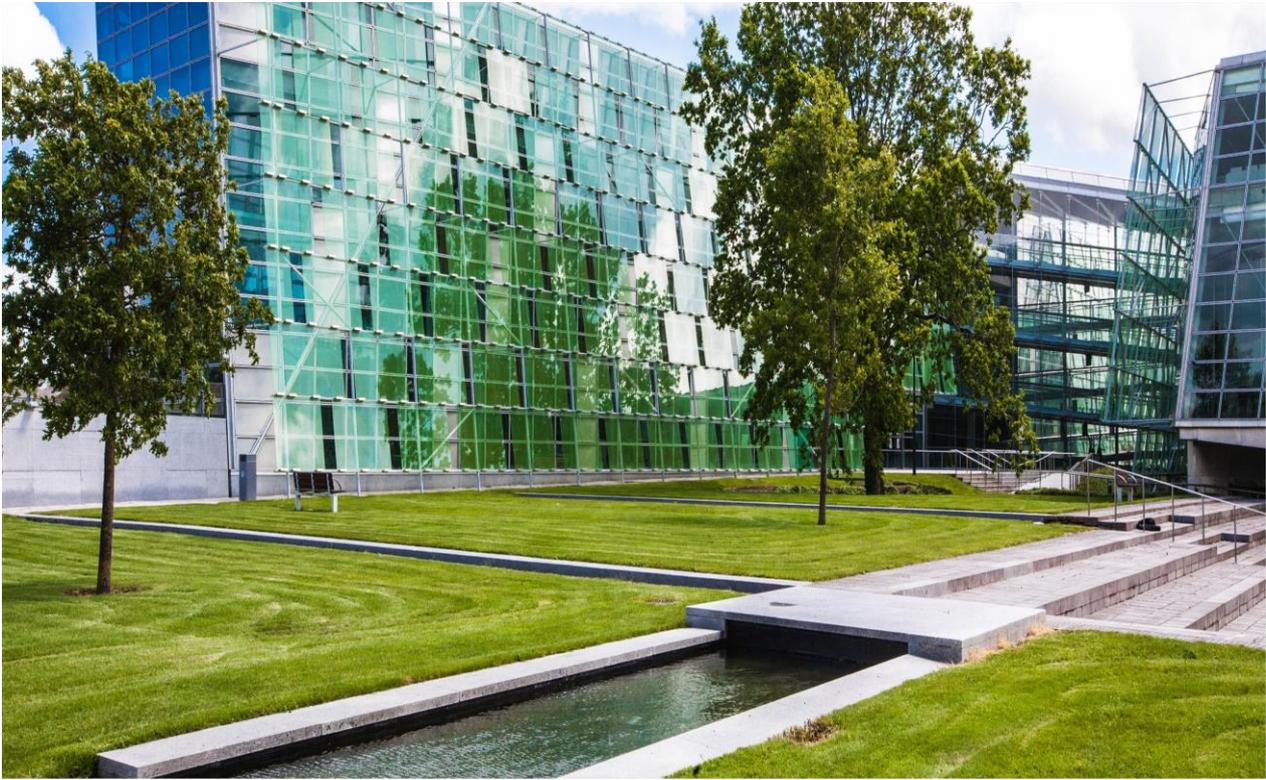




**Kildare County Council**

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





## **News Items**

### **Housing Support 2023**

Kildare County Council has been supporting two national Housing campaigns in recent weeks. (see page 7)

### **Register of Electors**

It is now possible for most people to register to vote online and/or to edit their contact information/address at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie). (see pages 7/8)

### **Innovation**

The Chief Executive signed the Declaration on Public Service Innovation in Ireland. (see page 9)

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

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. (see page 17)

### **Risk Management**

The 2023 risk cycle is about to commence with a briefing of the Audit Committee having taken place on 7 March 2023. (see page 32)

### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip**

The scheme is moving through the various steps required. (see page 47)

### **2023 grants schemes**

The 2023 community, festival and residents' associations grants were advertised with a closing date for applications of Friday 10 March 2023. (see page 56)



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### **Empowering Communities Programme Athy**

Athy has been selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development as a target area for a new community development programme. (see pages 57/58)

### **Kildare Failte**

Into Kildare hosted the first members networking event of the year, in the Silken Thomas, Kildare Town. (see page 61)

### **Naas Library and Cultural Centre**

Progress on the Naas Library and Cultural Centre is continuing. The library will be open to the public in Summer 2023. (see page 65)

### **Occupancy increase in MERITS**

The hub welcomed two new tech start-up businesses in February. (see page 69)



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## Diary/Calendar

### Members Services

The April Clane Maynooth Municipal District meeting will be held on Thursday 6 April in the Council Chamber. (see page 8)

### Thatched Cottage Grant:

2023 thatching grant has been advertised, closing 22 March 2023. (see page 23)

### Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The next Kildare Clinic is on Monday 26 June 2023. (see page 26)

### Kerdiffstown Park project

Works are progressing well and it is expected that the park will be operational during 2023. (see pages 29)

### Economic Opportunities Conference 2023

The Conference will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly on Wednesday 26 April 2023. (see pages 33)

### LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 29th of March 2023. (see page 58)

### Celbridge Library Dates for the diary in March

23 March 2023, The End of the Civil War, by John Dorney (The Irish Story) at Celbridge Library. (see page 64)



## April Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Mar 15:00 Full Council Meeting	28	29 10:00 LCDC	30	31
3	4	5	6 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting	7
10	11 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	12	13	14
17 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	18	19 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	20	21 10:00 Celbridge-Leailip MD Meeting
24 15:00 Full Council Meeting	25	26	27	28



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## Corporate Services

### Communications

### Housing Campaigns



Kildare County Council has been supporting two national Housing campaigns in recent weeks. The 'Offer a Home' campaign, calling for those who have unoccupied properties across the county to offer them as temporary homes for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. In addition, Kildare County Council has also been supporting the Home Vacancy campaign, highlighting grants available for refurbishment work to tackle vacancy and dereliction, and bringing vacant properties into re-use for housing.



## Register of Electors



Kildare's Register Team have circulated a single page double-sided leaflet that Elected Representatives may use when engaging with citizens regarding voter registration. A web version has also been circulated for social media channels. An Irish language version is under development and will be provided. Preparations are underway for a focussed leaflet drop in new housing estates commenced in the county since 2019.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) held information sessions recently with the AILG and as some members may be aware are planning an awareness campaign in the coming months that is intended to include a youth campaign. More information to follow upon receipt.

In addition, the DHLGH has been meeting the Dept. of Defence to brief on electoral reform and cooperate to agree best practice related to Defence



Force's electors. Kildare's Register Team is participating in this process. It is now possible for most people to register to vote online and/or to edit their contact information/address. The council continue to encourage the public to visit [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie).

[checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

**Value Your Vote**

## THE EASY WAY TO SECURE YOUR SAY

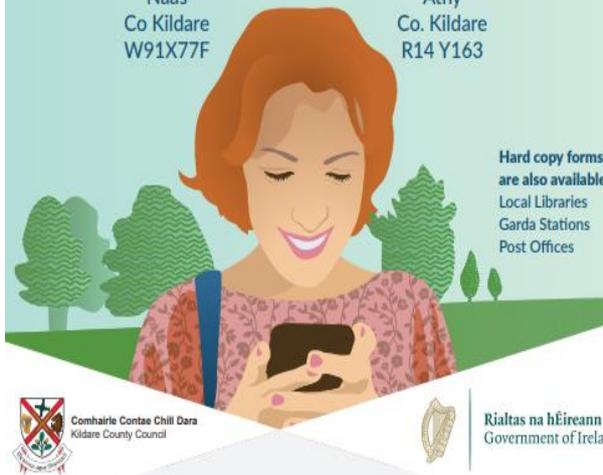
**Do you want to vote?** You must register to do so.  
**Moved address?** You must update your registration.  
Now most people can register online!  
Join the register or update your details on

[checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

If you cannot access this information online, please email [register@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:register@kildarecoco.ie), phone 045 980 201 or visit:

**Kildare County Council**  
Áras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co Kildare  
W91X77F

**Athy Customer Service Point**  
Rathstewart  
Monasterevan Road  
Athy  
Co. Kildare  
R14 Y163



Hard copy forms are also available  
Local Libraries  
Garda Stations  
Post Offices



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

### The registration process has changed. What's different?

- **Registering to vote for the first time is now possible online at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)**  
Use of PPSNs facilitates identity checking meaning that now, most people won't have to visit a Garda station to have forms witnessed.
- **16- and 17-year-olds will be able to pre-register to vote**  
Introduction of a pending electors list enables those 16 and 17 to pre-register and be automatically registered when they turn 18.
- **You must be living full time in the State to be eligible to vote**  
We will ask you your nationality in your application as this may affect which elections you can vote in.

An Irish citizen	You are eligible to vote in all elections and referendums
An EU citizen	You are eligible to vote in European and local elections
A British citizen	You are eligible to vote in Dáil and local elections
All other	You are eligible to vote in local elections

#### Want to register to vote?

Apply at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) Choose this if you:

- Have your PPSN and Eircode available
- Are aged 18 or over and living in Ireland
- Are aged 16 or 17 and want to pre-register

#### Some cases require a form

Select [www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms](http://www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms) Choose this if you:

- Don't have a PPSN
- Want to update your citizenship
- Want to apply for a special or postal vote
- Want to make a third-party request for a change to the register

#### Already registered but need to update details?

Select [www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/search](http://www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/search) Choose this if you:

- Have your PPSN and Eircode
- Need to confirm your details
- Need to update your address

### Members Services

The April Clane/Maynooth Municipal District meeting will be held on Thursday 6 April in the Council Chamber.

### Political Donation Statements

An advertisement advising the public of the Political Donation Statements submitted by elected members for 2022 has been placed in local newspapers.



### **Council Chamber AV upgrade**

The tender process is in the final stages. A 'preferred vendor' has been selected and the 'due diligence' phase, checking tax compliance, insurance coverage (including Cyber) is in progress. It is hoped to complete this exercise by the end of this week. A formal 'kick off' meeting is planned for next week with the 'preferred vendor' where we will start work on contract review and signoff and start putting together an outline project plan. All going well significant progress is expected on this project in Q2 2023. Based on the experience of other local authorities it should be noted that delays due to supply chain issues may happen during the life of the project.

### **Maternity Leave for Elected Members**

The Local Government (Maternity Protection and Other Measures for Members of Local Authorities) Act 2022 has been enacted. The Act gives legislative effect to Government commitments to establish, for the first time, an entitlement of maternity leave to local authority elected members, equivalent to the current entitlement for employees under the Maternity Protection Act 1994 (as amended).

The Act also provides for the possibility of the appointment by co-option of an individual as a temporary substitute for a member who takes maternity leave under the Maternity Protection Act 1994 or is absent due to illness or in good faith for another reason under Section 18 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended). A copy of the circular has issued to members.

## **Finance and Information Technology & Innovation**

### **Financial Reports**

#### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2022 is on the March 2023 Council meeting agenda.

#### **Rates Demands 2023**

The Rate Demands for 2023 issued in February to all ratepayers.

#### **Monthly Management Reports**

Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2023 will be submitted to Council as part of the monthly management report from April onwards.



## Innovation

The Chief Executive, Sonya Kavanagh, signed the Declaration on Public Service Innovation in Ireland, declaring continued commitment to embracing innovation as one of the ways that we can achieve our goals and deliver effective public services for our citizens.

By opting to sign the Declaration, Kildare County Council is pledging continued commitment to supporting our staff to innovate in their everyday roles, cultivate new partnerships, share best practice, and include diverse views when designing and delivering services.

Kildare County Council was awarded €50,000 from the Public Services Innovation Fund to progress for our 'Grass to Gas' project – this is a research project in association with Maynooth University, whereby our Climate Action Team are looking at the potential energy that could be harnessed from public lands. This is an example of the Circular Economy model. The MOA was signed on 9 March 2023 by Kildare County Council.

## Housing

### Housing for All

#### Local Authority Home Loan

Changes to the Local Authority Home Loan price and income limits are effective from 1 March 2023. The new price limit in Kildare has increased from €320,000 to €360,000. As applicants are required to have a 10% deposit the revised borrowing limit is €324,000.

The gross income limits have increased as follows:

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

More information on the Local Authority Home Loan can be found at: <https://localauthorityhomeloan.ie/>  
A sum of €10,930,000 has been allocated for new lending approvals in 2023.

#### Vacant Homes

Thirty-six applications have been received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. Consultants have been appointed to prepare a

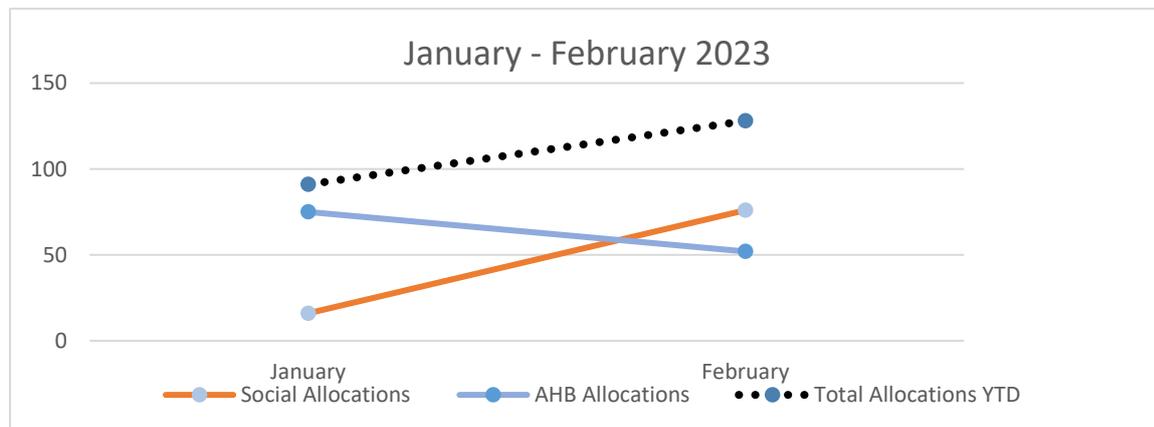


Masterplan for Clane Town Centre under the Town Centre First policy.

### Housing Allocations

During February 2023, the council allocated a total of 128 properties throughout the county. 76 were social properties and 58 were AHB properties. Among the locations that allocations took place in were Naas,

Newbridge, Athy, Monasterevin and Celbridge. In order to address the number of refusals of offers of allocation, the use of Choice Based Letting has been increased. Pre-tenancy training took place for group allocations in Old Mill, Monasterevin, Barnhall, Leixlip, and Kildroch Court, Celbridge.



### Homeless Services

#### Ending of Moratorium on Notices to Quit

Work to support families with Notice to Quit following the lifting of the moratorium is being undertaken and every effort will be made through a combination of acquisitions, allocations, HAP, Homeless HAP and support through the provision of emergency accommodation if required. Twenty-nine housing applicants have

notified the council that they have received a notice to quit, with all notices having a date between April and June. 21 of the applications date from 2018 onwards. The lifting of the moratorium will increase the number of notices to quit being notified to the council. At the time of writing there are 58 properties to rent in Kildare, 16 of which have an asking price of less than €1,500 per month.

This will present a very challenging situation for the Housing Department.



## Meetings

The Homeless Strategic Management Group and Homelessness Forum meetings took place on 24 February 2023. There was participation and engagement from Kildare, Meath and Wicklow County Councils and agencies including HSE, Irish Prison Service, KWETB, and NGO's at the Forum meeting regarding the added value actions of the 2021-2023 Homeless Plan. A gap analysis was carried out at agency and homeless action team level and where gaps are identified, the relevant agencies will be contacted to address these.

## Homeless Outreach

Street work was completed in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and Naas Municipal District in February linking in with individuals and offering supports where required. There are five new properties in the pipeline for Housing First and it is anticipated these will be in place in the coming weeks. A new clinic providing advice and support was established with the female unit in Cuan Mhuire in Athy and was well received by participants. Clinics were also held in the Athy and Newbridge family resource centres in February.

The outreach team attended the Heads-up Programme in Celbridge in recent weeks and provided information on homelessness and housing in Kildare.

## Ukraine

The Chief Executives report in January provided the Members with an update on refurbishment projects for the provision of accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection, advising that the council is now responsible for such projects. The council has submitted a number of proposals to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and a decision is awaited.

A renewed advertising campaign is underway for the Offer a Home Scheme.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works to commence on 20 March
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	No amendments to Part 8 when presented to Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District in February.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala scheduled during Q1 2023.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 3 funding application submitted to DHLGH on the 23 January 2023.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	Part 8 scheduled to come before Clane-Maynooth Municipal District in April.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Diversion of underground and overhead ESB cables to commence mid-March.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Single stage approval received 23 August 2022. Part 8 proposed to launch Q1 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Minor Capital Works Single Stage Approval Process application submitted to DHLGH Q4 2022.
<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site included in Town Centre Living Design Competition. Design competition launched 26 January. Design submissions due 31 March.



### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	No amendments to Part 8 when presented to Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in February. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing
Glandore, Athy	4 units	No amendments to Part 8 when presented to Athy Municipal District in February. Architect Lead Design Team tender due for return early April
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Full design team in place. Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Pre-qualification questionnaire issued in December and due back 21 March.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Design team have started in March; brief being finalised.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 social units/40 affordable	Design team have started in March; brief being finalised
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA.

### Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Phase 1 to deliver in Q1, phase 2 to deliver in Q2 2023.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid and now preparing preliminary design drawings. Design of site access progressing with consultation from Roads and Planning Conservation. It is likely that ESB will be submitting a Planning Application for Mast retention or replacement in the coming months.



### Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	CAS Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Response to further information request on planning application to be submitted by Cluid.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023.

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 28 February 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	27	47	36
6 - 12 Months	6	10	11
12 - 18 Months	5	9	5
18 - 24 Months	2	4	1
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	4	5	5
	<b>44</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 28 February 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	7	11	10
6 - 12 Months	3	5	7
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>



## Acquisitions

	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023
<b>Housing Acquisitions</b>	39	13	41	4
<b>Housing Turnkeys</b>	107	27	82	
<b>Part V Acquisitions</b>	41	70	86	4
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>8</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge - Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
<b>Acquisitions in 2023</b>	2	4	0	1	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	0	0	0	9	0

## Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
<b>2022</b>	309	241	7	7	362	378
<b>Q1 2023 To 06/03/2023</b>	57	32	1	1	74	61

## Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>2022 EERP</b>	69	Works have commenced in Ottomy, Clane.
<b>2023 EERP</b>		Awaiting confirmation of the allocation for 2023 which will inform this year's work programme



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

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

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

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Kildare Town**

It is intended to publish the draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 on Tuesday the 21 March 2023 for public consultation. Members of the public will be invited to make submissions during a six week public consultation period before Wednesday 3 May 2023.

The draft Plan will be accompanied by Environmental Reports, a Social Infrastructure Audit, a Settlement Capacity Audit, a Surface Water Study and a Statement of Character for the Architectural Conservation Area.

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

The Chief Executives report on pre-draft Public Consultation was published online on the 8 March 2023 following a briefing meeting with the Elected Members of the Clane Maynooth Municipal District. Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan, including the Area Based Transport Assessment for the plan area.



## Development Management

Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
Feb	YTD	No.	February	
2020: 129	203	793	Total Granted:	60
2021: 134	234	186	Further information requested:	46
2022: 125	220	227	Total Refused:	14
2023 104	183	88		

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

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/31295 8	12/04/2 2	Glenveagh	Shackleton Road, Celbridge	152	28/06/22 (Overdue)
22/31330 6	16/05/2 2	Aston Ltd	Great Connell, Newbridge	569	02/08/22 (Overdue)
22/31382 5	17/06/2 2	Kieran Curtin	Ballyoulster, Celbridge	344	06/10/22 (Overdue)
22/31433 7	11/08/2 2	Cairn Homes	Moyglare, Maynooth	158	30/11/22 (Overdue)
22/31456 4	07/09/2 2	Teresa Monaghan	Boycetown, Kilcock	272	05/01/23 (Overdue)



### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

Legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning authority will be required

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

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

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



## Heritage

### A. Planning to date

Item	No
Planning referrals	51
Preplanning	6
LRD	1
Part 8	2
Compliance	2
Total	62

### B. Heritage Projects Progress

#### 1. Brigid 1500

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

#### 2. Turas Columbanus

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

birthplace of Columbanus via Co Fermanagh to Bangor in Co Down where Columbanus later set sail for Europe.

#### 3. Local Biodiversity Action Plans

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

#### 4. Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme

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

#### 5. Local Biodiversity Action Plans Mentoring Programme

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

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

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



7. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Proposed to have meeting in quarter 1 2023.

8. Public Relam

Heritage Officer has an Advisory role:

- Town Renewal Plans- Allenwood, Robertstown,

Kilmeague and Coill

Dubh/Coolearagh.

- Curragh Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan
- Wonderful Barn.

### C. Funding Applications

1. Heritage Plan Fund (€37,500)

Application for Heritage Plan fund was made for the following projects. Funding will be announced in due course.

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

2. Community Monuments Fund 2023

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

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



### 3. National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

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

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

#### 4. Creative Ireland

Oral recording training two. Funding was secured in December 2023 for second round of oral recording training and will commence in Spring 2023 (€5,000)

- Wells of Kildare Publication and Exhibition €15,000

- Traditional Skills Event in Straffan with Meath County Council €5,000

#### 5. Irish Walled Towns Fund

Closing date for applications Thursday 9 March 2023.



## Conservation

### 1. Planning Referrals:

Item	No
Planning referrals:	29
Section 57s	1
Section 5s	4
Preplanning:	1
LRD:	0
Part 8:	1
Total	23

### 2. Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS): – 2023

BHIS allocation €126,400.

BHIS thatched allocation  
€13,334

32 applications received and nominations have been made to the Department.

### 3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

2023: -

Stream one to seven applications

Stream two to one application

HSF nominations have been made to the Department.

### 4. Thatched Cottage Grant:

2023 thatching grant has been advertised, closing 22 March 2023.

### 5. Heritage Stewardship Scheme (The Heritage Council):

An application for 2023 Heritage Stewardship Scheme was submitted 16/01/2023 for €25,200 funding towards a review of the RPS in Kilcock, Rathangan, Kilcullen and Castledermot.

### 6. Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.

Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn.

### 7. Infrastructure projects:

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

## Strategic Projects and Public Realm

### Kildare Newbridge Municipal District:

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



The new County Library Part 8 is being finalised (following agreement with neighbour and other stakeholders) and will be launched in March.

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

2. Kildare Square – Phase 1 – Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final Design details to be reviewed following a meeting with the business/residents surrounding the square. Meeting with Failte Ireland scheduled for Q1 2023.
3. Kildare Square – Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet; Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. Our agent is in on-going discussions with various landowners.
4. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen. Section 38 being prepared for the tie in from

Phase 1 to Phase 2, as there was a rerouting required as per the conditions of the Part VII planning permission. This will be advertised in the coming weeks. We intend to extend the scope of works of the Phase 1 Contract to include these works, subject to a successful Section 38 process. Ground Investigation work has commenced. Part VII, required for two additional bridges along the route – one near Bonyngge Bridge and another at Lowtown.

Winter/Spring ecological surveys for the route underway as per Waterways Ireland requirements.

5. Rathangan Market Square – Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.
6. Kilcullen Market Square – Part 8 Approved but no funding secured yet to advance.
7. Curragh Plains Strategy –Final Draft under review. Finalisation of the plans on hold subject to talks with OPW.



### **Athy Municipal District:**

1. Barrow Blueway –  
Unbound surface to be complete end May 2023. Successful contractor identified for Road Crossing Work, not appointed yet, as we work through the requirements to obtain the Temporary Works Licence from Waterways Ireland. Bridge tender published closing date 10 March 2023. Additional funding required to complete the scheme – application being prepared for submission to RRDF. Placemaking Plan produced – FUNDED BY Kildare LEADER. Waterways Ireland have secured internal funds to deliver some of the soft infrastructure items, nine picnic benches, seating, signage etc) – as identified and as per the appropriate locations identified in the Placemaking Plan .  
Application submitted under the Community Recognition Fund for the purchase of land in Athy for a possible trail head
2. Emily Square – Tender documents in progress.
3. Shackleton Museum – Tender closed Friday 3 March 2023, with

seven tender returns. Tender Submissions being assessed and meeting to be arranged with RRDF to go through successful submission. Calx Restoration progressing enabling works – removing existing internal wall finishes and exposing brick vaults.

### **Celbridge – Leixlip Municipal District:**

1. Wonderful Barn – Following a very successful open day, over 360 submissions were received, all very positive. Stage 1 surveys on-going. Business Case to be prepared.
2. Celbridge Parochial House – TBD.
3. Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans – Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Final draft expected this week and presentation to the Municipal District will follow. Design team fees agreed for inclusion of additional items to original tender brief.

### **Clane – Maynooth Municipal District:**

1. Bawnogues Community Centre – Fully funded by the council; Work continues to be very slow.



- Completion date extended to end April 2023. Waiting on final connection from ESB and Irish Water.
2. Harbourfield – Part 8 approved. URDF application – revised Business Case to be submitted to the Department.
  3. URDF Town Renewal Masterplan for Maynooth: Business Case completed and submitted. Recent call with URDF team confirmed that feedback is to be issued and PSC compliance under review as to its relevance for masterplan projects.
  3. Potato Market – Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 15:00 p.m. The next phase of development, subject to funding, will upgrade electricity and services.
  4. Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan: Design team appointed October 2023 and initial survey and analysis underway. First presentation to the elected members on 14 February 2023. Consultation workshops to take place in late February and March.

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

1. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: Works continuing. John Craddock Ltd. appointed and commenced on site October 2022 with a 12 month programme, currently no delays.
2. URDF Town Renewal Masterplan for Naas: Following feedback from the URDF team, a revised business case is to be submitted. SPPR currently reviewing revised scope. Discussions ongoing with various landowners.

## **Water Services**

### **Irish Water Councillor Clinics**

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour on the dates specified.

The 2023 schedule of clinics is as follows:

- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023

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

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



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

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

### **Irish Water Framework**

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

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

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

## **Environment and Climate Action**

### **Water Framework Directive**

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

This document is expected to be published this year and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2023-2024**

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



- Discharge licenses,
- Water quality monitoring
- Air Priorities
  - Solid fuel regulations,
  - Air monitoring programme

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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

### **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

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

### **Community Clean-ups**

Green Kilometre groups continue to be very active. There is also continued demand from community and Tidy Towns groups for supplies to aid with clean-ups and litter picking around the county. Some Residents Associations are expressing interest in installing compost areas for green waste on their estates.

### **GAA Green Clubs Initiative**



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

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

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



## Kildare County Council Launches New Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative



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

## Catchment Flooding

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

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

## Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

## Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

## Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

## Kerdiffstown Park project

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



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

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

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

Current plans are as follows:

#### **Columbarium Walls**

a) New

It is proposed to install new Columbarium Walls in the following cemeteries: Derrinturn, Donaghcomper, Newbridge, Monasterevin, Athy and Confey. Contract Documents are at design stage currently and the proposal is to advance to tender in early Q2 2023.

b) Completion

Tenders have been awarded for the completion of Columbarium Walls in Rathangan and

Crookstown Cemeteries and it is hoped that works will soon be started. Both projects are expected to be completed within six weeks.

#### **Cemetery Extensions**

a) Allen

A tender exercise has been completed for the extension of Allen Cemetery and are awaiting a formal award. It is expected that works should take no longer than three months for completion.

b) Staplestown

It is expected to advance with detailed design and tendering to facilitate opening of the new part of this Cemetery during Q3 2023.

c) Confey

Detailed investigations are being carried out in terms of assessing any spare capacity within the cemetery, as it is rapidly approaching full capacity. Discussions are also underway with landowners in terms of acquiring lands nearby for a new cemetery.



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

#### Other Capital Improvement Works

- a) Bodenstown Cemetery  
Works have recently been completed to acquire 30 plus additional interment plots by the removal of trees along the western side of the cemetery. Departmental consent had to be gained, with full-time Archaeological oversight. New access improvement works were completed at the same time.
- b) Naas Altar  
Detailed design work has been completed and it is expected to advance to tender in early March for the installation of a permanent altar structure in St. Corbans Cemetery Naas.
- c) Newbridge Cemetery Car Park  
Detailed design work has been completed and it is expected to advance to tender in mid-March

for major upgrade works to St. Conleth's Cemetery Newbridge, to include for the installation of a pedestrian crossing.

- d) Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall  
Awaiting the completion of a new boundary wall between the cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.
- e) Boycetown, Kilcock  
Investigation works are underway in terms of resolving serious groundwater drainage issues within the cemetery. Expected that major capital improvement works will begin during Q2 2023.

#### Cemetery Maintenance Programme

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

- a) Churchtown Cemetery  
Wiring works completed and now awaiting on ESB to do final connection for the public lighting on this project which was substantially completed in 2018.
- b) Confey Cemetery  
Municipal District members have supported the proposal to



relocate the altar in order to free up ground for additional interment plots. Tenders currently being prepared for this.

### Risk Management

The 2023 risk cycle is about to commence with a briefing of the Audit Committee having taken place on 7 March 2023.

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



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



### Climate Action Teams (CATs)

A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs has been launched

including themes of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation and Energy, Community Climate Action, Creative Climate Action, Climate Action through Heritage and Biodiversity, Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonizing Zones.



### Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 17,531 staff at grades seven, six, five, four, three (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme, with a total of 13,561 (78%) having completed the programme. The programme has now been substantially updated, with a much greater emphasis on the use of short videos to aid in the learning process. This new version is being rolled out by all Local Authority training departments, with assistance from the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG), from the 1 March 2023.



**Actioning  
Policy**  
Local Authority Climate Action  
Training Programme

### **Thematic Training**

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



**Delivering  
Action**  
Local Authority Climate Action  
Training Programme

### **Outdoor Staff**

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with trainers working on behalf of the Local Authority Services National Training Group and commenced in January 2023.



**Empowering  
Change**  
Local Authority Climate Action  
Training Programme

### **Frontline Staff**

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered

in person by the IPA and LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and rolled out across the CARO regions over the year, before opening to all local authorities in October / November.



**CARO**

Eastern & Midlands  
Climate Action  
Regional Office

### **Economic Opportunities Conference 2023**

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

The local government County and City Managers Association (CCMA) are hosting a National conference event on Wednesday, 26 April 2023. This exciting conference at the Tullamore Court Hotel explores how businesses, in addressing and responding to climate change, can realise unique economic and business opportunities. This event seeks to build on the success of the inaugural conference, held in Tullamore in October 2019 and the subsequent online event in 2021, and will highlight



some of the research work undertaken by the sector that explores how local authorities can, through reinforcing their economic remit, support and encourage new and existing business and enterprise to aid the transition to a net zero economy.

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

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

For Registration, please see the CARO website.



### Local Authority Climate Action Plans

The Minister has approved a business case for local authority climate action resources in respect of two roles. A

letter of comfort has been issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), relating to the recruitment of these resources on a five-year term for the purposes of developing and implementing the LA CAP as aligned with the provisions of the business case.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 was published by the Minister on the 21 December 2022 with the Annex of Actions due to published early in 2023. To support local authorities, CARO have established three national frameworks of consultants for county wide BEIs (Baseline Emission Inventories), Climate Change Risk Assessments as well as BEIs for DZs and planning and implementation activities linked to Climate Action Plans or commitments under the Local Authority Climate Action Charter. The development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening is also being finalised.

On the 24 February 2023, the Minister issued instructions to all Local Authorities to commence the process of preparing the Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP).



“Through the leadership role of local government on climate action, the LACAP will support meaningful and innovative climate action across all local communities.”

Eamon Ryan TD

Minister from the Environment, Climate and Communications

**Local Authority Progress Reporting – Climate Adaptation Strategies:**

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



**Sub-Regional Energy Projects**

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

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO, are in the process of finalising a

contract with Codema to provide an energy service for local authorities in this sub-region.

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

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

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





## Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



## Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action

In light of the evolving policy context of climate action and increased ambition for the local government sector, the CCMA Climate Action and Transport Network (CATN) committee endorsed convening of a KPI working group to

achieve specific objectives. This working group, chaired by Paul Kennedy of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown Council, will work with a number of local authorities across the country, with the intention to have KPIs decided upon and tested to align with the implementation stage of Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs).

## GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



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

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



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

### **Kildare County Council Climate Action**



### **Energy**

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

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

Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act Kildare County Council is preparing a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). RPS Group, contracted consultants, have delivered an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline and risk analysis. The Minister formally activated the programme as of the 24 February 2023 giving until the 23 February 2024 to finalise the plans plus one month for publication. The Senior Management team and associated senior staff members undertook an interactive session on the Vision for Kildare by 2050 and potential actions to advance decarbonizing of the council's services and functions in January. Information was also given on how to commence decarbonizing the work of the various sections.



#### **Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee**

The draft Local Authority Climate Action Guidelines as endorsed by the



Climate Action and Transport Networks (CATN) committee of the CCMA on 15 September 2022 were issued to local authorities. The guidelines have been updated to reflect the incorporation of Decarbonisation Zones as per action 80 of the Climate Action Plan 2021. The Climate Action Office is streamlining consultation efforts with An Taisce who are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan for Maynooth (national example) under the Legacy 4 Life programme, Maynooth University, RPS Group (consultants) and various local actors. The Emissions Baseline Inventory (EBI) and a potential Carbon Calculator are being advanced. Consultation methods are advancing to enable citizen engagement with surveys to commence in March/April and physical events up to and including the summer to encourage accessible interaction across the demographic spectrum. Progression of funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects established continue to be developed.

It is envisaged this background work through the lens of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee was made aware of progress and updated during December's meeting. The Decarbonisation Zone actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint LAP and LECP.

### **Climate Action Energy Management Team**

The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 09 November on-line to facilitate those both working from home and in the office settings. New members were made welcome and the team introductions made. Updates on actions were provided by all. Conor Leahy of CODEMA gave an outline of the concept and purpose of the Energy unit for Meath, Wicklow and Kildare LA's. The upcoming roles for the Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer were discussed. Presently workshops for the team are to be advanced to inform the LA CAP/DZ.



## The Mid East Energy Unit



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

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

The unit will combine efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI's Pathfinder

funding scheme to provide finance support for defined projects.

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

### Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. The number of SEC's



continues to grow. There are currently 29 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare.

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

Ballymore Eustace, Naas and Kilcock have agreements in place with Kildare County Council in 2022. Kilcock are finalizing their Energy Master Plan and propose to launch it on 3 April 2023. The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are undertaking an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a social enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. The initial expressions of interest received have been refined. Building assessments are underway to assess the works to be grant aided to inform a community application to SEAI to access grant funding. Should funding be awarded it will be used to

undertake energy upgrades in a number of properties across the county under the Better Energy program.

### Fleet Electrification



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



The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas heavy goods vehicle into Kildare County Council's fleet with mechanical services, while smaller vans have suitable options such as electrification; the larger trucks are an issue. One solution to this is a compressed natural gas vehicle. Presently the installation of a pumping station at the New Hall Depot is being planned.

### ICT Solutions



An opportunity to collaborate with Eir Evo <https://www.eirevo.ie/> to advance ICT solutions was acted upon and the inaugural sprint is now completed. The initial contact was made via our IT Department. The work included the development of an app linking plant passport statutory recording and tree surveys (Parks Department has usage) together with the potential for the creation of a dashboard. Other potential avenues are being explored including a bonfire app, biodiversity values associated with vegetation and linking the existing app

to cross department data to expand the information base. The potential to gamify the Carbon Calculator associated with Maynooth DZ is to be discussed soon given the national potential community usage. Advancement is dependent on funding allocations with Eir Evo seeking further assistance. The programme is funded by Microsoft.

### Climate Action Community Initiatives

#### Items Awarded:

#### Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County Councils. Gnáthóga Nádúrtha will be an ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative



intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath that brings the urgency of climate action to the forefront. The focus of this initiative is on Climate Action and place-based practice in these rich natural heritage sites across three counties, including Rathangan in Kildare.

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

### Other Initiatives

#### **‘Stitching the Community Together’**

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries submitted the project ‘Stitching the Community Together’ under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective. Currently, the schools have been paired together with the nursing homes and have commenced their knitting projects. A second stage (working title ‘A future Tapestry’) is being advanced with

creatives to bring a Virtual Reality (VR) element to the project with an exhibition at the end of the project to be potentially displayed from early 2023.

#### **Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund**



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

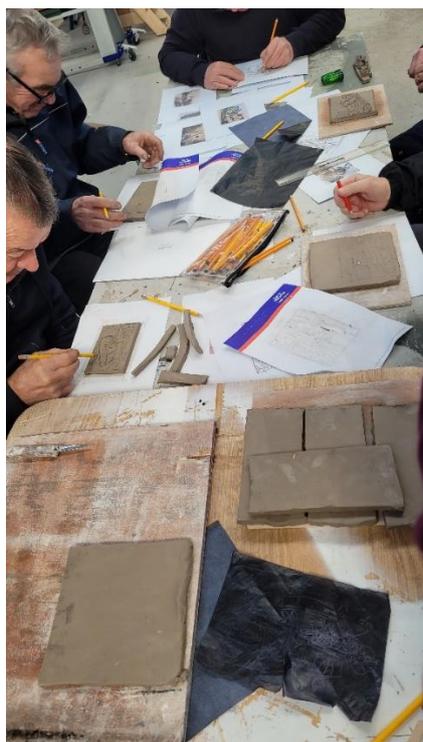


To advance the project financially an application was made to the Public Service Innovation Fund 2023. To our delight the bid has been successful



and funding of €50,000 (€60,000 requested) is to be awarded on signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in March. The funding will be used to enable a researcher(s) to commence the works associated.

### **Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award**



The Climate Action Office supported a local artist and community organisation with a successful application to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project called ‘We Hold the Power’ involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community groups and the artist Marta Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect the imagery of the community centre’s

history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station. The project work has concluded with the adults in the area and work with children from Allenwood and Roberstown National Schools is to commence after midterm break in February.

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

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

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

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

#### **The Climate Hub**

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

#### **Climate Response Ireland**

A project that will develop real time information technology on indoor air quality in residents’ homes,



highlighting the damage pollution can cause in the home.

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



### Climate Innovation Fund – Second Round

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

### Forestry

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

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

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

### Communications and Mainstreaming K-Climate Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

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

### Intranet Portal

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

 SharePoint

## Climate & Energy

### Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

The use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles is seen as a viable option for larger machinery eg. Vans, trucks, tractors etc. while transitioning to a carbon neutral economy. Indigenous produced biogas could be a viable business model given the initial results from the Grass to Gas experiments. In February, Stephen Nolan of Green Generation, gave presentations hosted generously by the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) team. The presentations informed on the anaerobic digestion process, advantages and opportunities for climate action and circular economy. The mechanical section in conjunction with the development of the new depot at New Hall by Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department has finalised an agreement to install a higher-grade gas pipeline to supply a fueling point to incorporate biogas into the fleet.



**Agreement for the installation of natural gas pipeline and apparatus**  
in respect of industrial and commercial connection(s)

### Research

#### Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Ten Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future. Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023. A presentation was given in late



October to Teagasc student's on the initial Entomology qualitative data.

The Climate Action Office present on the Grass 2 Gas project at 'Climate Action within an Evolving Economic Context Local Authorities Building Resilience and Nurturing Opportunities' held in Kilkenny Castle

on 15 November and organized by Co-operation Ireland.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates.

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

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



## **Roads, Transportation and Public Safety**

### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip**

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction five Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective.

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

### **Athy Distributor Road (BAM, Roughan and O Donovan)**

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

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

(Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

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

### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (Roughan and O Donovan)**

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

### **Maynooth Transport Strategy (Aecom)**

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage.

### **Newbridge Transport Strategy (Aecom)**

The compilation of the Newbridge Transport Strategy has commenced.

### **Junction Programme**

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



## Sustainable Transport Section



### Projects Update

#### Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

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

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

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

#### Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

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

#### Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

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

#### Naas to Sallins Greenway

€5,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA required prior to decision being made to progress to Public Consultation.

#### Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

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

#### Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

€10,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

#### Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

€20,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

#### Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

€160,000 allocation. Detailed design continuing.

#### Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

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

#### Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

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



**Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

€150,000 allocation. Detailed design stage continuing.

**Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs**

€110,000 allocation. Pilot schemes completed.

**Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme**

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

**Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

€15,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

**Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme**

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

**Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions**

€800,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

**Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme**

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.



### **Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme**

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

### **R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme**

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

### **Safe Routes To School Round 1 Schemes**

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane

### **Safe Routes To School Round 2 Schemes**

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

### **Poplar Square Naas Active Travel Measures**

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

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

Correspondence from the Department of Transport is being considered.

### **Pathfinder Project**

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

### **Roads Maintenance**

#### **Municipal District Works**

Winter Maintenance Plan is in place and monitoring is ongoing daily. To date 65 Salting runs over 38 days.

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

Direct Labour Surface Dressing works at 104 km length covered approx. four percent of the councils Local and Regional Roads for third year in a row.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland Grant allocations for 2023 have been notified



– similar to 2022 – used for Road Maintenance works and Pavement overlays on N78 and N81.

Department of Transport Grant allocations have been notified for 2023 – RI (Restoration Improvement) is increased by four percent , RM schemes (surface dressing) – remain the same

Municipal District Engineers are preparing schemes for this year’s Roads Programme and scheme details will be notified to Elected members.

- Also Grant Categories received
- (a) Safety Improvement Works
- (b) Climate Adaptation - up 66%
- (c) Former National Roads

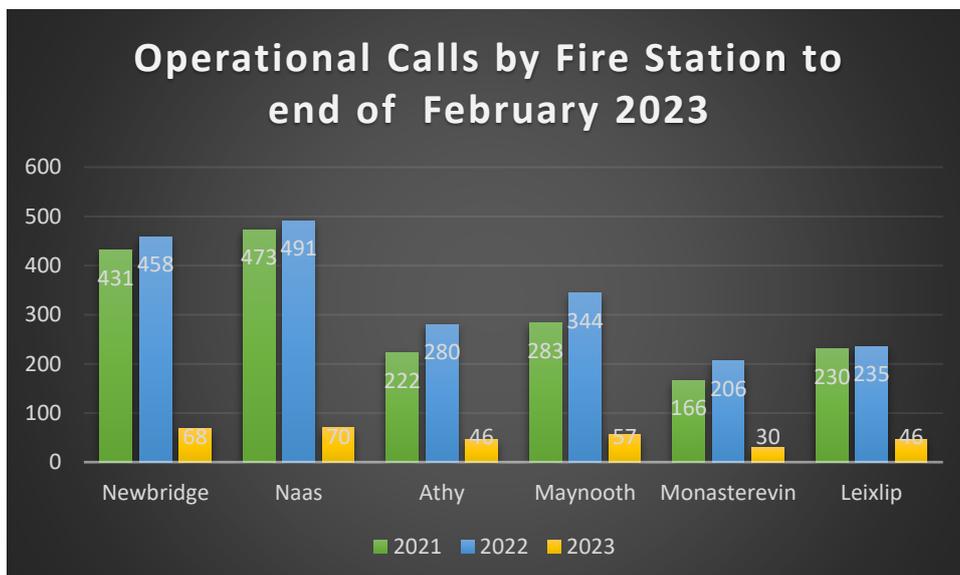
Preventative Road Maintenance works (opening of water cuts and gully cleaning) is ongoing in advance of potential storms.

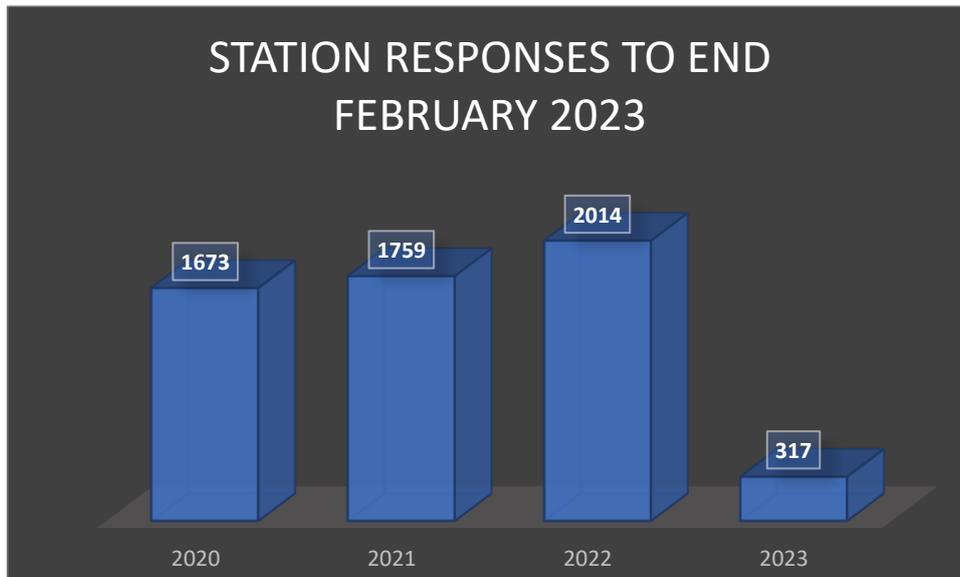
Meeting took place with Consultants Arup and Contractor Killaree Lighting Services about planning for upgrade of Kildare County Council public Lighting to LED as part of Regional **PLEEP** contract.

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

**Fire Safety Certificates:**

**Fire Service Operations: 2023 Summary**





#### Fire Safety Certificates

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

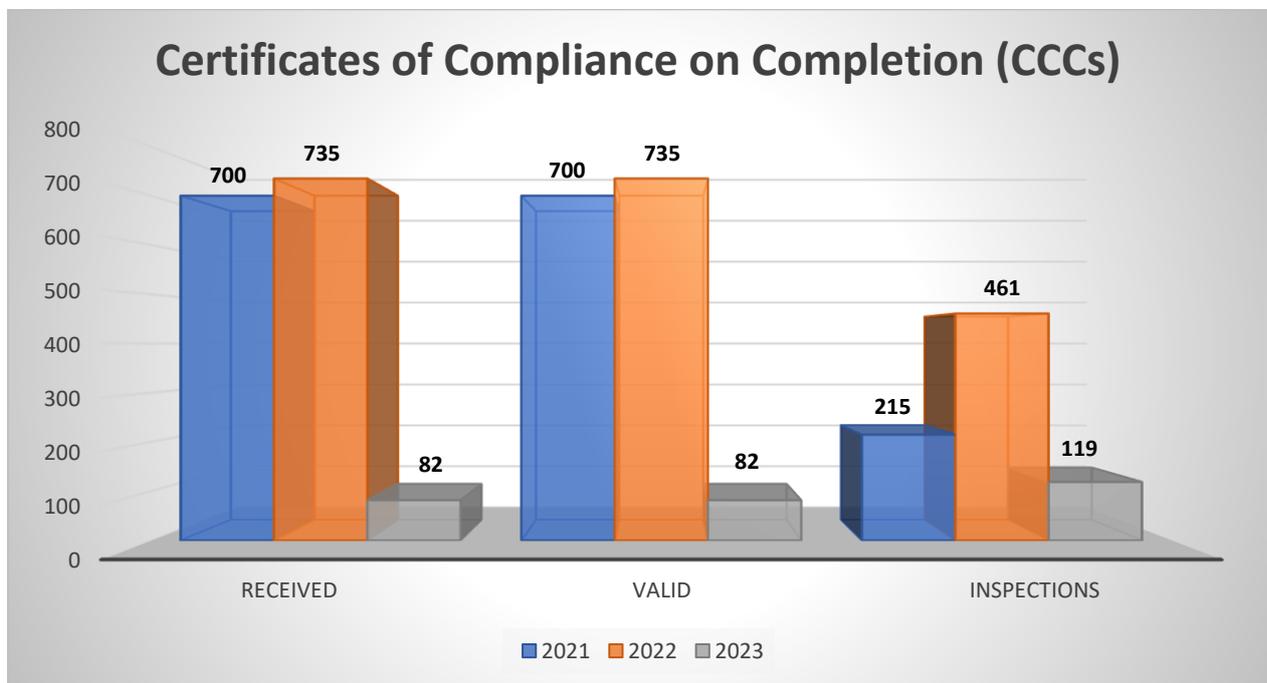
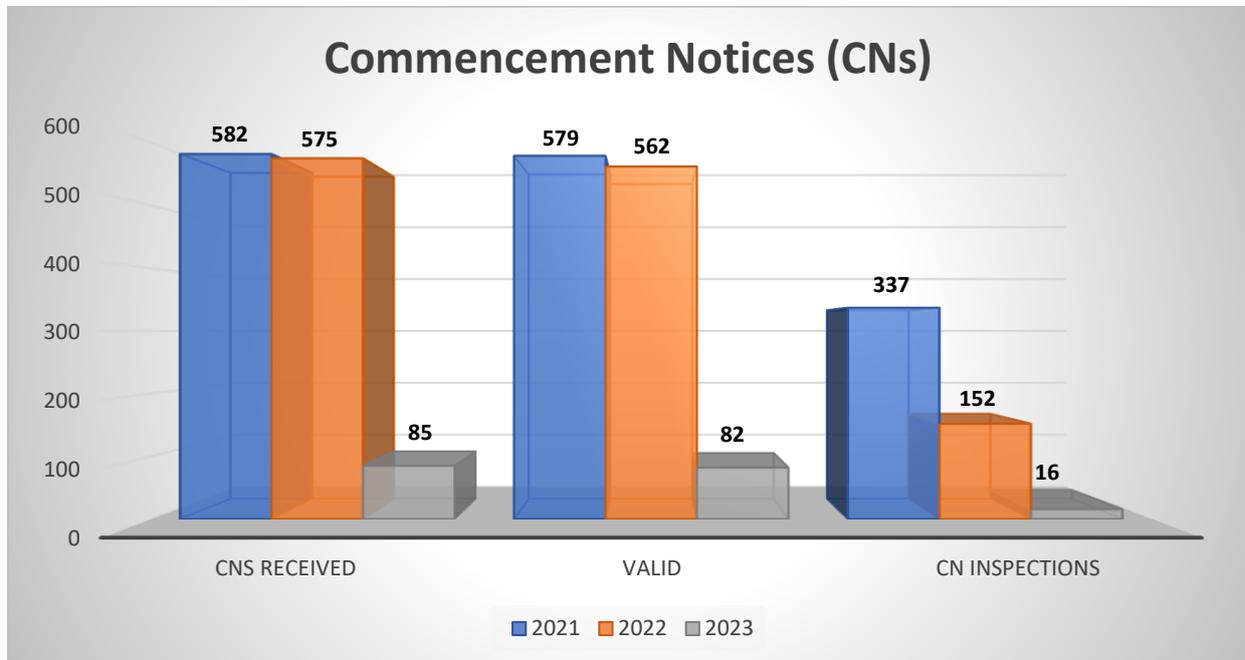


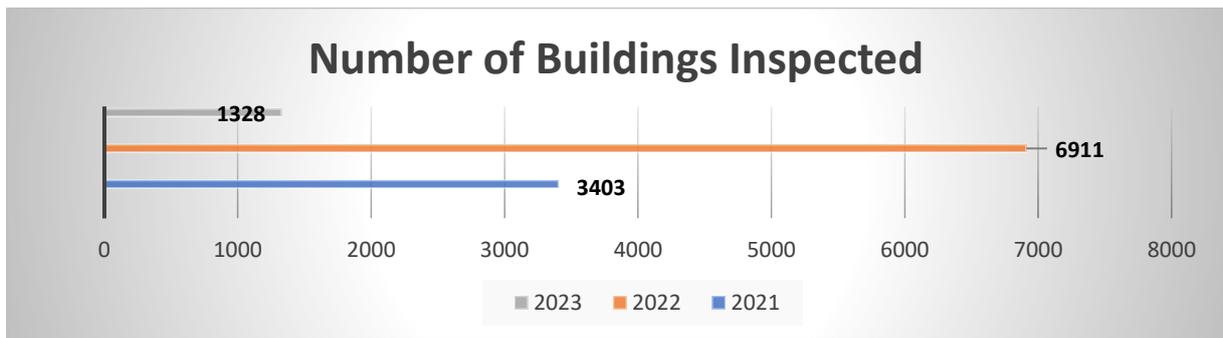
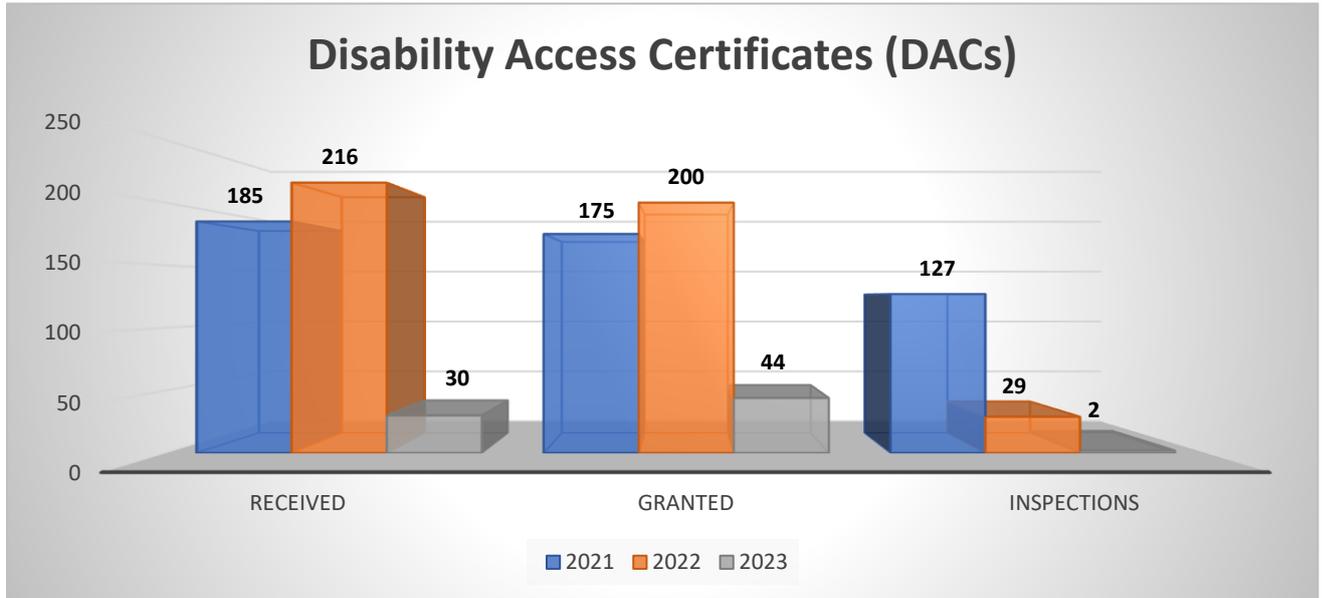


## BUILDING CONTROL & DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

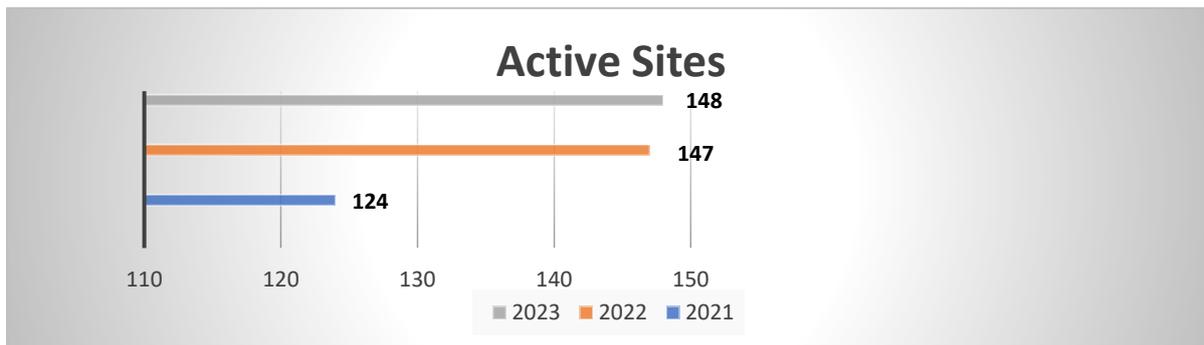
The following figures are cumulative up to end of January 2023 set against full year figures for 2021 and 2022.

### BUILDING CONTROL





## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL





### Health and Safety:

- 25 DSE assessments for blended working completed.
- Six Site inspections completed.
- Accident Investigation completed – Athy Cemetery.
- Meetings - LASOG meeting, Uisce Eireann Data Gathering meetings, Safety Committee Meeting, Lead Worker Reps meeting, Safety Reps meeting, Seniors meeting.
- Workstation assessment completed.
- Return to work assessment completed.
- Pregnancy risk assessment completed.
- Incident management - Newbridge Sports Centre.
- Section advice and support- Permit to work with facilities for contractors on site. Library – examination of shared files and safety content.
- Statistical review of accidents and incidents for 2022.
- Review of RAMS with:
  - Environment – Litter Wardens and environment monitoring.

- Review of fire prevention in building.
  - Review of fire marshals.
  - Fire drill carried out.

### Accessibility:

- Meetings – CKAN, Naas Access Group, Leixlip Access Group.
- Steering Group Workshop of Connecting Locally Project – KARE and UCD.
- Walkability Audit – Kilcullen.
- CKAN Grant Submission.
- Presentation by Salesian College Celbridge who participated in Kildare Inclusion Schools Project (our initiative).
- Review of tenders for proposed video of accessibility initiatives.
- Development of content for proposed video.
- Tender for CKAN Website.
- Review of TTT (Toys, Technology, Training) Collection and plans for 2023.
- Engaged Consultant to carry out Accessibility audit of Leixlip library pilot project.
- Work done on Access section of Kildare County Council website.
- Meeting with LGMA around project to report on National Disability Inclusion Strategy.



## Economic, Community and Cultural Development

### Community Grants

The table below sets out all grants awarded in 2022.

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

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

Assessments will commence in mid-March with reports to members in April.

### Local Community Development Committee

#### Local Community Development Committee

##### March 2023

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

### Ukrainian Community Response Forum

Funding has been secured through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2023 of €170,973 to respond to the Ukrainian crisis. The LCDC approved County Kildare LEADER Partnership's plan on



how they will utilise this funding at the January LCDC meeting.

**SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme**  
County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The final plan for 2023, was approved by the LCDC at their January meeting. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie) or telephone 045-895450.

**LEADER Programme**  
Kildare County Council with the LCDC as the Local Action Group and County Kildare LEADER Partnership as the Implementing Partner have progressed to Stage two of the new LEADER Programme process to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the delivery of the 2023- 2027 LEADER programme for Kildare. The current LEADER budget is allocated, with projects having until 31 December 2023 to complete their work. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

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

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare. For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph. 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

**Healthy Ireland**  
The application for HI Round four 2023-2025 was approved by the LCDC at their January meeting and submitted to Pobal for approval at the end of January. Priorities in relation to mental health and physical activity are being proposed. For further information contact Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: ph. 086-8858508 or email [lkelly@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:lkelly@kildarecoco.ie)

**Empowering Communities Programme Athy**  
Athy has been selected by the Department of Rural and Community



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

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Preparation is underway to develop the LECP. The first meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group is planned for the end of March. This will be a key focus of the LCDC in 2023.

### Community Support Fund

Kildare LCDC was allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment, and repairs.

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

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

## Kildare Fáilte

### Key activities

In February, celebrations for St Brigid's Day were widespread across the county.

The Pause for Peace initiative, in collaboration with Solas Bhríde, was well received locally, nationally, and internationally.



Celine Byrne

The promotion of St. Brigid's Day in Kildare secured extensive media coverage. Light Up Kildare which included a performance by Celine Byrne on the Hill of Allen and the Pause for Peace featured in the Kildare Nationalist, Leinster Leader and Kildare Now amongst other national publications.



## Kildare Nationalist

HOME KILDARE NEWS KILDARE SPORT RECRUIT IRELAND ADS



### KILDARE LIGHTS UP FOR ST BRIGID

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2023



The Light Up Kildare video gained wide reach, impressions and engagement across all social channels and featured many communities who joined us to Light Up Kildare.



**Pause for reflection Initiative links St Brigid's Day with call for peace**  
Children from Gael Scoil Mhíche Anocha, St Brigid's Primary School and Kildare Town Community School at the launch of Pause for Peace, a global movement for peace, led by Into Kildare, the Tourism Board for Co Kildare and Solas Bhríde. Pause for Peace is calling on people all around the world to stop for a minute's silence of remembrance (Solas Bhríde) on February 1st, 2023, St Brigid's Day. This year is also the first time there will be a public holiday (Februairí 688) in the name of St Brigid, the patron saint of Co Kildare. PHOTOGRAPHY ALAN BETTON

The Irish Times, Friday, January 13 2023.

To celebrate St. Brigid's Day with the Irish diaspora abroad, Áine Mangan CE of Into Kildare, organised the first overseas collaboration. A delegation of An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fintan Brett, Deputy CE of Kildare County Council, Mr Joe Boland and Into Kildare Chairperson, Mr David Mongey attended a service in St. Bride's

Church, Fleet Street, London, also known as The Journalists' Church, in honour of St. Brigid and to mark our global Pause for Peace Movement.



Joe Boland, Deputy CE Kildare Co. Co., An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fintan Brett, Rev. Canon Dr Alison Joyce, Irish Chaplaincy Rep, Áine Mangan CE Into Kildare, Into Kildare Chairperson David Mongey and Irish Embassy official

A presentation was made to Lord Black and Rev Canon Dr Alison Joyce of the Guild of St. Bride with a specially commissioned piece of bog oak, which will feature permanently in the church to symbolise the flame of our Patroness Saint.



Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Joyce and Lord Black, Guild of St. Bride



The Kildare delegation were also invited to the Fhéile Bride event at the Irish Embassy, where over 250 guests attended. An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fintan Brett, spoke about Co. Kildare and its association with St. Brigid. A presentation of a piece of sculpture to Ambassador Martin Fraser was made during the reception. Into Kildare also sponsored a prize of a five day trip to County Kildare showcasing Kildare's many world class hotels and attractions.



An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fintan Brett



An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fintan Brett, David Mongey, Into Kildare Chairperson, Martin Fraser Irish Ambassador, Aine Mangan CE Into Kildare, Joe Boland Deputy CE Kildare County Council.

There was widespread coverage for this visit, including an interview on RTE's 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. news broadcasts. The media value created by Into Kildare events was over two million euro.



David Mongey, Into Kildare Chairperson

Since our visit we were informed that St. Bride's Church have seen a marked increase in visitors and would like to further develop this relationship.

The Into Kildare team welcomed 40 members of the ATGI tour guides Fam Trip to Kildare on their first stop of the day to Ardclough Village Centre. They were met by local authors and artists, and also enjoyed the Arthur Guinness Malt to Vault tour given by Eoghan Corry, Travel Correspondent and Historian.



Into Kildare hosted the first members networking event of the year, in the Silken Thomas, Kildare Town. The session was opened by Áine Mangan, who gave an overview of the work being done by Into Kildare in line with the County Tourism Strategy.



The event was an opportunity for Co. Kildare tourism and hospitality stakeholders to suggest and inform plans for the coming year. The feedback was very positive from, particularly regarding the recent St.

Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend. Members are eager to develop this holiday for the region to its fullest potential in the coming years.

This was followed by a Tourism Leadership Masterclass Training Workshop to support industry leaders to take a deep dive into the topics of Leadership and Performance. Into Kildare organised and arranged a facilitator.



Communication and messaging in February included Valentine's Day gifts, offers and experiences as well as inspiration for family day trips and staycations over the February mid-term break.

These messages were communicated across social media and dedicated webpages were created for both campaigns. Engagement on digital



channels continued to be strong with a high interest in events taking place across the county, St. Brigid's Day, hotel breaks and family activities.

Into Kildare participated in an industry meeting hosted by Fáilte Ireland to share industry objectives and initiatives for 2023.



David O'Flynn, Head of Ireland Ancient East, Karen Lynch Into Kildare, Sam Johnston, DCB.

We also attended an Ireland Ancient East Regional Industry meeting in Trim, Co. Meath, to meet with regional colleagues and learn about the specific plans for each region.

Our team met in Mullingar with Fáilte Ireland and other county council representatives with interests on the Royal Canal Greenway development ahead of regional cluster meetings.

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights – Library Service

**A library is the delivery room for the birthplace of ideas, a place where history comes to life. – Norman Cousins**

#### Brigid 1500

The library service hosted events in all main libraries as part of the celebrations in February with over 1,000 participants joining in.

### Reader Services – Right to Read Activities

#### Ireland Reads

Libraries throughout Kildare took part in the Ireland Reads campaign to get the whole country reading in February in the lead up to a National Day of Reading on Saturday 25 February 2023.

Ireland Reads is part of the government's Healthy Ireland programme and aims to celebrate reading and all the benefits it can have for wellbeing and enjoyment.

Kildare Libraries hosted three online Ireland Reads events and 12 in-person events throughout the month of



February with over 300 attendees at these events. Events included an online book club talk with acclaimed Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes.

### **Let's Talk About Parenting**

Dr. Eddie Murphy from RTE's Operation Transformation launched the spring series of parenting talks in Athy Library on 7 February 2023. The spring series of events can be viewed on the library website at [Let's Talk About Parenting Spring](#)

### **Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme 2023**

The spring 2023 series of TTT events, designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities was launched in February by Terri Brosnan (ChildVision), who spoke about 'Equine Assisted Therapy, the Science behind the Joy'. Events this season will also include ASD-Friendly Sensory Story Time Sessions, a course with Occupational Therapist Dr. Dorothy Armstrong on 'Working Well with Autistic Children in the Preschool Years', Lámh Module One Courses, Speech and Language workshops and Dyslexia and

Dyspraxia talks. Full details of all our upcoming events can be found at [TTT Free Talks and Work Shops Spring 2023.pdf \(kildarecoco.ie\)](#)

### **Naas Library**

Naas Library hosted an enjoyable drop-in play session for Ukrainian children and their families. Toys and craft sets purchased with funding from Kildare County Childcare Committee were very popular with the younger family members while the adults enjoyed some refreshments and chat. Our Irish language activities are going from strength to strength. Along with our own Irish Adult Conversation Group we have linked up with Cill Dara le Gaeilge to offer an Adult Book Club 'Club Leabhar' and a children's storytime with song 'Scéalaíocht sa Leabharlann'.

### **Celbridge Library**

Celbridge Library had its second Meet and Greet for Ukrainian and other refugees from our local community and Celbridge Manor hotel. This time it took place during the February Mid-term break and the focus was on Parents and Children. There were plenty of toys and games to occupy the kids while the



parents enjoyed chatting over a cup of tea and learning about the supports available from the library and other agencies.

### **Celbridge and Maynooth 40 years**

Both Celbridge and Maynooth library celebrated their fortieth birthdays, having been in their current locations since 7 March 1983. To celebrate there was face painting, a Ukulele concert, and a Circus skills workshop in Celbridge. In Maynooth Community Library birthday celebrations included face painting, a children's bubble disco and magic show, along with birthday themed colouring pages.

### **Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives**

Archival, local history and genealogical queries for general public, local groups, and internal County Council requests. Archivist attended 'Sprinting to Digital Preservation - Getting to grips with Digital Recordkeeping' organised by LGARM, LGMA and DRI. Research into ancestry of Bruce Springsteen. Historical articles for The Pulse eHistory Journal updated weekly. Working with local history

groups/ schools. Supported event in Athy Library to mark twenty-fifth anniversary of Kildare GAA Leinster title in 1998.

### **Decade of Commemorations**

Two grant schemes with funding opportunities for individuals and groups in County Kildare opened in February. Closing date of Friday 10 March 2023.

Community strand plans for 2023 submitted to the Commemorations Unit of the Department. Talk on the Civil War by historian John Dorney took place in Maynooth Community Library on Thursday 23 February 2023. Decade of Commemorations now available to borrow for free as e-books via BorrowBox (already available online as pdfs).

### **Dates for the diary in March**

23 March 2023, The End of the Civil War, by John Dorney (The Irish Story). Celbridge Library.



## Capital Projects

### Naas Library and Cultural Centre

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

### County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

We plan to launch the Part 8 for the proposed County Library and Archives in Newbridge starting 27 March 2023.

### New Clane Library

Part 8 Planning public consultation began on 16 February 2023 with the final date for public submissions 5:00 p.m. on Thursday 30 March 2023.

## Kildare Arts Service

### Arts Grants and Awards

The deadline for our 19 grants/bursaries has now passed - 28 February 2023 and assessment is underway.

### Internal Audit

The Arts Service has been working with the Internal Audit team since November, carrying out an extensive audit of processes and procedures of Arts Grants and Awards 2022. The

final report with recommendations will be presented to the Audit Committee in March.

## Creative Ireland Strategy

Kildare County Council has welcomed the roll out of 31 new Local Authority Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Strategies (2023 – 2027).

The new Kildare County Culture and Creativity Strategy reflects the creative ambitions of the county that will be supported by the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Emphasis will be placed on building creative responses to climate and biodiversity crises through focused actions, embedding equality, cultural diversity and integration across the Creative Ireland programmes, enhancing wellbeing through creative participation across programmes that support mental and physical health, providing creative opportunities to explore Sense of Place, Heritage and Identity, enhancing and supporting the Kildare cultural and creative communities by providing a tailored series of programming, networking and mentoring opportunities.



### **Per Cent for Art for new Naas Library and Cultural Centre**

As part of the capital building project, Per Cent for Art funding of € 38,000 has been secured. Kildare County Council wish to engage a visual artist on a commission to mark this milestone development. The commission is for a permanent artwork any visual art media and included digital media and may include collaborative work practice. Several potential sites have been identified and applications may be made via the submit.com portal.

## **Parks**

### **Allenwood Playground**

It is hoped to have the tender for this work awarded by the end of the month subject to the completion of tender clarifications.

### **Monread Park Playground**

A tender for the installation of a new slide, mini basket swing and sand pit with digger has been issued. It is hoped to install this equipment over the summer subject to receiving valid tenders.

### **Old Kilcullen Heritage Trail**

Consultation on the draft feasibility plans for the development of a heritage walk in Old Kilcullen were held on the 11 March 2023 in St Josephs School, Halverstown. The findings from the consultation will be used to inform the final feasibility study.

### **Moat of Ardscull**

The paths have been resurfaced in the small park at the Moat of Ardscull and new seating installed. This was funded through LPT allocated by the Athy Municipal District members.

### **Kerdiffstown Park**

Expressions of interest for the use of the All Weather Facilities are due to be advertised before the end of the month. It will be advertised on the consult portal on our website and there will be a one month timeframe for submissions to be made.



## Local Enterprise Office

Funding Applications Awarded		
From Jan 1st – 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	19	€39,347.50
Priming Grant	2	€57,162.20
Business Expansion Grant	2	€86,849.00
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	7	€11,239.00

### Priming Grants Approved:

- (i) Natural Hygiene Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €41,849 to support recruitment of 2 Full time roles, equipment purchase and consultancy.
- (ii) Shalford Interiors Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €45,000 to support expansion of their manufacturing facility.

### Business Expansion Grants Approved:

- (i) SIOG Botanicals of Kildare/Newbridge Municipal

District was approved €8,162 to support expansion of their Flower Art Commission business.

- (ii) Farringtons Brewery Limited of Clane/Maynooth Municipal District was approved €49,000 to support recruitment of 2 Full time roles and expansion of their manufacturing facility.

## Enterprise & Economic Development Activity February 2023

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

*Immediate business support:*

*Request to speak to a Business Advisor:*  
<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/113>

*For all other queries*

*email [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie) or call 045980838.*

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



## Financial Supports

### Entrepreneurship Support Services

PARTICIPANTS PER MD	Start-Up Clinics	Business Clinics	Mentoring
Naas	29	23	3
Athy	4	3	0
Celbridge-Leixlip	9	3	1
Kildare-Newbridge	15	18	1
Clane-Maynooth	15	7	0

**1-1 BUSINESS CLINICS:** Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online every Wednesday.

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

**CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT:** 14 client companies are working towards a Level 6 in Management certified by Waterford IT. This programme is facilitated by renowned business strategist Blaise Brosnan and aims to build management capacity in businesses positioning for growth or those challenged by resource limitations.

**FOCUS ON TECH:** A mix of start-ups and established tech companies got a unique insight into what it takes to pitch to a multinational. Maurice Barron, SVP of Zenith spoke directly to each of our clients from his offices in New York and shared the slides he prepared to pitch to his largest client, Disney.

Collaborating with MERITS for Local Enterprise Week, LEO launched their own digital product – an on-demand business accelerator.



The goal of this platform is to serve top growth-stage startups with tailored strategy, export, and leadership training from global industry experts. Entrepreneurs can join via [app.thestartup.com/kildareleo/auth](https://app.thestartup.com/kildareleo/auth)



## FOCUS ON WOMEN IN

**BUSINESS(WIB):** St. Brigid's Day marked the first WIB event with over 90 female entrepreneurs in attendance to welcome activist and journalist Joanne O Riordan. €1,020 was raised and donated to St. Brigid's Hospice.



Over 30 female entrepreneurs attended Giving Small Business the Digital Edge this month. As a direct outcome a mentor advisory clinic has been set up on 16 March 2023 to assist clients in advancing their digital journey and access one on one advice on their best next steps.

## FOCUS ON FOOD:

A food-specific Start Your Own Business Programme has been designed for those with an idea or early-stage food/beverage business. This programme commences on 11 March 2023 and include one to one mentor support for each food start-up.

## Economic Support Services Hub Activity

### Enterprise Ireland HPSU Founders Forum:

Three new cohorts of HPSU founders attended a two day event in MERITS comprising keynote speakers, workshops, mentoring sessions, networking and an address from Enterprise Ireland CEO, Leo Clancy.



### Trinity College Postgraduate Diploma module one complete:

The first module of this level nine programme, which focuses on Innovation and Enterprise Development, successfully completed in February having been delivered in the MERITS hub.

### Occupancy increase in MERITS:

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



**National Equine Innovation Centre:**

The hub, which is home to equine-tech businesses and is located on the grounds of the Irish National Stud, is now running close to full capacity. The last available private office was occupied in February while just two hot-desk spaces remain available.

**Retail Support Program 2023 now open.**

Kildare County Council has launched a range of financial supports for retailers to avail of in 2023. The scheme includes the annual Shop Front Improvement Scheme to financially assist business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties. The scheme, which supported over 60 businesses in Kildare last year, aims to increase visibility for businesses and enhance the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county.

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

up to 75% of eligible costs covered under this measure.

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

**Appendix: Business Supports**

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

**Sonya Kavanagh**  
**Chief Executive**