staff across all grades and departments.

The Evaluation Committee will meet on the 16 June 2023 and is comprised

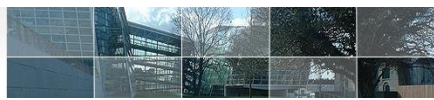
of a multi-disciplinary team including internal colleagues and colleagues from other Local Authorities and the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

Further to the evaluation process a balanced portfolio of projects will be agreed and the Innovation Team will work with their colleagues to progress these initiatives over the coming months.

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, we accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045 980 920.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting www.motortax.ie. Alternatively, customers can email motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.



Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Housing for All

Affordable Housing Delivery

Applications opened on the 24 May 2023 for the sale of 21 affordable purchase units at Grey Abbey, Kildare Town. The application process will close at midnight on the 24 June 2023. Full details of the scheme are available by following this link:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Housing/AffordableHousing/AffordableHousingSchemes/>

Homeless Services

Homeless Outreach

Street work was completed in Athy and Newbridge. Outreach clinics were provided in Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Athy Family Resource Centre and Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge. During May the rough sleeper count reduced to three people, overall, there has been a reduction of 11 rough sleepers since the start of the year.

Presentations and Exits from

Homelessness

During the month of May, homeless presentations were down, with 148

presentations in May compared to 169 in April. A new Housing First tenancy was created in May. Seven families and seven individuals exited emergency accommodation in May. Six families entered emergency accommodation in May.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present we have 84 active tenancy sustainment cases. Tenants are receiving assistance with issues such as rent compliance, community service provision and social welfare.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

There are currently 1,881 active HAP tenancies being supported. 166 new tenancies have been set up year to date (with 151 being ended). Year to date 28 Homeless HAP applications have been received, compared to 26 applications being received in 2022.

HAP Landlord Guarantee

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has introduced a HAP landlord guarantee, this measure has been introduced to ease the impact of the ending of the Winter Emergency Period. Landlord payments are guaranteed for a period of 12 months where tenants default in

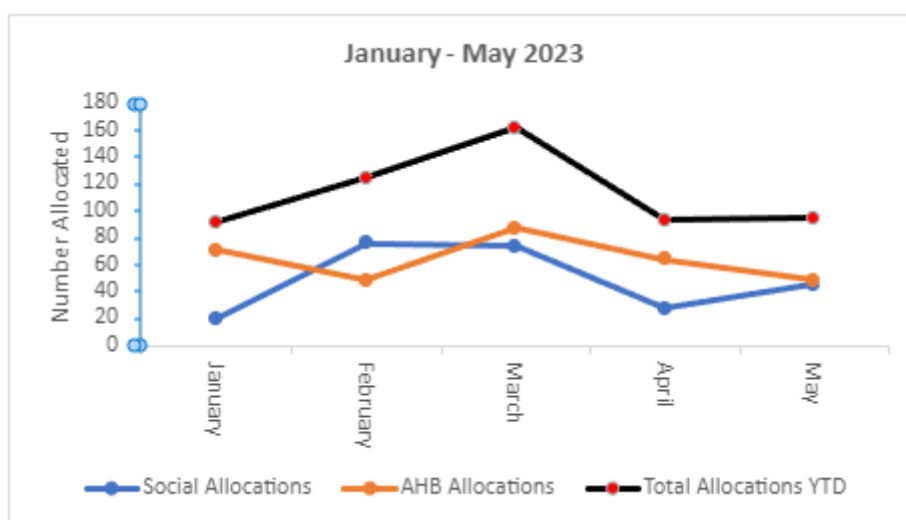


their differential rent payment, this guarantee does not extend to top-up payments being made to landlords. Further details of this scheme are available from the HAP Section.

Housing Allocations

In May 2023, the council allocated a total of 96 properties, of which 46 were

council properties and 50 were Approved Housing Body (AHB) properties. Two group tenancy inductions were held, at which 24 new Kildare County Council tenants signed their tenancy agreements for leased properties at Barnhall Meadows, Leixlip and Oldgrange Wood, Monasterevin.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Contractor has commenced on site; updated programme to completion requested
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.	Tender documentation progressing; tender targeted to issue Q3 2023. Meeting convened with tenants directly impacted by demolition and upgrade works and Allocations Team updated



Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala scheduled for Q2 2023
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Tenders returned and being assessed
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Design and build tender being prepared
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	15 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Architect lead design team tender issued
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Civil/structural engineers to be appointed
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Part 8 proposed to launch Q2 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Preparation of Design Team tender progressing

Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Architectural design competition entries assessed

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Archaeological license application submitted. Awaiting review of consultants insurances by IPB for appointment of Architect Lead design team.
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.	Pre-Qualification Questionnaire Assessment and shortlisting of PPP entities for approval in July. Awaiting ESB to remove cables from site.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	Design team commenced in March; proposals being developed. Ecology and Topographical Surveys scheduled for June. Site Investigation tender to be issued.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	100 social units/45 affordable	Design team commenced in March; proposals being developed. Ecology and Topographical Surveys scheduled for June. Site Investigation tender to be issued.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA, awaiting programme
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA, awaiting programme

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Allocations complete to this new development at Woodstock Way.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	36 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed by Cluid. Initial design proposal received and feedback issued by KCC

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Original design not working for site; new design is under review, but anticipated that the site may not be suitable to meet KARE requirements
KARE EL-Kantara	2 units	Stage 3 approved. Expect to issued tender Q2 2023
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	CAS Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH. Potential reduction in unit numbers based on revised site density
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Response to further information request on planning application submitted by Cluid



The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	5 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023
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Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 May 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	24	34	35
6 - 12 Months	12	22	15
12 - 18 Months	4	7	3
18 - 24 Months	3	7	3
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
36 Months +	2	3	6
	46	74	62

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 May 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	8	16	16
6 - 12 Months	4	7	8
12 - 18 Months	2	3	4
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	15	27	28



Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2022	309	241	7	7	362	378
Q1 2023	89	56	2	2	118	80
April-May 2023	66	29	0	0	86	50

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP	69	Works complete to Ballyroe and Lacken View. Works to Ottomy with 3 units to be completed.
2023 EERP		Kildare County Council have been allocated 86 units for 2023. Presently, tender documents prepared for 32 units in Celbridge, Maynooth and Kilcock for issue by week ending 16.06.2023.

Acquisitions and Leasing

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	9
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	12
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	27
Total complete	379	187	110	209	48

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	5	5	7	30	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	0	1	1	11	1



Ukraine

The Offer a Home Scheme for vacant accommodation continues. 46 offers have been received in the county to date. 22 have been allocated, 10 have been withdrawn, 11 require remedial works and three have been referred for inspection.

Liffey Lodge currently has 50 of 52 beds in use.

Kildare County Council continues to process the shared pledges, 568 pledges received, 420 withdrawn, 126 allocated, remaining pledges require remedial works.

Negotiations are ongoing with property owners in relation to the refurbishment programme.

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,500,000	RRDF €8,000,000	Construction	Northern Work Area - Ummeras to Ballykelly. Excavation works nearing completion. Target re-opening of this section is end of June 2023. Southern Work area: Milltown to Cardigen. Progression of works continues. Final surface layer in some areas, other areas in final prep for final surface layer. Target re-opening of this section is end of June. Cardigen Lock to Lennons Bridge. Final surface layer to be completed and then ready to re-open. Update with photos is on our website.
	Greenway – Phase 1	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	Detailed Design	Additional Part 8 required for 2 bridges.



	Aylmer Bridge to Sallins				Sallins tie-in of Phase 1 and 2 to streamline route also requires Part 8. Footbridge (Sallins) will be installed before school returns in September.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€213,000	€213,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Detailed Design	<p>Constructive engagement with WWI ongoing. Ground investigation works underway.</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <p>Phase 2A Sallins Road Design Crossing. Detailed drawings being finalised with Transport section. Part 8 process required. Anticipated to tie-in Phase 1 and 2 subject to Part 8 and TII approval.</p> <p>Phase 2B Clonkeen to Ticknevin (to be completed by Waterways Ireland). Site investigation and report – completion date May/ June. Completion of detailed design – July. Construction August (subject to TII approval to proceed).</p> <p>Phase 2C Ticknevin to Sallins Site investigation and report – completion date May/June. Completion of detailed design and tender preparation – October. Tender process November –</p>



					<p>subject to TII approval to proceed to tender phase. Award works contract December 2023, subject to no legal challenge and TII approval.</p> <p>Phase 2D Lowtown and Bonyng Bridge Ecological survey/Winter survey complete. Prelim design complete May. Ecology Survey – Spring/Summer complete May. Part 8 drawings July. AA screening and EIA Screening complete August. Part 8 report September 2023 followed by Part 8. Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval to proceed.</p>
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	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. KCC Agent in on-going discussions with various landowners.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland	Part 8	Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the



			€1,000,000 KCC/LPT		business/ residents surrounding The Square. Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023. Preparing tender for interim works to secure The Square and remove parking. Working to publish Part 8 in June 2023.
	Newbridge Cultural Quarter (Phase 1 County Library & Archive)	€656,412	€492,000 URDF €164,412 LPT	Part 8 (Library)	County Library: Part 8 published on 10 May 2023. Consultation period 10 th May to 21 st June incl. Part 8 process will be finalised at the September MD meeting. Sustainability and Climate Action Centre: – Feasibility Study completed and issued to the members. Market Square and Eyre Street: Works will take place in collaboration with the MD office.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,300,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,600,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Athgarvan Health Check/	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.



	Urban Analysis				
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Final edits required for policy updates – CDP, Maps etc.
	Monasterevin Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€150,000	€98,000 T&V €52,000 RRDF	Town Masterplan	Edits completed, ready to publish.
Athy	Emily Square	€2,616,050	€2,707,500 (RRDF)		Tender documents in progress
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,677,350	€2,200,000 (KCC)	Tender assessment	Preferred tenderer withdrew from the project; next preferred tenderer has been assessed and recommendation with tender report issued to the Department.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the works they would like to see undertaken.



	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Economic consultant preparing Business Case/SAR and it is expected to be completed by the end of June. Business case will assist with URDF application for Call 4 when it opens. Expecting Part 8 to be published this year. A number of tender processes are underway for ground investigation; investigative opening up works of buildings; emergency repairs to the barn. Traffic lights in operation at the entrance. The Parks team have completed some security/maintenance works on site.
	The Acre Project	TBC	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	Eco friendly community-based projects on a site located at Maynooth Road Celbridge. LPT funds set aside to deliver a feasibility study.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA to be carried out in June.
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and



					comments. AA/SEA to be carried out in June.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Awaiting business case approval form DHLGH
	Harbourfield			Detailed Design & Works	Part 8 approved. Awaiting business case approval form DHLGH
	Bawnogues Community Centre	€3,134,541	100% KCC funded	Construction	ESB connection completed. Completion date confirmed for end of June 2023. Management of the Centre will fall to K Leisure.
	Prosperous Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	A T&V Scheme developing gateways and signage at locations in Prosperous. Works are substantially complete, lighting has been connected and signs erected in the coming weeks.
	Kilcock Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	A T&V Scheme developing gateways and signage at 4 locations in Kilcock. Contractor on site and completion date set for end of June.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.



	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
Naas	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns Initiative grant €248,931	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00. The next phase of development, subject to funding, will upgrade electricity and services and Part 8 completion.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	Business case to be approved.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Faillte Ireland Outdoor Scheme (Parklets)	€187,275	€187,275	1 parklet installed	Parklet on Main Street will be relocated to outside Urban Kitchen/Costa on Dublin Road.



	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V €7,000 LPT	Masterplan	2 workshops completed and well attended. Very informative. Survey completed last week and all information will now feed into the draft document.
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Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date in 2023.

All Grants 2023		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	152	€251,702
Festival Grants	68	€82,300
Private Residents' Associations Grants	273	€242,695
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€41,243
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	60	€476,506
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	14	€20,000
Community Support Fund		
Education Bursaries		
Drehid Grants	43	€179,560
Total	660	€1,294,006

Incl LPT
Incl LPT

2023 grants schemes: Community, festival and residents' associations grants payments are ongoing.

Assessment of LPT-funded grant schemes in the relevant municipal districts are almost complete and full details of awards will be included in the July report.

The Education Bursaries scheme opens for application on 3 July 2023.



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

Uisce Éireann quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for local representatives on selected dates throughout the year.

The remaining clinics in 2023 are scheduled for:

- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023

Six members attended the last clinic on Monday 27 February 2023.

Uisce Éireann will make contact with members in advance of clinics.

Uisce Éireann is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk.

Uisce Éireann Regional

Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the

Uisce Éireann website

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

Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government

policy on Uisce Éireann taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services.

Uisce Éireann 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 all local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority, possibly by end of Quarter two 2023 taking into consideration changes included in the new Framework. In this regard, the Master Cooperation and Data Sharing Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

Environment

Kerdiffstown Landfill

The retired director of a waste management company has been sentenced to three years in jail at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, with the final 12 months of the sentence suspended.



The Director of the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement, Dr Tom Ryan, said: "Waste crime can cause harm to the environment and public health and have significant consequences for the taxpayer. "This conviction is a vindication of the resilient efforts of the State authorities working together for the public good over almost two decades.

Kildare County Council was granted a licence to remediate the site in 2011.

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, have co-ordinated the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 – 2029. Public Consultation for the Draft National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy commenced on Wednesday 3 May 2023 and will run until Wednesday 5 July 2023. Details are on www.mywaste.ie

The draft plan was discussed at the Environment and Water Services SPC meeting on 9 May 2023. The SPC members undertook to make a joint submission on the draft plan.

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been launched by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) being introduced is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. Latest info suggests a go live date in Feb /Mar 2024.

Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with special responsibility for Communications and the Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth TD, has launched a public consultation to help inform Ireland's response to disposable vaping devices.

The public consultation is open for submissions until 27 July 2023.

Further information at visit.gov.ie - Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices (www.gov.ie)



Tidy Towns

Grants to local Tidy Towns committees were approved by the members at the last round of Municipal District meetings.

Water Framework Directive

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

This document is expected to be published this 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

The Kildare County Council 2022 Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) and the 2023 Plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Kildare County Council was judged as one of the top performers Nation-wide in terms of environmental inspections in 2021, and 2022 was another successful year.

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

Inaugural Rubbish Film Festival



The first-ever Kildare "Rubbish Film Festival" for Transition Year Students in Secondary Schools was held on a pilot basis this year with entries from five participating schools across the County, and it was a resounding success.



The festival, which challenged students to create a one-minute short film on the theme of reducing waste and encouraging sustainability, was

facilitated by Createschool and supported by Kildare County Council. The festival received a great response from the schools, with students showing their creativity and innovation in producing ten short films that were both educational and entertaining. Two films and a poster design were selected as the winners in their respective categories and will go forward to represent County Kildare at the National Awards in Meath in May 2023.

The organisers hope that the festival will become an annual event that will help to raise awareness about environmental issues among young people and inspire them to take action to protect the planet.

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. Residents Associations who express interest in installing compost areas for green waste on their estates will also receive council support.



GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

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

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

A Market Sounding exercise took place in late 2022. An update on the findings were presented to the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District in March. Capital funding is the key challenge delaying the delivery of this project.

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 OPW has confirmed approval of funding for the appointment of a consultant to deliver the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. Letters to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers



are issuing and following the required standstill period of 14 days, the Consultant will be appointed. Once the appointment is finalised a presentation detailing the design process will be made to the Municipal District members.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

The construction of Kerdiffstown Park is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the park will be operational later this year.



The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed on Kildare County Council website: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualization/>

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

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Current plans are as follows:

Columbarium Walls

a) New

It is proposed to install new Columbarium Walls in a number of cemeteries subject to funding:

Contract Documents are at design stage currently and the proposal is to advance to tender in mid Quarter two 2023.

b) Completion

Works are underway for the completion of Columbarium



Walls in Rathangan and Crookstown Cemeteries and it is expected that both projects will be completed by the end of Quarter two 2023.

capacity. Discussions are also underway with landowners in terms of acquiring lands nearby for a new cemetery.

Cemetery Extensions

a) Allen

A tender exercise has been completed for the extension of Allen Cemetery and the contractor is soon due to commence onsite works. It is expected that works should take no longer than three months for completion.

b) Staplestown

It is expected to advance with detailed design and tendering to facilitate opening of the new part of this Cemetery during Quarter three 2023.

c) Confey

As agreed with the Municipal District members, minor works are planned to create some additional space within the existing cemetery, as it is rapidly approaching full

Other Capital Improvement Works

a) Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

Awaiting the completion of a new boundary wall between the cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.

b) Boycetown, Kilcock

Investigation works are underway in terms of resolving serious groundwater drainage issues within the cemetery. Expected that major capital improvement works will begin during Quarter three 2023.

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

This programme includes footpath resurfacing, drainage improvements, tree maintenance, and completion of old works. Some of the works currently at planning stage include the following:

a) Churchtown Cemetery

Wiring works completed and now awaiting on ESB to do final



connection for the public lighting on this project.

b) Confey Cemetery

Municipal District members have supported the proposal to relocate the altar in order to create extra capacity. Tenders are currently being prepared for this.

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.

Climate Action Regional Office



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



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 17,531 staff at grades seven, six, five, four, three (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme, with a total of 13,561 (78%) having completed the programme. The programme has now been substantially updated, with a much greater emphasis on the use of short videos to aid in the learning process. This new version is being rolled out by





all Local Authority training departments, with assistance from the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG), from the 1 March 2023.



Thematic Training

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



Outdoor Staff

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

Group and commenced in January 2023.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and Local Authority Services National Training Group (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.

Economic Opportunities Conference 2023

A very successful Economic Opportunities conference was held in Tullamore on the 26 April 2023. With over 140 in attendance, the conference looked at how businesses are capitalising on new opportunities and becoming green pioneers.



Details of the speakers, copies of the presentations and the case study booklet are available on the CARO website.



Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

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 published in March 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 Decarbonising Zones (DZ) 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.

On the 24 February 2023, the Minister issued instructions to all Local Authorities to commence the process of preparing the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). “Through the leadership role of local government on climate action, the LACAP will support meaningful and innovative climate action across all local communities.”

Eamon Ryan TD

Minister from the Environment, Climate and Communications.

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 South East Energy Agency (formerly 3CEA) to pursue Pathfinder Support.

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. The sector has one



of the largest fleets with approx. 6,500 vehicles.

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



Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators (KPI) on Climate Action

In light of the evolving policy context of climate action and increased ambition for the local government sector, the County and City Managers Association (CCMA) Climate Action and Transport Network (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 Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs).

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:



Phase one of the Green Club Programme is now complete with toolkits almost finalised. Phase two will commence at the beginning of 2023, with applications for an additional 70 clubs anticipated.

The programme successfully secured €100,000 funding through Strand two of the Community Climate Action Fund. These funds will be used to develop an educational model to assist with the building of knowledge and capacity of Green Club Members and participating Clubs, and to deliver projects under the five thematic areas



of the programme. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) have also committed funding for phases two and three of the programme and will provide through 2023 and 2024.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



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

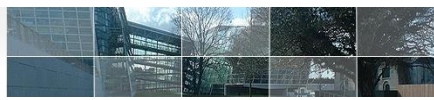
The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones (DZ) as per action 80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

The Minister formally activated the programme as of the 24 February 2023 giving until the 23 February 2024 to finalise the plans plus one month for publication.

RPS are the consultants assigned to produce the SECAP/CAP. Our plan is unusual and complex as it encompasses not only the LA CAP including the DZ but also aligns with the LCP (An Taisce's Low Carbon Community national example) and the requirements of SECAP (Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan). The overall LA CAP therefore will incorporate four elements to create one overriding document.

The SECAP section is largely completed. The scoping of actors, BEI, consultation with councillors (9 May) and the CA SPC (10 May) have been undertaken. The Climate Action Office is collaborating with the LECP, and the Community Wellbeing processes to



enable cross functional and coherent policy. A draft plan is to be undertaken during the summer with consultation expected to commence in September. The team are working towards adoption by Full Council in November/December 2023 to enable the plan to be launched on or by January 2024.



Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee

The Climate Action Office is streamlining consultation efforts with An Taisce who are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan for Maynooth (national example) under the Legacy 4 Life programme, Maynooth University, RPS Group (consultants) and various local actors. The Emissions Baseline Inventory (EBI) and a potential Carbon Calculator are being advanced. Consultation methods are advancing to enable citizen engagement with surveys to commence in April and physical events up to and including the

summer to encourage accessible interaction across the demographic spectrum.

The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee was made aware of progress and updated during December's meeting. The Decarbonisation Zone actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint Local Area Plan (LAP) Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and other policies.

The Climate Action Office is streamlining consultation efforts with An Taisce who are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan (LCP) for Maynooth (national example) under the Legacy 4 Life programme. The work is being undertaken in combination with Maynooth University, RPS Group (consultants) and various local actors. The Emissions Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and a potential Carbon Calculator are being advanced. Master Students from the Business School, MU (Maynooth University) undertook surveys with business and agricultural stakeholders in Maynooth and their final report will be made available at the end of May.



During the month of May targeted consultation was undertaken with Agri/landowners, Business sector and community. We are working with Maynooth Community Council's on their Picnic in the Park fun event to be held on 18 June 2023 in Harbour Field. This is an opportunity to provide informal citizen engagement through the arts, including use of the Future Tapestries VR piece, the carbon calculator, and traditional stands to encourage accessible interaction across the demographic spectrum. It is expected the DZ Plan will be made available for adoption in July to inform the Maynooth LAP (Local Area Plan) being compiled presently.

Climate Action Energy Management Team



A series of four workshops have been created for the team to inform the advancement of the CAP process. The

first was held on 23 March 2023 with the final session undertaken on 8 June 2023 in Solas Bhríde. The drafting of the LA CAP actions continues and input from the Strategic Management Team (SMT) will be requested to inform the process further.

Public Awareness of DZ and Climate Action

Maynooth Community Council in conjunction with the Climate Action Office are jointly organizing an event in Maynooth to increase awareness of climate action. The "Picnic in the Park" fun event will inform on consultation opportunities and build awareness around the decarbonizing Zone and Climate action at the personal and community levels.

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 a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the lead Local authority Wicklow County Council in December. The formation of the unit is to support the three Local Authorities 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.

A Director's Order was signed in February to enable the use of Energy Elephant to commence data collection and analysis of all fuels used by the council from 1 March 2023.

Climate Action SPC:

At the SPC meeting on 8 February 2023. Two presentations were given. The first by CODEMA on the Mid East energy Unit and the National four Day Working Week Trial. The second presentation was by Kildare Chamber

on Business and Energy Efficiency in the Future.

At the SPC meeting on 10 May 2023. Two presentations were given. The first by Teagasc on the Signpost programme which is in keeping with a bespoke DZ for individual farms. This was followed by a presentation on the approved CA SPC workplan and an overview of the LA CAP and DZ. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 September 2023.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. The number of SEC's continues to grow. There are currently 29 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. Kilcock are finalized their Energy Master Plan and launched it on 3 April 2023.

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a social enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The initial expressions of interest received have been refined. Building assessments are underway to assess the works to be grant aided to inform a community application to SEAI to access grant funding. Should funding be awarded it will be used to undertake energy upgrades in a

number of properties across the county under the Better Energy program.

The number of SECs (Sustainable Energy Communities) in the county continues to grow and there are currently 29 SEAI registered SEC's in County Kildare. Kilcock are nearing completion of their Energy Masterplan and Ballymore Eustace are progressing theirs.

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth undertook an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a community enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. Technical Assessments are well advanced and the application to the SEAI will advance when the appropriate funding round opens.

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle (EV) Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is



a welcome development which gives direction for Local Authorities as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in the fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging. As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater awareness of Electric Vehicles's (EV) 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 heavy goods vehicle into Kildare County Council's fleet with mechanical services, 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. Presently the installation of a pumping station at the New Hall Depot is being planned.

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 thought provoking interactive are being conducted on the various bogs during December, January and February to inform then project.

Other Initiatives

‘Stitching the Community Together’

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries section were successful in attaining just over €30,000 in funding from Creative Ireland for the project ‘Stitching the Community Together’. The project is based on intergenerational art project centered around the medium of wool and knitting and will include three elements to the project: intergenerational workshop on wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools, virtual reality (VR) educational piece to explore the ‘Farm-to-Fleece’ process of wool co-created with students and an exhibition phase showcasing the work. The work with schools and nursing homes has concluded. We are working closely with the virtual reality

artist to deliver the co-creation piece. The associate exhibition called ‘Future Tapestry’ took place on the 25 May to 27 May 2023 in McAuley place including exhibit and VR experience. It was also used as an opportunity to launch the Age-Friendly strategy.

Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund



The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland’s Gas Innovation Fund in conjunction with Maynooth University’s Terrain-Ai research group and Teagasc. This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g., grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies 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.



To advance the project financially an application was made to the Public Service Innovation Fund 2023. To our delight the bid has been successful and funding of €50,000 (€60,000 requested) is to be awarded on signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in March. The funding will be used to enable a researcher(s) to commence the works associated. An agreement is now being formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence at pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Quarter two/three of 2024.

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 work has concluded with the adults in the area and work with children from Allenwood and Roberstown National Schools is to commence after midterm break in February. The piece will be put in place as part of the Allenwood playground project.

Climate Innovation Fund – First Round

Early last 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.



Climate Innovation Fund (CIF) – Second Round

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

CIF for 2023 is scheduled to be launched later this summer.

Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



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



while awaiting positions in the team to be filled.

Intranet Portal

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



Climate & Energy

Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

The use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles is seen as a viable option for larger machinery e.g., Vans, trucks, tractors etc. while transitioning to a carbon neutral economy. Indigenous produced biogas could be a viable business model given the initial results from the Grass to Gas experiments. In February, Stephen Nolan of Green Generation gave presentations hosted generously by the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) team. The

presentations informed on the anaerobic digestion process, advantages and opportunities for climate action and circular economy. The mechanical section in conjunction with the development of the new depot at New Hall by Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department has finalised an agreement to install a higher-grade gas pipeline to supply a fueling point to incorporate biogas into the fleet.



Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Ten Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future.



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

The research report and practical guidance are due to be completed in the coming weeks.

Resourcing of Climate Action Office:

The positions of Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer are to be filled shortly.

Date	Details	Post Reach	Video Views
31/01/2022	Weed control trials.	8,912	
28/02/2022	Kildare site with most pollinators.	2,963	836
29/03/2022	Common meadow myths.	3,045	1,300
28/04/2022	Pollinator planting in private gardens.	1,337	
26/05/2022	Weed control trial at Caragh Road roundabout.	17,994	4,800
20/06/2022	Roundabout planting in Naas.	1,073	
29/07/2022	Sustainability research survey.	2,711	
30/08/2022	FIT Count app.	1,571	
28/09/2022	Field trip to Teagasc Food Research Centre.	531	
27/10/2022	Ivy Bee.	1,001	
30/11/2022	Seed donations from Biodiversity Ireland.	1,171	
20/12/2022	Gas to Grass experiment results 2022.	1,440	
	Totals	43,749	6,936



Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 24 May 2023 in the MERITS building.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. A Mid-Year Review of the SICAP Programme will be carried out by the LCDC in June.

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

LEADER Programme

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

The current LEADER budget is allocated, with projects having until 31 December 2023 to complete their work.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

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

Healthy Ireland (HI)

The application for HI Round four 2023-2025 has been approved and the contract has been signed by Pobal and the Dept of Health. The priorities of the programme are in relation to mental health and physical activity.

For further information contact Claire Morrissey, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator phone number. 086-8858505 or email cmorrissey@kildarecoco.ie



Empowering Communities

Programme Athy

Athy has been selected by DRCD as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are leading out on this initiative and have employed an outreach worker to roll out the programme.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Preparation is underway to develop the Kildare LECP. The third meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group is scheduled for 14 June. This will be a key focus on the LCDC in 2023.

Community Support Fund

Kildare LCDC was allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment, and repairs. The Fund was advertised in late January 2023 and the closing date was Friday 24 February 2023. It is expected that groups will be informed of the outcome during the month of June.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 5 July 2023.

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Roads

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

The Part 8 for the M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures was presented at the February 2023 Council meeting and was approved. KNRO are now preparing contract documents for Phase five (Enabling and Procurement).

M4 Westbound

The Westbound project will progress to the end of Phase two. It is likely at that stage that the project will be divided into three areas- Westbound Bus Running, Active Travel and Safety Measures.

Athy Main Street (N78)

Kildare National Roads Office (KNRO) are undertaking a pavement design for pavement improvement



works on the existing N78 through Athy town. KNRO are also liaising with Public Realm and Kildare County Council Roads with regard to the Emily Square project and the N78 (including the N78 Safety Scheme).

Leinster Road Bridges

Rehabilitation Contract

Scheme involves rehabilitation works to M7, Junction 10 Overbridge; M7, Newhall Overbridge; M7 Greatconnell Overbridge; M7 Corbally Overbridge; M9, Kineagh Road Overbridge. Glas Civil Engineering Limited has been awarded this contract.

Athy Distributor Road

(BAM, Roughan and O Donovan)

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

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

(Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

Construction is ongoing on site.

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

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

(Roughan and O Donovan)

The Oral Hearing for the CPO went ahead on 4 May 2023 via Teams. A decision is expected to be made in September.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

(Aecom)

AECOM are drafting this document at present. This draft will be subject to internal review before publishing. It will issue to councillors for information following the internal review.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

(Aecom)

AECOM have started modelling and option development for Newbridge. Phase two consultation will be scheduled for later this year.

Junction Programme

Phase 1A of the Rural Junctions Improvement Project is for the delivery of five separate schemes, which are to be delivered in tandem. These schemes are listed below:

1. Dagwelds Cross R403/R409
2. Prosperous Main Junction R403/L2002
3. Allenwood Cross Roads R403/R415
4. Berts Cross, Athy R417/ L8-68/7



5. Watchhouse Cross, Naas R411/
L2023

Sustainable Transport Section



Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

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

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth- Leixlip)

€3,000,000 allocation. This project has
been subject to delays on site and the
Council is in dispute with the
contractor.

Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

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

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

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

Naas to Sallins Greenway

€5,000 allocation. Approval from the
National Transport Authority (NTA)
required prior to starting Public
Consultation.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

€140,000 allocation. Design of
permanent scheme awaiting an
evaluation of rapid build options for the
scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Preliminary design
continuing. Approval from the NTA
required prior to starting Public
Consultation.

Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

€20,000 allocation. Preliminary design
continuing. Approval from the NTA
required prior to starting Public
Consultation.

Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

€160,000 allocation. Detailed design
continuing.



Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

€500,000 allocation. Review being undertaken of the implications of the revised design of the bridge structure.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme

€60,000 allocation. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€90,000 allocation. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€150,000 allocation. Detailed design stage continuing.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

€110,000 allocation. Pilot schemes completed.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Project awaiting a review by the NTA's Cycle Design Office.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

€15,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

€100,000 allocation. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.



Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

€800,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

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

R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

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

Safe Routes To School Round one Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane.

Safe Routes To School Round two Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas Active Travel Measures

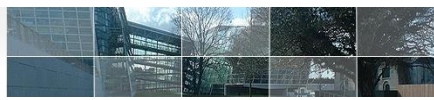
€50,000 allocation. Project stopped. Insufficient funding to progress Project.

Pathfinder Project

The Department of Transport is engaging with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications regarding possible funding from the Climate Action Fund. Plans for preparing a Part 8 proposal are being considered by the Sustainable Transport Section.

Municipal District Works

The Surface Dressing Season commenced on Monday 29 May. As with previous years this work is delivered via Direct Labour on 100km of Regional and Local Roads. Restoration Improvement (RI) work is ongoing.



Public Lighting

PLEEP Survey to commence in September this year with works on site to commence in Q1/2 2024. Contract due for completion in Q4 2024 will lead to annual savings of approx. € 750,000 on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

Data on heritage lighting is being assembled.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

The tender for Allenwood has been awarded. The perimeter fencing has been installed and the proposed start date for the playground construction is due for the end of July.

Leixlip Playground

The Part 8 closes 14 June. Works are ongoing to prepare a tender for car park upgrade and playground.

Barrow Towpath, Athy

Resurfacing of the path along the river from the Courthouse to the Horsebridge has been completed and new seating installed. An antislip surface is being priced for the Marina Bridge.

Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Tree Works

Works have been completed in Celbridge and work has commenced on Leixlip.

Maynooth Municipal District Tree Works

All inspection for these works have been completed. Final tender preparation will take place over June.

Newbridge Playground

A draft design has been completed. A tender for the works is now being prepared.

Leixlip Summer Bedding

The summer bedding has been installed.

Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facility

Consultation with 116 teenagers has been completed in the last two weeks. with teenagers regarding the design of Outdoor Gym, Hang Out Area and a Teen Playground. The design models made by the teenagers will now be used to design facilities.

Play Day

Planning for Play day on the 16 September 2023 has started and will continue over the summer.



Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Fund

This grant scheme has been announced. The details are:

Grant	Closing Date	Award Date	Completion Time for Projects from Award	Max Grant	No of Applications
Measure 1	5:15 p.m. on 5 September	Q1 2024	18 months	€30k	7
Measure 2	5:15 p.m. on 27 October	Q1 2024	24 months	€200k	3
Measure 3	5:15 p.m. on 27 October	Q1 2024	24 months	€500k	1
Project Development Measure	5:15 p.m. on 28 July	September 2023	18 months	€50k	3

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023 and replaced the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. In February 2023 Kildare County Council was notified of two applications to the High Court for leave to seek a judicial review of the Plan, specifically the housing targets and the addition of a structure to the Record of Protected Structures.

These first case is expected to be take some time and updates will be provided as appropriate. The second has been concluded.

Work is underway to prepare an implementation plan for objectives and actions for 2023/2024.

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Draft Plan will be circulated to the Elected



Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on 12 June for their consideration. A workshop will take place with the Members on the 21 of June in this regard. A Special Municipal District meeting will be held on Tuesday the 18 July 2023 at which the Chief Executive’s Report and Draft Plan will be considered.

Newbridge

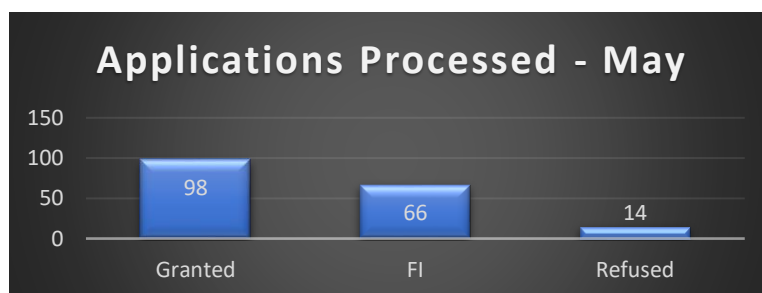
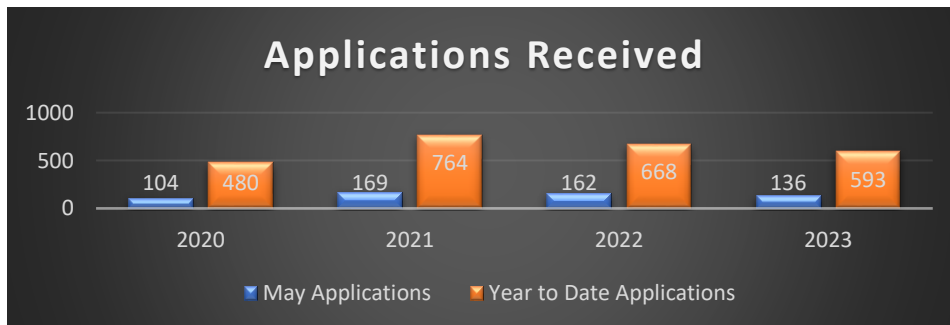
Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan, including the Area Based Transport Assessment for the plan area.

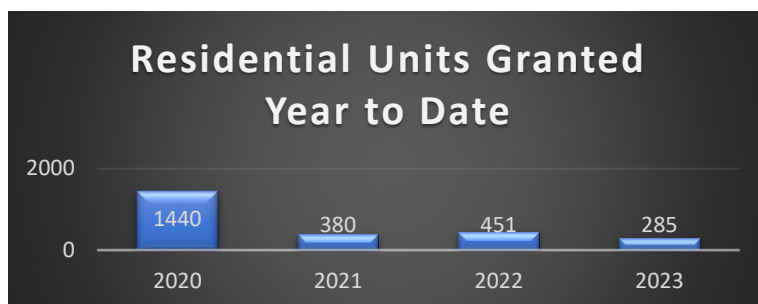
Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation programmed for Quarter three 2023.

Joint Maynooth and Environs

Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan. The Area Based Transport Assessment for the plan area is being finalized.

Development Management





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

Decisions five SHD applications due between 06/2022 – 01/2023, remain outstanding with ABP.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD applications must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion.

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Due 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Due 06/07/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Due 06/07/2023

Heritage and Conservation

A. Heritage Projects - Progress Updates

1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Date of first HMAC meeting now set for 4 July 2023.

2. Heritage Council Funded Projects
€37,500 was awarded for three Heritage Projects as follows;



(i) Heritage Awareness 2023 (€12,000) towards Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week. Biodiversity Week takes place from 19 – 28 May 2023.

(ii) Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas (€15,500) Expressions of interest were sought from five archaeological consultancies. One tender submission was received. A recommendation to appoint consultants has now been made.

(iii) Audit of Military Structures (€10k) Expressions of interest were sought from five archaeological consultancies. One tender submission was received. A recommendation to appoint consultants has now been made.

3. Control of American Skunk Cabbage

The control of American Skunk Cabbage project for which €6,800 was received from the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund has now commenced.

4. Clane Friary Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €60,000 for conservation works to

Clane Friary has now been received and the tendering process for same has now commenced.

5. Donaghcumper Church Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €73,731.25 for conservation works to Donaghcumper Church has now been received and the tendering process for same has now commenced.

6. Cassidy's Mills Conservation Management Plan and Feasibility Study

Confirmation of transfer of funding from Town and Village Renewal (TVR) to Heritage Projects now confirmed from Department. Procurement of consultants underway.



B. Funding Applications

No	Project	Fund	Received
1	Heritage Awareness 2023	Heritage Plan	12,000.00
2	Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas	Heritage Plan	15,500.00
3	Survey of Military Structures in Kildare.	Heritage Plan	10,000.00
4	Kildare Tower	Community Monuments Fund	120,000.00
5	Clane Friary	Community Monuments Fund	60,000.00
6	Donacompher Church	Community Monuments Fund	73,731.25
7	Laraghbryan Church	Community Monuments Fund	100,000.00
8	Tipper Church	Community Monuments Fund	15,129.00
9	Control of American Skunk Cabbage 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	6,800.00
10	Control of Himalayan Balsam 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,475.00
11	Vegetation control Lullybeg for Marsh Fritillary	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,075.00
12	Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	7,000.00
13	Oral recording Training	Creative Ireland	5,000.00
14	Publication on Kildare Walled Towns	Irish Walled Town	5,000.00
15	Castledermot Walls	Irish Walled Town	45,000
		Total	491,710.25

Funding applied for and awaiting notification:

16	Kildare Citizen science in Schools and Community Project	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	14,000.00
17	Pollardstown Fen Buffer Zone study	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	14,000.00
18	Ecological Survey and Management Plan of Harristown Commons	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	10,200.00
19	Biodiversity Awareness Project 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	31,450.00
20	Kildare Towns Walls	Irish Walled Town	49,700.00
21	Castledermot interpretation	Irish Walled Town	2,867.00
		Total	52,567

C. Conservation Projects – Progress Updates

1. Heritage Stewardship Scheme

An application has now been approved for €25,200 from the Heritage Council to continue our review of the Record of Protected Structures. The review will



be extended to Kilcock, Kilcullen, Castledermot and Rathangan. Tender quotations to be assessed.

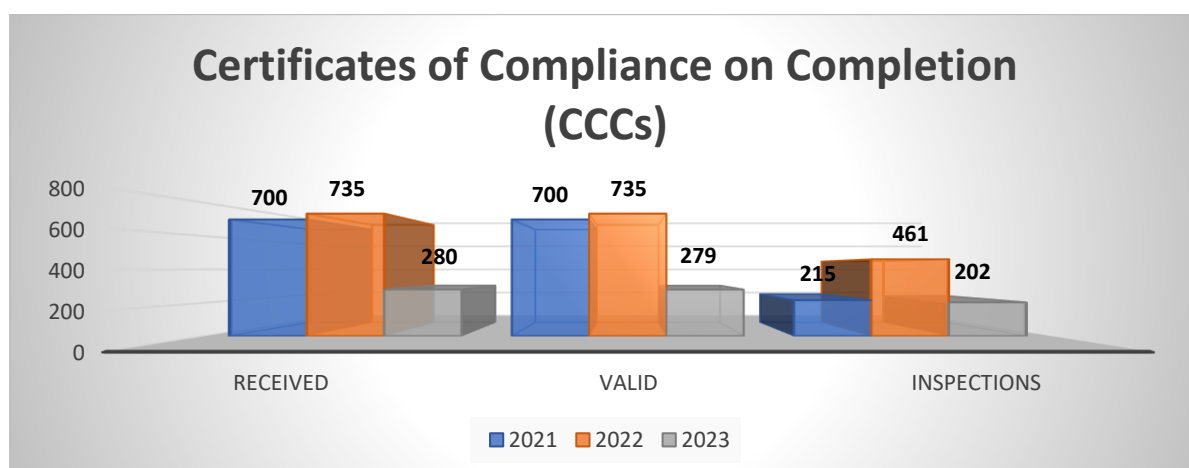
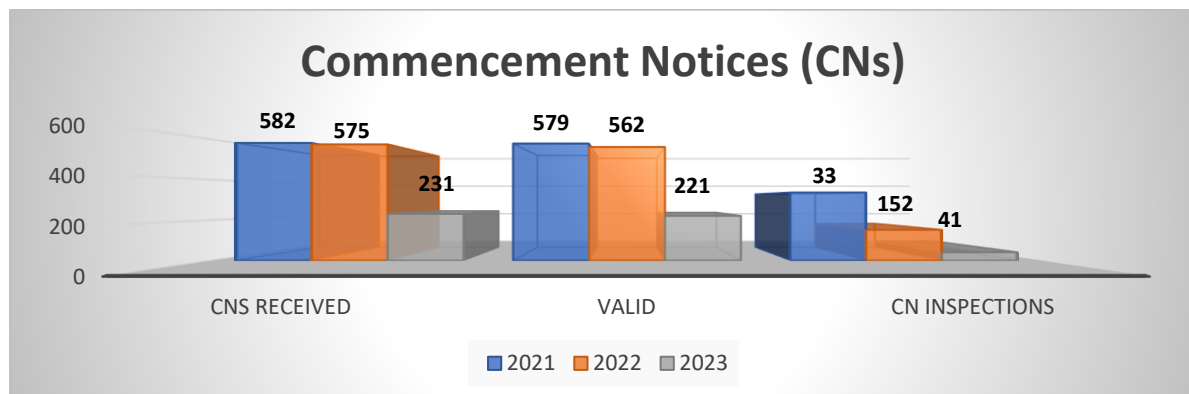
2. Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St. David's Castle, Naas

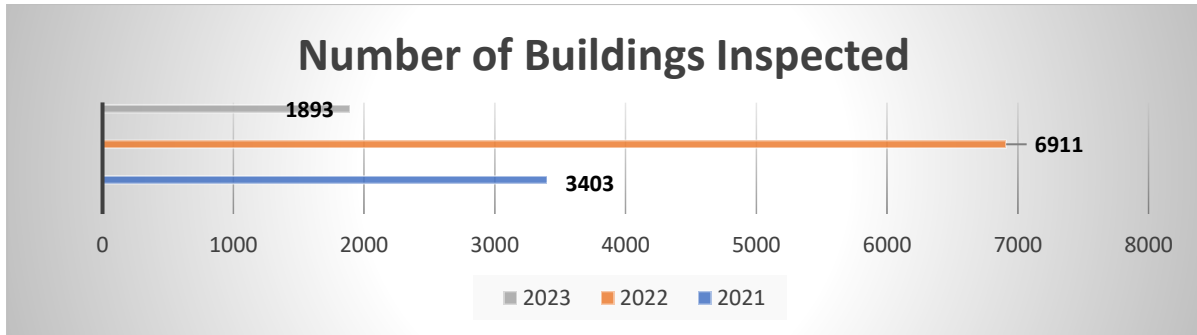
A request for expressions of interest and quotes for the CMP for St. David's was forwarded to a number of consultants on 8 May 2023, the closing date for which is 16 May 2023. Consultants have been appointed.

Building and Development Control

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

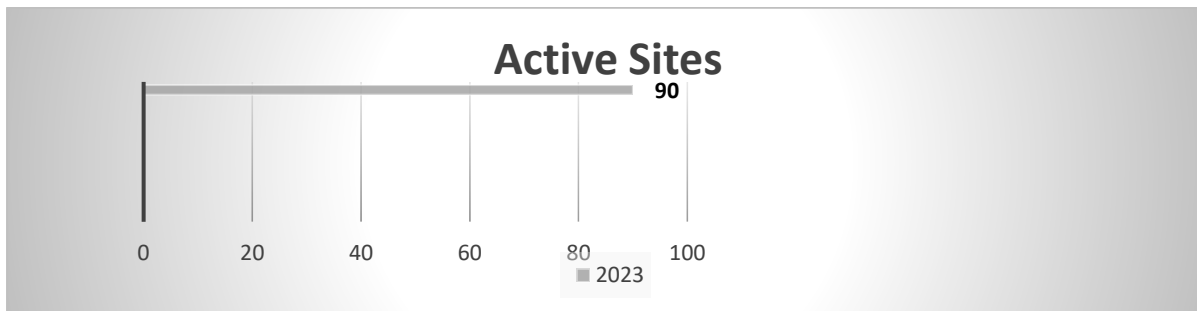
BUILDING CONTROL



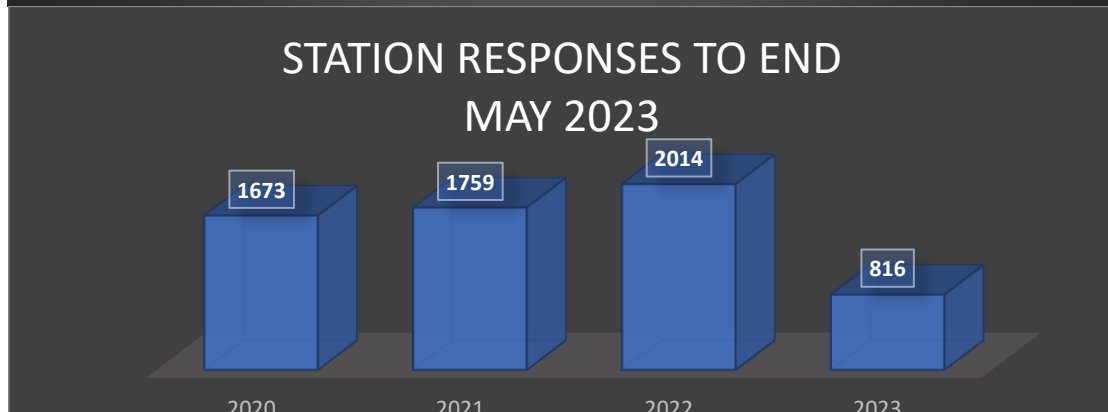


Note: Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 are due to staff shortages.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



Fire Service Operations: 2023 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

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



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

A number of engaging activities were successfully executed by the Into Kildare team in May including a networking event to support members of the tourism and hospitality industry in County Kildare. We also welcomed new members, The Club at Goffs, Ely Wine Store and Ballymore Inn. Industry partners are preparing for the a busy upcoming summer season.



Into Kildare were delighted to host a member's networking luncheon at the recently opened, The Club at Goff's. General manager Louise Boland and her team welcomed our members to the latest addition to Kildare tourism offerings, with restaurateur duo Derry and Sallyanne Clarke overseeing the restaurant. The event was a great success due to the large turn out and provided a platform for our members to connect with each other.





At the most recent Into Kildare Board meeting, Mr. Alan Dunney was welcomed to the Board. This meeting was held at another member venue, Junction 14, where installations promoting County Kildare were installed.



Into Kildare were happy to support and work with the Two Mile House Biodiversity and Heritage group in developing collateral on their walking trail. The launch was hosted by Mr. Hubert Beaumont, owner of Harristown House and commenced with a guided tour of the estate's grounds and ended with refreshments in Kalbarri Cookery School, Kilcullen.



On 29 May, Kildare's CEO Áine Mangan presented to the full council meeting of Kildare County Council. Chairperson David Mongey, Hon Secretary Anne O Keefe and Hon Treasurer Brian Fallon were also present as well as other Directors of the Board, including Ted Robinson, Alan Dunney and Paula O'Brien. They outlined plans for the coming year as well as activities that have taken place since the last council presentation in March 2022 in line with County Kildare Tourism Strategy.



Other events attended included "My Lovely Horse Charity Show hosted on 27 May 2023 in the Osprey Hotel. The event was hosted to raise funds for the charity, raise awareness of their work, and promote sustainable fashion.



Into Kildare are delighted to attend Bloom Festival 2023 for the first time. This will provide our members with a platform to showcase their products and services. Planning took place throughout April and set up on the 31 May with the event will taking place for five days from the 1 June to 5 June 2023. Into Kildare will facilitate 18 partners on the stand to shine a spotlight on County Kildare's offerings over this five-day event, with estimated visitors of more than 100,000 attending. It is planning to distribute information on County Kildare during this event to encourage tourists to visit, in particular County Kildares Tow Path Trails booklet.



Local Enterprise Office

Enterprise and Economic Development Activity June 2023

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics are available.

Immediate business support:

Request to speak to a Business Advisor:

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

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call 045980838.

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



Financial Supports

Funding Applications Awarded		
From 1 Jan – 9 June		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	49	€107,377
Priming Grant	2	€57,162
Business Expansion Grant	3	€104,779
Feasibility Study Grant	2	€27,980
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	8	€13,739
Total		€311,037
Pending		€174,226

Entrepreneurship Support Services

PARTICIPANTS PER Municipal District up to 08 June 2023	Start-Up Clinics	Business Clinics	Mentoring	SYOB
Naas	56	49	14	33
Athy	15	5	3	3
Celbridge-Leixlip	19	11	8	5
Kildare-Newbridge	33	39	12	15
Clane- Maynooth	36	16	6	12



BUSINESS CLINICS:

Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online weekly every Wednesday until 28 June. Over summer months Business Advice will be offered as needed.

Business-specific subject clinics are offered every Thursday in MERITS until 22 June 2023. Mentoring will be provided on demand over the summer months and clinics resuming 14 September 2023.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS:

As annual Sponsor of Emerging Businesswoman category in the Network Kildare Awards, priming grant recipient Pure Oskar (Kildare/Newbridge) was named winner and will compete in the national finals later this year.

In response to the trends identified through the application process and judging, we are hosting Digitise your Coaching/Consultancy Business clinic in MERITS on 15 June to support digital acceleration of female-led businesses. Register [HERE](#).

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY:

Briefing on new Energy Efficiency Grant, 20 June 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.,

at MERITS, including a networking lunch.



Register [HERE](#).

This in-person briefing is to review this new support and how to access it as small businesses seek to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient.

The grant will be available to companies who through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes have identified the technology and equipment need and benefits.

INNOVATION:

Funding Innovation event in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland – 22 June 2023, MERITS, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by a networking lunch included. **Registration** [HERE](#)

The Agile Innovation Fund is a great fit for companies that need to rapidly



develop solutions or are planning a first new product, process or service development project. This Research and Development fund allows companies to access up to 50% in support of innovation projects with a total cost of up to €300,000.



Amanda Bogan, National Cattle Breeding Centre (Naas) and John O'Toole, Natural Hygiene (Newbridge) will each speak of their success with this fund and the impact on their business.

FOCUS ON TECH:

11 Kildare Tech/innovative start-ups reached pitch day on our [MERTIS Pre-Accelerator](#) on 31 May where each client will pitch to a panel of founders/investors.



The winner will be announced at the Innovation event on 22 June. The prize

includes a six month paid workspace in MERITS, unlimited access to all LEO training and resources over that period and a place on the MERITS Export Accelerator to commence in the autumn.

FOCUS ON RETAIL:

Retail and e-commerce clients are invited to MERITS on Monday 26 June 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. as we focus on maximising [commercial success in retail](#).

Economic Support Services Retail Support Scheme 2023 now open.

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme grant is open to all applicants until **Friday 30 June 2023**. The economic development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all of the supports available.

Municipal District	No. of Applications as of 9 June 2022	Value of Apps Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	10	€22,938
Athy	3	€9,735
Naas	3	€8,553
Clane/Maynooth	1	€775
Celbridge/Leixlip	1	€1,463



The Retail Window Merchandising Grant remains open to applicants until November and businesses can avail of 80% funding on eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500.00.

Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Under this scheme, 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 in Athy. The economic development team continue to work with the project team and are supporting prospective applicants with the application process. The scheme remains open for applications **until 30 June 2023**. All works are required to be completed by 31 August 2023.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Court House Kildare .

The consultants have completed the stakeholder analysis and a follow up meeting is being arranged with responders for further engagement. A draft report is expected in the coming weeks and the deployment of a pilot will soon follow on a smaller foot print in the town.

Kildare Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

An initial project initiation meeting with the consultants took place at the end of May. Stakeholder engagement will be carried out in June and assessment of the building in Monasterevin will also take place in June and July.

Kilcock Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

A technical examination of the site has been completed and an ecology report is now being prepared. The stakeholder engagement report is also being completed. A draft report is due by the end of June and a final report is expected to be presented to the economic development team by the end of July.

Hub Marketing: K Hub

The team are working with the appointed consultant on devising a marketing plan to further increase the profile of hubs in Kildare. Filming will take place in all of the hubs across June and July to showcase them and the individuals and businesses that are located there. The content produced will then be highlighted across all of the social media channels.



Hub Activity

MERITS Pre-Accelerator:

15 participants completed the MERITS pre-accelerator in May with the programme culminating in a live pitch-day before a panel of investors and support agency representatives. These participants will go on to develop their businesses either with their current idea or may alter their approach using their newly acquired skills.



MERITS Breakfast Briefing Event:

MERITS welcomed representatives from both Enterprise Ireland and Kildare LEO for a breakfast briefing and Q&A session exploring the path to becoming a High Potential Startup.



Hubs decarbonization:

Both MERITS and the National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) are completing a “Green for Micro” programme with Vision Green consultants with the aim of reducing the hubs’ carbon footprints and improving energy efficiency.

Hubs occupancy:

MERITS welcomed two new office tenants in May; one being an AI startup, headed by a tech industry veteran who exited their last startup having secured a partnership with Mastercard. The second client is a technology engineering business which is in scale-up phase and currently employs five people in the greater Kildare area.

Hubs Client Supports:

The hubs team were present at a number of events during May supporting clients: Atlantec Tech Leaders Summit, Innovation Ireland, IoT and Industry 4.0 Expo, Dublin Tech Summit.

MERITS Presenting at National Hub Strategy Event:

The Kildare hubs have been engaged with both the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment



and the Department of Rural and Community Development as they develop a National Hubs Strategy. The MERITS hub team presented their case study at a recent event.



Appendix: Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to their ongoing business needs **from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO**

[Website Localenterprise.ie/Kildare](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare)

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive