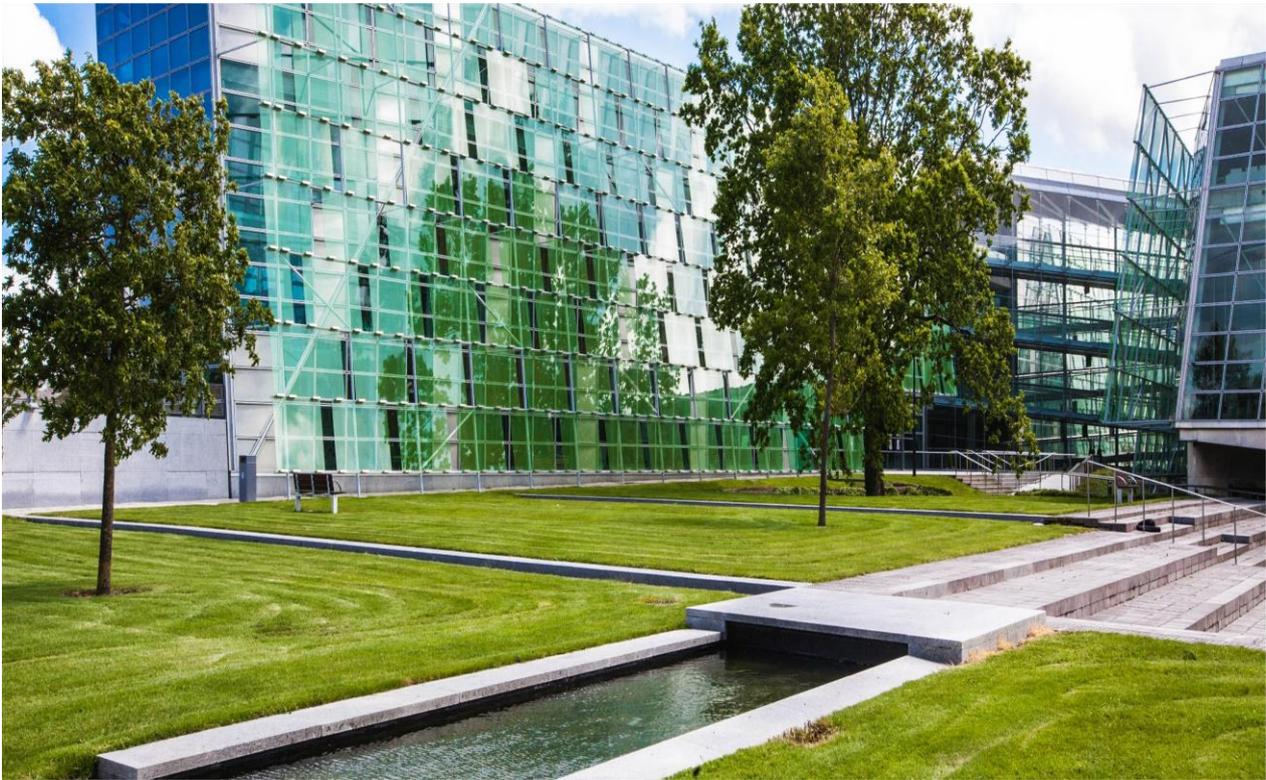




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – May 2023





News Items

The following assignment of Directors took place on 25th April 2023.

Housing & Regeneration – Annette Aspell

Committees – Housing SPC, Mid East Regional Forum, LTACC, Housing Disability Steering Group.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services – Alan Dunney

Committees – Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC (lead DOS), Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC (secondary DOS)

Transport, Mobility & Open Spaces – Celina Barrett (Acting)

Committees – Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC (lead DOS)

Corporate, People & Cultural Services – Eoghan Ryan

Committees – Protocol & Procedures Committee, Audit Committee, Local Community & Culture SPC (lead DOS)

Climate, Community, Environment & Water – Marian Higgins

Committees – Environment and Water Services SPC, Climate Action SPC, Local Community and Culture SPC (secondary DOS), LCDC, JPC.

Finance, Digital Services, Innovation & Governance – Fiona Millane / Barbara Sweeney (Acting)

Committees – Finance Committee, Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee.

The Municipal District Manager assignments remain as is with Ken Kavanagh Acting District Manager for Kildare Newbridge MD.

Launch of Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme

Kildare County Council is undertaking a further information campaign to launch the first Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme in Grey Abbey, Kildare (see page 7).



Interactive Map of Local Electoral Area Boundaries

Interactive map added to Kildare County Council's Website, with the ability to zoom in now available(see page 8)

Innovation

The Innovation Team issued a 'Call for Ideas' from staff in May – 59 diverse suggestions were received weeks (see page 14)

Housing Allocations

In April 2023, the council allocated a total of 99 properties throughout the county (see page 18).

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is progressing in Athy to roll out a range of evidence-based health programmes in addition to local supports to engage people in healthy activities (see page 30)

2023 grants schemes

Arrangements are being made to pay all grants that were notified to and approved by the members at the April Municipal District meetings (see page 31).

Municipal District Works

Winter Maintenance concluded at the end of April (see page 60)

Kildare Fáilte

Into Kildare with Punchestown Racecourse launched Paint the Town Red for the Punchestown Festival of Racing (see page 70).

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub

Kildare County Council appointed a consultancy team to undertake a feasibility study of the Old Kildare Town Courthouse (see page 77)



Diary/Calendar

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on Friday 23 June at 3pm (page 9)

Culture Night events planning

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from both artists and the wider community to get involved with their own Culture Night. Deadline is Friday 17 June 2023, 5:00 p.m. (see page 12)

Kildare Creative Ireland programme

This year Cruinniú na nÓg will be on 10 June 2023 and will feature more than 500 free creative activities for children and young people throughout the country (see page 13).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 24 May 2023 (see page 29)

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

The remaining clinics in 2023 are scheduled for Monday 26 June 2023 and Monday 23 October 2023 (see page 31).

Draft National Waste Management Plan

The Statutory Consultation Phase runs from Wednesday 3 May 2023 until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday 5 July 2023 (see page 32).

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Date of first HMAC meeting now set for 4 July 2023 (see page 64).

Retail Support Scheme 2023

Kildare County Council launched a range of financial supports for retailers to avail of in 2023. The closing date is 30 June 2023 (see page 75)



June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29 May 13:45 NTA Meeting ; Council Chamber 15:00 Full Council Meeting	30	31	1 Jun	2 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
5	6	7	8	9
12 15:00 County JPC	13 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	14	15	16 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting
19 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	20	21 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	22 10:30 LTACC 15:00 Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	23 15:00 Annual Full Council Meeting
26 15:00 Full Council Meeting	27	28	29	30



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate, People and Cultural Services	7
Library and Arts Service	9
Health and Safety	13
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation.....	14
Housing and Regeneration.....	16
Public Realm.....	23
Climate, Community, Environment and Water	29
Local Community Development Committee	29
Community	31
Water Services	31
Environment	32
Climate Action Regional Office	38
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces	56
Parks	60
Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services.....	61
Building and Development Control	67
Fire Service	68
Kildare Fáilte.....	70
Local Enterprise Office	73



Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Communications

Launch of Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme



Kildare County Council is undertaking a further information campaign to launch the first Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme in Grey Abbey, Kildare. This phase of the campaign is confirming, for the first time, details of the properties available in Kildare. The development of 21 new homes, in partnership with Glenveagh Properties, aims to provide first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers with the opportunity to buy a newly built home in a private development.

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

Kildare County Council welcomes Minister of State for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to Kildare



Kildare County Council recently welcomed Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with special responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell TD to Kildare for a tour of some of the housing projects and developments across Kildare. A coordinated communications plan supported the visit, capturing photography of the Minister at each of the sites, comprehensive social media coverage and media engagement.



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



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

Register of Electors

Mapping: we have recently added an interactive map to Kildare County Council's Website which enables the user to view the LEA Boundaries in an easier manner, with the ability to zoom in now available. The printable High Definition A3 Maps are also still available. Please see link below to the interactive map.

<http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/gispublish/819>

Local Government Awards

Excellence in Local Government

Awards -15 entries were submitted this year covering all available categories.

All projects which may be suitable for the ELG awards 2024 will be recorded by the team in the Chief Executives office for consideration.

Pride of Place Awards - 3 Entries have been submitted for the Pride of Place Awards

Members Services

Minister Kieran O'Donnell, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning met with the members and Directors in private session in the Chamber on Monday 24 April in advance of the Council meeting.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. F. Brett, Minister O'Donnell, Deputy CE J. Boland

All Municipal District Meetings in April took place as normal.

A presentation of a Certificate of Recognition took place at the Athy Municipal District Meeting on Monday



17 April when Sensei Michael Aldridge was honoured for his service to Athy Karate Club.



Presentation to Michael Aldridge

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place on Friday 23 June at 3pm

Coiste Gaeilge

Five second level students, one from each Municipal District, have been awarded a scholarship to attend the Coláiste Bhun an Inbhir for 3 weeks in July.

NOAC Indicators

Returns were completed by 21st April deadline and signed DOS endorsement of data sent to NOAC on 24th April as required.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“Libraries are the most democratic buildings in the country.”

Ryan Tubridy addressing the LAI AGM at Trinity College, Dublin on 10 May 2023.

Women's Health Programme at Newbridge Library

This series of talks, delivered by registered professionals, aims to inform, and educate on health challenges unique to, or with a higher risk factor, to women.

Topics include Gut Health, Endocrinology, Menopause, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Heart Health, Breast, Ovarian and Cervical Cancers

Reader Services – Right to Read Activities

Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime is a national story-time initiative in public libraries which runs during the month of April. It celebrates the importance of families reading together and sharing stories. Kildare Libraries held 51 events around the county. Over 1,495 participants attended these events this April.

Irish Sign Language (ISL)

Classes for families were fully subscribed in April and there is great interest in the monthly conversation



meet-up for ISL users/learners to sustain and practice their skills. Chime, the National Charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss are interested in facilitating these conversation group meetings on a fortnightly basis going forward. This connection also opens the possibility of accessing 'signing' at some of our main library events, which would give access to a very marginalised group in our society.

The Irish Deaf Society held a second full-day workshop in the library for deaf parents and parents of deaf children. They are a very positive link in the support we are trying to provide to our borrowers.

RehabCare Reading Group

continues their Book Club meetings following their relocation to Kildare Town Centre. We have service users from the RehabCare Centre coming in daily to borrow books and read. Two of the RehabCare users are now on work experience with us and we are delighted to be able to provide meaningful tasks and challenges for them.

EmployAbility Services

We are delighted to welcome EmployAbility Services back to the library every Friday following their

withdrawal due to the pandemic. They have already established a connect with RehabCare (newly situated beside the library) and will assist with getting meaningful employment for their users.

Interagency Collaboration re International Protection applicants and Celbridge Manor Hotel

A funding application has gone in from Kildare Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) to the DCEDIY (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) re Enhancing supports for Children and Young People in the International Protection System.

Kildare County Council are one of the partners organisations listed and the library service has offered support for potential after-school, out of school and summer activities for the children there.

The fund is intended to support children, young people and their parents living in Direct Provision Centres.

Celbridge Library will be present at a Meet and Greet in the Celbridge Manor on 26 May 2023, offering information and support along with other organisations including the Kildare County Childcare Committee,



Kildare LEADER, and the HSE (public health nurses and GP). It is hoped that the residents might come on board also with the Kildare libraries 'Seed library' initiative and grow vegetables in a communal garden area there.

Library audits

Access audits and reviews at Leixlip and Newbridge Libraries

Live Saving

Defibrillator being installed at Newbridge Library across from Linear Park.

Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library were pleased to see the return of weekly conversational English classes facilitated by volunteers from Fáilte Isteach. The library also welcomed Access Group Maynooth for an exciting pop-up exhibition, which was filmed for Michael Hurley's Disability Awareness video for Kildare County Council. In partnership with the National Learning Network, we also welcomed a work experience student for a ten week placement in our branch.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The contractor has indicated further delays to the Naas Library and Cultural Centre. Handover is now not expected until August and the library will be open to the public in Autumn 2023.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Part 8 public consultation for the proposed County Library and Archives in Newbridge is now open for submissions via the Kildare County Council portal from 10 May 2023.

New Clane Library

The planning report for the Part 8 will be presented to the Clane Maynooth Municipal District at the June meeting.

Kildare Arts Service

Opportunities announced from Creative Places Athy

Creative Places Athy are currently seeking applications for:

- 1) Made of Athy Arts Awards - €500 to €4,000 for projects by artists, creative practitioners and cultural producers at any stage of their career.
- 2) Athy Access Commission Opportunity - €15000 towards



innovative solutions for accessibility awareness and provision in Athy town.

3) Woodstock Residency - €22,000 in funding a 10-month residency for artists/creative practitioners/collectives to work with the communities living in the Woodstock area of Athy.

Culture Night events planning

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from both artists and the wider community to get involved with their own Culture Night (22 September) projects or events. Deadline: Friday 17 June 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Fidget Feet workshops in Kildare this month

Enthusiastic people between eleven years and up to sixty-five years, of any ability and background are invited to join us in workshops for a collaborative community spectacle that is House! –a spectacular aerial show, dancers, bingo balls and a local Elvis impersonator will perform in Áras Chill Dara on 26/27 August.

Finding Form: Municipal Collection Exhibition educational pieces

Curated by Assistant Arts Officer Paula Barrett, this exhibition was officially opened by Cathaoirleach

Councillor. Fintan Brett on Friday 21 April 2023 and will run until the 27 May 2023.

Three supporting texts and a catalogue of images have been produced and are available free of charge in the Mc Kenna Gallery. They would be an excellent resource for leaving cert students. A panel discussion took place on Thursday 11 May 2023 and video will be available soon. Artist Vera McEvoy will facilitate a creative workshop on 25 May 2023.

Leinster Printmaking Studio marks 25-year anniversary

Echo's is an exhibition of work from the Leinster Print Making Studio on their 25th anniversary, taking place at Kilcock Art Gallery, the exhibition was launched by Kildare County Council Arts Officer Lucina Russell, on the 13 May 2023.

Menu of Poems for Poetry Day Ireland

A Menu of Poems was distributed throughout Kildare healthcare settings for patients, visitors, and staff to enjoy on 27 April 2023.



Kildare Creative Ireland programme

On 11 May 2023, Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, announced details of Cruinniú na nÓg 2023, a day of free creative activity for young people. This year Cruinniú na nÓg will be on 10 June 2023 and will feature more than 500 free creative activities for children and young people throughout the country, with a strong programme across Kildare.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 is a collaboration between, the Creative Ireland Programme, local authorities and RTÉ and is the only event of its kind in the world.

Cruinniú na nÓg - A day of free creativity for children and young people (creativeireland.gov.ie)

Health and Safety

- Nine DSE Assessments completed.
- Five Safety Inspections completed.
- Training completed with ESB Networks.
- Support given to Sports Partnership on development of Health and Safety Documentation.

- Health and Safety Induction for new starters – 31 attendees.
- Two Workplace workstation assessments completed.
- Safety Committee Meeting held.
- Senior Health and Safety Management Committee held.
- Support given to sustainable transport on Health and Safety documentation.
- Meeting with the Health and Safety Wellbeing Working Group to progress plans for 2023.
- Wellbeing Strategy – LGMA.
- Communications Steering Group Meeting.

Accessibility:

- Walkability Audit completed with KARE Newbridge.
- Support given to Kilkenny County Council Access officer on development of an access strategy.
- Consultant engaged to develop website for CKAN (County Kildare Access Network) and work progressed on website.
- Meeting with O’Herlihy Access Consultancy to review findings of Part one of Accessibility audit



- of Leixlip library- the physical environment.
- Meeting with UCD Disability Studies unit to work on the Connecting Locally Project.
- Preparation of Accessibility Highlights Video:
 - Meeting with Communications Team.
 - Meeting with Executive Librarians in Leixlip, Athy and Maynooth libraries.
 - Script developed.
 - Meeting with DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency). and Salesian College Celbridge.
- Meetings of local access groups and CKAN Meeting:
 - Naas
 - Leixlip Access Group Meeting – included a walkability audit of Leixlip.
- Meeting to progress work on of Johnny Magory Disability Book – commissioned to raise awareness of disability and giving representation to Irish Disabled Children.
- Prerecording of closing address of Connecting Locally Project – for webinar.
- Connecting Locally Webinar held.
- Working on Chambers Ireland Submission – Working to Make County Kildare Inclusive and Accessible to All.

Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Risk Management

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

Innovation

The Innovation Team issued a 'Call for Ideas' from staff in May – 59 diverse suggestions were received and these will be reviewed over the coming weeks. It is hoped that a number will be progressed over the next few months.



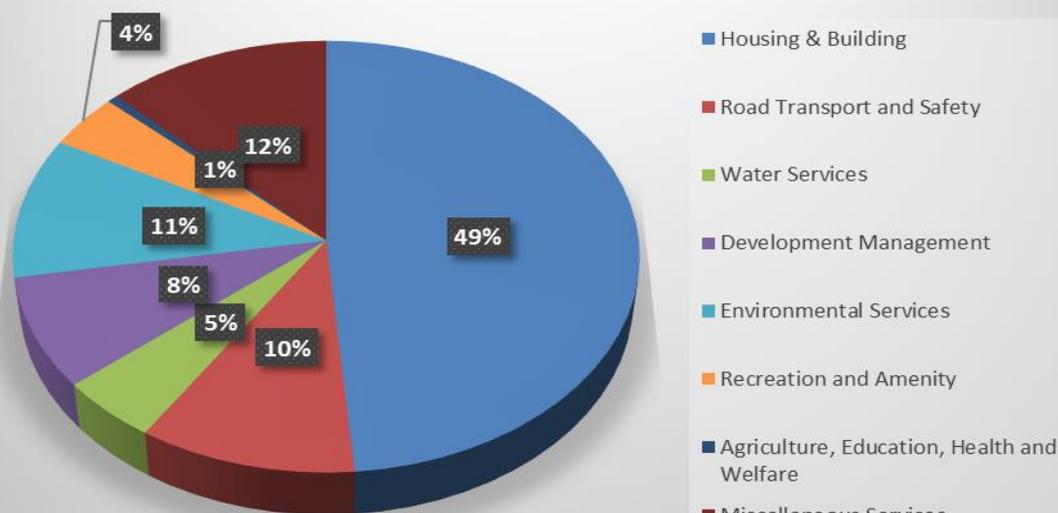
Revenue Account

Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2023

Division	Expenditure				Income			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	30,230	66,041	46%	35,811	25,180	57,222	44%	32,042
Road Transport and Safety	6,521	40,812	16%	34,291	1,385	20,555	7%	19,170
Water Services	2,980	10,174	29%	7,194	2,203	10,009	22%	7,806
Development Management	5,184	25,606	20%	20,422	3,531	10,004	35%	6,473
Environmental Services	6,557	21,947	30%	15,390	1,278	6,467	20%	5,189
Recreation and Amenity	2,546	14,018	18%	11,472	830	1,389	60%	559
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	365	1,376	26%	1,011	60	380	16%	320
Miscellaneous Services	7,759	19,070	41%	11,311	298	10,747	3%	10,449
Local Property Tax Allocation				-	6,427	19,283	33%	12,856
Rates					20,996	62,988	33%	41,992
	62,143	199,044	31%	136,901	62,189	199,044	31%	136,855

Expenditure Year to Date





Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 April 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/04/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	853,035	50,371	71,960,075	16,048,959	55,911,116
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	5,885,694	24,708	-	7,204,232	5,763,562	1,440,670
Housing Loans	1,623,567	1,308,403	-	-	2,931,970	1,405,258	1,526,712

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1 January to 30 April 2023.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Summary of Social Housing Assessments

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2022 (SSHA) was recently published. The purpose of the SSHA is to count the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the country whose social housing need is not being met. The count date was 1 November 2022. The SSHA does not include households availing of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). Nationally, the total number of qualified

households in SSHA 2022 was 57,842, a reduction of 2.4% when compared to SSHA 2021. Following are the some of the key statistics for Kildare:

- SSHA 2022 counted 3,008 households, this is an increase of 71 households (2.4%) compared to SSHA 2021.
- Kildare has the fifth highest number of qualified households, behind Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and Cork City Council.
- 41.8% of applicants are aged between 30-49, 13.5% of applicants are aged 60 and over.
- The three largest household types are one adult (53%), one adult plus one to two children (20%), couple plus one to two children (9.3%).
- 9.2% of households have a person with physical, sensory,



mental or intellectual impairment.

- The length of time on the list is as follows: 0-3 years (39%), 0-5 years (63%), over five years (37%).

Homeless Services

Homeless Outreach

Street work was completed in Newbridge, Sallins, Kildare Town and Celbridge. We had one new participant move into a housing first property in April. Outreach attended clinics in Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Cuan Mhuire and Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge. Meetings were held in Kerdiffstown House and Jigginstown with participants and management on exits out of emergency accommodation. Outreach attended meetings with hospitals and prisons on discharges into homeless.

Presentations

During the month of April, presentations were slightly up from March, this includes repeat presentations.

Six families exited emergency accommodation in April, one into an

Approved Housing Body (AHB) allocation, two into Local Authority allocation, one returned to family and friends due to non-bed usage and two moved into HAP properties.

Seven families, including two couples, went into emergency accommodation in April, four were for Notice to Quits, one exited a refuge and two due to family circumstances.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present we have 83 active tenancy sustainment families.

For the month of April there were 18 visits to clients where issues such as rent compliance, Family Support Worker referrals, budgeting, social welfare assistance were worked through resulting in preventing two tenancies from breaking down.

Families have also been set up on household budgets and MABS support. Support work carried out for an allocation for a client in a Family Hub and follow up meeting attended with AHB.



Homeless HAP (HHAP)

HHAP received five applications in April; with 21 applications in total for 2023 to the end of April. In comparison, to the end of April 2022 there were 16 applications in total.

In order to address the number of refusals of offers of an allocation, the use of Choice Based Letting (CBL) has been increased and 17 properties were advertised on CBL during April in various locations including Ballymore Eustace, Kill, Derrinturn and Clane.

Housing Allocations

In April 2023, the council allocated a total of 99 properties throughout the county. 29 were social properties and 70 were AHB properties. Among the locations where allocations took place were Celbridge, Straffan, Robertstown, Newbridge, Athy and Naas.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Contractor has commenced on site; updated programme to completion requested
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender documentation progressing; tender targeted to issue Q2 2023. Meeting convened with tenants directly impacted by demolition and upgrade works and Allocations Team updated
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanála scheduled for Q2 2023
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Construction tender uploaded to eTenders; tender return date 23 May 2023



Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 65 units	No objection/amendment to Part 8 when presented to elected members at meeting of Clane-Maynooth MD in April
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	15 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Consultation held with residents and design finalised. Civil works for diversion of ESB cable complete and awaiting ESB to remove cables
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Part 8 proposed to launch Q2 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Preparation of Design Team tender progressing

Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Site included in Town Centre Living Design Competition. Design competition submissions assessed and results to be announced in May

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Architect Lead Design Team letter of intent issued 28 April 2023
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 responses back 26 April 2023. Assessment and shortlisting to follow. Civil works for ESB cable diversion completed in April
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Design team commenced in March; proposals being developed. Radar and topographical surveys scheduled for May
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	85 social units/40 affordable	Design team commenced in March; proposals being developed. Radar and topographical surveys scheduled for May
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA, awaiting programme
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	Site included in PPP Programme Bundle 6. Design team to be procured by NDFA, awaiting programme

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Allocations almost complete to this new development at Woodstock Way.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed by Cluid. Initial design proposal received and feedback issued by KCC

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Original design not working for site; new design is under review, but anticipated that the site may not be suitable to meet KARE requirements
KARE EL-Kantara	2 units	Stage 3 approved. Expect to issued tender Q2 2023
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	CAS Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH. Potential reduction in unit numbers based on revised site density
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Response to further information request on planning application to be submitted by Cluid
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	5 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023



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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	28	42	42
6 - 12 Months	10	14	11
12 - 18 Months	5	9	4
18 - 24 Months	3	6	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	4	5	5
	50	76	64

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	7	12	13
6 - 12 Months	6	10	12
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
	14	23	25

Housing Adaptation Grants

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



April 2023	21	14	0	0	44	16
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Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP	69	Works complete to Ballyroe and Lacken View. Works to Ottomy nearing completion.
2023 EERP		Preparing tender documents for units in Kilcock; expect to issue for tender in next 2 weeks. Awaiting confirmation of the allocation for 2023.

Acquisitions and Leasing

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	6
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	3
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	19
Total complete	379	187	110	209	28

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	2	4	1	20	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	0	1	1	11	1



Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Prioritisation of projects has been agreed with four of the five Municipal Districts. A workshop with Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District is scheduled for 17 May 2023 before their monthly meeting.

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
County wide	Barrow Blueway	€11,500,000	RRDF €8,000,000	Construction	
	Greenway – Phase 1 Aylmer Bridge to Sallins	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	Detailed Design	Project now administered by TII. Additional Part 8 required for 2 bridges. Sallins tie-in of Phase 1 and 2 to streamline route also requires Part 8
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€213,000	€213,000 DTAS and Carbon Tax Fund	Detailed Design	Constructive engagement with WWI ongoing. Ground investigation works underway. Timeline: Phase 2A Sallins Road Design Crossing. Detailed drawings being finalised with Transport section. Part 8 process required. Anticipated to tie-in Phase 1 and 2 subject to Part 8 and TII approval. Phase 2B Clonkeen to Ticknevin (to be completed by Waterways Ireland). Site investigation and report – completion date May/ June. Completion of detailed design – July. Construction August (subject to TII approval to proceed). Phase 2C Ticknevin to Sallins Site investigation and report – completion



					<p>date May/June. Completion of detailed design and tender preparation – October. Tender process November – subject to TII approval to proceed to tender phase. Award works contract December 2023, subject to no legal challenge and TII approval.</p> <p>Phase 2D Lowtown and Bonyngge Bridge Ecological survey/Winter survey complete. Prelim design complete May. Ecology Survey – Spring/Summer complete May. Part 8 drawings July. AA screening and EIA Screening complete August. Part 8 report September 2023 followed by Part 8. Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval to proceed.</p>
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. KCC Agent in on-going discussions with various landowners.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the business/ residents surrounding The Square.



					Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023. Preparing tender for interim works to secure The Square and remove parking. Working to publish Part 8 in June 2023.
	Newbridge Cultural Quarter (Phase 1 County Library & Archive)	€656,412	€492,000 URDF €164,412 LPT	Part 8 (Library)	County Library: Part 8 will be published on 10 May 2023. Consultation period 10 May to 21 June incl. Part 8 process will be finalised at the September MD meeting. Sustainability and Climate Action Centre: – Feasibility Study completed and issued to the members. Market Square and Eyre Street: Works will take place in collaboration with the MD office.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600			Land Observation Plan and Interpretative and Branding Plan. Final draft under review to amalgamate comments from stakeholders.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,300,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,600,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Athgarvan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Final edits required for policy updates – CDP, Maps etc.



	Monasterevin Health Check/Urban Analysis	€150,000	€98,000 T&V €52,000 RRDF	Town Masterplan	Small edits to be completed. Publish in the coming weeks.
Athy	Emily Square	€2,616,050	€2,707,500 (RRDF)		Tender documents in progress
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,677,350	€2,200,000 (KCC)	Tender assessment	Preferred tenderer withdrew from the project; an assessment of other qualifying tenders now underway.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the works they would like to see undertaken.
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Economic consultant appointed to complete a feasibility and business case, assisted by LEO. Business case will assist with URDF application for Call 4 when it opens.



					Expecting Part 8 to be published this year. 'Opening up works' – civil works are taking place over the coming weeks. This will consist of the removal of slabs from the house and barns to assess the area.
	The Acre Project	TBC	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	Eco friendly community-based projects on a site located at Maynooth Road Celbridge. LPT funds set aside to deliver a feasibility study.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA to be carried out. Aim to publish in June
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA to be carried out. Aim to publish in June
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Awaiting business case approval form DHLGH
	Harbourfield			Detailed Design & Works	Part 8 approved. Awaiting business case approval form DHLGH
	Bawnogues Community Centre	€3,134,541	100% KCC funded	Construction	ESB connection completed. Completion date confirmed for end of May 2023.
	Prosperous Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	A T&V Scheme developing gateways and signage at locations in Prosperous. Works are substantially complete, lighting will be connected this week and



					signs erected in the coming weeks.
	Kilcock Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	A T&V Scheme developing gateways and signage at 4 locations in Kilcock. Contractor on site and completion date set for end of June.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review.
Naas	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 –



			Initiative grant €248,931		15:00. The next phase of development, subject to funding, will upgrade electricity and services and Part 8 completion.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	Business case to be approved.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Failte Ireland Outdoor Scheme (Parklets)	€187,275	€187,275	1 parklet installed	Parklet on Main Street to be relocated to outside Urban Kitchen/Costa.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V €7,000 LPT	Masterplan	2 workshops completed and well attended. Very informative. Survey completed last week and all information will now feed into the draft document.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Local Community Development Committee

May 2023

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

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The SICAP Plan for 2023 includes additional funding of €170,973 to respond to the Ukrainian crisis. For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450



LEADER Programme

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

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

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

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

Healthy Ireland

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. Round four has been approved by Pobal and the Department of Health and the LCDC are awaiting contracts.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Preparation is underway to develop the Kildare LECP. The second meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on 15 May 2023. This will be a key focus on the LCDC in 2023.



Community Support Fund

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

expected that groups will be informed of the outcome during the month of June.

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

Community Community Grants

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

All Grants 2023		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	152	€251,702
Festival Grants	68	€82,300
Private Residents' Associations Grants	273	€178,405
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	39	€27,276
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	60	€476,506
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes		
Community Support Fund		
Education Bursaries		
Drehid Grants	43	179,560
Total	635	€1,195,749

Inc LPT ex Naas
Inc LPT

2023 grants schemes: Arrangements are being made to pay all grants that were notified to and approved by the members at the April Municipal District meetings. We have commenced publication of LPT-funded grant schemes in the relevant municipal districts and applications for same will be processed after the relevant closing dates.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

The remaining clinics in 2023 are scheduled for:

- Monday 26 June 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023

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



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

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

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

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

Uisce Éireann is engaging with all the key national bodies and representative groups to prepare for the implementation of the Framework provisions.

The existing Service Level Agreement will be replaced by a Master Agreement for all local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority possibly

by end of Quarter two 2023 taking into consideration changes included the new Framework.

Environment

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

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

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 – 2029. The Statutory Consultation Phase runs from Wednesday **3 May 2023** until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday **5 July 2023**. The consultation period is being supported by a statutory advert, radio campaign, social/digital media etc. All Draft Plan documents and full details on making a submission will be available on [mywaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie/). (<https://www.mywaste.ie/>) Written submissions / observations in relation to the Draft Plan may be made online at [mywaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie/), or by email to submissions@nationalwasteplan.ie



The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) being introduced countrywide is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. Latest information suggests a go live date in February /March 2024.

Water Framework Directive

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

The council await the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period 2022 to 2027.

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

Enforcement Priorities 2023-2024

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,
 - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
 - Household and Commercial Waste,
 - Producer Responsibility Initiative's and local priorities
- Water Priorities

- Pressures from agricultural storage,
- Pressures from agricultural spreading,
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems,
- Discharge licenses,
- Water quality monitoring
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring programme

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal.



Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: www.nwcpo.ie

Inaugural Rubbish Film Festival



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



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

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

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

Community Clean-ups

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



GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

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

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Kildare County Council Launches

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 tender assessment process for the appointment of consultants is complete and we await approval to proceed from the OPW.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

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



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

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

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Current plans are as follows:



Columbarium Walls

a) New

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

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

b) Completion

Works are underway for the completion of Columbarium Walls in Rathangan and Crookstown Cemeteries and it is expected that both projects will be completed by the end of Quarter two 2023.

b) Staplestown

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

c) Confey

As agreed with the Municipal District members, minor works are planned to create some additional space within the existing cemetery, as it is rapidly approaching full capacity. Discussions are also underway with landowners in terms of acquiring lands nearby for a new cemetery.

Cemetery Extensions

a) Allen

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

Other Capital Improvement Works

a) Naas Altar

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



- b) Newbridge Cemetery Car Park
Detailed design work has been completed and it is expected to advance to tender in March for major upgrade works to St. Conleth's Cemetery Newbridge, to include for the installation of a pedestrian crossing.
- c) Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall
Awaiting the completion of a new boundary wall between the cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.
- d) Boycetown, Kilcock
Investigation works are underway in terms of resolving serious groundwater drainage issues within the cemetery. Expected that major capital improvement works will begin during Quarter two 2023.

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

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

- a) Churchtown Cemetery

Wiring works completed and now awaiting on ESB to do final connection for the public lighting on this project.

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

Climate Action Regional Office



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





Climate Action Teams (CATs)

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



Online Training

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

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



Thematic Training

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



Outdoor Staff

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



Authority Services National Training Group and commenced in January 2023.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG), who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and rolled out across the CARO regions over the year, before opening to all local authorities in October / November.

Economic Opportunities Conference 2023

A very successful Economic Opportunities conference was held in Tullamore on the 26 April 2023. With over 140 in attendance, the conference looked at how businesses

are capitalising on new opportunities and becoming green pioneers.

Details of the speakers and copies of the presentations will be available on the CARO website.



Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

The Minister has approved a business case for local authority climate action resources in respect of two roles. A letter of comfort has been issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), relating to the recruitment of these resources on a five-year term for the purposes of developing and implementing the LA CAP as aligned with the provisions of the business case.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 was published by the Minister on the 21 December 2022 with the Annex of Actions published in March 2023. To support local authorities, CARO have established three national frameworks of consultants for county wide BEIs (Baseline Emission



Inventories), Climate Change Risk Assessments as well as BEIs for Decarbonising Zones (DZs) and planning and implementation activities linked to Climate Action Plans or commitments under the Local Authority Climate Action Charter. The development of a framework for the provision of services for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment screening is also being finalised.

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

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

Eamon Ryan TD

Minister from the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Local Authority Progress Reporting

– Climate Adaptation Strategies:

Annual reporting on progress of the implementation of Local Authority Climate Adaptation Strategies / Plans

has been undertaken by all Climate Action Officers/Leads in all local authorities. A sectoral report is being collated by CARO for submission to the Department.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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



over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating.

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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action

In light of the evolving policy context of climate action and increased ambition for the local government sector, the County and City Managers Association (CCMA) Climate Action and Transport Network (CATN) committee endorsed convening of a KPI working group to achieve specific objectives. This working group, chaired by Paul Kennedy of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown



Council, will work with a number of local authorities across the country, with the intention to have KPIs decided upon and tested to align with the implementation stage of Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LACAPs).

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:



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

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

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

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

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

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



2021. Together with the requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act Kildare County Council is preparing a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP).

The Minister formally activated the programme as of the 24 February 2023 giving until the 23 February 2024 to finalise the plans plus one month for publication. Given the availability of the published guidance RPS group are reviewing the elements undertaken to date and assessing the path forward to undertaking the SECAP/CAP and DZ plans. Currently the project is at the scoping of the actor's stage.

The Senior Management team and associated senior staff members undertook an interactive session on the Vision for Kildare by 2050 and potential actions to advance decarbonizing of the council's services and functions in January. Information was also given on how to commence decarbonizing the work of the various sections. RPS are the consultants assigned to produce the SECAP/CAP. Our plan is unusual and complex as it encompasses not only the LA CAP

including the DZ but also aligns with the LCP (An Taisce's Low Carbon Community national example) and the requirements of SECAP (Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan). The overall LA CAP therefore will incorporate four elements to create one overriding document.

The SECAP section is largely completed. The scoping of actors, BEI, consultation with councillors (9 May) and the CA SPC (10 May) have been undertaken. The Climate Action Office is collaborating with the LECP, and the Community Wellbeing processes to enable cross functional and coherent policy. A draft plan is to be undertaken during the summer with consultation expected to commence in September. The team are working towards adoption by Full Council in November/December 2023 to enable the plan to be launched on or by January 2024.





Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth Nominee

The Climate Action Office is streamlining consultation efforts with An Taisce who are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan for Maynooth (national example) under the Legacy 4 Life programme, Maynooth University, RPS Group (consultants) and various local actors. The Emissions Baseline Inventory (EBI) and a potential Carbon Calculator are being advanced.

Consultation methods are advancing to enable citizen engagement with surveys to commence in April and physical events up to and including the summer to encourage accessible interaction across the demographic spectrum.

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

The Climate Action Office is streamlining consultation efforts with An Taisce who are developing a Low Carbon Community Plan (LCP) for

Maynooth (national example) under the Legacy 4 Life programme. The work is being undertaken in combination with Maynooth University, RPS Group (consultants) and various local actors. The Emissions Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) and a potential Carbon Calculator are being advanced. Master Students from the Business School, MU (Maynooth University) undertook surveys with business and agricultural stakeholders in Maynooth and their final report will be made available at the end of May. On 4 May 2023 targeted consultation with the agri/land use sector was undertaken, with business sector scheduled for 17 May and rest of society on 24 May 2023. We are working with Maynooth Community Council's on their Picnic in the Park fun event to be held on 18 June 2023 in Harbour Field. This is an opportunity to provide informal citizen engagement through the arts and traditional stands to encourage accessible interaction across the demographic spectrum. It is expected the DZ Plan will be made available for adoption in July to inform the Maynooth LAP (Local Area Plan) being compiled presently.



Climate Action Energy Management Team



The Climate Action and Energy Management Team met on 23 March 2023 in Solas Bhríde, Kildare town to undertake the first of four workshops to inform the formulation of Kildare’s Climate Action Plan. The workshop was facilitated by CARO. The members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team undertook a review of the adaptation measures under the existing strategy and brainstormed on the potential mitigation measures. Three further workshops will be undertaken over the next two months to advance the process.

A series of four workshops have been created for the Climate Action and Energy Management Team to inform the advancement of the LA CAP process. The first was held on 23 March 2023 with the final session will be held on 18 May 2023 in Solas

Bhríde. The workshops are being facilitated by our consultants RPS.

Public Awareness of DZ and Climate Action

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

The Mid East Energy Unit



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



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

The unit will combine efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI's Pathfinder funding scheme to provide finance support for defined projects.

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

Climate Action SPC:

The latest scheduled meeting took place on 8 February 2023. Two presentations were given. The first by CODEMA on the Mid East energy Unit and the National four Day Working Week Trial. The second presentation was by Kildare Chamber on Business and Energy Efficiency in the Future. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 May 2023.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in the county. The number of SEC's continues to grow. There are currently 29 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare.

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

Ballymore Eustace, Naas and Kilcock have agreements in place with Kildare County Council in 2022. Kilcock are finalizing their Energy Master Plan and propose to launch it on 3 April 2023. The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth are



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

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

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth undertook an activation program under the stewardship of the Energy Team, a community enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. Technical Assessments

are well advanced and the application to the SEAI will advance when the appropriate funding round opens.

Fleet Electrification



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



potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

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

ICT Solutions



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

The initial contact was made via our IT Department.

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

The potential to gamify the Carbon Calculator associated with Maynooth DZ has been discussed given the national potential community usage. An introduction has been made between An Taisce and Eir Evo to advance the option.

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

The programme is funded by Microsoft.

Visualisation and gamification of the Carbon Calculator being developed by An Taisce and Kildare County Council for Maynooth DZ/Low Carbon Community is being considered through potential partnership with Terrain Ai in MU or Eir Evo. It is hoped we can showcase the prototype application at the Picnic in the Park on 18 June 2023 in Harbour Field, Maynooth.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats)

- new initiative as part of the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme

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

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

Other Initiatives

'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries section were successful in attaining just over €30,000 in funding from Creative Ireland for the project 'Stitching the Community Together'. The project is based on intergenerational art project centered around the medium of wool and knitting and will include three elements to the project: intergenerational workshop on wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools, virtual reality (VR) educational piece to explore the 'Farm-to-Fleece' process of wool co-created with students and an exhibition phase showcasing the work. The work with schools and nursing homes has concluded. We are working closely with the virtual reality artist to deliver the co-creation piece. The associate exhibition called 'Future Tapestry' will take place on the 25 May to 27 May 2023 in McAuley place including exhibit and VR experience. The launch will be on the 25 May 2023 and the opportunity will also be used to launch the Age-Friendly strategy.



Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund



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



To advance the project financially an application was made to the Public Service Innovation Fund 2023. To our delight the bid has been successful and funding of €50,000 (€60,000 requested) is to be awarded on signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

in March. The funding will be used to enable a researcher(s) to commence the works associated. An agreement is now being formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence at pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Quarter two/three of 2024.

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award



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



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

Climate Innovation Fund – First Round

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

Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

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

The Climate Hub

A project that aims to capture data on traffic types and speeds data that will be used to co-develop active-travel

related initiatives/nudging behaviour with the community.

Climate Response Ireland

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

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



Climate Innovation Fund – 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 e.g., Vans, trucks, tractors etc. while transitioning to a carbon neutral economy. Indigenous produced biogas could be a viable business model given the initial results from the Grass to Gas experiments. In February, Stephen Nolan of Green Generation gave presentations hosted generously by the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) team. The presentations informed on the



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



Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Ten Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland. Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future. Ms. Sophia Couchman, Masters Student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc

and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, County Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area. Sophia is currently compiling the data from the various experiments to formulate the report due in late spring or early summer of 2023. A presentation was given in late October to Teagasc student's on the initial Entomology qualitative data. Each Municipal District received a presentation in March on the progress to date.

Community Stories continues to roll out updates.

The results of our monthly Parks Pilot posts on Kildare Community Stories are set out below with one of the videos being the most viewed on Community Stories during 2022. Kildare County Council's research project - alternatives for pesticides - continues with the help of our collaborating partners, Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Teagasc. Sophia Couchman is



finalising her data report and will commence the practical guide for the maintenance of open spaces using alternatives to pesticides in late May. Analysis of soil biomes continues. Sophia has agreed to advance to PhD level in the Autumn and it is expected she will have the work completed Quarter one/two of 2025. It is with thanks to our Local Authority partners together with Waterways Ireland and the GAA we can continue to fund this valuable research to enable change on the ground.

Community Stories continue to assist with communicating to their audience

aspects of the research and related items.

Resourcing of Climate Action

Office:

The positions of Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer are to be filled shortly. Interviews concluded at the end of April and offers are being made presently.

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



Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety May 2023

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

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

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

Plan for the new few months is

- Completion of Stage two Multi-Criteria Analysis.
- Completion of public consultation on Emerging Preferred Option.
- Completion of the Option Selection Report.
- Completion of all TII Project Management Guidelines Phase two deliverables and completion of Phase two (Option Selection).

It is proposed to prepare a staging paper/phasing of the delivery of the preferred option.

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

Athy Main Street (N78)

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

Leinster Road Bridges

Rehabilitation Contract Scheme involves rehabilitation works to M7, Junction 10 Overbridge; M7, Newhall Overbridge; M7 Greatconnell Overbridge; M7 Corbally Overbridge; M9, Kineagh Road Overbridge. Glas Civil Engineering Limited to be awarded the contract and appointed PSCS. (Letters to issue on the 15 May 2023)



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

Maynooth Transport Strategy

(Aecom)

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

Newbridge Transport Strategy

(Aecom)

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

Junction Programme

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. This project has been subject to delays on site.



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 is 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 Jan 2023.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

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

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€150,000 allocation. Detailed design stage continuing.



Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

€110,000 allocation. Pilot schemes completed.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

€15,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

€800,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

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

R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

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

Safe Routes To School Round One Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane.



Safe Routes To School Round Two Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas Active Travel Measures

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

Pathfinder Project

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

Municipal District Works

Winter Maintenance concluded at the end of April.

Health and Safety workshops are being rolled out in advance of the Surface Dressing season.

Road works to value € 14 million will be carried out from April to September – on up to 120 sites countywide.

Patching Repairs ongoing in advance of Surface Dressing annual programme RI (Road restoration) has started, and RM (Surface dressing) is done by direct labour is due to commence at the end of May.

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

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

Public Lighting

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

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

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



Leixlip Playground

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

Barrow Towpath, Athy

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

Maynooth Municipal District Tree Works

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

Newbridge Playground

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

Leixlip Summer Bedding

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

Castletown Woods

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

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning, Strategic Development Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

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

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

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

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

The draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was published for public consultation on Tuesday the 21 March 2023. During a six week



consultation period, approx. 100 people attended the drop-in event at Áras Bhríde and a total of 142 submissions were received. The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received is currently being prepared and will be circulated in June to the Elected Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District for their consideration. A Special Municipal District meeting will be required to consider the Draft Plan and Chief Executive report in July. Details to follow.

Joint Maynooth and Environs

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.

Newbridge

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

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

Development Management

Planning applications received			Residential Units Granted	Applications	
April	YTD		No.	April	
2020:	107	443	1,433	Total Granted:	60
2021:	172	595	320	Further information requested:	61
2022:	138	501	437	Total Refused:	13
2023	123	458	122		



Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning authority will be required to hold an LRD meeting (within four weeks) and issue an LRD opinion within eight weeks of the receipt of documentation from the applicant. An LRD application must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion

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



LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/269	16/03/2023	William Neville	Sallins	168	Refuse 08/05/2023
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	Southgreen, Kildare Town	168	Due 14/06/2023
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Due 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Due 06/07/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Due 06/07/2023

Heritage and Conservation

A. Heritage Projects - Progress Updates

1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

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

2. Heritage Council Funded Projects

€37,500 was awarded for three Heritage Projects as follows;

(i) Heritage Awareness 2023 (€12k)

towards Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week. Biodiversity Week takes place from 19 – 28 May 2023.

(ii) Historic Landscape

Characterisation for Naas (€15,500)

Expressions of interest were sought from five archaeological consultancies.

one tender submission was received.

A recommendation to appoint consultants has now been made.

(iii) Audit of Military Structures (€10k)

Expressions of interest were sought from five archaeological consultancies.

One tender submission was received.

A recommendation to appoint consultants has now been made.

3. Oral Recording Training

Workshops on Oral Recording Training (provided by Tomas MacConmara, MacConmara Heritage Consulting) are now complete.



4. Control of American Skunk
Cabbage

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

5. Kildare Tower Conservation

Notification of funding of €120k from the Community Monuments Fund has now been received.

6. Clane Friary Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €60k for conservation works to Clane Friary has now been received and the tendering process for same has now commenced.

7. Laraghbryan Church Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €100k for conservation works to Laraghbryan Church has now been

received and the tendering process for same has now commenced.

8. Donaghcumper Church
Conservation

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

9. Tipper Church Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €15,129 for conservation works to Tipper Church has now been received and a recommendation to appoint consultants has now been made.

10. Castledermot Walled Towns
Project

Tendering for a conservation contractor has now commenced.

B. Funding Applications

No	Project	Fund	Received
1	Heritage Awareness 2023	Heritage Plan	12,000.00
2	Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas	Heritage Plan	15,500.00
3	Survey of Military Structures in Kildare.	Heritage Plan	10,000.00
4	Kildare Tower	Community Monuments Fund	120,000.00
5	Clane Friary	Community Monuments Fund	60,000.00
6	Donacompher Church	Community Monuments Fund	73,731.25
7	Laraghbryan Church	Community Monuments Fund	100,000.00
8	Tipper Church	Community Monuments Fund	15,129.00



9	Control of American Skunk Cabbage 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	6,800.00
10	Control of Himalayan Balsam 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,475.00
11	Vegetation control Lullybeg for Marsh Fritillary	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,075.00
12	Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	7,000.00
13	Oral recording Training	Creative Ireland	5,000.00
14	Publication on Kildare Walled Towns	Irish Walled Town	5,000.00
15	Castledermot Walls	Irish Walled Town	45,000
		Total	491,710.25

Funding applied for and awaiting notification:

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

**C. Conservation Projects –
Progress Updates**

1. Heritage Stewardship Scheme
An application has now been approved for €25,200 from the Heritage Council to continue our review of the Record of Protected Structures. The review will be extended to Kilcock, Kilcullen, Castledermot and Rathangan.

A Request for Quotation was forwarded to a number of consultants on 8 May 2023, the closing date for which is 6 June 2023.

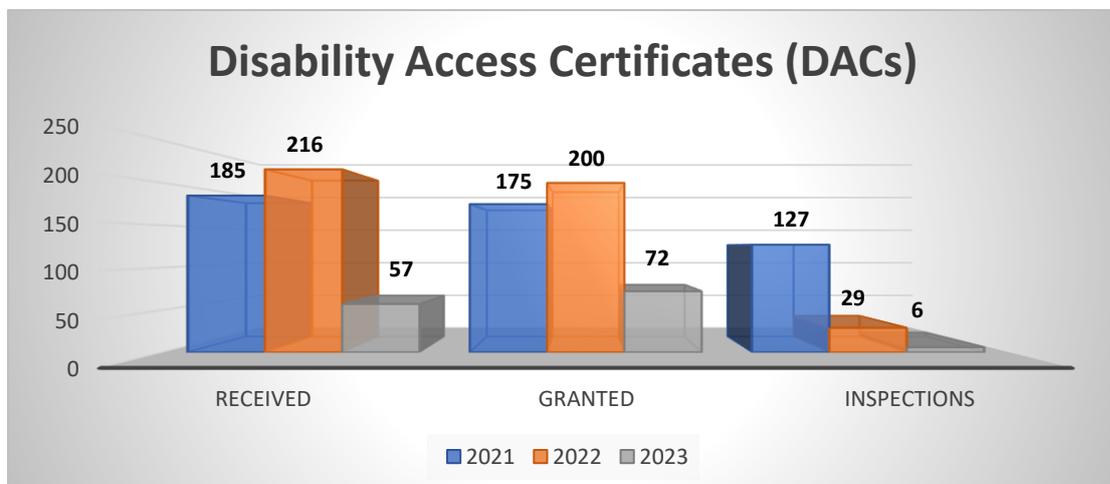
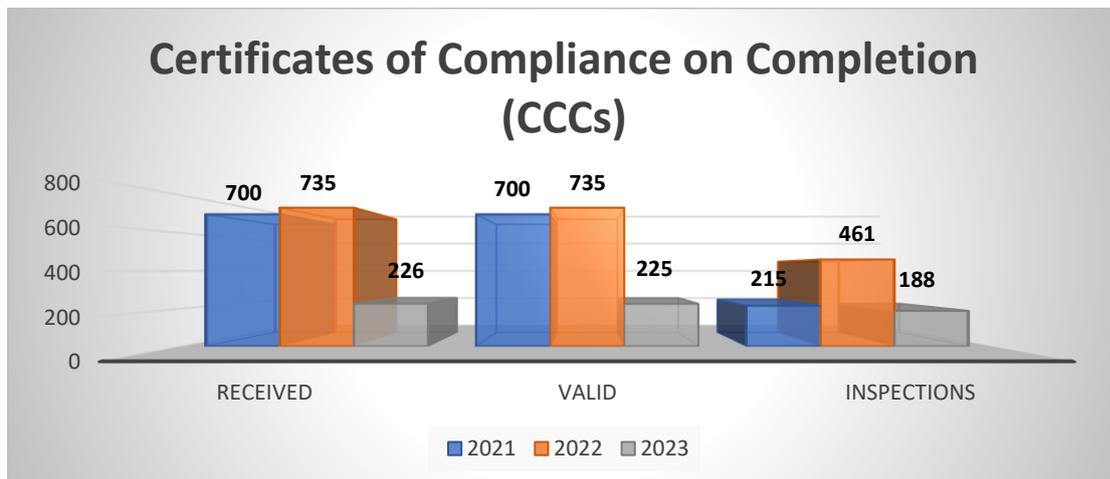
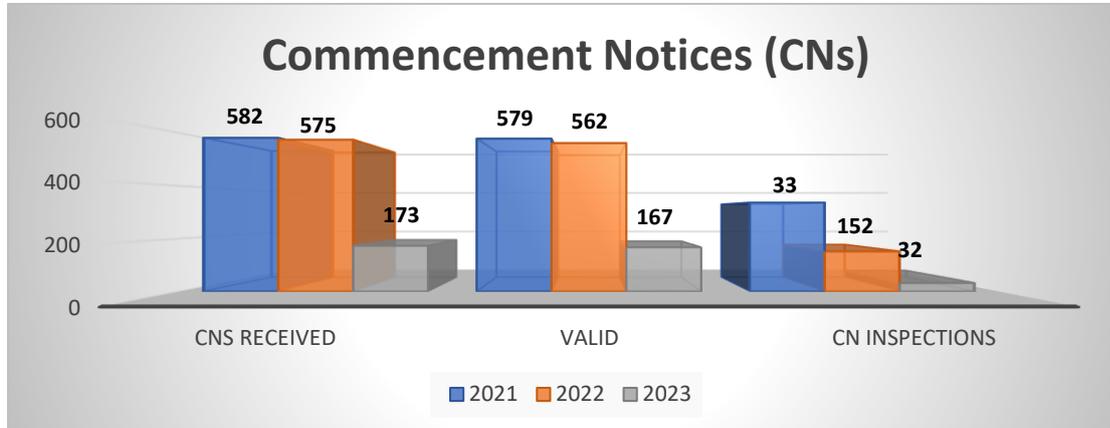
2. Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St. David’s Castle, Naas
A request for expressions of interest and quotes for the CMP for St. David’s was forwarded to a number of consultants on 8 May 2023, the closing date for which is 16 May 2023.

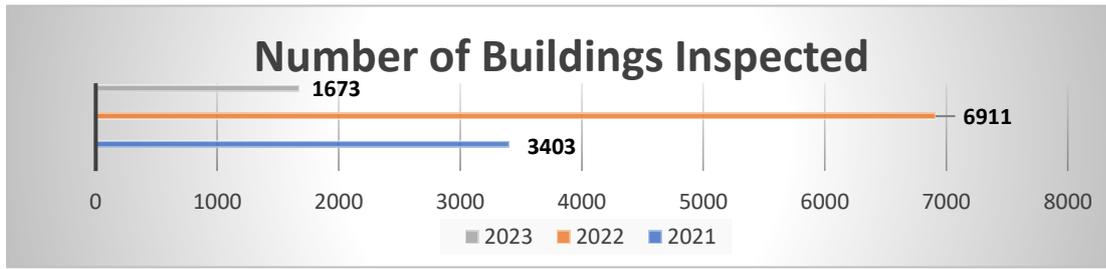


Building and Development Control

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

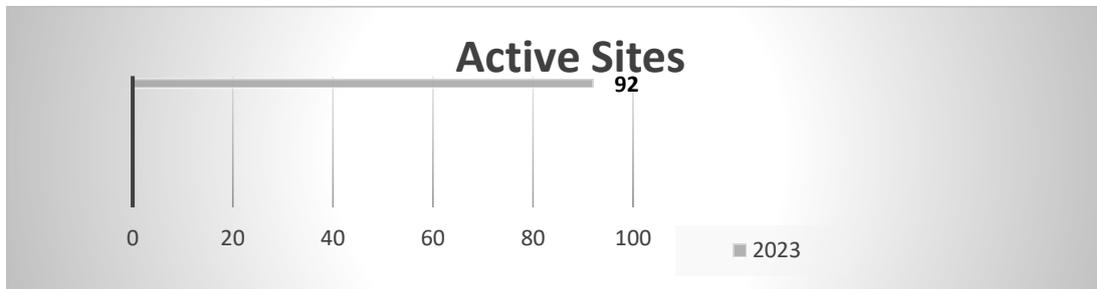
BUILDING CONTROL





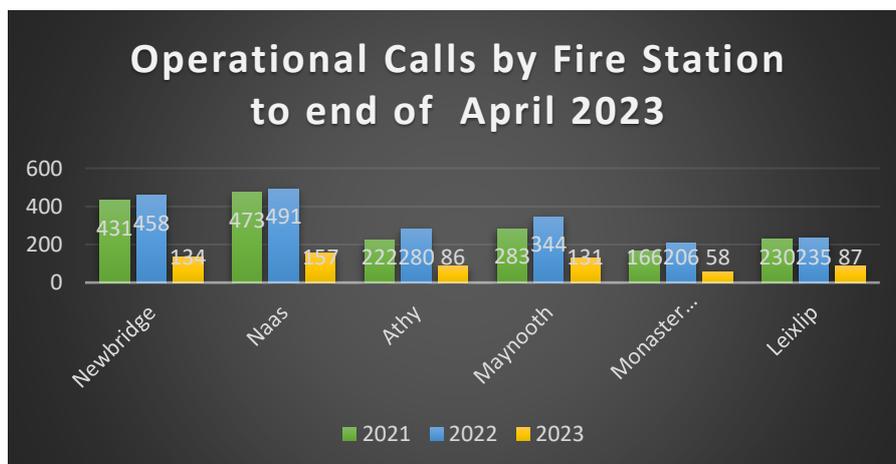
Note: Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 are due to staff shortages.

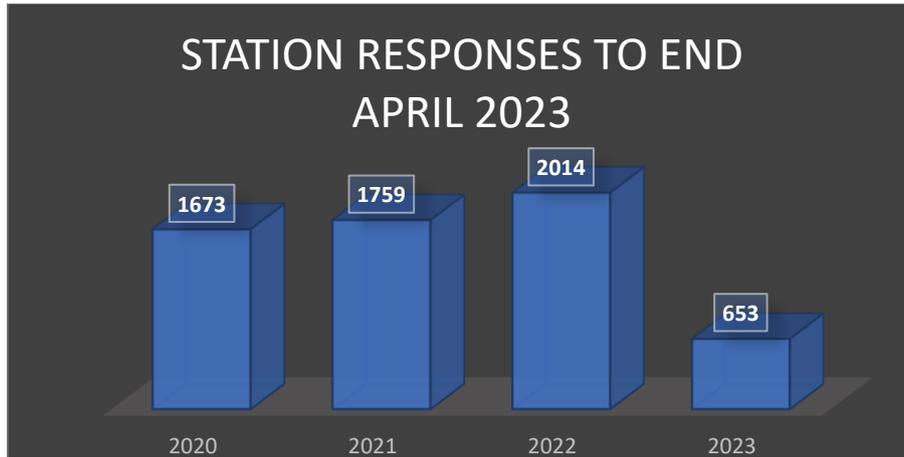
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



Fire Service

Fire Service Operations: 2023 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

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

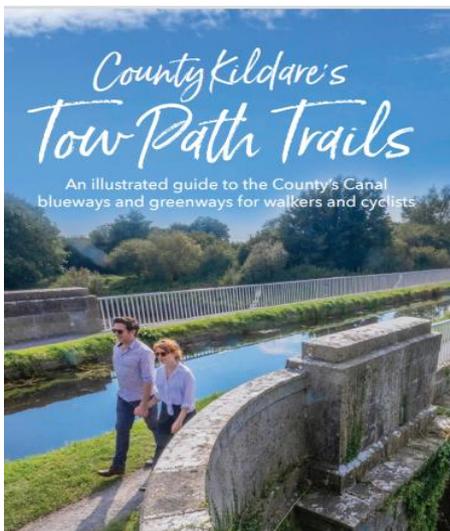




Kildare Fáilte Key Activities

Into Kildare received the revised edition of the Tow Path Trails guide on behalf of Kildare County Council. The project was supported by The Department of Rural and Community Development through the Outdoor Recreational Scheme and the modern

illustrated guide includes maps and information that are integral to ensuring visitors can make the most of the County's canal side trails. This brochure gives practical directions as well as a background to the architectural heritage of Kildare's waterways and will be delivered across the County.



Tow Path Trails Guide

Marketing communication in early April centred around the What's on this

Easter in Kildare with events and activities.

Engagement on all channels remained strong, with Into Kildare consistently publishing on Social Media channels, blog posts and the Easter Newsletter.



Easter Newsletter

Kildare Fáilte met with the organisers of the Two Mile House Biodiversity and Heritage Walking Trail, who have engaged Into Kildare to review their proposed route. Into Kildare walked the trail, taking in the many sights and interesting features the trail will include. The area boasts St. Peter's Church that the oldest examples of stained-glass in Ireland depicting St. Peter.



St. Peter, stained glass at St. Peters Church
Two Mile House and Kildare Fáilte's IBK McDonough, Áine Mangan and Karen Keogh



Áine Mangan with Hillary Cahill, An Cathaoirleach Fintón Brett, Joanne Byrne, David Mongey and Jean Creaton.

Into Kildare with Punchestown Racecourse launched Paint the Town Red for the Punchestown Festival of Racing. The aim is to create the sense of anticipation and participation for the nearby towns, encouraging locals and racegoers to stay and spend locally. Lawlors of Naas and Tutty's Shoes became the venue for the launch due to bad weather.



Painting the Town Red

The rescheduled street activation, combined a choreographed video of local business' painting the town red with testimonial recordings from Into Kildare business members. This Paint

the Town Red video gained wide reach, impressions and engagement across all social media channels and featured many communities who joined us to promote the Punchestown Festival.



Kildare Fáilte with Finalists Brett Florist, The Osprey Hotel and Elizabeth's Hair Salon.

Numerous businesses took part in the competition for the Best Dressed Shop Front to the theme of Paint the Town Red for the racing festival. This year's winner was Elizabeth's Hair Salon, Ballymore Eustace. During the festival Áine Mangan was interviewed by Racing TV supporting the Paint the Town Red initiative and the importance of the festival to tourism in County Kildare.

Into Kildare Chairperson David Mongey and CEO Áine Mangan hosted a meeting in the Keadeen Hotel regarding tourism activities in relation to St. Brigid's Day 2023 and Brigid 1500.



Kildare Fáilte Karen Keogh and IBK McDonough with Fáilte Ireland's Lorraine Sheenan.

Following on from previous Fáilte Ireland's Royal Canal Greenway development gatherings, Kildare Fáilte attended their Local Experts Workshops held at the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth. The programme was developed to support those involved in the tourism sector and the local community to build awareness and local knowledge about all there is to see and do in the area and to share useful information with visitors. Into Kildare were delighted to support a number of Tourism representatives from across the County who attended the event.

To show support and congratulate our member, Kildare Fáilte met with Emma Ferris from Clanard Court who have recently received the prestigious award as Wedding Planner of the Year.



Patricia Berry, Emma Ferris, Karen Keogh and Eoin Jacob.

April highlighted County Kildare's Tourism achievements with The Irish National Stud and Gardens winning the THEA award for outstanding achievement for the Irish Racehorse Experience. Another member Firecastle in Kildare Town, won the Good Food Ireland, Shop of the Year award.

Into Kildare was also invited to attend the IEC, International European Convention and met with a number of International Tour Operator.



Local Enterprise Office

Enterprise and Economic Development Activity 2023

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

Immediate business support:

Request to speak to a Business Advisor:

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

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or call 045980838.

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

Financial Supports

Funding Applications Awarded From 1 Jan – 10 May		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	39	€87,352
Priming Grant	2	€57,162
Business Expansion Grant	3	€104,779
Feasibility Study Grant	2	€27,980
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	8	€13,739
Total		€291,012

Entrepreneurship Support Services

PARTICIPANTS PER Municipal District up to 21.04.2023	Start-Up Clinics	Business Clinics	Mentoring	SYOB
Naas	43	41	11	30
Athy	12	3	2	3
Celbridge-Leixlip	14	8	6	3
Kildare-Newbridge	23	34	9	11
Clane-Maynooth	27	12	4	9



1-1 BUSINESS CLINICS:

Start-up advisory clinics are hosted online weekly every Wednesday. Business-specific subject clinics are offered every Thursday in MERITS based on the needs of business.

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT:

12 manufacturing/engineering companies with five or more full-time employees are undertaking Operational Excellence. This is strategic programme designed to accelerate innovation, adoption of digital systems, and productivity within Kildare plants. It also critically includes leadership coaching sessions with an organisational psychologist.

FOCUS ON TECH:

17 Kildare Tech/innovative start-ups have secured a place on our MERTIS Pre-Accelerator. This programme will cumulate with a competitive pitch day on 31 May 2023 where each client will pitch to a panel of founders/investors.



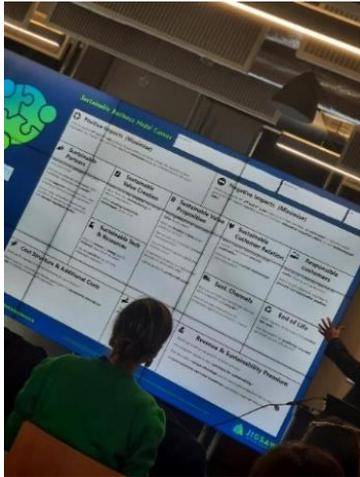
We welcomed Enterprise Ireland to MERITS on 20 April 2023 to speak to our tech-cluster on positioning for High Potential Start Up (HPSU) investment and to promote the call for applications to Enterprise Ireland's Pre-Seed Start Fund which are now open and could see up to €100,000 investment in early stage innovative companies.

FOCUS ON RETAIL:

Owners/ managers of retail premises throughout the county are invited to MERITS on Monday 22 May 2023 for an event which focuses on sustainability and creative merchandising techniques. Looking to future trends in retail was the inspiration for Innovate in Retail.

FOCUS ON CRAFT AND CREATIVE:

29 members of our creative cluster (artists and craft producers) joined a workshop this month focused on sustainable green business models within the creative sector.



These clients will be assisted further through the Green for Micro Initiative.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS (WIB):



The focus of this month's WIB event was digital tools and techniques to go paperless, and in turn increasing productivity while reducing costs. We work with clients across all sectors to drive productivity through the Lean for Micro Programme.

ONGOING FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY:

Mandatory sustainability/green reporting is currently under consultation in Ireland and already active in the EU.

LEO are assisting clients to develop a sustainability reporting and energy efficiency plan to meet compliance.

In addition, LEO are hosting a Sustainability benchmarking event on 18 May 2023 in MERITS, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while supporting micro enterprises through the challenges of climate legislation.

Applications to participate can be made [here](#).

Economic Support Services Retail Support Scheme 2023 now open.

Kildare County Council 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. The economic development team have also been visiting retailers across the county providing them with information on supports available.

To date, **13 businesses** have been awarded funding to support their shopfront improvements. The closing date for applications is Friday 30 June 2023.



Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Under this scheme, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies in Athy. The economic development team have been working with the project team and supporting prospective applicants with the application process and the scheme remains open for applications until 30 June 2023. All works are required to be completed by 31 August 2023.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

The team have engaged with the Department of Rural and provided updated costings for the project and



are awaiting correspondence from the Department regarding the contract stage that will allow the project to commence the tendering process for construction

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub

Kildare County Council appointed a consultancy team to undertake a feasibility study of the Old Kildare Town Courthouse; it is proposed that a dedicated Craft, Creativity and Design Hub will be built to act as a sectoral stimulus to develop a hub of enterprise, innovation, commercialisation, and learning. The team met with the consultants on site and a site survey and key stakeholder engagement is taking place during May.

Kildare Fashion and Textiles Hub

Consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study for a dedicated fashion and textiles hub to be located in Monasterevin. The former Bank of Ireland and surrounding sites will be assessed while the consultants will also engage stakeholders to quantify needs and demand in advance of any future funding application. The project

initiation meeting with the consultants is taking place in May.

Kilcock Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

The appointed consultants are currently undertaking a technical examination of the site and have engaged with some of the key stakeholders. A draft report is due by the end of June and a final report is expected to be presented to the economic development team by the end of July.

Diaspora Strategy

A Diaspora Coordinator has been appointed to assist in the delivery of Kildare's Diaspora Strategy. The project initiation meeting on targets and delivery has taken place and one of the first tasks of the co-ordinator is to identify the diaspora and build a database through a communications strategy. A dedicated page and link will be hosted on the Brigid 1500 website to receive information on the Kildare diaspora.

Hub Activity

MERITS content creation lab:

The content creation lab in MERITS is fully operational and is supporting



businesses to create professional product photography, videography and podcast episodes.



MERITS industry partnership:

MERITS has recommenced it's industry partnership with Grant Thornton which will support businesses in the MERITS community with specialist advice and guidance.

National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) collaboration:

The National Equine Innovation Centre based in the Irish National Stud will collaborate with Thoroughbred Country to support the development of equine businesses.

Hubs occupancy:

MERITS welcomed three new tenants in April, all of whom are working on developing and progressing their startup businesses in the tech sector.

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**

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive