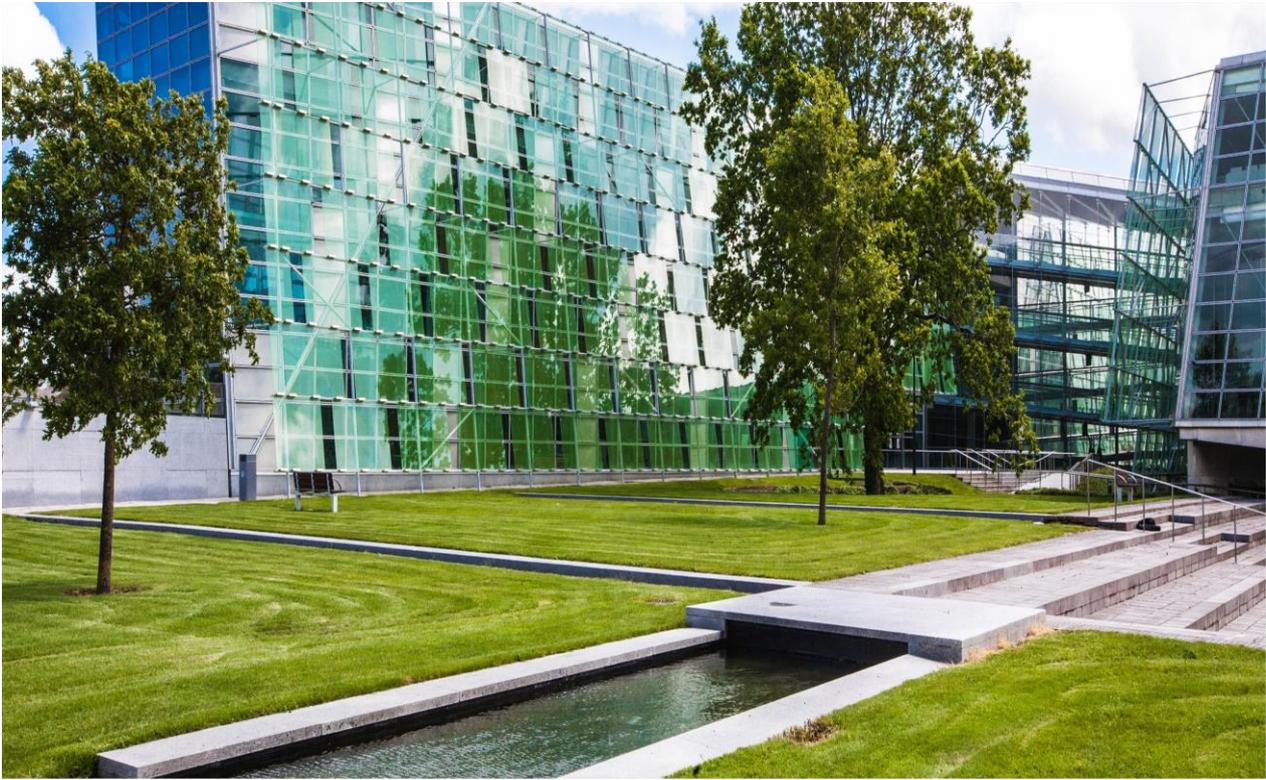




**Kildare County Council**

**Chief Executive’s Management Report – April 2023**





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## **News Items**

### **Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme**

Kildare County Council is undertaking an information campaign about the Local Authority Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme (see page 7).

### **St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2023**

Cllr Evie Sammon and Joe Boland, Director of Service travelled to New York for St. Patrick's Day (see page 9/10)

### **Innovation**

In March Kildare County Council signed the Declaration on Public Service Innovation in Ireland (see page 13).

### **Housing Allocations**

In March 2023, the council allocated a total of 164 properties throughout the county (see page 16).

### **Turas Columbanus**

Kildare County Council was successful along with other councils in securing funding to prepare a Feasibility Study for Turas Columbanus from the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund (see pages 26/27).

### **Environmental Inspections**

Kildare County Council were judged as one of the top performers Nationwide in terms of environmental inspections in 2021, and 2022 was another successful year (see page 34).

### **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 (see pages 34/35).



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### **Speed Limit Review**

Proposals to move the process forward are being considered with a view to presenting to the elected members in Quarter two 2023 (see page 57).

### **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 (see pages 45/46).

### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Preparation is underway to develop the Kildare LECP. The first meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on 28 March 2023 (see page 64).

### **Kildare Fáilte**

In March, tourism and hospitality businesses again prepared for the weekend's celebrations of St. Patrick's Day parades and Mother's Day events (see pages 64/65).

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge i Leabharlanna Chill Dara**

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated throughout Kildare libraries with a range of all-Irish and Bi-lingual events (see page 67).

### **Fidget Feet Aerial Dance**

Kildare County Council, with Donegal and Tipperary County Councils have received funding to deliver Circus? Bingo! a community project (see page 69).

### **Pride of Premises.**

Kildare County Council held its Pride of Premises Awards on Tuesday, 28 March, at the MERTIS (see page 73).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Electoral Commission**

Public consultation has opened for a review of Dáil and European Constituency Boundaries. The closing date for submissions is 10 May 2023 (see page 8).

### **Homeless Outreach**

A new clinic providing information on Housing and Homelessness will commence on 5 April 2023 in Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge (see page 16).

### **Kildare Town Local Area Plan**

The draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was published for consultation. Members of the public will be invited to make submissions which will close on Wednesday 3 May 2023 (see page 24).

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

The next clinic will be held on Monday 26 June 2023 (see page 32).

### **Economic Opportunities Conference 2023**

The local government County and City Management Association (CCMA) are hosting a national conference event on Wednesday, 26 April 2023 (see pages 40/41).

### **Stitching the Community Together**

The associate exhibition called 'Future Tapestry' will take place on the 25 May to 27 May 2023 in McAuley place including exhibit and VR experience (see pages 48/49).

### **LCDC**

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 24 May 2023 (see page 64).



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### **Kildare's Municipal Art Collection**

'Finding Form' in Riverbank Arts Centre. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Brett will launch the exhibition on Friday 21 April 2023 (see page 69).

### **RTE History Show**

20 April 2023 - The Other Civil War, talk with Myles Dungan (RTÉ History Show) via Zoom (page 71)

### **Business Clinics**

Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online every Wednesday. Business-specific subject clinics are offered every Thursday in MERITS (see page 71).



## May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1 May</b>	2 14:30 Audit Committee	3	4 11:30 Local Community and Culture SPC 14:00 Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC	5 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
8 14:30 Protocol	9 14:30 Naas MD JPC 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	10 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services and Water SPC	11 14:30 Housing SPC	12 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Committee
15 09:00 ATHY MD JPC 10:00 Athy MD Meeting	16	17 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	18	19 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting
22 14:00 CPG	23	24 10:00 LCDC	25	26
29 15:00 Full Council Meeting	30	31	<b>1 Jun</b>	2 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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## Corporate Services

### Communications



### Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme – Information Campaign

Kildare County Council is undertaking an information campaign about the Local Authority Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme. The initial phase of the campaign, currently being rolled out, is providing advance notice of the new scheme, highlighting what the scheme is, who is eligible and how people can apply.

The campaign includes media engagement as well as social media advertising and radio advertising.

### Register of Electors



### Electoral Commission

The role of review of electoral boundaries now rests with the newly established Electoral Commission.

Public consultation has opened for a review of Dáil and European Constituency Boundaries.

Submissions can be made to An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2 or by email

to [constituencyreview@electoralcommission.ie](mailto:constituencyreview@electoralcommission.ie)

The closing date for submissions is 10 May, 2023.

### Alcohol Bye Laws

Kildare County Council has finalised the erection of signage regarding Alcohol Bye Laws across all Municipal Districts.

These bye laws prohibit the consumption of intoxicating liquor on streets and in public places in the County and are enforced by An Garda Síochána and administered by Kildare County Council.

The penalty for breach of the bye law is a fixed payment of €75 served by An Garda Síochána in the form of a fixed penalty notice.

More information is available [here](#).



**On the spot fine €75**  
**Fineáil ar an láthair €75**

**Drinking alcoholic drinks in public places is NOT PERMITTED.**

**Tá cosc ar a bheith ag ól deochanna meisciúla in áiteanna poiblí.**



**'BIN IT OR BRING IT HOME, Let's all act responsibly'**

**'Cuir sa bhruscar é nó tabhair leat abhaile é. Go n'iomparfaimis sinn féin go freagrach'**

Kildare County Council  
(Control of Consumption & Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws, 2020  
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
(Rialú um Chaitheamh agus um Seilbhe Alcól in Áiteanna Poiblí) fochlár, 2020

## Official Languages Acts 2003 to 2021

Section 10 of the Act recently commenced. This grants An Coimisinéir Teanga additional monitoring functions. As a result, in addition to monitoring compliance by public bodies with the Official Languages Acts 2003 to 2021, An Coimisinéir Teanga will now monitor compliance of public bodies with any other enactment linked to the status or use of Irish and/or English, where appropriate, for example, the Road Traffic Act 1961 and Planning and Development Act 2000, to name but a few.



The website of Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga sets out the work carried out by that Office in support of public bodies regarding their obligations under the Acts.

As members may be aware Kildare County Council is pursuing creation of a permanent full-time post of Irish Officer to aid compliance with the Acts and grow the presence of the Official Language.

## Members Services

### St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2023

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, invited the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Fintan Brett to New York for St. Patrick's Day. As the Cathaoirleach was unable to attend, Cllr Evie Sammon travelled on his behalf and was accompanied by Joe Boland, Director of Service who represented the Council's Chief Executive. It was good to have continued the very positive momentum which had been generated as part of the 2022 visit. It was also good to promote Kildare's unique relationship with St. Brigid which was again highlighted during the visit. The delegation wore St Brigid's crosses while 'Brigid' themed gifts again featured strongly.



## Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral



The mass is a unique experience which includes a theme reflective of our military heritage; past and present. Irish Tenor Emmet Cahill sang Amhrán na bhFiann at the conclusion of mass and was accompanied by the Cathedral's choir and organist. Many local authorities, including Kildare County Council, were prominent in their attendance while its conclusion heralds the beginning of the parade.

## Kildare Association of New York

The Association hosts its annual dinner in Yonkers. It is an informal occasion and another great opportunity to meet the Committee and its members, many of whom are long

servicing. There was a discussion regarding potential future initiatives which would strengthen the Association. In addition, the work which the Associations carries out 'behind the scenes' in helping people from this County, particularly those who might be in difficulty, should be noted.

## Opportunities for Networking

In the course of the visit there are many opportunities to network with a range of entities and to explore the potential for interaction with the wider international community. The attendance of the Cathaoirleach or their Deputy means so much to our colleagues in New York and, indeed, is their annual highlight and it is important to keep those links between New York and Kildare.





### Council Chamber AV upgrade

SKS Communications have been selected as the 'preferred vendor'. SKS have been involved in implementing similar solutions in the Houses of the Oireachtas, Cork County Council, Laois County Council, Wexford County Council, Offaly County council and other Local Authorities. A formal 'kick off' meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March with SKS and the KCC project team. We plan to finalise work on the contract and SLA over the next few weeks, and we have already started to put together the outline project plan and have identified prerequisites. All going well significant progress is expected on this project in Q2 2023. Based on the experience of other local authorities it should be noted that delays due to supply chain issues may happen during the life of the project.

### Meetings

#### Municipal Districts

Municipal District Committee meetings were held in-person in March and each committee agreed their Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023.

### FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

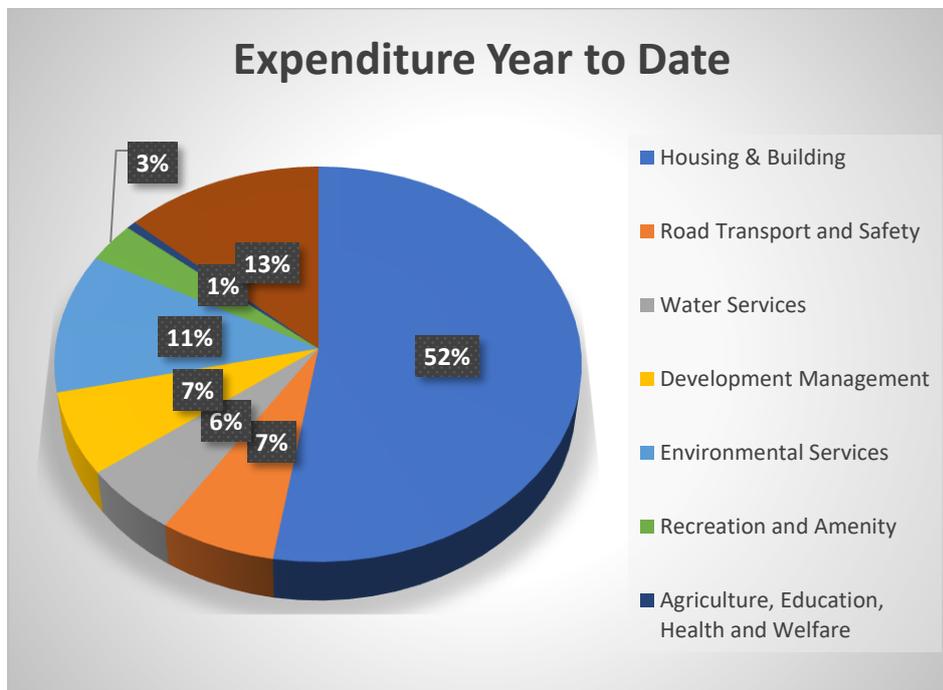
	Total received Quarter 1, 2023
Freedom of Information Requests	34
Freedom of information appeals	5
Information Commissioner Appeals	0
Data Access Requests	4
Ombudsman	11



## Finance, Information Technology and Innovation

### Revenue Account

Kildare County Council				
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2023				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	22,113	52,300	42%	30,187
Road Transport and Safety	2,775	37,692	7%	34,917
Water Services	2,343	10,281	23%	7,938
Development Management	2,843	22,196	13%	19,353
Environmental Services	4,805	21,869	22%	17,064
Recreation and Amenity	1,383	11,916	12%	10,533
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	267	1,081	25%	814
Miscellaneous Services	5,549	19,267	29%	13,718
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	42,078	176,602	24%	134,524





**Kildare County Council**  
**Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2023**

Division	Income			Budget to be collected
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	28,215	44,828	63%	16,613
Road Transport and Safety	821	19,290	4%	18,469
Water Services	1,668	10,082	17%	8,414
Development Management	2,379	7,758	31%	5,379
Environmental Services	231	7,062	3%	6,831
Recreation and Amenity	549	1,079	51%	530
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	53	348	15%	295
Miscellaneous Services	314	6,026	5%	5,712
Local Property Tax Allocation	3,214	18,289	18%	15,075
Rates	15,699	61,837	25%	46,138
				-
	53,144	176,599	30%	123,455

### 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 2023 to 31 March 2023.

In the first three years, the report shows that Kildare had the third highest number of approvals at 163 RIHL approvals (after Dublin City (982) and Fingal (331)). This translated into 85 loans being drawn in the same period.

### Value for Money (VFM) report on Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL)

The Local Government Audit Service produced a Value for Money (VFM) report on Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans from 2021-2021 inclusive. The report can be found on government portal at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/74ba5-value-for-money-reports/>

### Innovation

In March Kildare County Council signed the Declaration on Public Service Innovation in Ireland, declaring our continued commitment to embracing innovation as one of the ways that we can achieve our goals and deliver effective public services.



## Housing

### Housing for All

#### Exemption from Part 8

The Planning and Development and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 2022 has now commenced. This act provides an exemption from Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2002 for local authorities for the provision of specified forms of housing developments on designated state lands.

This provision is time limited and it is mandatory that local authorities use the exemption. The following criteria applies to the use of the exemption:

- The land is owned by the council or another specified state body.
- The land is zoned for residential development.
- The proposed development does not contravene the County Development Plan or the relevant Local Area Plan.
- The proposed development is in accordance with the council's housing strategy.
- The land is serviced or serviceable within the timeframe of the development.

- The proposed development is not required to undergo environmental impact assessment under the EIA Directive or appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive.
- The development works are commenced no later than 31 December 2024.

The Chief Executive is required to formally notify the Members prior to issuing the site notice and newspaper notice, which must be eight weeks prior to the commencement of works. The council is required to notify the relevant prescribed bodies of proposed developments. The council will be required to enter the details of the proposed development on the planning register providing details of the plans and particulars of the proposed development. Plans must also be available for inspection on the council's website and office.

### Homeless Services

#### Tenant in Situ Scheme

Local authorities have been provided with delegated sanction to purchase up to 1,500 properties under the tenant in situ scheme; Kildare County Council has been provided with delegated



sanction to purchase up to 55 properties under this scheme. This scheme applies to housing applicants who have received a notice to quit. Use of this scheme will be considered where a valid notice to quit has been served.

### **Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme**

A temporary Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS) has been established. The purpose of CRTiS is to provide an additional option for tenants at risk of homelessness who do not qualify for social housing. The following tenant conditions must be met:

- The property they reside in is being sold.
- They are not in a position to purchase the property.
- They are assessed by the Housing Officer as being at risk of homelessness as defined in Section 2 of The Housing Act 1988, i.e., there is no accommodation available which they can reasonably occupy, and they are unable to provide accommodation from their own resources.
- They are not in receipt of HAP.

- They meet income eligibility rules, the net annual household income must not exceed €53,000 per annum, the final assessment of the income is undertaken by The Housing Agency.

Details of tenants who fulfil the criteria will be forwarded to The Housing Agency for consideration as a potential acquisition under the CRTiS. In the event that a property is purchased the tenant will pay the same rent, any increase will be in accordance with the current conditions for private residential tenancies, which is limited to two percent per annum. The Housing Agency will contract a third party to arrange the letting and manage the tenancy. The Housing Agency has absolute discretion on whether to acquire the property.

This scheme is operating on a temporary administrative basis prior to the legislative enactments, or further sanctions, required to establish a longer-term scheme.

### **Homeless Outreach**

Street work was completed in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, Naas Municipal District and Celbridge-Leixlip



Municipal District in March. Clinics were held in the Athy Family Resource Centre and Cuan Mhuire. An outreach clinic was also provided for residents of Jigginstown Manor.

A new clinic providing information on Housing and Homelessness will commence on 5 April 2023 in Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge.

### Vacant Homes

#### Croí Cónaithe

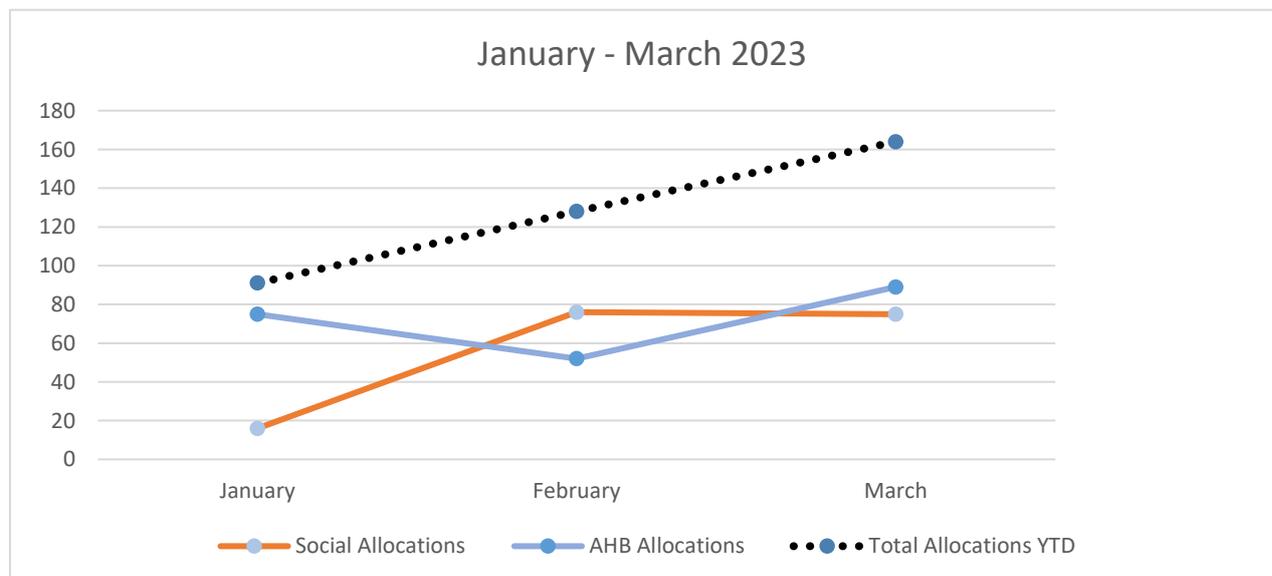
43 applications have been received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

#### Town Centre First

Consultants have been appointed to prepare a Masterplan for Clane Town Centre under the Town Centre First policy.

### Housing Allocations

In March 2023, the council allocated a total of 164 properties throughout the county. 75 were social properties and 89 were Approved Housing Bodies properties. This is 75 units more than in March 2022. Among the locations that allocations took place were Newbridge, Athy, Leixlip, Naas, Kilcullen and Kildare Town. In order to address the number of refusals of offers of allocation, the use of Choice Based Letting has been increased.





## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage four</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works to commence on 10 April 2023
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Quarter four 2023.
<b>Approval Stage two</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender documents being prepared.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala scheduled for Quarter two 2023.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage three funding application submitted to DHLGH on the 23 January 2023.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Part 8 scheduled to come before Clane-Maynooth Municipal District in April.
<b>Approval Stage one</b>		
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]. Stage one approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage two. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway.
Andrew, Athy	Eight units	Diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables required. Consultation held with residents and design finalized.



<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	Two new unit + refurb of two existing units	Part 8 proposed to launch Quarter two 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	Five units	Single Stage Approval received 14 March 2023.
<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site included in Town Centre Living Design Competition. Design competition submissions to be assessed on 20 and 21 April 2023.

### Infill Schemes

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Updated Status</b>
Newtown House, Leixlip	Four units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	Four units	Architect Lead Design Team tender due for return early April.
Patrician Ave, Naas	Two new + one refurb	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
25 Corbans Place Naas	One major refurbishment and extension	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.

### PPP Schemes

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Updated Status</b>
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Pre-qualification questionnaire issued in December and due back 12 April 2023. Assessment and shortlisting to follow.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Design team commenced in March; brief being finalised.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 social units/40 affordable	Design team commenced in March; brief being finalised
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle six. Design team to be procured by NDFA.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle six. Design team to be procured by NDFA.



### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	All units to deliver Quarter 2 2023.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid. Initial design proposal received and being assessed by Kildare County Council.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	Three units	CAS Stage three information submitted by KARE; currently under review by Kildare County Council.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	CAS Stage two approval received from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Response to further information request on planning application to be submitted by Cluid.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	Four units	Combined stage one and two CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023.

### Homeless Presentations

2022	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1357	506	851
2023	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	441	153	288
<b>Total</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>288</b>

### Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2022	Adults	Dependents
Total	595	438
2023	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	182	147
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>147</b>



### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 March 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	29	45	46
6 - 12 Months	8	13	13
12 - 18 Months	6	10	5
18 - 24 Months	3	6	2
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
36 Months +	3	4	5
	50	79	71

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	7	12	10
6 - 12 Months	4	6	9
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	1	1	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	13	20	21

### Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
<b>2022</b>	309	241	7	7	362	378
<b>Q1 2023</b>	89	56	2	2	118	80



### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme		No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP		69	Works complete to Ballyroe and Lacken View. Works have commenced in Ottomy, Clane.
2023 EERP			Awaiting confirmation of the allocation for 2023 which will inform this years work programme. The council are in the process of identifying houses for 2023 retrofit.

### Acquisitions

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed Q1, 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	5
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	3
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	16
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>24</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	2	4	0	17	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	0	1	1	11	1



### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Approved</b>	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,386,045 (from 2021 applications)	-
<b>Total Drawn Down</b>	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€2,172,000 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)	-

### Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2022	31	€6,566,236	3	€611,550	6	€1,256,375
2023 – Q1	8	€2,212,970	3	€632,000	6	€1,090,750

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
2022	24	1	6
2023 – Q1	17	1	2

### Social Housing Assessments

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
2022	157	42	642	7	286
Quarter 1, 2023	58	3	24	1	56



### Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
<b>2022</b>	127	45	9,361	8,275
<b>Quarter 1, 2023</b>	42	5	3,157	2,407
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>2,407</b>

### Differential Rents Scheme - Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA HAP Review
<b>2022 Total</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>2023 Q1</b>	368	51	65
<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>

### Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
<b>2022</b>	383	98	324
<b>2023 – Q1</b>	85	3	79



## **Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm**

### **Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:**

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023 and 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.

The first case is expected to take some time and updates will be provided as appropriate. The second case was ruled by Judge Humphreys on the 28 March 2023 and through a Consent Court Order, it has been agreed that Gowran Grange House, the Demesne of Gowran Grange House, including all historic buildings, structures and decorative features, (RPS No. B24-28) be removed from Kildare County Council's Record of Protected Structures. Once the Order has been perfected it's terms will come into effect and the alteration to the

County Development Plan should be publicised and notified to various persons in the same way as the passing of the County Development Plan was.

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Kildare Town**

The draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was published for consultation on Tuesday the 21 March 2023. Members of the public will be invited to make submissions during a six week public consultation period which will close on Wednesday 3 May 2023. The draft Plan is accompanied by Environmental Reports, a Social Infrastructure Audit, a Settlement Capacity Audit, a Surface Water Study and a Statement of Character for the Architectural Conservation Area.

#### **Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan**

The Chief Executives report on pre-draft Public Consultation was published online on the 8 March 2023 following a briefing with the Elected Members of the Clane Maynooth Municipal District. 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.



### Development Management

Planning applications received			Residential Units Granted	Applications
March	YTD	No.	March	
2020: 134	337	1,133	Total Granted:	57
2021: 186	420	209	Further information requested:	39
2022: 144	364	388	Total Refused:	15
2023 133	316	106		

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

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312958	12/04/22	Glenveagh	Shackleton Road, Celbridge	152	28/06/22 (Overdue)
22/313306	16/05/22	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/313825	17/06/22	Kieran Curtin	Ballyoulster, Celbridge	344	06/10/22 (Overdue)
22/314337	11/08/22	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22 (Overdue)
22/314564	07/09/22	Teresa Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	272	05/01/23 (Overdue)

**Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)** legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning authority will be required to hold an LRD meeting



(within four weeks) and issue an LRD opinion within eight weeks of the receipt of documentation from the applicant. An LRD application must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion

Large-scale Residential Developments – Requests for Opinion					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	KCC Opinion Due
2022/08	27/10/22	Glenveigh Properties	Guinness Land, Leixlip	235	19/01/2023
2022/09	08/11/22	LADAS Property	Mill Street, Maynooth	120	11/01/2023

Large-scale Residential Developments – Planning Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
22/221052	26/08/22	Garyaron Homes	Simmonstown, Celbridge	137	Grant 20/10/22  Appealed  ABP Upheld Decision to Grant 13/03/23
22/221502	16/12/22	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	134	Due 30/04/23

## Heritage

### Heritage Projects Progress

#### 1. Brigid 1500

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

#### 2. Turas Columbanus

Kildare County Council was successful along with Carlow, Wexford, Meath Laois, Cavan, Monaghan County Councils and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Fermanagh



and Omagh District Council and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council in securing €250,000 to prepare a Feasibility Study for Turas Columbanus from the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Turas Columbanus is a spiritual pilgrim route from Mount Leinster, the birthplace of Columbanus via County Fermanagh to Bangor in County Down where Columbanus later set sail for Europe.

3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans  
Plans completed for Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh. Project funded via Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) fund.

4. Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme  
A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for LBAP towns was launched in November

(LPT Project). Funding was allocated in Jan 2023.

5. Local Biodiversity Action Plans Mentoring Programme

6. A mentoring programme for the 23 towns in Kildare with a Local Biodiversity Action Plans will commence in Autumn 2023

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

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

8. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)  
Arrangements to reestablish HMAC underway. Proposed to have meeting in quarter two 2023.

## B. Funding Applications

1. Heritage Plan Fund (€37,500)

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

No	Site Name
1	Heritage Awareness 2023
2	Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas
3	Survey of Military Structures in Kildare.



## 2. Community Monuments Fund 2023

The following applications were submitted with funding to be announced in due course.

No	Site Name			Amount
1	Moone Tower	Private	Stream 1	108,636
2	Kildare Tower	Private	Stream 1	110,696
3	Clane Friary	KCC	Stream 1	60,000
4	Donacompher Church	KCC	Stream 1	100,000
5	Laraghbryan Church	KCC	Stream 1	45,000
6	Tipper Church	KCC	Stream 2	15,129
7	Great Connell Priory	Community	Stream 2	30000
8	Dunmanoge Graveyard	Community	Stream 3	9,753
Total				479,214

## 3. National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

The following applications were submitted and funding will be announced in due course.

No	Project	LBAF
1	Control of American Skunk Cabbage 2023	6,800
2	Control of Himalayan Balsam 2023	8,475
3	Vegetation control Lullybeg for Marsh Fritillary	8,075
4	Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey	7,000
5	Kildare Citizen science in Schools and Community Project	14,000
6	Pollardstown Fen Buffer Zone study	14,000
7	Ecological Survey and Management Plan of Harristown Commons	10,200
8	Biodiversity Awareness Project 2023	31,450
	Total	100,000

### Conservation

#### 1. Built Heritage Investment Scheme

(BHIS): – 2023

BHIS allocation €126,400.

BHIS thatched allocation

€13,334.

18 grants have been approved.



2. Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

2023: -

Stream One – seven applications

Stream Two – one application  
HSF nominations have been made to the Department.

Details on successful applications will be provided on receipt.

3. Thatched Cottage Grant;

2023 Kildare County Council  
Thatching grant closed 22 March 2023.

4. Heritage Stewardship Scheme

(The Heritage Council):

An application for 2023 Heritage Stewardship Scheme was submitted 16 January 2023 for €25,200 funding towards a review of the RPS in Kilcock, Rathangan, Kilcullen and Castledermot. Details on successful applications will be provided on receipt.

The new County Library Part 8 draft documents are in the final printing stages. The timeline for the twenty week process is now being finalised to coincide with the Municipal District meeting schedule.

Feasibility Study completed for the New Sustainability and Climate Action Centre and circulated to members via the Members Portal. Market Square being monitored with works in collaboration with the Area Office to be carried out.

2. Kildare Square – Phase one – Stage one design and consultation completed. Final Design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the business/residents surrounding the square. Meeting with Failte Ireland in Quarter two to discuss proposals and funding available which had a drawdown deadline of November 2023.

3. Kildare Square – Phase two and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet; Stage one design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. The Council's agent is in on-going discussions with various landowners.

**Strategic Projects and Public Realm**

**Kildare Newbridge Municipal District:**

1. Newbridge Cultural Quarter – Phase one County Library and Archive –



4. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase two: Sallins to Clonkeen. Section 38 being prepared for the tie in from Phase one to Phase two, as there was a rerouting required as per the conditions of the Part VIII planning permission. This will be advertised in the coming weeks. We intend to extend the scope of works of the Phase one Contract to include these works, subject to a successful Section 38 process. Ground Investigation works has commenced. Part VIII, required for two additional bridges along the route – one near Bonyngne Bridge and another at Lowtown. Winter/Spring ecological surveys for the route underway as per Waterways Ireland requirements.
5. Rathangan Market Square – Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.
6. Kilcullen Market Square – Part 8 Approved but no funding secured yet to advance.
7. Curragh Plains Strategy – Final Draft under review. Finalisation of the plans on hold subject to talks with Office of Public Works (OPW). Still on hold.
8. Kildangan Community Hall - Received town and village (T&V) grant funding in 2019 to upgrade and refurbish the Community Hall. Works were carried out to replace the roof structure and complete internal works to bring the building back into use. The T&V grant was assisted by a small community grant from our Community Section, all grant funding has been issued to the group and the claim for drawdown submitted to the Department.

**Athy Municipal District:**

1. Barrow Blueway – Unbound surface to be complete end May 2023. John Craddock Limited. appointed for road crossings. Planning compliance for road crossings submitted. Works to commence in the coming weeks. Seven submissions received for bridge tender and currently being assessed. Additional funding required to complete the scheme – application being prepared for submission to Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). Placemaking Plan produced – FUNDED BY Kildare LEADER. Waterways Ireland have secured internal funds to deliver some of



the soft infrastructure items, nine picnic benches, seating, signage etc) – as identified and as per the appropriate locations identified in the Placemaking Plan.

Application submitted under the Community Recognition Fund for the purchase of land in Athy for a possible trail head.

2. Emily Square – Tender documents in progress.
3. Shackleton Museum – Tender closed Friday 3 March 2023, with seven tender returns. Tender Submissions being assessed and meeting to be arranged with Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to go through successful submission.
4. Ballitore – Tanyard – Town and village grant funding allocated to complete a Conservation Plan which has now been completed.

**Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District:**

1. Wonderful Barn – Following a very successful open day, over 360 submissions were received, all very positive. Stage one surveys on-going. Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) funding required, aiming for Call four later this year. A preliminary feasibility study, undertaken by a specialist

economic consultant will identify the financial requirements; economic benefits and options which will feed into the Part 8. A Business Case is then required and Local Enterprise Office are assisting with the feasibility study and business case proposal.

‘Opening up works’ – civil works – will take place in the coming weeks. This will consist of the removal of slabs from the house and barns to see what’s going on. It is expected that Part 8 will be published this year.

2. Celbridge Parochial House – TBD.
3. Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans – Drafts received and under review. Update on the Parochial site has been provided by Gillian Allen and submitted to the design team. Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out. Presentation to elected members before public consultation process.

**Clane – Maynooth Municipal District:**

1. Bawnogues Community Centre – Fully funded by Kildare County Council; Work continues to be very slow. Completion date extended to end April 2023. Waiting on final



connection from ESB and Irish Water.

2. Harbourfield – Part 8 approved. URDF application – revised Business Case submitted to the Department.
3. URDF Town Renewal Masterplan for Maynooth: Business Case completed and submitted.

#### **Naas Municipal District:**

1. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: Works continuing. John Craddock Limited. appointed and commenced on site October 2022 with a twelve month programme, currently no delays.
2. URDF Town Renewal Masterplan for Naas: Following feedback from the URDF team, a revised business case is to be submitted. Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) currently reviewing revised scope. Discussions ongoing with various landowners.
3. Potato Market – Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. The next phase of development, subject to funding, will upgrade electricity and services.
4. Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan: Design team appointed October 2023 and initial survey and analysis

underway. First presentation to the elected members on 14 February 2023. Consultation workshop has taken place in February with the second workshop taking place on 3 April 2023

## **Water Services**

### **Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics**

Uisce Éireann quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour on the dates specified.

The 2023 schedule of clinics is as follows:

- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023

Six members attended the last clinic on Monday 27 February 2023. Irish Water will be in 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](http://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 the 31 local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority possibly by end of Quarter two 2023 taking into consideration changes included the new Framework.

## **Environment and Climate Action**

### **Water Framework Directive**

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive.

The council await the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin

Management Plan for the period 2022 to 2027.

This document is expected to be published 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)



end-of-year report, plus the 2023 RMCEI Plan were returned to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prior to the 28 February 2023 deadline. Kildare County Council were judged as one of the top performers Nation-wide in terms of environmental inspections in 2021, and 2022 was another successful year. Resourcing the area has proved to be a particular problem in recent months due to the loss of staff, and this is envisaged to be at risk of impacting on our 2023 plans.

### 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 (NWCP) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://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 (see details below) and they will go forward to represent County Kildare at the National Awards in Meath on 3 May 2023. Fifty-two schools and over



seventy entries from six counties are competing for the National Awards. The festival has proven so successful that plans are already underway to expand it next year to include more schools in the County. 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. Some Residents Associations are expressing interest in installing compost areas for green waste on their estates.

### GAA Green Clubs Initiative



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative. The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.

### New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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.

### Kildare County Council Launches

#### New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative



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



## Catchment Flooding

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

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

### Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

## Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The contract is scheduled for signing in March 2023, subject to a successful tender assessment process and approval to proceed from the OPW.

## 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 with the bulk of the main works completed in terms of landfill gas and leachate infrastructure, capping works, playing pitches, walking trails, playground facilities, carparking facilities, pond areas and art trail. It is anticipated that the park will be operational later this year.



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



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

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

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

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

Current plans are as follows:

#### **Columbarium Walls**

##### a) New

It is proposed to install new Columbarium Walls in the following cemeteries:  
Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, Athy and Confey. 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.

### **Cemetery Extensions**

##### a) Allen

A tender exercise has been completed for the extension of Allen Cemetery and are awaiting a formal award. 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

Detailed investigations are being carried out in terms of assessing any spare capacity within the cemetery, as it is rapidly approaching full capacity.



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

d) Newbridge Cemetery

Ground investigation work has been completed on lands to the rear of St. Conleth's Cemetery, which have proven that the lands could be suitable for interments, subject to the need arising.

**Other Capital Improvement Works**

a) Naas Altar

Tenders have been issued for the construction of a new altar structure at St. Corbans Cemetery. It is expected that works will get underway in mid Quarter three 2023

b) Newbridge Cemetery Car Park

Detailed design work has been completed and it is expected to advance to tender in March for major upgrade works to St. Conleth's Cemetery Newbridge, to include for the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

c) Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

Awaiting the completion of a new boundary wall between the

cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.

d) 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 two 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 which was substantially completed in 2018.

b) Confey Cemetery

Municipal District members have supported the proposal to relocate the altar in order to free up ground for additional interment plots. Tenders currently being prepared for this.

**Risk Management**

The 2023 risk cycle is about to commence with a briefing of the Audit



Committee having taken place on 7 March 2023 and departmental risk registers are now being received.



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



### Climate Action Teams (CATs)

A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs has been launched including themes of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation and Energy, Community Climate Action, Creative Climate Action, Climate Action through Heritage and Biodiversity, Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonizing Zones.

### Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 17,531 staff at grades seven, six, five, four, three (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme, with a total of 13,561 (78%) having completed the programme. The programme 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

Discover how local authorities, working through their economic and enterprise remit, are supporting existing and new business to embrace the innovation required for the transition to a net-zero economy.

The local government County and City Management Association (CCMA) are hosting a national conference event on Wednesday, 26 April 2023. This exciting conference at the Tullamore Court Hotel explores how businesses, in addressing and responding to climate change, can realise unique economic and business opportunities. This event seeks to build on the success of the inaugural conference, held in Tullamore in October 2019 and the subsequent online event in 2021, and will highlight some of the research work undertaken by the sector that explores how local authorities can, through reinforcing their economic remit, support and encourage new and existing business



and enterprise to aid the transition to a net zero economy.

The conference will feature speakers to set the policy context along with practical examples to highlighted how businesses are capitalising on new opportunities and becoming green pioneers through embracing the challenges of climate change. The support and facilitation of local authorities in these examples will be highlighted also.

The conference will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly on Wednesday 26 April 2023, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For registration, please see 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 due to published early in 2023.

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

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

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 bureaus or regional energy efficiency projects.

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

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A tender for a

public building energy efficiency report resulted in Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating.

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

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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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



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

Stage one saw completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Stage two is underway and will see the development of a more in-depth analysis document, with expected publication 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 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, 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 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. Given the availability of the published guidance RPS group are reviewing the elements undertaken to date and assessing the path forward to undertaking the SECAP/CAP and DZ plans. Currently the project is at the scoping of the actor's stage.

The Senior Management team and associated senior staff members undertook an interactive session on the Vision for Kildare by 2050 and potential actions to advance decarbonizing of the council's services and functions in January. Information was also given on how to commence decarbonizing the work of the various sections.



#### **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.

### Climate Action Energy Management Team



The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 23 March

2023 in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town to undertake the first of four workshops to inform the formulation of Kildare's Climate Action Plan. The workshop was facilitated by CARO. The members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team undertook a review of the adaptation measures under the existing strategy and brainstormed on the potential mitigation measures. Three further workshops will be undertaken over the next two months to advance the process.

Maynooth Community Council in conjunction with the Climate Action Office are jointly organizing an event in Maynooth to increase awareness of climate action. The fun event will inform on consultation opportunities and build awareness

### 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:**

The latest scheduled meeting took place 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. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 May 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 finalizing their Energy Master Plan and propose to launch 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.

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

The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas 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.

### ICT Solutions



An opportunity to collaborate with Eir Evo <https://www.eirevo.ie/> to advance ICT solutions was acted upon and the inaugural sprint is now completed.



The initial contact was made via our IT Department.

The work included the development of an app linking plant passport statutory recording and tree surveys (Parks Department has usage) together with the potential for the creation of a dashboard.

The potential to gamify the Carbon Calculator associated with Maynooth DZ has been discussed given the national potential community usage.

An introduction has been made between An Taisce and Eir Evo to advance the option.

Advancement is dependent on funding allocations with Eir Evo seeking further assistance.

The programme is funded by Microsoft.

### Climate Action Community Initiatives

#### Items Awarded:

#### Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County

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

Site visits with though provoking interactive are being conducted on the various bogs during December, 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' will take place on the 25 May to 27 May 2023 in McAuley place including exhibit and VR experience. The launch will be on the 25 May 2023 and the opportunity will also be used 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 nation-wide. If successful the main body of work will be carried out by a postdoctoral researcher with project support from the Climate Action Office, Maynooth University and engagement with Teagasc.



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.

### 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.

### **Climate Innovation Fund – First Round**

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

#### **Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community**

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

### **The Climate Hub**

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

### **Climate Response Ireland**

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

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



### **Climate Innovation Fund – 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.



## Forestry

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

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

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

## Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The K-Climate eZine is quarterly update from the Climate Action Office on external climate and energy-related news, internal updates and happenings from within the council and other resources to support engagement and learning on climate action. The ezine is 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.

 [SharePoint](#)



## 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 eg. 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. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023. A presentation was given in late October to Teagasc student's on the initial Entomology qualitative data. Each Municipal District received a presentation in March on the progress to date.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates.

The results of our monthly Parks Pilot posts on Kildare Community Stories are set out below with one of the videos being the most viewed on Community Stories during 2022.



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	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>43,749</b>	<b>6,936</b>

## Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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

(Concept and Feasibility), Phase two (Option Selection), Phase three (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase four (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

### Athy Distributor Road

(BAM, Roughan and O Donovan) Project is progressing in accordance with identified milestones, and progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing.



A significant milestone has been reached with the successful lifting of the beams across the River Barrow.

### **New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn**

(Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

Construction is ongoing on site.

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

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

(Roughan and O Donovan)

The CPO has been published and a decision awaited from An Bord Pleanála. twelve Submissions were submitted to the Bord.

### **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**

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

### **Sustainable Transport Section**



### **Projects Update**

#### **Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase five)**

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

#### **Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)**

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

#### **Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme**

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



**Green Lane Active Travel Scheme**  
€240,000. Detailed design continuing. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

**Naas to Sallins Greenway**  
€5,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA required prior to decision being made to progress to 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.

**Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme**  
€20,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

**Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme**  
€160,000 allocation. Detailed design continuing.

**Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**  
€500,000 allocation. 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. Insufficient funding to progress Project.

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

Proposals to move the process forward are being considered with a view to presenting to the elected members in Quarter two 2023.

### **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.

### **Roads Maintenance**

#### **Municipal District Works**

Winter Maintenance season continues to end April and monitoring is ongoing daily.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Grant allocations for 2023 have been notified – similar to 2022 – used for Road Maintenance works and Pavement overlays on N78 and N81

2023 Department of Transport allocation Local and Regional Roads (primarily Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works) is 4% up on last year. – Total Maintenance Grant :€16.8 million Road works to value €14 million will be carried out from April to September – on up to 120 sites countywide. RI (Road restoration) works starts now while RM (Surface dressing) done by direct labour is due to commence end of May.

Designs are being prepared for 12 no Low-Cost Safety schemes to value €309,000 – aim to draw down all 2023 Grant money.

2022 National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Indicators are verified with Road Management Office (RMO) – for future report.

E6 Public Lighting, R1 Road surveys, R2 Road Works.

R1 indicator shows vast improvement on previous data.

Preventative Road Maintenance works (opening of water cuts and gully cleaning) is ongoing following heavy rainfall in recent weeks.

Patching Repairs ongoing in advance of Surface Dressing annual programme

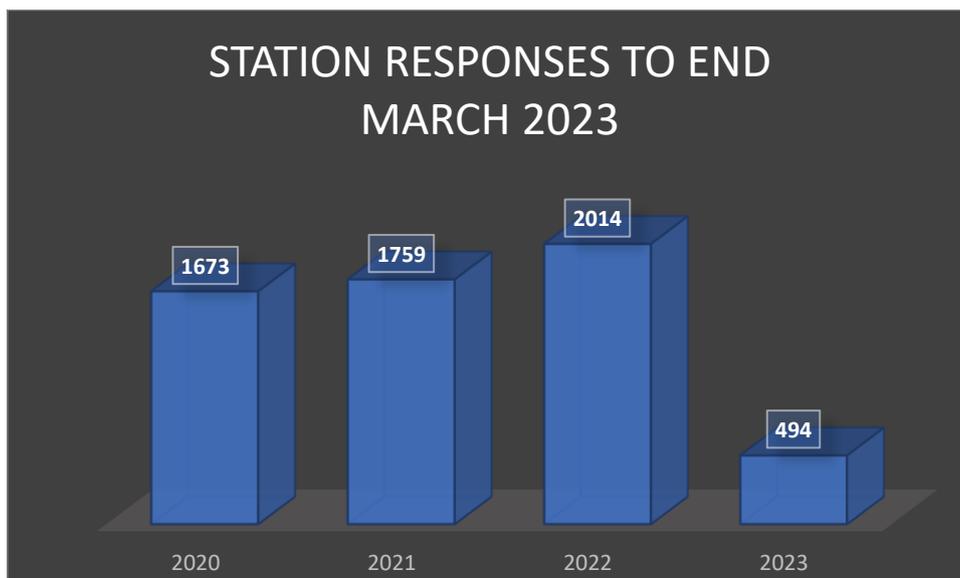
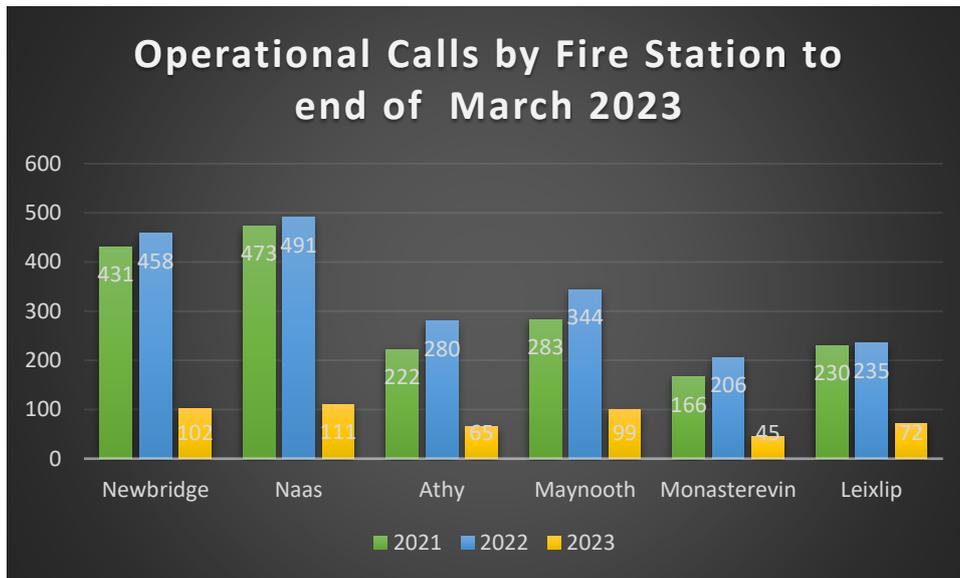


Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Survey to commence in September this year with works on site to commence in Quarter one and two 2024. Contract due for completion

in Quarter four 2024 will lead to annual savings of approx. € 750,000 on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

**Fire Safety Certificates:**

**Fire Service Operations: 2023 Summary**





### Fire Safety Certificates

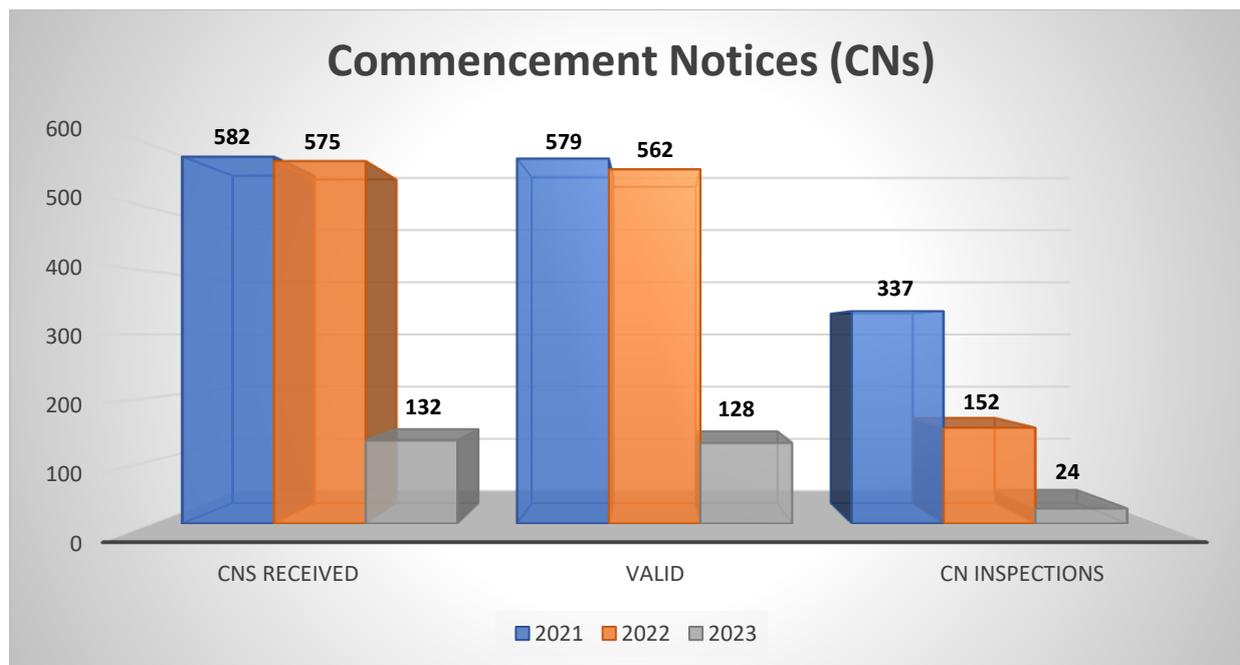
Applications received to the end of March 2023 compared with the totals received in previous years.



### Building Control and Development Control

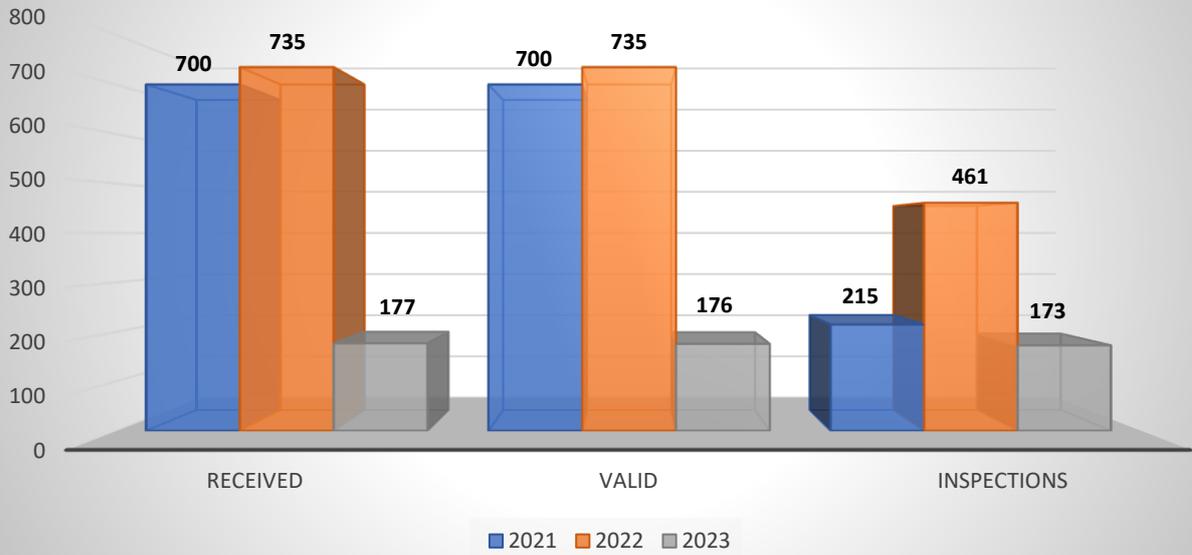
The following figures are cumulative up to end of March 2023 set against full year figures for 2021 and 2022.

#### BUILDING CONTROL

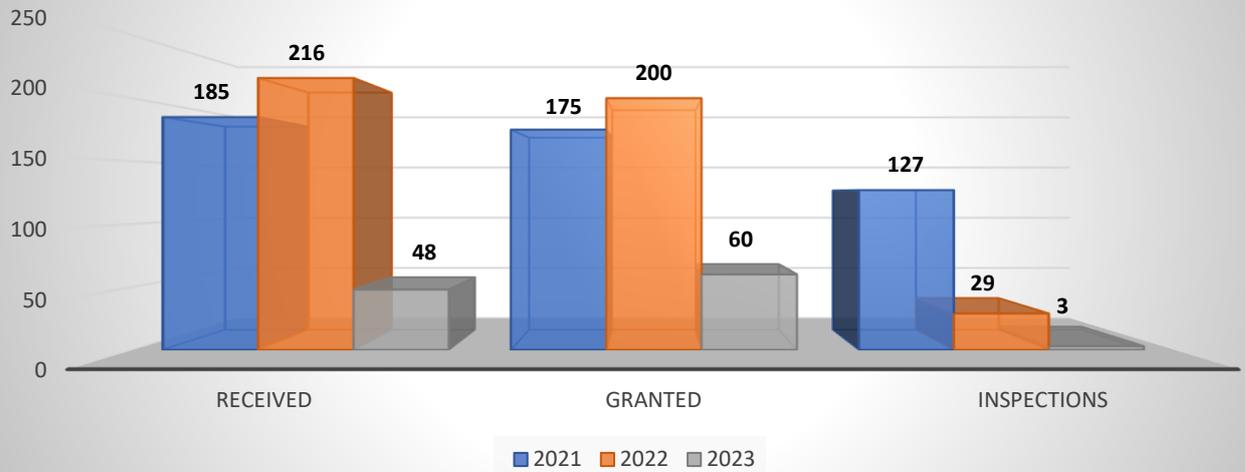




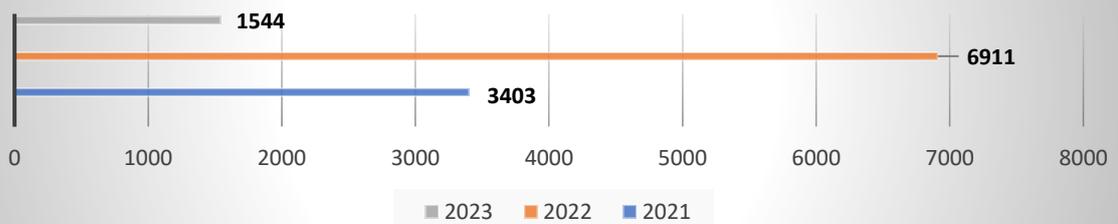
### Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCCs)



### Disability Access Certificates (DACs)



### Number of Buildings Inspected





### Health and Safety:

- Six DSE Assessments completed.
- Wellbeing brainstorm session-plan for wellbeing initiatives for 2023 including conference.
- Three Safety Inspections completed.
- Two Safety Meet and Greets completed.
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment completed.
- Two Workplace assessments completed.
- Review of Development Control site specific work plans
- Meeting with Training Department on Health and Safety delivery for 2023.
- Further workshop on developing a health and wellbeing plan for 2023.
- HSE Covid Booster Clinic held in Aras- 49 attendees
- Area Engineers Meeting
- Engaged Medmark to carry out Basic Health Screenings and Flu Vaccinations again this year.

### Accessibility:

- Meetings –Leixlip Amenities re Inclusive Playground

- Patricia Ryan TD regarding setting up new Access Group for Monasterevin.
- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN), Athy, Leixlip Access Groups
- Official opening of Changing Places Facility – Newbridge Sports Centre
- Workshop with Disability Federation of Ireland on Access For All initiative – working towards a national unified approach.
- Meeting with Glasseye (Production company) and communications section to scope out further the detail for promotional video highlighting the accessibility initiatives and projects that have been completed to date.
- Assessment of LEO Pride of Premises Accessibility Applicants
- Completion of Accessibility Plan Questionnaire for Leixlip Library-
- Access Audit of Leixlip Library by external consultant:
  - Access audit of the building.



- Benchmarking accessible services provision (e.g. services, information, HR, engagement etc).
- Maynooth University Frobel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education extended an invitation to Maynooth Access Group to hold an exhibition of their sustainable toy library (Our World) and deliver a workshop on accessibility, representation and inclusion in the early years
- setting to students from BA in Early Childhood Education and Learning
- Review of draft of Johnny Magory Disability Book – commissioned to raise awareness of disability and giving representation to Irish Disabled Children.
- Support to Donegal and Kilkenny County Council's on the development of Access Strategy.
- Review of website proposals for CKAN.

## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded in 2022.

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

**2023 grants schemes:** The 2023 community, festival and residents' associations grants were advertised with a closing date for applications of Friday 10 March 2023.



Assessments have been completed in all cases and reports will issue to the members at the April Municipal District meetings.

LPT-funded grant schemes will be processed once the above schemes have been approved.

### **Local Community Development Committee**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 29 March 2023 in the MERITS building.

**Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**  
County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in

Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The SICAP Plan for 2023 includes additional funding of €170,973 to respond to the Ukrainian crisis

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership  
[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://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](http://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  
phone number 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Healthy Ireland (HI)**

The application for HI Round four 2023-2025 was approved by the LCDC at their January meeting and submitted to Pobal for approval at the end of January. Priorities in relation to mental health and physical activity are being proposed. The LCDC are awaiting



final approval for the roll out of HI Round four from Pobal and the Department of Health.

For further information contact Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: phone number 086-8858508 or email [lkelly@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:lkelly@kildarecoco.ie)

### Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy has been selected by Department of Rural and Community Development (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 first meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on 28 March 2023. 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.

**The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 24 May 2023.**

### Kildare Fáilte

In March, tourism and hospitality businesses again prepared for the weekend's celebrations of St. Patrick's Day parades and Mother's Day events. Kildare Fáilte supported community organisations across the county in promoting St. Patrick's Day parades that were taking place, whilst highlighting a variety of Mother's Day treats across the County. In addition, a suite of itineraries were curated to encourage visitors to spend the long weekend in Kildare and these were promoted across the Into Kildare social channels and website. Engagement of digital channels continued to be strong with a high interest in events taking place.





Into Kildare invited tourism and hospitality business's to attend the Royal Canal and Old Rail Trail Industry Greenway Activation Cluster meeting with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and Meath County Council at Moyvalley Hotel. The meeting was to determine the infrastructure and services required to develop the both business and user experience of the Greenway into beneficial tourism experiences in both County Kildare and County Meath. Into Kildare CEO Áine Mangan presented on Tourism in the County on behalf of Kildare County Council.

Into Kildare facilitated an educational visit to Newbridge Silverware. Owner William Doyle spoke about the upcoming development plans for the Visitors Centre and new dining facilities with the Centre welcoming over 370,000 visitors annually.



Newbridge Silverware Factory Tour – William Doyle, CEO Newbridge Silverware, Joe Boland, Deputy CE Kildare CoCo, David Mongey, Chairperson Into Kildare, Marie Higgins, Board member Into Kildare, Karen Keogh, Into Kildare with other members of Kildare CoCo.



Into Kildare team and participants including, Fáilte Ireland, members of LEO, Leader and other Kildare trade.

Fáilte Ireland's Officer for Ireland's Ancient East was invited to meet the new Into Kildare team members and update on national activities and how they support regional tourism.



Into Kildare's CEO Áine Mangan presenting at Fáilte Ireland event



Kildare Fáilte's team and Caroline McHenry.



The Thoroughbred Country Executive also updated the tourism team on activities and the new saleable experiences ahead of attending Meitheal. Fáilte Ireland invited CEO of Into Kildare to attend Meitheal in Killarney. Meitheal is an annual event that provides the opportunity for the Irish tourism industry and overseas tourism buyers to meet and conduct business. The event attracted a number of Kildare hotel and tourism attractions to showcase the unique offerings of County Kildare.



Longford, Offaly, Leitrim and Kildare County Councils.



Kildare Fáilte's Áine Mangan at Meitheal with Laura Magee

Kildare Fáilte were among the sponsors and stakeholders who were invited to launch the "Flat Season" at the Curragh Racecourse. The launch was opened by Brian Kavanagh with speakers including Aidan O'Brien and John Oxx, who spoke about the opportunities of the upcoming season.



Into Kildare attended Solas Bhríde for the release of the revised edition of Rekindling the Flame – A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Brigid of Kildare by Rita Minehan. Launching the book was Eileen Dunne, former newsreader with RTE news.



Kildare Fáilte's team with Eileen Dunne, Sr. Rita Minihan and David Mongey, Chairperson Into Kildare



To support business in Naas town, Kildare Fáilte and Punchestown Racecourse will collaborate on Paint the Town Red to encourage racegoers to visit and experience the town pre and post racing during the Punchestown racecourse.

Into Kildare met with members throughout the County including the latest Hotel in Kildare to open, the Club at Goffs, a great addition to accommodation and food and beverage offerings within the County. This month Into Kildare also welcomed new members to the team to accommodate the growing needs of Tourism support in County Kildare.

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights – Library Service

**That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet – Jhumpa Lahiri**

### Seachtain na Gaeilge i Leabharlanna Chill Dara

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated throughout Kildare libraries with a range of all-Irish and Bi-lingual events. There were over 25 events with an estimated 400 participants plus six

Irish Language classes held during Seachtain na Gaeilge throughout Kildare Library Service.

### Kildare Seed Library

The Kildare Seed Library initiative recently launched in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth branches with gardening workshops, film screenings and seed swaps. Library users can borrow three packets of organic seeds to grow (vegetables, herbs, edible flowers) and return saved seeds to these libraries for others to access. The project contributes to multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and places libraries at the centre of community-driven climate action.

### Sustainable Life School Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Deep Dive training

The Libraries Climate Programming team arranged a two-hour session developed exclusively for Kildare Library staff on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals delivered online on 3 March 2023. In this interactive session, staff learned how the goals relate to their own work and library programmes, and how to use the goals to live more sustainably. The live session was recorded to enable staff complete the training subsequently. The training aligns with



Strategic Objective two of The National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024: to integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs.

The Sustainable Life School facilitators will also be delivering a four-week Sustainable Living programme online from 18 April 2023. The feel-good programme is designed to motivate and empower participants to make changes to positively impact both their own lives and the planet whilst saving money.

## Libraries

### Small works

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding of €12,000 secured for conservation works at Ballitore Library. Leak in Kilcullen Library fixed.

Panic Buttons installed in all libraries and Library Headquarters – except for Leixlip which needs to be upgraded.

### Human Resources

Branch Librarian competition to progress short-listing and interview stages.

Manual Handling Training for staff, particularly Naas staff, as recommended by Health and Safety ahead of the planned move to the new library.

## Capital Projects

### Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing. The library will be open to the public in Summer 2023.

### County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Part 8 for the proposed County Library and Archives in Newbridge is being launched from 11 April 2023 with public consultation submissions accepted via the Kildare County Council portal until 24 May 2023.

### New Clane Library

The closing date for Part 8 Planning submissions by the public was Thursday 30 March 2023. The submissions are being collated and planning report is now being prepared.

### Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Archival, local history and genealogical queries for public, local groups and County Council.

Preparing collections for move to Naas.

Listing, cleaning, and digitising of archival material.

Karel Kiely, archivist and Mark Reid, Executive Librarian, presented at the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Digital Access to



Cultural Memory programme on BorrowBox and local publications. Karel and James visited Kilmainham Museum and Archives to meet curator, Brian Crowley. Local Government Archivists and Records Managers meetings. Historical articles for The Pulse and Kildare eHistory Journal.

### **Decade of Commemorations**

Grants scheme adjudication has taken place and successful projects will be notified shortly.

Recent talks included 'The End of the Civil War' - John Dorney, Celbridge Library .

'County Kildare women in the Revolutionary Period' - Karel Kiely, Equality Denied seminar, and Bruce Springsteen's Irish ancestry, both in Rathangan Library.

O'Connor Sisters of Elm Hall – James Durney, Elm Hall, Celbridge: James also did two talks on the centenary of the escape from Tintown Internment Camp, Leixlip Library and Suncroft Community Centre.

### **Dates for the diary in April**

20 April 2023 - The Other Civil War, talk with Myles Dungan (RTÉ History Show) via Zoom.

### **Arts Service Arts Grants**

The assessment of all 17 grants and bursary award schemes has now taken place and applicants are being notified of decisions. A full report will issue shortly.

### **Fidget Feet Aerial Dance**

Kildare County Council, with Donegal and Tipperary County Councils have received funding to deliver Circus? Bingo! a community project which will support aerial dance performances of House! by Fidget Feet. It will take place in the carpark of Aras Chill Dara in August, with a drive-in audience.

The Creative Places Athy programme has commenced a series of talks on 'What is a Creative Place?', with guest artists presenting their ideas.

Plans are underway to host an exhibition of selected works from Kildare's Municipal Art Collection 'Finding Form' in Riverbank Arts Centre. The Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare Cllr. Fintan Brett will launch the exhibition on Friday 21 April 2023.

### **Parks**



### **Allenwood Playground**

Tender clarifications are ongoing and it is hoped to complete these and award the tender in the next three weeks.

### **Leixlip Playground**

The Part 8 for the playground is due to be advertised after Easter.

### **Barrow Towpath, Athy**

Resurfacing of the path along the river from the Courthouse to the Horsebridge is due to be completed by the end of the month.

### **Maynooth Municipal District Tree Works**

A tender for works in the Maynooth Municipal District is under preparation. It is hoped to have this tendered by mid-May.

### **Newbridge Playground**

Works on the design for a natural play area in Liffey Linear Park is underway. It is hoped to have this installed by the end of the year.

### **Leixlip Summer Bedding**

Quotations are being sought for the installation of Summer Bedding in Leixlip for the Summer.

### **Castletown Woods**

A topographical survey of the woods has been completed. This will assist in informing the development of a conservation plan for the woods.

### **Local Enterprise Office**

#### **Enterprise and Economic Development Activity February 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](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

or call 045980838.

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



## Financial Supports

<b>Funding Applications Awarded From 1 Jan – 31 March</b>		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
<b>Web Development Grant</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>€62,676</b>
<b>Priming Grant</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>€57,162</b>
<b>Business Expansion Grant</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>€86,849</b>
<b>Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€11,239</b>

## Entrepreneurship Support Services

<b>Participants Per MD up to 29 March 2023</b>	<b>Start-Up Clinics</b>	<b>Business Clinics</b>	<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>SYOB</b>
Naas	36	35	5	19
Athy	6	3	0	3
Celbridge-Leixlip	12	8	3	2
Kildare-Newbridge	20	29	8	9
Clane- Maynooth	19	9	1	5

### 1-1 BUSINESS CLINICS:

Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online every Wednesday.

Business-specific subject clinics are offered every Thursday in MERITS.

### CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT:

Applications are now open for the [Advanced Management Development Programme](#) commencing September.

This programme is facilitated by renowned strategist Blaise Brosnan



and aims to build management capacity in businesses positioning for growth or those challenged by resource limitations.

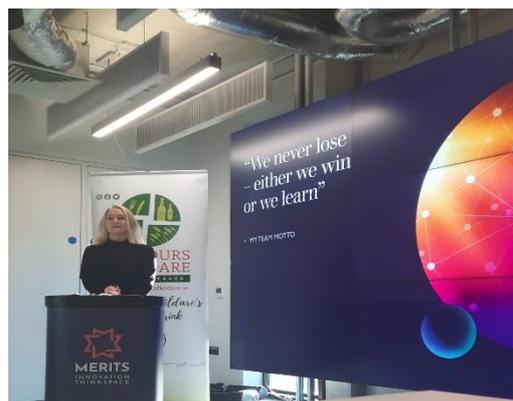
#### **FOCUS ON TECH:**

Applications are open for the [MERTIS Pre-Accelerator](#). This programme is designed to accelerate the success of entrepreneurs with an innovative/tech idea. Applications close on 3 April 2023.

#### **FOCUS ON FOOD:**

Applications are open for [Supervalu's Food Academy](#) and closes on 7 April 2023. Food Academy is aimed at those in the early to mid-stages of developing a food or drink business who have already developed a product, trialed it in the marketplace and are looking to scale up and grow their business.

Sarah Keenaghan Global Innovation and Brand Director, Mark Anthony Group Global was joined by Alison Cummins of AP Fine Foods discussed innovation and future trends in food and beverage sector globally with 11 members of the Flavours of Kildare Food Cluster.



LEO Kildare is keen to support innovation across the food sector through feasibility studies or Agile Innovation Fund and clients can meet with a member of the LEO team to discuss the most appropriate supports.

#### **FOCUS ON CRAFT AND CREATIVE:**

Gavin Lawlor, CEO Innov8 Creative Academy spoke to the creative cluster on how he scaled sales of his creative products to over 100 countries. In addition, he volunteered his time to meet one to one with each of our cluster members in attendance to make export-retail, manufacturing, or distributions introductions for each member to accelerate their ability to export.

#### **FOCUS ON EXPORT:**

Five clients identified as potential first-time-exporters offered monthly, one to one export consultancy support with the objective of achieving over



€10,000 in export sales by Quarter four 2023:

- Natural Hygiene and Future Vault (Naas),
- Obus Life, Buoich and Roots of Ireland (Celbridge-Leixlip)

### STUDENT ENTERPRISE:

>1,000 students from 16 schools competed in the County Final on 23 March 2023. St. Wolstan's Community School, Celbridge were overall county winners with their mini company Slates and Company.



They will take part in the National Final in Croke Park in May where one team will be named Student Enterprise of the Year.

### Economic Support Services

#### Pride of Premises.

Kildare County Council held its Pride of Premises Awards on Tuesday, 28 March, at the MERTIS building to recognise the great work Kildare businesses have done in enhancing their shopfronts by way of the council's Retail Support Scheme.

Leas-Chathaoirleach Joe Neville and Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh presented the awards in 14 categories with the Overall County Winner being Boyle's Bar (Kildare Town) while the winners of the Overall Window Display went Lips and P's (Naas); both awards were adjudicated by Denise Doyle (retail consultant) and Vivian Cummins (professional architect). The Shining Stars Academy (Athy) won the Accessibility Award; this category was adjudicated by Michael Hurley of Kildare County Council.



Over 50 guests attended the evening where Barry Flanagan of Lock 13 (Sallins) also received an award recognising his nomination for the National Enterprise Awards.

#### Retail Support Scheme 2023 now open.

Kildare County Council has launched a range of financial supports for retailers to avail of in 2023. The scheme includes the annual Shop Front Improvement Scheme to financially assist business owners to improve the



appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties. The scheme, which supported over 60 businesses in Kildare last year, aims to increase visibility for businesses and enhance the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county.

The scheme provides for up to 50% of the cost of shop front refurbishment, depending on the work proposed, with a maximum allowable contribution of €5,000 per applicant. The scheme also incentivises applicants to incorporate accessibility and age-friendly improvements to their shopfront with up to 75% of eligible costs covered under this measure.

The Retail Window Merchandising Scheme is available for interior window decoration and design of a shop with funding of 80% to a maximum of €500. This scheme is eligible for applications from businesses year on year to keep a modern, attractive window display.

### **Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub**

Following a competitive public procurement process, the council appointed a consultancy team to undertake a feasibility study of the Old Kildare Town Courthouse; it is proposed that a dedicated Craft, Creativity and Design Hub will be built

to act as a sectoral stimulus to develop a hub of enterprise, innovation, commercialisation, and learning.

### **Streetscape Enhancement Scheme (SES) 2022-2023**

Athy successfully bid for €100,000 in funding as part of an initiative funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Under the SES, 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.

After an expression of interest process, the formal application for approved projects is now open and works are expected to commence in the coming weeks.

### **Diaspora Strategy**

Kildare County Council recently completed its procurement process for a Diaspora Coordinator to be appointed to assist in the delivery of Kildare's Diaspora Strategy. It is anticipated that contracts will be agreed upon in the coming weeks and that a work package will be put forward.

### **Kildare Fashion and Textiles Hub**

Kildare County Council recently completed its procurement process to



engage a consultancy to undertake a feasibility study for a dedicated fashion and textiles hub to be located in Monasterevin. The former Bank of Ireland and surrounding sites will be assessed while the consultants will also engage stakeholders to quantify needs and demand.

It is anticipated that contracts will be agreed upon in the coming weeks and that a work package will be put forward.

### Hub Activity

#### Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

##### Company Mission:

A delegation of members from the Sachsen-Anhalt region of Germany were hosted in MERITS for discussions with Kildare County Council's Chief Executive, the Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Department and Kildare's innovation hubs.



### MERITS Hosts the Rubbish Film Festival:

Organised by Kildare County Council, the Rubbish Film Festival screening was hosted in MERITS with 35 students from local schools showcasing their short films highlighting Climate Action issues and Sustainable Development Goals.



### Occupancy increase in MERITS:

The hub welcomed two new tech start-up businesses in March while an existing business upgraded from a desk-space to an office as the team expands.

### 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 [Local Enterprise Office - Kildare](#)

**Sonya Kavanagh**

**Chief Executive**