



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – December 2023



*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful
New Year*

BRIGID 1500

Celebrating A Woman, A Life, A Legacy

www.brigid1500.ie





News Items

2023 Excellence in Local Government Awards

Brigid 1500 won Festival of the year and the Wellbeing Roadshow won in the Municipal District Initiative category (see pages 8/9).

Publication of Johnny Magory

The library service has partnered with Kildare County Council Access Officer, Creative Ireland and County Kildare Access Network to publish Johnny Magory and the Mystery of the Missing Puppies by Emma Jane Leeson (see pages 13/14).

Room for a Student – Local Authority Tenancies

The Government has introduced a new scheme called ‘Room for a Student’. Council tenants with a spare bedroom may let that bedroom to a third-level student for the academic term. (see page 22)

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:

The CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme commenced in early 2023 increasing the number of participating clubs to approximately 200. (see pages 47/48).

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Consultation Stage 2 in developing the LECPP is concluding. Over 1,300 individuals engaged directly in consultation through targeted meetings, survey and focus groups. (see pages 53/54)

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2023 is complete – all records uploaded onto MapRoad and claims submitted to Department of Transport (see pages 58/59).



Communications Boards

Communications boards to assist children with communication difficulties have been installed in The Peoples Park, Athy, Newbridge, Prosperous, Kill, Celbridge (see page 58).

Into Kildare AGM

On November 22, Into Kildare welcomed nearly 80 representatives from the tourism and hospitality sector across County Kildare to Killashee Hotel for its Annual General Meeting (see pages 69/70).

Focus on Craft

GATHER, a collection of gifts created in Kildare, launched as a pop-up in Kildare Village on 26 October 2023 (see pages 72/73)



Diary/Calendar

Athy Access Billboard Project

Athy Disability Access Group and Creative Places Athy have created a project to encourage people to consider the barriers to access in our communities. This two-and-a-half-month campaign takes the form of creating a series of seven billboards on Leinster Street, Athy from November 2023 to February 2024 (see page 16)

Rates

New legislation regarding commercial rates will take effect from 01 January 2024 (see pages 20/21).

HacktheClimate –

Collaboration between Climate/LEO/MERITS/Innovation rescheduled for 23 February 2024 (see page 21).

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 – 2029, and it is expected that the new Plan will be implemented in Q1 2024 by Chief Executive Order in each of the Local Authorities (see page 41)

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All local authorities continue to engage with the process of developing their LA CAPs for adoption on or before the 23 February 2024 (see page 46).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 31 January 2024 (see page 54).



Focus on Export:

Ten established tech companies are currently working on our Export Development Programme with a Showcase event planned in MERITS on 24 January 2024 (see page 73).

Skills Audit:

Kildare County Council published a request for tender for a suitable consultancy to undertake a skills audit of County Kildare; responses are expected 04 December 2023 (see page 74).



January Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan	2	3	4	5 09:00 Briefing ABTA - Clane/Maynooth MD; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 10:00 Clane Maynooth Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members...
8 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Members Calendar	9 15:30 Naas Municipal District monthly meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	10	11 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee	12
15 10:00 Athy MD Meeting January ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	16 14:30 Audit Committee	17 10:00 Kildare Newbridge Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	18	19 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
22 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Teams Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Members Calendar	23	24	25	26
29 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	30	31 10:00 LCDC	1 Feb 14:00 Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC	2 10:00 Clane Maynooth Monthly Meeting ; Members Calendar



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare County Council took home two awards at the 2023 Excellence in Local Government Awards, which took place in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin on Thursday 23 November 2023.

Winning Projects:

Category: Festival of the Year

Project: Brigid 1500 – St Brigid’s Festival 2023



Brigid 1500 is a two-year programme to celebrate and commemorate St. Brigid; a woman, a life and a legacy. The aim of Brigid 1500 is to create a meaningful cultural and societal legacy that appeals to a diverse contemporary audience. Brigid 1500 engages communities with the story and heritage of St. Brigid, providing a

tangible connection with the past through events and programmes. The programme engages with the values St. Brigid championed, including faith and spirituality, biodiversity and sustainability, arts and culture, social justice, peace, hospitality and education. A ten-day festival took place to celebrate the inaugural St. Brigid’s Bank Holiday, from 28 January to 07 February 2023. This programme was delivered in partnership with a dedicated Brigid 1500 Steering Committee. The celebrations included a school programme and four large flagship events alongside various community events delivered via a grant scheme and in collaboration with partner agencies.

Category: Municipal District Initiative

Project: Wellbeing Roadshow



The Wellbeing roadshow by Kildare County Council was a targeted county-wide event hosted in the



Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District. The roadshow took place in the Kilcullen Mart on Tuesday 07 February. They partnered with Kildare West Wicklow Irish Farmers Association (IFA) to bring a community roadshow targeting isolated Farmers in to bring a community roadshow targeting isolated Farmers in Kildare. They made a deliberate decision to hold the event in a local mart to reduce barriers to participation and to ensure a sense of belonging on the day. They had over 25 information stands from various agencies and services including farmer related services and supports. They also introduced new Fitsticks for Farmers programme and had Minister Heydon in attendance and Ceann Comhairle speak on his journey with prostate cancer.

Kildare Disability Week 2023



Kildare County Council hosted a programme of initiatives to mark

Kildare Disability Week 2023 which took place from 27 November – 04 December and International Day of Persons with Disabilities which took place on 03 December, during Kildare Disability Week 2023.



Purple Lights Campaign -

Landmark buildings including Aras Chill Dara and Newbridge Town Hall were virtually lit up in the colour purple, the official colour of disability, to acknowledge all those who live with a disability in our communities.

Fly the Flag - The County Kildare Access Network Flag was flown in prominent locations across the county throughout the week. In total, 250 flags were flown in town squares, outside schools and on Garda Stations across the county.



Partnership for Climate Action



Kildare and Kilkenny County Council announced the renewal of their partnership agreement to lead the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) for the next six years.

Kildare County Council as the lead authority in the region, supported by Kilkenny County Council, coordinates the delivery of climate action across 17 Local Authorities, encompassing the border, midlands, mid-east and south-east counties of the country (with the exception of Dublin).

Kildare County Council welcomes EPA Environmental Enforcement Performance Report for 2022

Kildare County Council welcomed the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Enforcement Performance Report for 2022 which shows that Kildare County Council achieved the required standard across

all of the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs).

This is the second report under the revised Local Authority Performance Framework, which aims to align performance scores to the delivery of environmental outcomes under the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) by targeting key environmental issues. The NEPs cover the areas of air enforcement, waste enforcement, water enforcement and noise enforcement. Local Authorities are assessed based on set criteria including compliance rates, compliance promotion and awareness, enforcement actions and environmental outcomes. Each NEP is scored according to a four-point scale – excellent, strong, moderate and limited, where local authorities demonstrate performance by the end of the three-year cycle, 2022 – 2024. Kildare County Council scored excellent and strong across all of the national waste, water, air and noise enforcement categories as well as governance processes, and achieved the highest ranking across the following areas:



National Waste Priorities:

- Construction and Demolition Waste
- ELVs and Metals

National Water Priorities:

- Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

National Air and Noise Priorities:

- Solid Fuel
- Air and Noise Controls (including planning)
- Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work

Governance Processes

- Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan: Planning for NEPs
- Review and Reporting

Maynooth Access Group honoured at prestigious All-Island Community Awards



Kildare County Council attended the annual National pride of place Gala awards in Armagh on Friday 10

November with three outstanding Kildare community groups. The IPB Pride of Place awards is an annual competition organised by peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance and this year is the twenty first anniversary of the awards. The awards are an All-Island competition whereby local authorities from across the island of Ireland nominate groups in their communities who they feel have made a significant contribution to improving their neighbourhood, working collectively. Maynooth Access Group, The Newbridge Women's Shed and Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association were the Kildare Nominees.

Awards

The closing date for the Green Awards was 17 November and one submission has been made by the Climate Action Team – Grass to Gas Project.

The closing date for the LAMA Awards (All Ireland Community and Council Awards) was 01 December 2023. Two submissions have been made

- a) Most Inclusive Project Category
- b) Brigid 1500



Children First

Risk Register Assessment Forms will be reviewed by the Designated Child Protection Liaison Officer and Deputy Liaison Officers to update our policy.

Public Sector Duty (PSD)

In conjunction with Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Kildare County Council are looking at the possibility of having training sessions conducted in the chamber/online to inform staff and members of PSD and how it is put into policy and decision making.

Carbon Tax

The executive suite will compile an annual list of all air travel undertaken by staff to comply with our carbon tax liabilities which are paid annually in February.

Members Services

The members of Kildare County Council adopted the 2024 Budget at the statutory budget meeting on the 20 November.

A special Meeting to discuss the three year Capital Programme 2024-2026 was held on Monday 27 November at 10.00 am.

The monthly meeting was held on the 28 November at which the reports on the audit of the Annual Financial Statements 2022 were noted.

The Meetings Calendar for 2024 was also approved.

Donadea Forest Park Visit

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform, met with Kildare County Council and Coillte staff at Donadea Forest Park in County Kildare on Tuesday 28 November. This visit was organised on foot of a resolution that was passed by the Clane Maynooth Municipal District members.

In partnership with Kildare County Council, Coillte successfully applied for funding this year to continue



restoration of the castle in Donadea forest park under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Community Monuments Fund (CMF). The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) was established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage and to prioritise funding for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. In total Coillte has received close to €300,000 in funding from the Department since 2020 for the conservation of Donadea Castle under CMF and the Historic Structures Fund and Coillte has provided approximately €200,000 in matching funds.



Library and Arts Service

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history” – Carl Thomas Rowan

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The Library Service received handover of Naas Library on 29 November. The Library Service will need an additional four weeks to deliver and install furniture, staff and public IT equipment and systems, book stock, audio visual (AV) equipment, artwork, to test systems, train staff and complete snagging. We expect to open to the public early in 2024.

The current library service in the building at Canal Harbour will close to the public from 09 December to allow for stock and equipment to be moved over.

Publication

The library service has partnered with Kildare County Council Access Officer, Creative Ireland and County Kildare



Access Network (CKAN) to publish Johnny Magory and the Mystery of the Missing Puppies by Emma Jane Leeson. The book follows the quest of seven children from Kildare, five of whom are disabled, to find their missing assistance puppies. The story is a celebration of diversity and inclusion and will be distributed through Kildare Libraries and given to every primary school in the county and every public library in the country.

Library Works

Works on the Mary Leadbeater House: Ballitore Library and Museum are nearing completion.

Date for Kildare Windows – library expected to close from February to April 2024

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

The service will close from 09 December and re-open in the old Naas Library building at Canal Harbour location in early 2024. During this period customers can access our online resources. Free access to online resources including newspapers is available through the library network, inc. the Irish Newspaper

Archive, FindMyPast and the Journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society.

County Archives

An update of the archival catalogue software has been completed.

Three volumes of Naas Urban District Council minutes 1910 -1924 have been digitised (funded by County Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme). These will be online shortly.

Under the Creative Ireland: Kildare programme the archivist hosted a workshop 'Unfurling the Archives' for creative practitioners in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 08 November. As part of this project conservation work is being carried out on three Athy Poor Law Union admission and discharge registers.

Decade of Commemorations

The final meeting of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee took place on 17 November. Several legacy projects from the programme will continue into 2024, including the Irish Military Seminar and the events to mark the



centenary of the return visit of John Devoy to County Kildare in 1924. A special performance of the musical extravaganza Birth of a Nation took place in Riverbank Arts Centre on 09 November to mark the formal conclusion of the programme. Historians, artists, and members of the community who contributed to the programme attended the event where their contribution was acknowledged. It was preceded by the Kildare launch of A Nation is Born, Ireland in Colour 1923-1938 by historian Michael Barry and Ellistown native John O'Byrne. A talk and launch were held in association with Cill Dara Historical Society on 08 November to mark the publication of Strength of Comradeship; The killing of Private Joseph Bergin 13 December 1923 written by Mark McLoughlin. Free copies are available in all public library branches, it will also be available online through the Library Service BorrowBox service and as a pdf.

Arts Services

Arts Council Research Visit to Athy

The Arts Council has engaged a consultancy firm to undertake research on the Creative Places programme

across the country. A representative from Counterculture/Amanda Smethurst met with community members who have been involved in Creative Places Athy programming to reflect on their experiences and the impact of the programme on the town of Athy (22 November).

Made of Athy Grants Closed for 2023

The final deadline for Made of Athy grants for 2023 has passed and applications have been assessed.

Local Arts Officers AGM

Acting Arts Officer Eláine Donnelly attended the Local Arts Officers AGM in Thurles (16 and 17 November) which also included meetings with the Arts Council and Age and Opportunity.

Artist support/Project development

The Arts Service is in conversation with several independent artists, working across various artforms. As part of their applications to the Arts Council for Project Award and Festival Investments Scheme funding (deadline 16 and 23 November). The support offered aims to build relationships and provide resources to artists working



and/or living in the county, towards professional development and capacity building, project development and audience engagement. More details will be available following announcements by the Arts Council of funding decisions (expected early 2024).

Athy Access Billboard Project

Athy Disability Access Group and Creative Places Athy have created a project to encourage people to consider the barriers to access in our communities. Artist and illustrator: Ciara Chapman worked with three groups in Athy, Irish Wheelchair Association Athy, KARE Central Services and The Dara Project over a period of three months to co-create content for billboards which has the participants voice at the heart of the message.

This two-and-a-half-month campaign takes the form of creating a series of seven billboards on Leinster Street, Athy from November 2023 to February 2024.

This campaign was created with an aim to highlight the importance of

International Person's with a Disability Day on Sunday 03 December.

VAI Curator Events

The third and final in a series of curator events to support visual artists in Kildare took place on Wednesday 29 November at the Riverbank Arts Centre. Ireland-based Italian curator Valeria Ceregini shared her wealth of knowledge as a curator with an international practice and over ten years of experience.

Maynooth Film for All

Screenings continue at Maynooth University's Iontas Building each month.

Creative Ireland Recoupment 2023

Final recoupment forms for the Creative Communities Budget 2023 were submitted on 17 November to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM). Total Drawdown for 2023: €236,289



Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Seven inspections completed in the following areas:

- Community – Floor 7
 - Housing – Floor 4
 - Environment – Athy Cemetery
 - Kilcock library
 - Roads team Kilcock/Maynooth area
 - Monasterevin- Environment team/Larch hill compost farm
 - Nurney – Environment team/soil relocation test – private dwelling PP
2. DSE (Display Screen Equipment) Assessment:
Five completed – Housing (two), Transportation, NRO, Fire Service.
3. Annual review of travelling to work by vehicle policy and procedure
4. Accident Investigation -Leixlip Library
5. Review of MyTag for possible implementation. MyTag provides trusted proof of presence, proof of compliance and security solutions to safeguard people, property and assets.
6. RSA Driving for Work Webinar.
7. Liaison with ESB networks to set up roadshows in January 2024 for

Kildare County Council staff-Athy, Maynooth, Naas.

8. Liaison with Uisce Eireann to plan next phase of Kildare inspections.
9. Meeting with Athy Municipal District Engineer to develop Health and Safety training plan.
10. Induction for new staff – 25 attendees.
11. Delivery of serious incident cards and information session on the correct completion of the arrangement section of Safety manual to National Roads Office staff
12. LGMA Annual Local Authority Health and Safety Conference
13. Additional Flu vaccinations (46) in Naas on 23 November -268 availed of vaccinations in 2023.
14. Health screenings: 349 completed in 2023.

Accessibility:

1. Meetings:
- a. Naas Disability Access Group Meeting
 - b. Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC
 - c. County Kildare Access Network (CKAN)



- d. Athy Disability Access Group
 - e. Newbridge Disability Access Group
 - f. Arts Council Ireland re current project in Athy.
2. Submission made to All Ireland Community and Local Authority Awards Submission- Most Inclusive Project Category.
 3. Working on Athy Art Project to raise awareness of disability – culminating in a series of billboard displays around the town.
 4. Presentation of cheque to Dara Community Living for Changing Place Facility
 5. Preparation for Kildare Disability Week and International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
 - a. Event in Aras on 01 December to include:
 - i. Launch of Childrens Disability Book.
 - ii. Display of Our World Toy Resource and a celebration of their recent win at National IPB Pride of Place Awards.
 - iii. Recommunication piece around video highlighting the key accessibility initiatives delivered.
- iv. Display of Athy Billboard Project
 - b. Signs being placed on the main thoroughfares into the main towns – highlighting Kildare Disability Week.
 - c. CKAN flag flying in prominent locations around the county- c. 250 in total.
 - d. Light up Kildare Purple Virtual Campaign
 - e. Athy Billboard Project
6. Workshop with Muiriosa Foundation re the formation of new Access Group for Monasterevin.

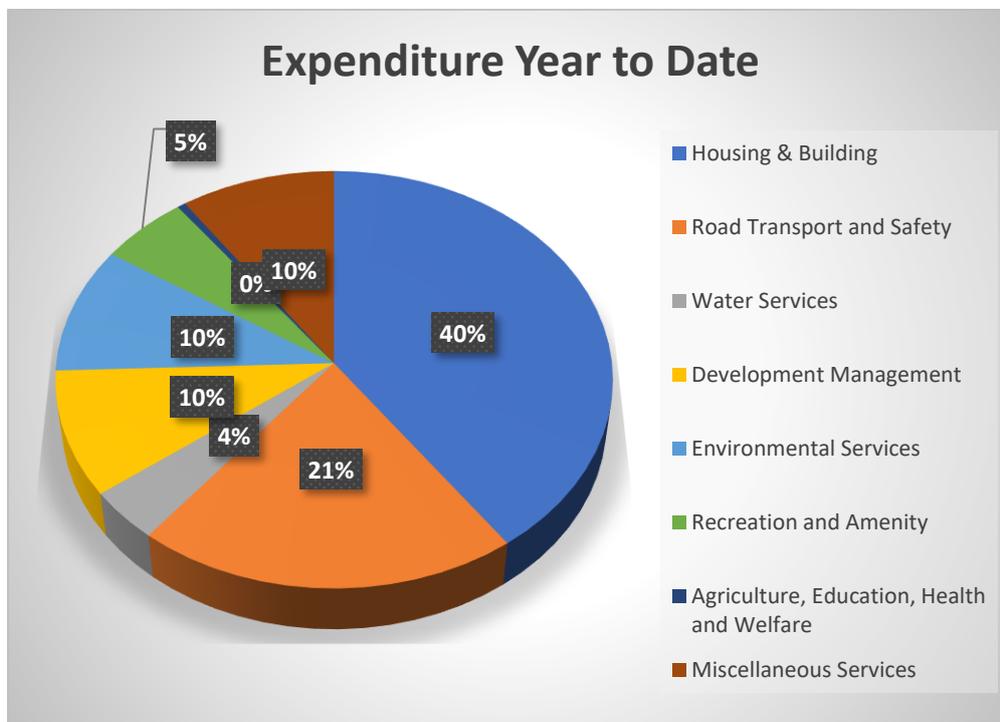


Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 November 2023				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	81,913	66,041	124% -	15,872
Road Transport and Safety	42,251	40,812	104% -	1,439
Water Services	8,167	10,174	80%	2,007
Development Management	19,771	25,606	77%	5,835
Environmental Services	20,030	21,947	91%	1,917
Recreation and Amenity	11,339	14,018	81%	2,679
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	1,050	1,376	76%	326
Miscellaneous Services	19,820	19,070	104% -	750
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	204,341	199,044	103% -	5,297





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

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the

budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure.

The executive is very conscious of the need to monitor and manage expenditure and to ensure that overall budgets are not exceeded whilst at the same time delivering services in accordance with the budget agreed by Members.

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30th November 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/10/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	3,005,242	50,371	69,807,868	54,891,231	14,916,637
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	17,051,834	37,591	-	18,357,489	16,854,031	1,503,458
Housing Loans	1,623,567	3,653,847	7,405	-	5,270,009	3,829,708	1,440,301

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail itself of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 30 November 2023.

Rates

New legislation regarding commercial rates will take effect from 01 January 2024. The Local Government Rates

and Other Matters Act 2019 effects the following changes:

Replaces the payment of rates in two moieties with one rates amount due on the first of the year.

Replaces the issuing of Property Entry Levy (PEL) and valuations taking effect the year after issue of a schedule (by Tailte Eireann) with immediate billing through the calendar year.



- Provides for the application of interest on unpaid rates from 2025. Interest will be added to rates bills issued from 2026.
- Removes the requirement for public notice to be given regarding Kildare County Council's intention to 'make the rate'. This is replaced by a notice advising that a 'rate has been levied'.
- Removes the requirement for the rate book to be available for inspection, either in paper form or electronically.

Kildare County Councils' Finance Department will be writing to all rates customers in December to advise them of these changes, particularly the transition from two moieties to one and advising of their payment options, including Direct Debit to facilitate payment across the calendar year. Should customers have any queries regarding their accounts, they should contact the rates office on 045 980 656 or rates@kildarecoco.ie

Innovation

HacktheClimate –

Collaboration between Climate/LEO/MERITS/Innovation rescheduled for 23 February 2024. Climate Hackathon to focus on how we can capture and report on climate data so that we can report on performance against actions contained in CAP/DZ.

MyCoCo –

First key service scheduled to go live 11 December – Roads and Services Solicitor requests (Taken in charge requests) approx. 1,200 per annum transactions. Move from paper process to online submission and payment. This is another step in the national government's priority to make 90% of services available digitally by 2030.

Motor Tax

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



Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Housing for All

Room for a Student – Local Authority Tenancies

The Government has introduced a new scheme called ‘Room for a Student’.

Council tenants with a spare bedroom may let that bedroom to a third-level student for the academic term. The tenant requires the consent of the council prior to the letting, and income earned is included in the calculation of differential rent. The scheme will operate on the basis of a license agreement between the tenant and the student. Local authorities will be responsible for operating and managing the scheme and the administration of the individual applications and agreements locally.

The Scheme is open from 01 December 2023 and details are available on the council’s website.

Housing Allocations

For the period January to November 2023, the council allocated a total of 1,118 social properties. Expected delivery before the end of the year includes 167 AHB properties, 43

leased properties and 84 Part V properties at various locations throughout the county. Allocations are ongoing and, in an effort to address the number of refusals of offers of accommodation, the use of Choice Based Letting (CBL) has been continually increased.

Homeless Services

Street Work / Outreach Clinics

During November the Outreach Team visited all Municipal District areas on a regular basis to identify rough sleepers. The areas covered were: Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Rathangan, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Sallins, Broadford, Athy and Kildare Town.

Kildare County Council
Homelessness
CLINICS

Looking for advice on housing and homelessness supports?
Visit one of our drop-in clinics to learn about the supports available.

Local Drop In Clinics

7th December Celbridge Community Centre, Ballynakealy 2.00 – 4pm
13th December Athy Family Resources Centre 2 – 4pm
15th December Newbridge Family Resource Centre 2.30 - 4pm

For further information contact:
Homeless Services: (045) 892230
Housing Department: (045) 892260
www.kildarecoco.ie



Kildare County Council

**Homelessness
CLINICS**

Looking for advice on housing and homelessness supports?
Visit one of our drop-in clinics to learn about the supports available.

Local Drop In Clinics

18th December
Teach Dara Resource Centre, Kildare Town
2.00 – 4pm

19th December
Maynooth Library
2 – 4pm



For further information contact:
Homeless Services:
(045) 980230
Housing Department:
(045) 980200
www.kildarecoco.ie



The Outreach Team offered housing advice clinics during the month for individuals and families who could not attend the council offices in person. These clinics were facilitated in Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Athy Family Resource Centre, Celbridge Community Centre in Ballymakealy, Cuan Mhuire Athy, Teach Tearmainn, Teach Dara Family resource centre Kildare Town, Maynooth Library, Platinum Clubhouse Newbridge, Heads Up Programme, Kildare Town and Aras, Newbridge. The team also conducted assessments with hospital and prison discharges.

Visits to Service Providers

Meetings were held with The Peter McVerry Trust in Eyre Street, Newbridge and Kerdiffstown, Mount

Offaly in Athy and Tiglin in Jigginstown to review clients' housing needs and to discuss exit strategies.

Exits from Emergency Accommodation

There were 15 'move-ons' in November, facilitated through HAP, social housing and some clients returning to family.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 41 active tenancy sustainment cases, with 23 on the waiting list for support; 17 cases were closed during November. Sustainment Officers have ongoing engagement with two housing clinics, in the Family Hubs in Prosperous and Athy.

Homeless HAP and Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS)

The Housing Department has processed 68 Homeless HAP applications to date. The Council has submitted eight CRTiS applications to the Housing Agency; one has been withdrawn and the outcome of the others is awaited.



Offer a Home – Ukraine



A national ‘refresh’ promotional campaign has been undertaken in November for the ‘Offer a Home’ scheme. This call is for offers of houses, apartments or holiday homes that are currently unoccupied and could provide accommodation to those fleeing war in Ukraine.

Currently in Kildare, there are 39 such properties occupied by individuals and families, with an additional 17 being assessed.

A tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available to anybody offering accommodation to those fleeing Ukraine. Details of the scheme can be accessed online at

www.offerahome.ie

Traveller Accommodation

The Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller families was carried out on 24 November last. The estimate provides a measure of

the accommodation position of Traveller families, and changes to that position, year on year. The report will be considered at the next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Addressing Vacancy

Croí Cónaithe

One Hundred and thirty-nine (139) Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant applications have been received.

Town Centre First

In preparation of the Town Centre First Plan for Clane, there were 766 responses to the public survey and the public workshop held on 07 November. Members of the public attended and participated in the workshop and gave their views on Clane and its future direction. The consultants are currently compiling all data from both the public survey and the workshop with the intention of issuing a baseline report in December.

Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO)

Following is an update on the council's Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) programme:



20 Compulsory Purchase Orders commenced.

12 CPO's confirmed.

Three with An Bord Pleanala for decision.

Two CPOs under derelict sites legislation will be confirmed on 05 December 2023 if no objections received.

Three CPOs withdrawn (two sold on the private market and one purchased by agreement under buy and renew).

44 pre-CPO notices erected in 2023; ongoing contact and engagement with 36 of these property owners around bringing the properties back into use and the various schemes available.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expected substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Works progressing well on site. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Contract signing 12 December 2023.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 3 funding application issued to DHLGH. Engagement ongoing with tenants in relation to occupied units identified for demolition.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Awaiting feedback from An Bord Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Informal briefing to Clane-Maynooth MD on 1 December 2023 ahead of a Part 8 launch.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Design & Build tenders received and being assessed.
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed. Part 8 being finalised. Kildare-Newbridge MD members briefed.



Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Retender for design team required on the advice of DHLGH.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	ESB have removed poles and overhead line. ESB to return to remove redundant underground cable crossing PPP site and halting site extension. Section 179A application being prepared.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Design Team meetings ongoing. Stage 2 planned for submission to DHLGH in mid-December. Competition entries were on display in Kildare Library from 16 th to 28 th November.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Section 179A proposed to launch Q1 2024.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender being prepared.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Evaluation of design team tenders complete. Tender recommendation report and result letters to follow.

Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Feasibility complete. Single Stage application to be prepared for submission to DHLGH.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Detailed design and tender documents being prepared for construction tender. Stage 3 application to be submitted to DHLGH by end Q4.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Contract award progressing.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site. Substantial completion expected Q3 2024.



Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Draft Design drawings received, EIA and AA screening reports being prepared. Part 8 consultation in Q1 2024
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PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: tender dialogue stage due to commence
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Design work ongoing. Informal briefing held with Celbridge-Leixlip members on 16 th November. Target Part 8 launch early in Q1 2024.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Design work ongoing. Informal briefing held with Kildare-Newbridge members on 29 th November. Target Part 8 launch early in Q1 2024.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team being procured by NDFA, target appointment December.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team to be procured by NDFA, target appointment in December.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - CALF

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Draft Section 179A documents received for review. Briefing to be arranged with Celbridge-Leixlip MD members.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
Sofia Housing- St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Draft Part 8 being prepared.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Decision to grant issued on 22 June 2023. Cluid progressing detailed roads design with Transportation. Tender documents being prepared.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	PMVT no longer progressing this site. Site will be developed by KCC.



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 November 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	18	26	31
6 - 12 Months	9	16	14
12 - 18 Months	5	9	8
18 - 24 Months	2	4	2
24 - 30 Months	1	2	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
	35	57	56

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 November 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	8	7
6 - 12 Months	7	14	14
12 - 18 Months	2	3	6
18 - 24 Months	1	1	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	0	0	0
	14	26	29

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
Q1 2023	6	€1,176,500	3	€632,000	6	€1,090,750



Q2 2023	11	€2,201,857	5	€931,000	7	€1,507,607
Q3	13	€2, 222, 400	5	€1, 098, 530	2	€380, 000
Q4 to date	12	€2,214,070	5	€893,310	2	€384,000

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
2022	24	1	6
Q1 2023	17	1	2
Q2 2023	15	1	7
Q2, 2023	15	1	7
Q4 to date	9	1	10

Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2022	309	241	7	7	362	378
Q1 2023	86	55	2	2	129	81
Q2 2023	80	42	1	1	120	74
Q3 2023	82	38	3	2	96	36
Q4 2023 (up until 28/11/23)	49	48	5	4	54	46
Total YTD	297	183	11	9	399	237



Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86 (2023 Target)	Tender awarded for 31 units in Clane-Maynooth; work due to commence in the coming weeks. 57 units identified in Naas/Ballymore Eustace; tender documents being prepared. Remaining 6 units to be drawn from housing maintenance.

Acquisitions

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed Jan-Nov 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	63
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	42
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	51
Total complete	379	187	110	209	156

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	23	35	31	56	11
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	8	34	6	67	2



Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,548,455 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €8,858,455 (incl add funding requested)	Construction	Of 16 sites along the scheme, works are substantially complete at 7 sites, mostly to the south. The work is ongoing at a further 7 sites and 2 sites are yet to start. The first tranche of sites is to be made available for snagging in November. New layout at Monasterevin station is to be sent to Irish Rail based on a priority non signal arrangement. Agreement has been reached with farmers at M7 Underpass area. The traffic signal arrangement at Herberton Bridge has been reduced to a Toucan Crossing design for discussion with Transportation. Ongoing communication with adjoining landowners, residents and MD office resulting in refinement of design.
	Barrow Blueway Trailhead	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund		The purchase of land at Canal Side, Athy has been progressed to provide a trailhead for the Barrow Blueway. Potential facilities could include parking, bicycle



					hire or similar and seating.
	Greenway – Phase 1 Aylmer Bridge to Sallins	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	Handover	We have requested suitable dates from the Ministers Office to prepare for an official opening of the Footbridge and Greenway. Part 8 for the tie in of Phase 1 and 2, which will see additional improvement works in Sallins, is expected to be published in January. A briefing for the MD members will be held in advance.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€213,000	€213,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Detailed Design	<p>Constructive engagement with WWI is ongoing with assessments required. Additional Part 8 required for 2 bridges on this phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure proposed for Lowtown to facilitate taking Greenway users off the public road and coming into Robertstown on the town side. • Bridge proposed on the eastern side of existing Bonyngge Bridge, providing access to the southern side of the canal and proposed Greenway, without users crossing over the existing bridge.



					Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Pre Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. KCC in on-going discussions with landowners.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Pre Part 8	Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023 has been extended to February 2024. Interim works have been agreed and the MD office has commenced work on site. Interim works will be twofold; they will secure The Square and remove parking, while providing a trial period to assist a robust public consultation piece for the Part 8 application.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Review of the draft document underway with fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)	€200,000	Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)	€200,000	Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.



	Athgarvan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Final edits required for policy updates; CDP, maps etc.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)		Tender period has closed. A decision on an application to Just Transition for funding assistance is awaited.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Additional funding confirmed. Contractor on site since 13 th November. Project commencement meeting was held on 21 st November with all contractors and consultants attending.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA (Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment) and work has commenced.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the



					works they would like to see undertaken.
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	A review of the document is underway.
Celbridge - Leixlip	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Expected Part 8 publication in January 2024
	The Acre Project	TBC	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	Tender closed on 17 th November.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	SPPR are working to incorporate the comments and feedback received into the Final Draft. A briefing will be scheduled with the Councillors
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	SPPR are working to incorporate the comments and feedback received into the Final Draft. A briefing will be scheduled with the Councillors
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case has been approved by URDF team to prepare a Masterplan informed by an urban design analysis and stakeholder/public consultation. The TRMP will include an



					<p>exploration project to determine the potential for a district heating scheme within the historic grid town centre. (Pilot Feasibility Study). SPPR have reached out to CARO to investigate if any work has been carried out in this area. This could be a joint project SPPR/ CARO. Student collaboration project; a pilot project, participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students/community during design process may include the development of an online platform. The development of key Town Renewal Projects will proceed once the Masterplan is completed.</p>
	Harbourfield	<p>€3,438,500 €3,134,541</p>	<p>€2,574,37 5 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT 100% KCC funded</p>	Detailed Design & Works	Tender documents to be prepared to procure consultants. SPPR is engaging with Open Spaces team to link in with their framework to tender for a landscape architect.
	Bawnogues Community Centre			Construction	Compliance certification documentation is being completed after which Kildare County Council will take ownership of the building.
	Derrinturn Health Check	€30,500	<p>€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT</p>	Town Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.



	/Urban Analysis				
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.
	Straffan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation piece is currently underway
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation piece is currently underway
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation piece is currently underway
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation piece is currently underway
Naas	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns Initiative grant €248,931	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00. Consultant appointed to carry out works for ESB and drainage connections. Completion date extended to 22 nd November.



	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. KCC to submit an update on the Feasibility Study for the Castle Quarter, Conservation Management Plan and Archaeological Survey for St. Davids Castle and Grounds which were planned under sub project B. Conservation and Heritage Team are working on this piece with a view to having a final document in December.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide</p>
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					<p>an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p> <p>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.</p>
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V €7,000 LPT	Masterplan	Review ongoing.



Climate, Community, Environment and Water Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded in 2023.

Grants 2023		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	163	€293,380
Festival Grants	68	€82,300
Private Residents' Associations Grants	273	€242,695
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€41,243
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	150	€825,300
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	95	€265,240
Community Support Fund	138	€315,429
Community Support Womens Sheds	5	€3,328
Education Bursaries	44	€35,400
Drehid Grants	43	€179,560
Total	1029	€2,283,875

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councilor Clinics

Uisce Éireann quarterly Councilor

Clinics are held online for local representatives on selected dates throughout the year.

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

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

Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular

updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

Uisce Éireann is engaging with key national bodies and representative groups to prepare for the



implementation of the Framework provisions.

The existing Service Level Agreement will be replaced by a Master Agreement for all local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority, taking into consideration changes included in the new Framework. In this regard, the Master Cooperation and Data Sharing Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

Environment

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

Section 22 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended requires each local authority to make a Waste Management Plan. The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, are co-ordinating the preparation of a new Plan on a national basis, titled “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.” A copy of the latest update was recently circulated to each Chief Executive.

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 – 2029, and it is expected that the new Plan will be implemented in Q1 2024 by Chief Executive Order in each of the Local Authorities.

Details are on www.mywaste.ie

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

Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices

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



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

Tidy Towns

Grants to local Tidy Towns committees were approved by the respective Municipal District members and have been processed for payment.

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period up 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 2024

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 were recently reviewed by the National Steering Group and a number of changes were made to reflect these discussions. The following remain as high-level priorities in the area of waste enforcement:

Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
Construction and Demolition activity,
End-of-Life Vehicles,
Waste collection,
PRI initiatives.

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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



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 joint project of the civic amenity in conjunction with the proposed Municipal District depot is being assessed.

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 (FRS)

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy FRS. Specification of survey work and investigation contracts have begun. A Public Engagement Day is scheduled for late January. An update to Municipal District members will be issued this month.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the Naas FRS. Details of the scheme can be found at:

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



Kerdiffstown Park project

The construction of Kerdiffstown Park is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the park will be operational in Q1 2024.



The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed on Kildare County Council 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 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.

Columbarium Walls

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries. It is proposed to install further Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. Detailed design drawings are currently being worked on and it is envisaged that the project will advance to tender stage prior to the end of 2023. It is hoped that works will commence onsite in Q1 2024 subject to funding approval.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been recently completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

Landscape improvement works are expected to commence during Q1 2024 to open the lands to the rear for future internments.

Confey

Works have been recently completed to allocate additional plots for internments within the cemetery.



Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

Works completed on new boundary wall between the cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.

Boycetown, Kilcock

Tenders have issued for major drainage improvement works. It is hoped that this will help deal with ground water problems that hamper winter time internments in certain parts of the cemetery.

Newbridge

Works on improvements to Newbridge cemetery carpark recently commenced and are expected to be completed prior to end of 2023.

Monasterevin

Works have been carried out on cutting back shrubs and bushes within the cemetery. Removal of rubbish (stone, clay etc) from the cemetery has also taken place recently.

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their jurisdictions and coordinate activities to promote effective climate action across the local government sector. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The training programme 2020-2023 is nearing the end of its term. The programme maintains an objective to build capacity of the c.29,000 staff and 949 elected members on climate change, climate action and the role of local authorities on climate action. Through six unique training pillars the programme has to date, provided some 23,000 training places to 21,600 participants (figures correct as of end of October). Training continues with



outdoor staff till the end of the year and into early 2024 and will include fire services staff.

A high level steering group chaired by a representative of the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy and Network (CATCEN) committee will be convened in early 2024 to oversee the development of a training plan guiding future training needs and priorities in the area of local authority climate action.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All local authorities continue to engage with the process of developing their LA CAPs for adoption on or before the 23 February 2024.

Currently local authorities are at draft stage and engaging in public consultation activities. This stage sits ahead of the completion stage where written submission will be considered and elected members will have the opportunity to consider all documentation including adaptation and mitigation evidence base, draft plan, SEA and AA reports and submissions of stakeholders before adopting the plan by way of resolution.

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 progress in the 2022 – 2023 period, 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 units to avail of funding for projects that support the decarbonisation of local authority buildings. The energy units comprise:

Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth), commencing projects and accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.

Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon), have developed their project pipeline and



sourced funding to match Pathfinder support.

Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI to build a project pipeline.

South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City and County) convening to agree partnership approach to access Pathfinder support.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonization.

A survey was distributed to local authorities recently to gauge their alignment with Avoid-Shift-Improve principles. The findings of this survey will be compiled for the CATCEN committee meeting in December.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2022 will be published towards the end of December 2023. Data collection for 2023 will be done in March 2024. Thereafter, data collection will be undertaken every March.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme commenced in early 2023 increasing the number of participating clubs to approximately 200. During phase two of the Programme clubs are working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as



provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Participating clubs are working to implement actions and projects detailed within the toolkits towards supporting the pursuit of climate action initiatives at club and community level. Kildare County Council's continued support of Green Clubs will help to achieve climate actions and targets set out in the Council's new Climate Action Plan.

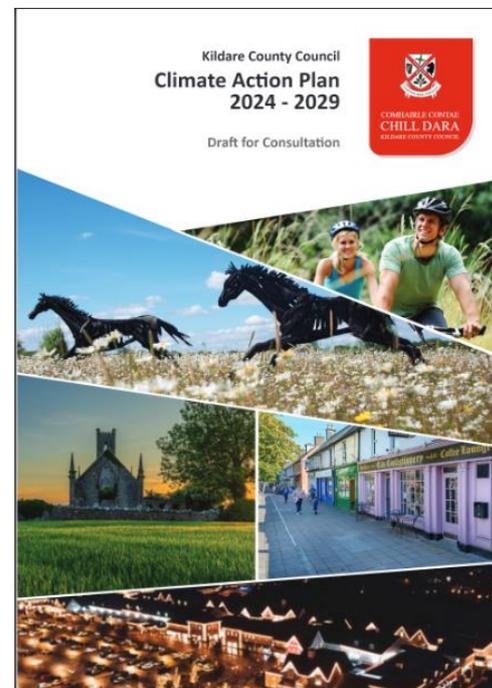
Kildare County Council Climate Action



Kildare Climate Action Office Branding for the Climate Action Office has been created in conjunction with Designedly to create awareness of the council's local office within the council and the wider community base that we service in the County of Kildare.

The tagline 'inspiring change, shaping tomorrow' is used in conjunction with #climateactionkildare. The Decarbonising Zone branding is nearing completion along with graphical depiction of the Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plan (SECAP) /Climate Action Plan (CAP)



Public consultation closed on 03 November resulting in 35 submissions. Overall, the submissions were positive with many welcoming the plan. The plan is on track to be adopted on 18 December and published in January 2024 to coincide with the start of the new working year. Designedly are undertaking the graphic input required to publish the



plan and will be finalised post adoption of the plan. Star Translations Services have commenced work on translating the document into Irish.

The Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU)



The baseline of energy usage to inform the decarbonising of our buildings' energy usage has been presented by CODEMA. To advance the Register of Opportunities (RoO) the SEAI have agreed to pilot Pathfinder funding for the Photo Voltaic (PV) cells at the Cotton Mills, PV and Geothermal for K Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy in conjunction with works on swimming pools in Meath and Wicklow. The work will enable retrofit works (energy efficiency and decarbonisation) on existing buildings.

Given the potential for future district heating in Naas the unit is working to ascertain the capacity to undertake a district heating feasibility study in the first half of 2024.

Climate Action SPC:

The scheduled meeting on 06 December 2023 took place and included presentations from Fergus Sharkey, (Head of Business Supports and Transport, SEAI) on SEAI Supports for Business Low Carbon Transition, followed by a presentation from Meabh Boylan (Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer) on Kildare County Council Biodiversity and Climate Change and an update from Paula O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator) on the Draft Climate Action Plan and Maynooth DZ.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:



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

The successful implementation of Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) - initiative as part of the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme has been completed.

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



and Meath County Councils. The ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath brought the urgency of climate action to the forefront.

An application to the Arts Council for a continuation / Phase two of the project that focusses specifically on the artists has been successful and provides an additional €35,000 in funding.

People's Patches for Community Climate Action:

Kildare, Longford and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have been awarded by Pobal €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The project is to inform in communities how to source and grow quality local food and increase cooking skills to enable meaningful dietary skills to combat poor nutritional uptake especially within deprived neighbourhoods.



'Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action' Under Creative Climate Action Fund II: 'Agents for Change Creative Ireland' informed Kildare County Council on 12 July that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 has been approved. This conditional offer is subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced with Maynooth University.

Community Climate Action Fund Program:

Our Community Climate Action Officer has undertaken a scheduled program of outreach to gain appropriate submission by the end of February deadline. To date the information has been received well and potential projects are being put forward by interested parties. The official launch



by the Department was rescheduled to 11 December based on the need to program in GDPR requirements specific to the fund. The date is to be confirmed.

Open Data Engagement Fund:

In collaboration with the innovation Team and MERITS we have successfully been awarded €5,000 from the Open Data Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The funding is to sponsor prizes for our Hackathon in February which should place us firmly on the map for participants.

Research

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

advance the project financially an application was made to the Public Service Innovation Fund 2023.

Funding has been rewarded and the Memorandum of Agreement is in place with the Public Bodies Innovation Fund coordinator. An agreement has been formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence at pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Q2/3 of 2024.

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

Kildare County Council's research project - alternatives for pesticides - continues with the help of our collaborating partners, Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Teagasc. The finalised data report and practical guide for the maintenance of open spaces have been disseminated to all partners. Analysis of soil biomes continues with additional experiments being undertaken to finalise maintenance aspects. Sophia Couchman has commenced her PhD and it is expected she will have the work completed Q1/2 of 2025. It is with thanks to our Local Authority partners together with WI and the GAA we can



continue to fund this valuable research to enable change on the ground.

The partnership has agreed to allow the use of the findings in the work of the National Biodiversity Data Centre to inform the latest brochures and to have the guidance officially published.

Local Community

Development Committee

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

SICAP - Social Inclusion Programme

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

A national tendering process is underway for the SICAP programme 2024 to 2028. It is anticipated that this contract will be issued before the end of the year.

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

LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC as Local Action Group (LAG) and County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) as Implementing Partner, submitted a plan in mid-July, to the DRCD for the next round of LEADER funding 2023-2028. The application was successful, and it is expected that the contract will be signed by the end of 2023.

The current LEADER programme is at the final stages with projects having until 31 March 2024 to complete their work.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare. The four themes of Department of Health Funded Projects of €75,000 in 2023 are

(1) Food Insecurity



- (2) Traveller Wellbeing
 - (3) Supporting vulnerable children and young people
 - (4) Woodstock Artist in Residency.
- Service Level Agreements are in place with the various project partners and agreed actions under each of the four themes are ongoing.

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

Healthy Ireland (HI)

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. Pobal announced additional funding of €35,000 towards the 2024 budget.

This may be used for new initiatives or to increase the capacity of agreed programmes. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

Service Level Agreements are in place with the five project partners in the HI Round 4 Programme 2023 – 2025 and programmes are ongoing.

For further information contact Claire Morrissey, Healthy Ireland Co-

ordinator: phone. 086-8858505 or email cmorrissey@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 the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. The Department have confirmed that the programme will be continued into 2024 with the same budget allocation.

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Consultation Stage 2 in developing the LECP is concluding. Over 1,300 individuals engaged directly in consultation through targeted meetings, survey and focus groups. The outcomes of the consultation were considered by the Advisory Steering Group, and amendments to the draft vision and high-level goals were proposed to the LCDC and will be proposed Economic



Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC at their upcoming meeting. Work is commencing to draft the plan based on the analysis and consultations that took place in Stages 1 and 2. AIRO in Maynooth University are finalising updating and analysing Census 2022. The plan is on track to be finalised in early 2024.

For further information contact: Susan Bookle, LECP Co-ordinator phone. 087 6687808 or email sbookle@kildarecoco.ie

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

Kildare LCDC applied for 2023 Dormant Account Funding to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations. Should the application be successful, funding will be allocated to help provide services to LGBTI+ organisations targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI+ identities.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 31 January 2024.

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

The Part 8 for the M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures was presented at the February 2023 Council meeting and was approved. Work is ongoing with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to progress to construction.

M4 Westbound

The Westbound project will progress to the end of Phase 2. It is likely at that stage that the project will be divided into three areas- Westbound Bus Running, Active Travel and Safety Measures

Athy Main Street (N78)

Kildare National Roads Office (KNRO) have undertaken a pavement design and safety improvement for pavement improvement works on the existing N78 through Athy town and have also been liaising with Public Realm and Kildare County Council Roads with regard to the Emily Square project. Now that the Athy Distributor Road (ADR) is open, TII are being asked by Department of Transport (DoT) to



contribute to a more significant public realm type project through Athy Main street. If agreement can be reached, then Kildare County Council Roads Project team will assume responsibility for delivery.

Existing N78 to be reclassified - new ADR will become N78 in Athy – DoT / TII in discussion as to further requirements.

Leinster Road Bridges

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

Athy Distributor Road (ADR)

The ADR is now open (31 October 2023). BAM has achieved substantial completion; however snagging work still continues.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Project is nearing completion. Regional Salt Barn is 99% complete. Yard is 99% complete. Admin Building

is 95% complete. Project has largely transferred from Capital Project to Implementation phase.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The Oral Hearing for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) went ahead on 04 May 2023 via Teams. A decision is expected in due course.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor It is expected CPO and Planning Consent will be submitted in Q2 2024.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) is at final draft and has been referred initially to Meath County Council, TII and National Transport Authority (NTA) for noting. It will then issue to councillors for information before being published.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

AECOM have started modelling and option development for Newbridge. Phase 2 consultation will be scheduled for later this year.

Junction Programme

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



schemes are listed below. Consultants are O'Connor Sutton Cronin.

1. Dagwelds Cross R403/R409
2. Prosperous Main Junction R403/L2002
3. Allenwood Cross Roads R403/R415
4. Berts Cross, Athy R417/ L8-68/7
5. Watchhouse Cross, Naas R411/ L2023

Surveying at these locations has commenced.

Phase 1B tender assessment is complete and has been awarded for design. Consultants are Clandillon Consulting. Clandillon Consulting are in the process of familiarisation with their phase of the programme.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

Planning permission 22/1504 for part of relief road and second bridge over the Liffey has been granted by Kildare County Council to Aston Ltd. Kildare County Council is in touch with Department of Transport in relation to a funding application.

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Project ready for construction.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Section 1 is open to the public. The rest of the scheme, from Louise Bridge to Maynooth is being retendered.

Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

Project stopped.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Project ready for construction, pending land transfer agreements.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Consent to proceed to Part 8 Public Consultation Process is awaited from Waterways Ireland.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

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

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.



Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.

Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

Project ready for construction.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Works progressing well and due to finish in Q2 2024.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

Detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works are continuing.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme

Project stopped.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Project ready for construction.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Preliminary design awaiting evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme

Preliminary design awaiting evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

Preliminary design awaiting evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

Construction completed.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

Project ready for construction.



R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

Insufficient funding to commence project.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

€50,000 allocation – St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town – Section 38 proposals being prepared.

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane – Section 38 proposals being prepared.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 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

Project stopped.

Supplementary Projects

Funding provided by NTA for funding for several projects and construction of these are completed.

Naas Mobility Network Integration Project

Topographical survey completed for the Project. Traffic surveys underway. Tender Process for consultants is underway. Department of Transport has removed the Project from the Pathfinder Programme.

Speed Limit Review

No update from the Department of Transport at present.

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2023 is complete – all records uploaded onto MapRoad and claims submitted to Department of Transport.

Restoration Improvement schemes to value of €11.1 million on 67 Km of Local & Regional Roads. Restoration Maintenance i.e. Surface Dressing work carried out by direct labour on 104 km of roads – 4% of non-national road network (€2.64 million).

€500,000 of road works carried out under Climate Change Adaptation



Resilience Grant on three sites and a similar amount under Former National Roads Grants.

Safety Improvement schemes completed at ten sites countywide to value € 260,000.

Annual call from DoT for grant funding requests on Bridge Rehabilitation, Road Safety works, CCAR (Climate) and former National roads (FNR) for 2024 have been submitted to DoT. TII Road Surfacing grant to value €67,500 to be drawn down via PRS to cover works carried out on N78 (Athy – M9 Roundabout). Other maintenance monies will be utilised on both N78 and N81 before year end.

Winter Maintenance season commenced on 16 October. 705 km of roads now being treated and allowing for National Primary roads covered by TII – 31.5 % of all public roads included in county Winter Maintenance programme – higher than neighbouring counties. Salting route map is available to view on the Council website.

Public Lighting

PLEEP Survey to commence in November of this year followed by detailed design in March 2024 with works on site to commence in Q3

2024. Contract duration is for eight months and due for completion in Q2 2025 which will lead to annual savings of approx € 750,000 on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

Open Spaces (Parks)

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Works are continuing on the site. The pump track is complete. Work on the installation of play equipment is due to start the second week of December. Fencing for the multi use games area has also started.

Moore Abbey Woods, Monasterevin

Resurfacing of the road around the graveyard is in progress. The installation of information signage and seating will be done once resurfacing is completed.

Greenway Monasterevin to Portarlinton Feasibility Study

A tender is under preparation to appoint consultants to carry out this work.



Communications Boards

The installation of communications boards to assist children with communication difficulties have been installed in The Peoples Park, Athy, Newbridge, Prosperous, Kill, Celbridge.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Service

Planning

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.

Work is underway on implementation plan for a series of objectives and actions for 2023/2024 with work started on Nature Based Surface Water Solutions Guidance, Serviced Sites Pilots, Allotments Feasibility Study and Permeability Guidelines.

Local Area Plans (LAP)

Kildare Town

The Kildare Local Area Plan 2023 – 2029 was adopted at a Special Planning Meeting held in Merits on Thursday 26 October 2023. Advised that Kildare County Council not receiving Ministerial Direction and will take effect from 06 December 2023

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

Envisaged to publish Draft LAP in January 2024.

MEABTA – Maynooth and Environment Area Based Transport Assessment complete.

Ongoing meetings with Meath County Council.

Newbridge

Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation commenced on 10 October 2023 and concluded on 28 November 2023. 95



submissions received. The Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) and Town Renewal Masterplan (TRMP) finalised and will help inform the Plan.

Naas

Maudlins Traffic Modelling and Access Strategy prepared. Will assist the developers to enter into pre-planning consultation on Donnelly Mirrors and Cemex sites. The strategy will appear

on the council website under Naas LAP.

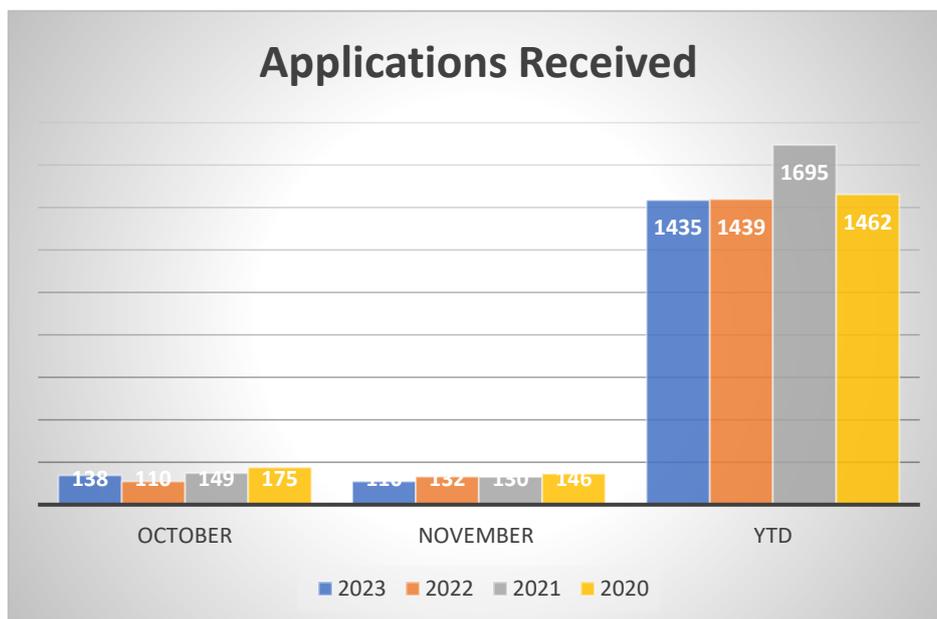
Proposed Alteration to the Leixlip LAP

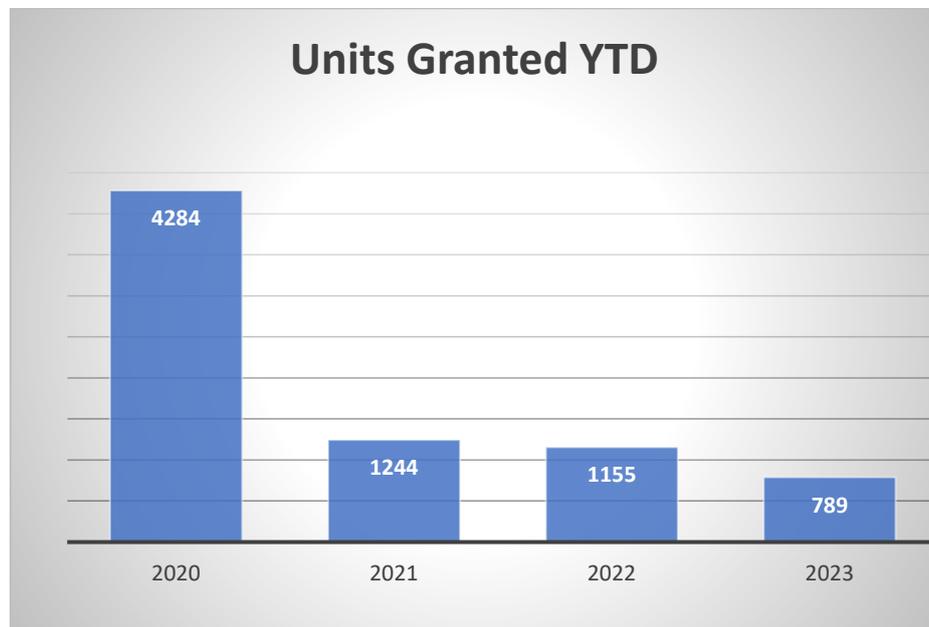
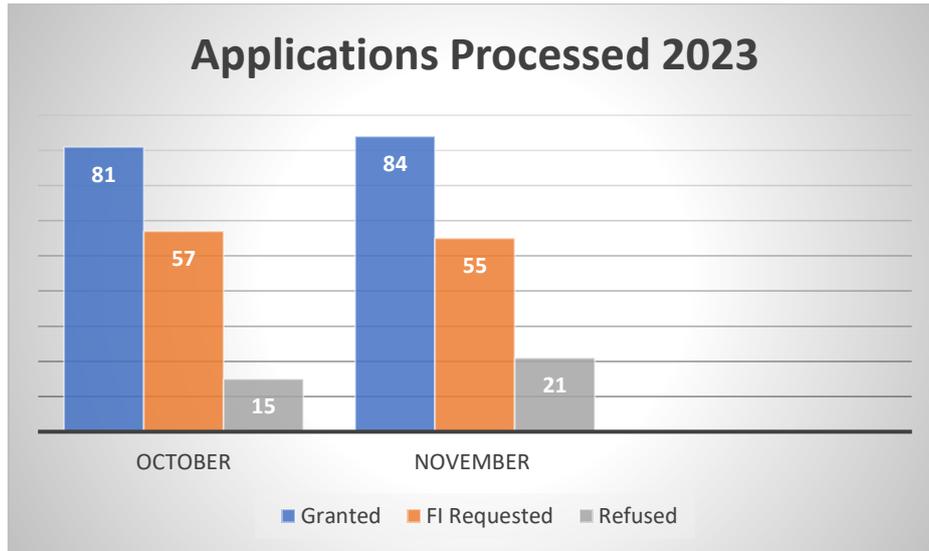
Consultation on the proposed Alteration to the Leixlip LAP to include Confey Masterplan to commence 11 December 2023

Development Management

ePlanning

ePlanning went live in Kildare on 27 June 2023. This enables applications and submissions/refs to be submitted via the online planning portal. Confirmation of our live status was communicated to planning agents and Elected Members and positively acknowledged. To date we have seen a steady rate of applications and submissions coming through the online portal, with electronic applications representing c.60.8% of all applications received.





Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

Decisions Five SHD applications due between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with An Bord Pleanála.



Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed Refuse – 12/10/2023
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Decision: Refused 12/11/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date 12/10/2023 Appealed Grant – 12/10/2023
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crockaun commons Clane	190	Decision Date 03/01/2024

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Heritage - Progress Updates

1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

The final HMAC meeting of the year will take place on 13 December.

2. Historic Landscape

Characterisation for Naas

Report now received and being reviewed.

3. Audit of Military Structures

Report now received and being reviewed.



4. Wells publication

Final publication now received which will be officially launched by the Leas Cathaoirleach at the Heritage Seminar on 02 December. A follow-on exhibition will be organized in 2024 to showcase the results.

B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

1. Feighcullen

Forester and Ecologist now engaged. Certain infrastructural works on site soon to be commenced, including removal of dumped e-waste and creation of a parking area.

2. Lullybeg conservation project

Lullybeg project has commenced with Butterfly Conservation Ireland

3. Hedgerows

Working with consultants on a pilot townland hedgerow survey in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. Heritage Stewardship Fund Scheme

The Heritage Council has awarded €28,628 to Kildare County Council for a partial review of the Record of Protected Structures in four Kildare towns; Castledermot, Rathangan, Kilcock and Kilcullen. A draft of this

work has now been received. Final reports are to be with the Heritage Council by 11 December.

2. Conservation Management Plan for St. David’s Castle, Naas

Consultants (Carrig) appointed to undertake the Conservation Management Plan to be completed by the end of Q4 2023.

3. Kildare Built Heritage Stocktake Project -

A Department funded project. Consultants (Alison Rea) appointed to undertake a partial review of the Kildare County Council ‘Record of Protected Structures’. Work to be completed and forwarded to the Department by 11 December.

4. Cassidy’s Distillery – Conservation Management Plan

Consultants (Howley Hayes Cooney) appointed to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Complex in Monasterevin. Report due for completion March 2024. Meeting with landowners and Councillor Kevin Duffy took place on 10 November with a further meeting to be arranged with the landowners and consultants at the end of January.



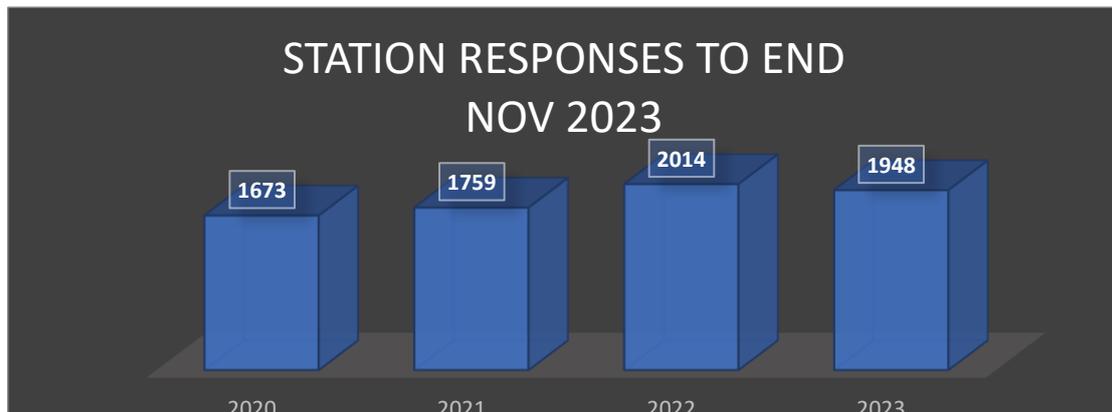
Also, for noting:

- Kildare County Council's first Heritage 'Seminar' to take place on Saturday, 02 December in Kilcullen.

- The Conservation Officer post is now vacant, and the post has been advertised. The closing date was 30 November.

Fire Service Operations:

2023 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

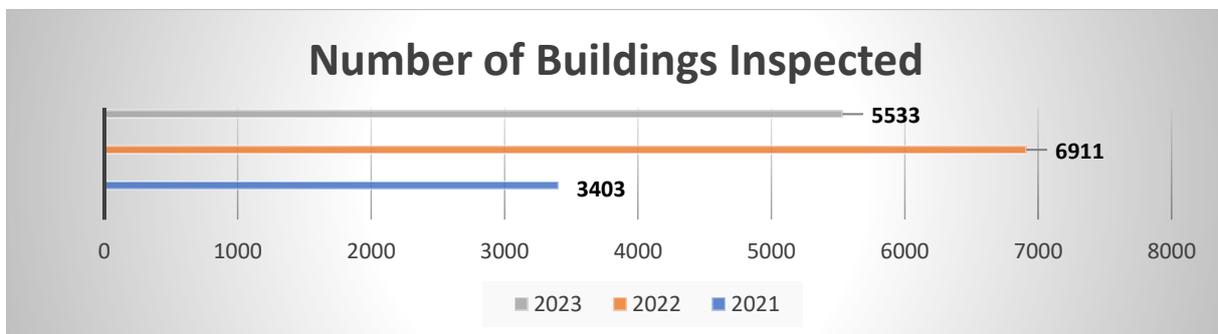
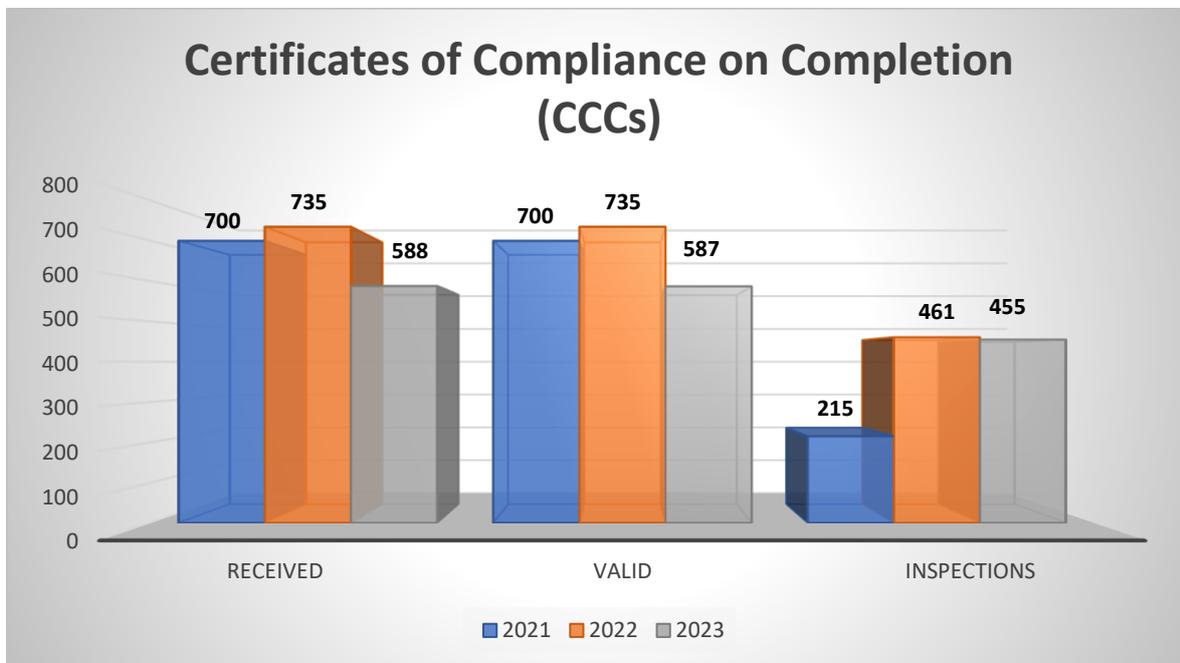
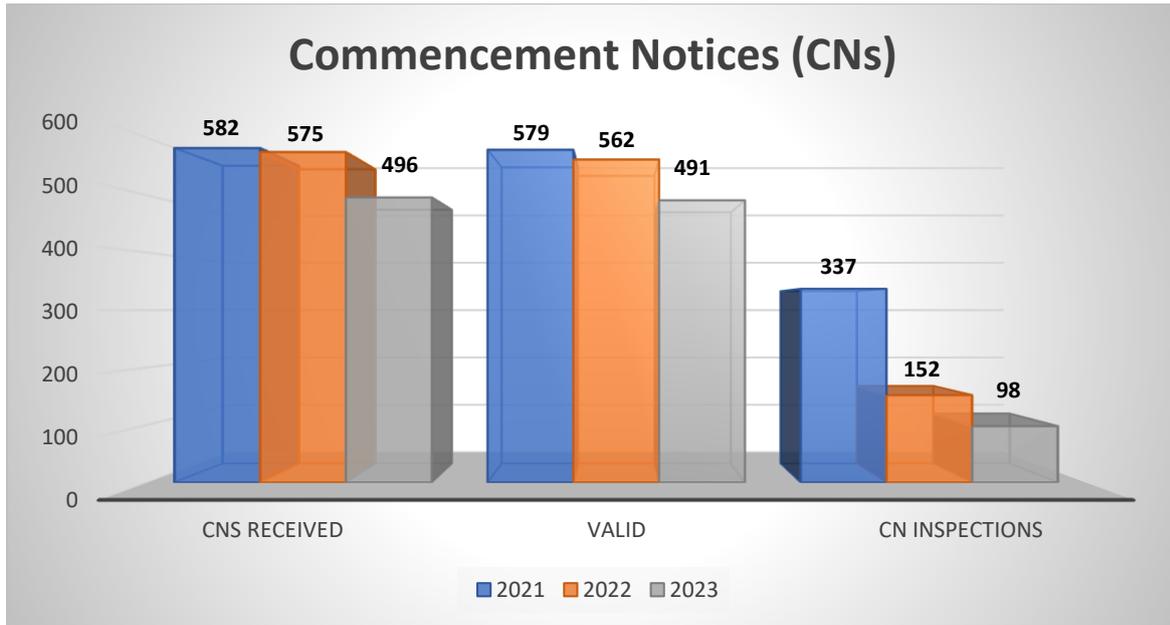


Building and Development Control

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

BUILDING CONTROL

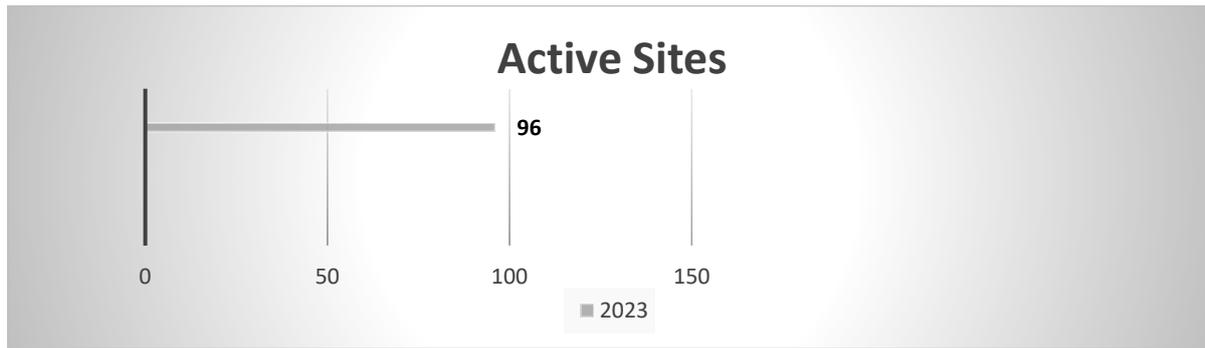




Note: Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 is due to staff shortages.



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Into Kildare (IK) CEO attended the World Travel Market conference in London. This provided an excellent opportunity to meet top professionals across the global tourism network, explore opportunities, engage in business endeavours as well as meeting members of the Into Kildare network including The Irish National Stud.



While in London, meetings took place with St.Brides Church Fleet Street to

discuss Brigid 1500 and the upcoming activities as well as with the Irish Embassy in London.

The Into Kildare team participated in the Thoroughbred Country destination sell workshop at the Keadeen Hotel organised by Failte Ireland.

Various new saleable activities relating to the equine industry were outlined for Tipperary and Kildare.



Into Kildare was delighted to attend the launch of Brigid 1500, which took place in Barberstown Castle. There was a great turnout to see a fantastic night of music and fire inspired by St.Brigid. As we continue to plan activities and events for Brigid 1500, we look forward to showcasing County



Kildare and the great work of St. Brigid throughout her life.



Into Kildare organised a representative from Fáilte Ireland to visit our offices, where they conducted a training workshop for our team. Failte Ireland reinforced its support in working together as we move forward. On Friday, 17 November, Killashee Hotel hosted the Chamber of Commerce Awards. Into Kildare was delighted to attend and supply the venue with 500 St. Brigid crosses for the guests to represent and highlight Brigid 1500. Into Kildare network member Sister Rita Minihan on behalf of Solas Bhríde received a special contribution award.



The team visited the Curragh Behind-the-Scenes tour as a part of

Thoroughbred Country. It provided an excellent opportunity to understand what the venue offers for the tourists coming to Kildare. The tour was very informative and insightful and a great addition to the county's activities.



Naas Racecourse marked its 100th anniversary by officially launching its book, "The Centenary of Naas Racecourse," on 21 November. There was a great turnout at the event, hosted at Swans on the Green in Naas. Mayor Bill Clear expressed gratitude to Naas Racecourse for its significant role in the local community.



On November 22, Into Kildare welcomed nearly 80 representatives from the tourism and hospitality sector across County Kildare to Killashee Hotel for its Annual General Meeting. This meeting provided an excellent



opportunity for Into Kildare to showcase the activities and achievements completed throughout 2023, along with exciting plans for 2024. Cathaoirleach Daragh Fitzpatrick addressed the meeting and reiterated the council's support for tourism in the county and the work of Intokildare -the official tourism body for the county. Other speakers included Sam Johnston, the manager of the Dublin Convention Bureau- Failte Ireland and travel commentator Eoghan Corry regarding trade and travel trends for 2024. The occasion was a fantastic networking opportunity for all Into Kildare members.



Hotel and Restaurant Times editor also conducted an interview on Kildare Tourism at the event.



During November, a series of meetings and venue site inspections have taken place as part of the preparations for Taste of Kildare 2024. We are optimistic about officially launching Taste of Kildare 2024 in collaboration with Brigid1500 in February 2024.



We also welcomed the competition winners from the Fhéile Bride event in 2023 with the London Embassy, for their five-night stay in County Kildare. They thoroughly enjoyed their time in Kildare, experiencing some of the fantastic attractions on offer in the county, including The Irish National Stud and Naas Racecourse.



Into Kildare continued to organise several Familiarisation (FAM) Trips throughout the month. At the start of the month, Cliff at Lyons welcomed Sarah McDermott, an Instagram influencer with over thirty thousand followers. Another visit was by Mandy Maher, who stayed at Lawlors of Naas and dined at Bouchon. With Mandy having over twenty thousand Instagram followers, the social media posts by these influencers increase the coverage of County Kildare as a destination.



As the festive season approaches, the tourism and hospitality industry strategically focuses its marketing message on winter breaks, seasonal

activities, and Christmas events. The primary target demographic was families looking to capitalise on the festive season with Christmas events coming up.



Into Kildare also worked in collaboration with The Today Show and the Two Johnnies 2FM radio show with three separate competitions throughout November. By working with these stations Into Kildare members and County Kildare tourism are receiving national television and radio coverage, increasing media reach across the country.



Local Enterprise Office

Financial Supports direct to Clients 2023

	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	72	€163,400
Priming Grant	7	€225,855
Business Expansion Grant	6	€171,033
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€50,230
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	18	€30,591
Agile Innovation Fund	1	€41,235
IP Start grant	3	€6,480
IP Plus grant	2	€35,100
Gradstart grant	2	€60,000
Total		€783,924

Entrepreneurship Support Services

ACHIEVEMENT OF KPIS TO DATE:

	TARGET	ACTUAL as of 29.11.23
Training	1224	1728
SYOB	144	217
MDP	70	103
Mentoring	468	626
Digital	7	7
Lean	18	46
Green	20	40

FOCUS ON CRAFT:

GATHER, a collection of gifts created in Kildare, launched as a pop-up in Kildare Village on 26 October 2023.



This collaboration with twenty plus Kildare-based creative businesses will run until New Years Eve.



In its first five weeks of trading gross sales exceeded €100,000, the store welcomed almost 20,000 guests and the project's Instagram account @gatherkildare had almost 850 followers.

This project has received press coverage in multiple national print and online publications including The Irish Times, News Talk, Evoke.ie, Independent.ie, The Gloss.ie, Business Post, and Sunday Independent.

FOCUS ON INNOVATION:

LEO Kildare collaborated with Enterprise Ireland to deliver a workshop on Protecting Intellectual Property (IP) in International Markets. 25 business owners attended, a mixture of early-stage companies with unique IP and emerging exporters.

FOCUS ON START-UP:

LEO Kildare, once again sponsored the Emerging Business Category of the County Kildare Chamber Awards.

Congratulations to winners EVAHCS. Based in Clane, they have developed the world's first heat pump/air conditioning unit and electric vehicle charger in one.

Entrepreneurship 101 is an intensive and immersive day for aspiring entrepreneurs, and a trail in the delivery of a short and intense support for business start-ups. Since mid-November, over 60 individuals with a business idea have booked a place on this training day.

FOCUS ON EXPORT:

Ten established tech companies are currently working on our Export Development Programme with a Showcase event planned in MERITS on 24 January 2024.

FOCUS ON FOOD:

The Enterprise Europe Network will host a Meet the Buyer event for Food and Nutrition businesses on 31 January in MERITS. This is a great opportunity for scaling, internationally driven, and ready to export companies that exist in your region.

Registration:

<https://www.b2match.com/e/food-and-nutrition-meet-buyer/components/35117>



Economic Support Services

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme Grant and Retail Window Merchandising Grant for 2023 have now closed for applications. The economic development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all the supports available.

MD Applications as of 22 November 2023	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	24	€44,639.00
Athy	25	€32,484.00
Naas	29	€36,965.00
Clane/Maynooth	10	€15,478.20
Celbridge/Leixlip	19	€30,285.25

Shop Local Christmas Campaign

“The Economic Development Team has commenced its ‘Shop Local Support Local’ campaign having captured footage and interviews from retailers around the County to be published through Kildare County Council’s social media channels; KFM is running daily advertisements of the campaign for 30 days (150 spots in total; cost: €4,981.50).

Skills Audit:

“Kildare County Council published a request for tender for a suitable

consultancy to undertake a skills audit of County Kildare; responses are expected 04 December 2023. The audit will comprise a detailed analysis of the existing talent and skills within the county and the skills requirements across the county over the medium term. It is anticipated the audit will be completed by April 2024 when, at this point, it will inform Kildare County Council’s strategic employment/ industrial land study (currently being undertaken by Kildare County Council’s Forward Planning Department) and the tenderer will then work to deliver a comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by June 2024.”

Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy:

“In recent weeks, the Diaspora campaign has rolled out a month-long engagement campaign on LinkedIn as well as developing a presence on Facebook; Maynooth University has included the Kildare Diaspora in its newsletter to its alumni. In December, Kildare County Council will publish its first Diaspora newsletter which will comprise topical stories of interest to Kildare’s global population. The database currently stands at 115 persons.”



Brigid 1500 Window Grant

The Brigid 1500 Window Grant has opened for businesses to apply for support to celebrate St Brigid next February.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Kildare County Council was required to submit its tender documents to Department of Rural and Community Development for approval before publication; Kildare County Council received positive feedback and its design team has published the tender documents.

The design teams anticipate the contractor to be appointed and for work to commence by the end of Q1 2024 and for the construction to be completed in 13 months.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare.

The consultants have completed the stakeholder analysis and are finalising the draft feasibility study at present. Kildare County Council has reached a lease agreement for the deployment of a pilot on a smaller footprint in two Retail Units in Kildare Town Square.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

The consultants have submitted the feasibility study for the building; funding mechanisms are now being investigated, should the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order, for the proposed development we will commence work in Q1 2024.

Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Upon the completion of a feasibility study, Kildare County Council identified the Just Transition Fund as a potential funding mechanism for the proposed development. A concept note has been submitted to Pobal in this regard. Progression will be very much subject to the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order.

Athy Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Upon the completion of a land study, Kildare County Council also identified the Just Transition Fund as a potential funding mechanism for the proposed development. A concept note has been submitted to Pobal in this regard. Progression will be very much subject



to the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order.

Kildare County Council Industrial Estate Enhancement

A project manager and contractor has been procured to deliver enhancement works on four industrial estates owned by Kildare County Council in Newbridge, Kilcullen, Rathangan and Celbridge; the works have commenced and will enhance the exteriors and signage of the respective estates.

K-Hub activity:

The MERITS Hub hosted a Venture Capital and Investment networking morning during October as part of the K-Hub promotional activity. The event was attended by 13 business owners who are exploring funding opportunities.

Coding for Kids Camp:

The MERITS hub hosted a “Coding for Kids” camp during the mid-term break. 12 children participated in this pilot programme which saw them learn the basics of coding and further their insight into the world of technology and innovation.

The Innovation Exchange:

The Innovation Exchange came to MERITS during October to offer businesses the opportunity to learn about their network. The programme offers the opportunity for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to sell their products and services to Multinational Corporations with whom they may traditionally find it difficult to engage.

Appendix: Business Supports

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

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive