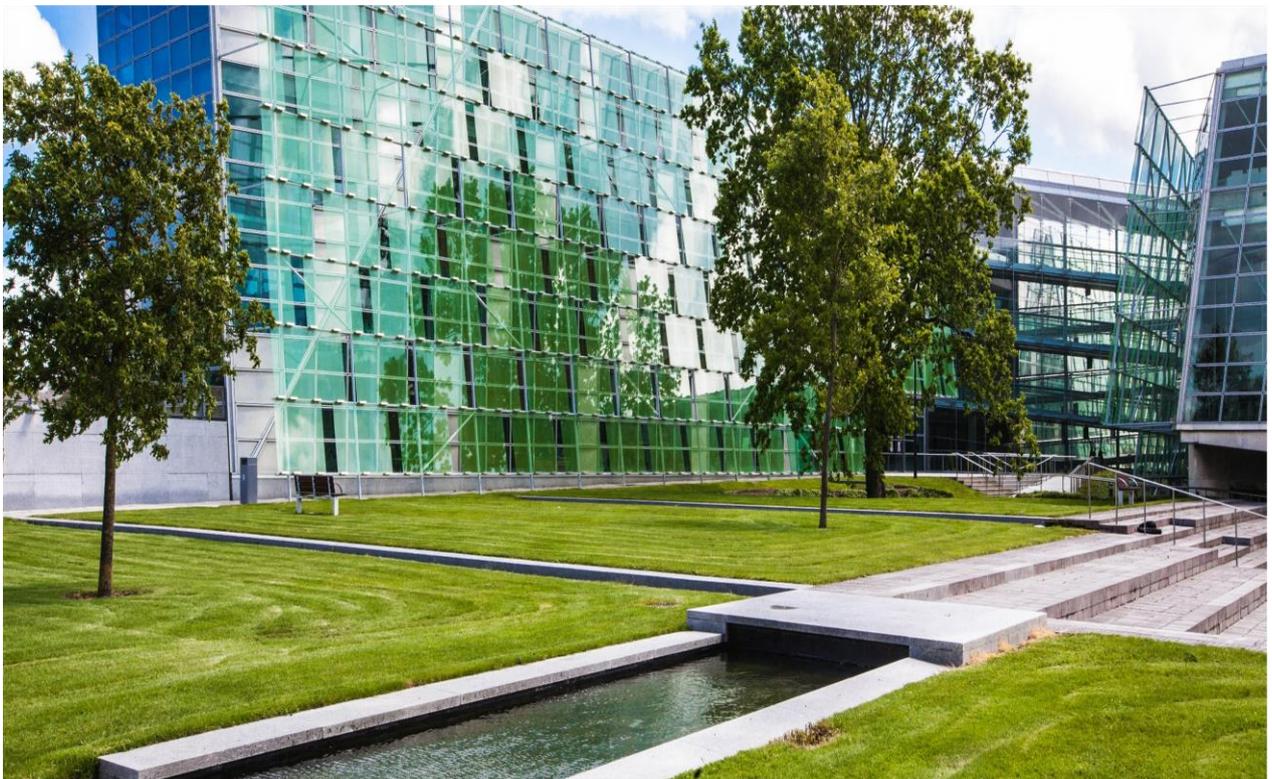




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – October 2023





News Items

Kildare County Council welcomes new Local Authority Performance Indicator Report

Kildare County Council recently welcomed the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2022 (see pages 7/8).

Play Day

The library service hosted two stands at Kildare County Council Play Day on Saturday 16 September (see page 11).

Awards and Grants

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted as Local Authority of the Year 2023 by Chambers Ireland along with Limerick County Council and South Dublin (see page 10).

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions in respect of residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of the build of the units by 31 December 2025 (see pages 20/21).

Housing Assessments

Work is progressing on the 2023 Summary and every effort continues to be made to contact all applicants to ensure they update their housing applications. (see pages 21/22).

Catchment Flooding

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare (see page 43).



Leader Programme

Kildare LCDC as Local Action Group and County Kildare LEADER Partnership as Implementing Partner, submitted a plan in mid-July, to the Department of Rural and Community Development for the next round of LEADER funding (see page 54).

Speed Limit Review

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State Jack Chambers TD announced the publication of the final report emerging from the recently finalised Speed Limit Review on 14 September 2023 (see page 60).

Economic Supports

The Retail Window Merchandising Grant remains open to applicants until November and businesses can avail of 80% funding on eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500.00 for outlets to enhance their window displays for Halloween and Christmas (see page 76).

Focus on Lean

A new campaign launched by Neale Richmond, T.D., Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail is encouraging small businesses in Kildare to avail of supports that will help them save time, money and energy (see page 76).



Diary/Calendar

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Conference is taking place on 25 October 2023 in the Osprey Hotel (see pages 15/16).

Budget 2024

Statutory budget date 20 November 2023, with a briefing on Monday 13 November 2023. (see page 18).

Innovation

Public Service Transformation Week will take place from 23 October to 27 October 2023 to celebrate and reflect on the ongoing work on innovation and transformation initiatives across the public service (see pages 19/20).

Summary of Social Housing Assessments

The 2023 Assessment is on target to be returned in advance of the return date of the 29 November 2023 (see page 21).

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

The next clinic in 2023 is scheduled for: Monday 23 October 2023 (see page 40).

Climate Action SPC:

The next meeting is scheduled for 06 December 2023 (see page 51).

LCDC

Next meeting of the LCDC scheduled for: Wednesday 29 November 2023 (see page 55).

Newbridge LAP

Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation will commence on 10 October 2023 with an in-community event on 09 November 2023 (see page 62).



November Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 Oct	31	1 Nov	2 14:00 Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC	3 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
6 14:30 Protocol	7 14:30 Audit Committee	8	9	10
13 15:00 Budget Briefing	14 14:30 Naas JPC 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	15 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	16	17 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Committee
20 09:00 Athy JPC 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 15:00 Budget Meeting	21 14:00 CPG	22	23	24
27 15:00 Full Council Meeting	28	29 10:00 LCDC	30	1 Dec 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare County Council awards Engineering and Environmental Services Contract for Athy Flood Relief Scheme



Kildare County Council was delighted to confirm recently that the Consultant Engineering contract for the development of an Athy Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to RPS Consulting Engineers. The successful consultant has been appointed following an extensive tender process. Kildare County Council welcomed Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan TD to the contract signing which was held in in MERITS.

The Athy Flood Relief Scheme project aims to alleviate the risk of flooding to the Community of Athy and is being

developed following the completion of the South-Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study, which identified Athy as an area for further assessment (AFA).

Kildare County Council welcomes new Local Authority Performance Indicator Report

Kildare County Council recently welcomed the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2022, which shows Kildare County Council made improvements last year in areas including energy savings and climate action amongst others. Some key stats include:

- In 2022, 90.95% of motor tax transactions by Kildare County Council were conducted online – the second highest percentage nationally.
- Cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by Kildare County Council in 2022 was 31.86%.
- In 2022, a total of 750,145 items were borrowed from Kildare County Council libraries, up from 241,715 in 2021.

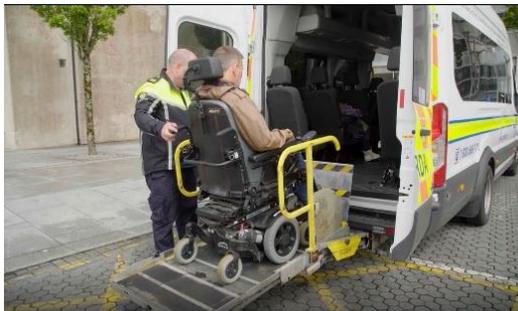


- Kildare County Council had the second lowest cost per capita in providing fire services.

See report here:

www.noac.ie/noac_publications/8339/

Kildare County Council supports County Kildare Social Inclusion Week 2023



Kildare County Council's vision is for Kildare to be universally accessible to all. To mark County Kildare Social Inclusion Week 2023, Kildare County Council launched a video to highlight some of the great initiatives being delivered across the county, as well as what's to come.

Watch here to see more about how Kildare County Council has been working with the County Kildare Access Network (CKAN), local access groups and many other partners across the county, comprising of people who have unrivalled experience and understanding, to achieve real change. [Watch video here](#)

Since being launched during Social Inclusion Week, the video has reached almost 30,000 people on social media and has been viewed almost 450 times on YouTube.

More Awards Success for Kildare County Council



Kildare County Council welcomed the news that both Newbridge Linear Park and Rathcoffey Zero Waste Community Garden were awarded Green Flags by An Taisce at the 2023 Green Flag Awards. This is the seventh year running that Newbridge Linear Park have been awarded a Green Flag and the fourth year for Rathcoffey Zero Waste Community Garden.





Elsewhere, Kildare County Council are delighted to have been announced as the winner in the Plan Making category at the recent Irish Planning Institute (IPI) Planning Awards, for our entry - The Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027 and the Development of a New Generation of Local Area Plans for Kildare.

The Irish Planning Institute Planning Awards recognise the diverse range of plans taking place locally and nationally in complex and dynamic planning environments.

Kildare County Council was also shortlisted in the Data Innovation of the Year category in the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2023. The awards recognize and celebrate excellence and innovation in the delivery of public sector digital transformation.

Kildare County Council was shortlisted for the innovative GeoCollect tool.

FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2023	Total received Quarter 2, 2023	Total received Quarter 3, 2023	Total
Freedom of Information Requests	34	61	40	135
Freedom of information appeals	5	5	3	13
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	4	6	4	14
Ombudsman	11	7	6	24

Member Services

The Draft Budgetary plan will be discussed at all municipal district meetings in October.

As Clane Maynooth Municipal District and Naas Municipal District fall outside the prescribed period additional meetings will be arranged to accommodate these.

Council Chamber

The first meeting scheduled to take place in the upgraded Council Chamber will be the Meeting of Kildare County Council on the 23 October at 3.00p.m.



All Municipal District meetings will be held in the council chamber in November.

Lexington Visit

The delegation from Kildare County Council to Lexington left Ireland on 11 October and will return on Monday 16 October.

Awards and Grants

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted as Local Authority of the Year 2023 by Chambers Ireland along with Limerick County Council and South Dublin. A presentation will be made to Chambers Ireland on Monday 16 October 2023 and the winning Local Authority will be announced at the Awards ceremony on 23 November 2023.

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted in 12 categories which will be announced on the night also.

The Athy Local Area Plan won the overall award for "Planmaking" in the Irish Planning Institute Awards Ceremony on 28 September 2023.

Library and Arts Service

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

"The library was a doorway to freedom, to free thought. When you're being taught, "you can't, you can't, you can't" ... the library says, "you can, you can, you can." And I did." Patricia McKissack

European Sustainable Development Week 18 September to 22

September

Some highlights from the library programme:

Athy Library - Sustainable Sewing Workshop with Athy Library Staff
Relaxation and Movement Workshop.

Celbridge Library - What on Earth are the SDGs? An Online Information Session with the Sustainable Life School



Kildare Town Library

Sustainable Printmaking / Athchursáil–
with artist Pamela de Brí

Leixlip and Newbridge Library -

Autumn Gardening and Saving Seed
with Master Organic Gardener Klaus
Laitenberger.

Maynooth Library –

An introduction to Moths and Moth
Trapping talk for families with Wild
Kildare

Writer in Residence

Paul Lynch, former Writer in
Residence with Kildare Library Service
has been shortlisted for the Booker
Prize for his novel, Prophet Song.
Maynooth Library were excited to host
an in-person interview between Paul
and novelist Belinda McKeown on 20
September 2023.

Play Day

The library service hosted two stands
at Kildare County Council Play Day on
Saturday 16 September – library
information stand and a TTT (Toys,
Technology, Training) stand outlining
our support for parents of neurodiverse
children.

Libraries around the county celebrated
Culture Night on 22 September

Athy Library

The Night Johnny Cash Came to
Town.

Celbridge Library

Culture Night event - The Snappers
Ukulele Concert.

Kildare Town Library

“Centuries Apart – an exhibition of
original historic prints by Daniel Grose
and original oil paintings by Curragh-
based landscape artist Michael
Rowley”.

Leixlip Library:

Kildare Young Filmmakers Screening.

Maynooth Library

Folktales from around the globe with
storyteller Simone Schuemmelfeder.

Naas Library

Culture Night Event - Ceramics
Workshop.

Naas Library Culture Night

Naas Library presented a jam-packed
programme of events for all ages on
Culture Night 2023. The evening was
opened by the Kildare North Ukulele



Club followed by the main event 'The Eco Showboat' which is an art project aimed at raising awareness of climate change. Artists Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly spent two years navigating Ireland's inland waterways in their vibrantly coloured solar-powered boat, The Mayfly and the final docking was in Naas Harbour. The Eco Showboat featured a ceramic workshop, an invertebrate demonstration, a talk by Anne and Denis on their solar journey, a film showing the family life of artist Marta Golubowska living on a canal boat and finishing with music by the Indian Irish musicians Anna Tanvir and Maninder Singh and some Indian nibbles. Naas Library also hosted a 'Biodiversity Art Exhibition' which was a collaboration between Sallins Biodiversity Group and St. Laurence's National School as part of the #MapOfLife2022 community project to record biodiversity in Sallins.

Ballitore Library

Works on the Mary Leadbeater House: Ballitore Library and Museum are progressing. Damien from Calx Renders has been nominated for a national Heritage award for his demonstration during Heritage Week.



Protest and Aggressive Behaviour Training

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) through Kildare Libraries, Health and Safety and Human Resources have delivered anti-Far Right Protest and aggressive behaviour training to prepare library staff for the very real threat of aggressive protest from the Far-Right national campaign. Libraries closed on alternate Friday mornings to facilitate this training.

Capital Projects

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The report from the Part 8 public consultation was presented to the Municipal District in September and was met with unanimous approval of all members.

New Clane Library

Our Climate Action Team met with the Design Team and lots of useful inputs were taken on board for the detailed



design stage. The team are still awaiting results of DRCD capital grant application of €1.8m.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Kildare County Archives has digitised over 6,000 pages of the surviving County Kildare Grand Jury records from 1810-1893 and these are now available online. These are some of the oldest records held in County Archives. This brings the total number of volumes online to 131, including records of the Poor Law Unions of Athy and Naas, Kildare County Council Minutes, and burial grounds registers. A photographic exhibition 'Identifying the Past – Images of Athy in the 1940s' was launched in Athy Library on Thursday 21 September. Digital copies of the images have been donated to the Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives Department by exhibition curator Andrew Kelly.

Decade of Commemorations

The national Decade of Centenaries programme is drawing to a conclusion in the coming months. The John Devoy Seminar took place in Naas on Saturday 23 September.

Arts Service

Culture Night took place on Friday 22 September, with 78 events across Co Kildare from 4:00 p.m. till late.

This year, Kildare Arts Service commissioned a number of exciting public-facing projects, across art forms and across the county. Our programme showcased the diversity of arts and culture in Kildare and offered a programme fostering openness and encouraging participation, valuing equality, inclusion, accessibility and diversity - truly reflecting the theme of Culture Night 2023 - One Night for All!

Arts Development Strategy 2023 – 2027

The translation, design and printing of the strategy is complete. Copies to be circulated shortly.

Made of Athy Plaque unveiling

A plaque dedicated to The Miami Showband has been unveiled in Athy. The latest plaque in the Made of Athy initiative is affixed to the front wall of the ARCH on the Kilkenny Road, formerly the Dreamland ballroom. Band member Stephen Travers who was wounded in the attack was in Athy on the evening of Tuesday 12 September to unveil the plaque, with the help of local cousins Noel Lambe and Anthony Davis. The plaque's



unveiling preceded a screening of the documentary ReMastered: The Miami Showband Massacre in Athy Arts Centre, which was followed by a question and answer session with Stephen, whose father Paddy was born in Moone in 1916 (“he never forgot his Kildare roots”).

Kildare Dance Artist in Residence

were delighted to announce dance artist and choreographer Philippa Donnellan as Kildare Dance Artist in Residence 2023.

Philippa’s residency, titled STEPPING THE LAND, will explore our relationship to the land and the natural world, with lots of opportunities to connect along the way.

Exhibition at MERITS

The Arts Service teamed up with MERITS to present an exhibition on Culture Night entitled ‘Woven’. Exhibited works included a film piece from the Kildare Municipal Art Collection and Future Tapestry, a Virtual Reality (VR) piece emerging from a collaboration between the Kildare Library Service and Climate Action Team with funding from Creative Ireland among other artworks raising questions about culture, identity, economy, and ecology -

setting the stage for future innovators at MERITS.

Creative Places Athy

Creative Places Athy is now one of 17 initiatives across the island of Ireland. Coming towards the end of year two, a bespoke Framework for Evaluation has been created for socially engaged art in Athy. This framework will be used in measuring and assessing all future projects.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

18 inspections completed in the following areas:

- Roads- Timahoe Depot
- Roads-Kildare Town Depot
- Roads- Kilshanroe Depot
- Roads -Naas Depot
- Roads -Kilcullen Depot
- Roads- Rathangan Depot
- Roads- Downings Pit Depot
- Roads-Monasterevin Depot-
- Roads -Toughers Depot
- Roads – Maynooth Depot
- Roads-Gallows Hill Depot
- Finance-Aras Chill Dara
- Planning -Aras Chill Dara
- Human Resources- Aras Chill Dara



- Architects – Aras Chill Dara
 - Leixlip Library
 - Housing – Aras Chill Dara
 - Kerdiffstown Recreation Park
2. DSE (Display Screen Equipment) Assessment:
 - a. Eight completed as part of blended working application.
 - b. Two completed at Aras following concerns of poor seat support and back discomfort and one completed for a new start.
 3. Pregnancy Risk Assessment:
 - a. One completed in Housing.
 - b. One completed at transportation.
 4. Induction completed for new staff - via Microsoft teams- 43 in attendance.
 5. Health and Safety Roadshows in the following locations and dates (129 in attendance):
 - a. Maynooth and Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District's-11 September
 - b. Naas Municipal District-12 September
 - c. Newbridge Municipal District and Machinery Yard -25 September
 6. Review of aerial acrobatics show safety management plan in Aras - 26-28 August.
 7. Set up folders on the shared drive for each office /section in Aras chill Dara – key Health and Safety items within.
 8. Working with Proworks Team to enable the completion of accident reports, inspections etc on Proworks APP.
 9. Completed driving for work RAMS on the direction of HSA visit to Athy Municipal District
 10. Meeting with Crime Prevention Officer from An Garda Siochana – Dealing with Hostile Individuals.
 11. Uploading of Health and Safety documentation to Uisce Eireann.
 12. Meeting re Kerdiffstown handover and Health and Safety requirements.
 13. Finalised speakers and agenda for Health and Safety Conference -25 October – Osprey Hotel:
 - a. 9.00-9.05 – Opening Address – Sonya Kavanagh
 - b. 9.05-10.05- Karl Henry- Fitness Expert, Radio and TV Broadcaster, Author and Podcast Host
 - c. 10.05-11.05-Dr. Brendan O'Shea- End of Life Planning and the use of Think Ahead



Planning Pack. Introduction to Atlantic Humanitarian Relief and their Project in Jordan with Syrian Refugees.

- d. 11.05-11.30 Networking
- e. 11.30-12.30- Dermot Whelan- Radio and TV Broadcaster, Comedian and Mediation Expert.

14. Update on Health Screenings completed.

Location	Completed Screenings
Naas	249
Athy	24
Maynooth	28
Total	301

Accessibility:

- 1. Official launch of video of accessibility highlights as part of Social Inclusion Week.
 - a. Long: <https://f.io/aQAYng8D>
 - b. Short: <https://f.io/Mre2qu6Z>
- 2. Working on County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Website set-up with external consultant
- 3. Meetings:
 - a. Naas Access Group Meeting

- b. Celbridge Access Group Meeting
 - c. CKAN Meeting
- 4. WAM Webinar – Delivered by Ahead- Understanding ADHD in the Workplace
- 5. Disability Equality Training Workshop- LGMA
 - a. Delivered Presentation on work done to date in Kildare – re Access Strategy and projects delivered.
- 6. Presentation to audit committee on Accessibility Programme of Works 2023-Current status of Key Objectives
- 7. Presentation to SPC – Update on Accessibility
- 8. LECP consultation with CKAN (County Kildare Access Network)
- 9. National Pride of Place Award – Our World Toy Initiative.

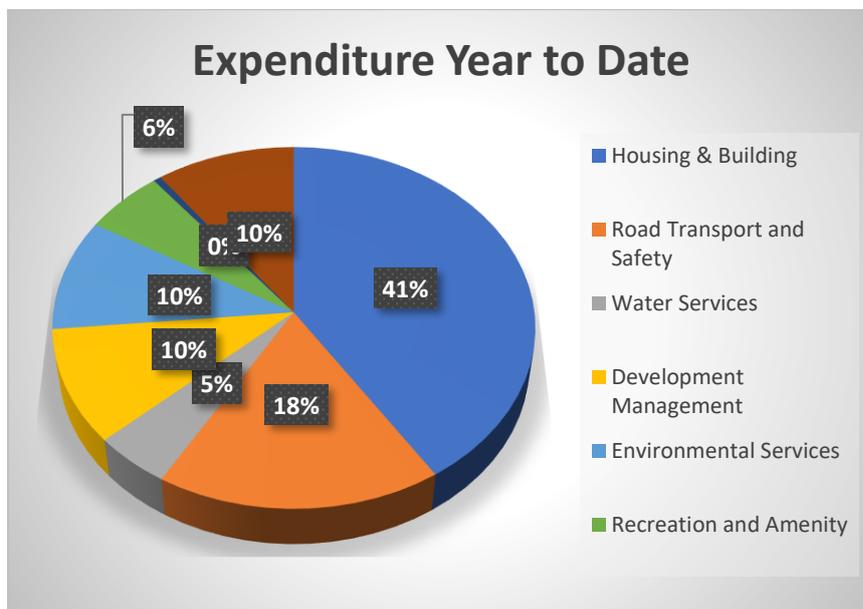


Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Sept 2023				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	63,843	66,041	97%	2,198
Road Transport and Safety	27,714	40,812	68%	13,098
Water Services	7,481	10,174	74%	2,693
Development Management	16,011	25,606	63%	9,595
Environmental Services	15,616	21,947	71%	6,331
Recreation and Amenity	9,108	14,018	65%	4,910
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	870	1,376	63%	506
Miscellaneous Services	15,827	19,070	83%	3,243
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	156,470	199,044	79%	42,574



As Members are aware the budget in the public sector represents the ceiling to funding provision of a service – ie excluding additional grants, the budget

amount is the maximum spend that can be incurred.

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget



holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure.

The executive is very conscious of the need to monitor and manage

expenditure and to ensure that overall budgets are not exceeded whilst at the same time delivering services in accordance with the budget agreed by Members.

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 September 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/09/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	1,638,796	50,371	71,174,314	48,698,279	22,476,035
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	13,967,712	37,153	-	15,273,805	13,678,574	1,595,231
Housing Loans	1,623,567	2,968,345	7,405	-	4,584,507	2,956,788	1,627,719

Cashflow / Overdraft

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

Budget 2024

Members have been circulated with the LPT details for 2024 which includes the results of the Baseline Review.

Statutory budget date – 20 November 2023, with a briefing on Monday 13 November 2023.

2022 Audit

The Local Government Auditor is currently auditing the 2022 Annual Financial Statements.

Risk Management

The individual directorates are currently work-shopping their individual Risk Registers with IPB. The revised corporate risk register was brought to the Audit and Risk Committee in September. The Audit Committee expressed satisfaction at the new approach.



Innovation

“Public Service Transformation Week” will take place from 23 October to 27 October 2023 to celebrate and reflect on the ongoing work on innovation and transformation initiatives across the public service. To coincide with this week there will be a number of local innovation-related events.



There will be an Innovation Masterclass on the morning of the 24 October.

In the afternoon a Creative Ideation Workshop will be held with some of our colleagues exploring the topic of Voter Registration and Participation. This is an innovation technique used to spark innovation, encourage discussion, idea generation and team collaboration.



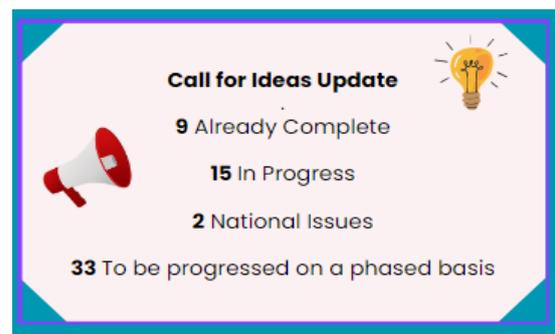
SETU Certificate in Strategy for Innovation and Decision Making



We were delighted with the staff response to our recent expression of interest for this course.

This is a Level eight Micro-Credential delivered by SETU Carlow.

Over 20 of our colleagues embarked on this learning journey on the 29 September which will further develop their strategic, innovation and decision making skills.



Great progress is being made on our Call for Ideas with 24 suggestions implemented or underway!



Congratulations to our colleagues in the Commercial Rates and IT Teams who were shortlisted in the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards. These awards recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in the delivery of public sector digital transformation.

The Teams were shortlisted in the Data Innovation of the Year Category for their solution GeoCollect.

The Teams worked together to design and develop GeoCollect a data visualisation tool that integrates multiple, complex datasets (e.g. GeoDirectory/Rates Valuation Data) and geospatial data together in one place through a customised Geographical Information System.

Coming shortly after our success in the Excellence in Local Government Awards it is wonderful to see more of our colleagues being recognised for their creativity, innovation and collaboration!

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions in respect of residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of the build of the units by 31 December 2025.

On the fifteenth day of each month each Local Authority is to submit a claim to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15th Oct 2023
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	54	€621,994
Apartments	16	€47,484
Total	70	€669,478

Motor Tax

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



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

IT Services

IT continue to focus on the following:

- AV revamp of the Chamber is nearly completed providing a fully integrated AV solution which will support both hybrid and live streaming meeting capabilities.
- Cyber Security Programme On going staff training and installation of extra cyber security solutions.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Summary of Social Housing Assessments – SSHA

Work is progressing on the 2023 Summary and every effort continues to be made to contact all applicants to ensure they update their housing

applications. Reminder letters have issued to applicants and in the event of non-reply follow up telephone calls will be made in an effort to make contact. The 2023 Assessment is on target to be returned in advance of the return date of the 29 November 2023. It should be noted Local authority, Housing Assistance Paymen(HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or transfer tenants are not included in this assessment.

Homeless Services

Regional Homelessness Forum and Strategic Management Group (SMG)

A meeting of the Regional Homelessness Forum and SMG was held in the Council Offices on 28 September 2023 and was attended by staff from Meath, Wicklow and Kildare County Councils along with representatives from multiple agencies including the HSE, Tusla, The Peter McVerry Trust, KWETB and the Probation Service. The preparation of the Draft Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2026 was considered and further input from the members of the Forum and SMG was discussed and will be developed in the coming weeks. This Plan will act as a blueprint for Homelessness service provision in the region for the next three years and will



be an active working document for all three local authorities. The plan is being prepared taking into consideration the guidance produced by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) under Circular 22/2021 for the preparation of plans.

Homeless Outreach

Street Work/Outreach:

In the month of September, the Outreach Team covered all Municipal Districts on a regular basis to identify rough sleepers. The areas covered were; Leixlip-Celbridge, Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas town and Sallins.

Clinics:

The Outreach team offered housing advice clinics to those who could not attend the council offices in person. These clinics were facilitated in Cuan Mhuire Athy, Aras, Newbridge and housing advice clinics in Celbridge and Newbridge. The team also conducted assessments with hospital and prison discharges.

Visits to Service Providers:

The Outreach team organised meetings with The Peter McVerry Trust in Eyre Street, Newbridge and Kerdiffstown and with Mount Offaly to

review clients housing needs and to discuss exit strategies.

Exits from Emergency

Accommodation.

There were 14 move-ons in the month of September; facilitated through HAP, social housing and some clients returning to family. Three of the move-ons were Housing First tenancies.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 48 active tenancy sustainment cases, with nine on the waiting list and one successful discharge in September. Sustainment Officers have engaged in two housing clinics, in the Prosperous Family Hub and Athy Family Hub.

Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS)

The Council has submitted six (6) CRTiS applications to the Housing Agency and awaits the outcome of these assessments.

Traveller Accommodation

Caravan Loan Scheme 2023:

The DHLGH is continuing the nationwide Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme, to support the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation providing preferential loans to



Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home on halting sites for use as their primary residence. One caravan/mobile purchase has been allocated to Kildare for 2023. Two caravans were purchased under last year's scheme.

Vacant Homes

Croí Cónaithe

One Hundred and sixteen (116) applications have been received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

Town Centre First (TCF)

Consultants have been appointed to prepare a plan for Clane Town Centre under the TCF policy.

Housing Allocations

For the period January to September 2023, the council allocated a total of 888 properties throughout the county, which includes 281 properties for the period July to September and 328 more properties than allocated for the same period in 2022. Among the locations that allocations took place were Newbridge, Leixlip, Naas, Celbridge and Kildare Town. In an effort to address the number of refusals of offers of allocation, the use of Choice Based Letting (CBL) has been continually increased.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expected substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Works progressing well on site. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023.
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 documents being prepared in advance of Stage 3 application to DHLGH. Engagement ongoing with residents.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Observation period complete. Awaiting feedback from An Board Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed and progressing detailed design.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Letter of acceptance to be issued following revision to surface water design.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Design and build tender issued; tender return date 31 st October.
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]. Retender for design team required on the advice of DHLGH.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	ESB have removed poles and overhead line. ESB to return to remove redundant underground cable crossing PPP and halting site extension.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Part 8 proposed to launch Q1 2024.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender being prepared.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Single stage funding approval confirmed.



Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Initial meetings held with design team. Competition entries to be put on public display following appointment of successful consultants. Site surveys ongoing.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Feasibility study complete (former KARE site). Stage 1 application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Detailed design and tender documents being prepared for construction tender.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Works tender issued. Tender return date 18 th October.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	On site; expected substantial completion Q2 2024
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Design team appointed, survey works and site investigation completed.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: ESB to return to remove underground cable crossing field. PQQ assessment complete and dialogue stage to start with shortlisted bidders imminently.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Design work ongoing, meetings with internal departments ongoing, site investigation works to commence 9 October 2023.



Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Design work ongoing, meetings with internal departments ongoing as well as survey works.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team being procured by NDFA, target appointment mid-November. S85 agreement with Cork County Council to be considered at October Council meeting
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team to be procured by NDFA, target appointment mid November. S85 agreement with Cork County Council to be considered at October Council meeting

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team appointed by Cluid. Pre-planning meetings held and Cluid developing scheme based on feedback.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
Sofia Housing- St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Draft Part 8 being prepared.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Decision to grant issued on 22 June 2023. Cluid progressing detailed roads design with Transportation.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH. Draft Planning Pack received and being reviewed.



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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	23	33	33
6 - 12 Months	8	13	14
12 - 18 Months	3	5	3
18 - 24 Months	3	6	4
24 - 30 Months	2	5	2
36 Months +	1	2	6
	40	64	62

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 September 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	6	13	14
6 - 12 Months	5	7	9
12 - 18 Months	2	3	5
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	0	0	0
	13	23	28

Homeless Presentations

2022	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1357	506	851
2023	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	441	153	288
Quarter 2	497	119	378
Quarter 3	513	172	341
Total	1451	444	1007



Homeless Presentations: Case Breakdown

2022	Adults	Dependents
Total	595	438
2023	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	182	147
Quarter 2	138	102
Quarter 3	197	110
Total	517	359

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
Q2 2023	78	37	1	1	119	72
Q3 2023	76	37	2	2	74	35
Total YTD	243	130	5	5	311	187

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP	69	Works complete to Ballyroe and Lacken View and Ottomy.
2023 EERP	86 (2023 Target)	Tender awarded for 31 units in Clane/Maynooth; work due to commence in the coming weeks. 57 units identified in Naas/Ballymore Eustace; tender documents being prepared.



			Remaining 6 units to be drawn from housing maintenance.
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Acquisitions

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed Jan-September 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	45
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	45
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	42
Total complete	379	187	110	209	132

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	16	34	29	44	9
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	5	33	5	65	2

Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2022	31	€6,566,236	3	€611,550	6	€1,256,375
Q1 2023	8	€2,212,970	3	€632,000	6	€1,090,750
Q2 2023	11	€2,201,857	5	€931,000	7	€1,507,607
Q3 2023	13	€2,222,400	5	€1,0985.30	2	€380,000



Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
2022	24	1	6
Q1 2023	17	1	2
Q2 2023	15	1	7
Q3 2023	13	2	2

Social Housing Assessments

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
2022	157	42	642	7	286
Q1 2023	106	3	210	5	61
Q2 2023	94	18	278	11	67
Q3 2023	65	2	400	0	107

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2022	127	45	9,361	8,275
Q1 2023	42	5	3,157	2,407
Q2 2023	29	8	2,342	1,535
Q3 2023	35	5	2,437	1,485
Total	106	18	7,936	5,427

Differential Rents Scheme - Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA HAP Review
2022 Total	1336	334	479
Q1 2023	541	98	109
Q2 2023	532	123	95
Q3 2023	602	122	129
2023 YTD	1675	343	333



Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2022	383	98	324
Q1 2023	85	3	79
Q2 2023	116	3	105
Q3 2023	98	7	133
2023 YTD	299	13	317

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,548,455 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €8,858,455 (incl add funding requested)	Construction	Contractor continues to work South to North Fisherstown, Courtwook and Vicarstown substantially complete. Works underway at the M7 underpass (Laois), Monasterevin, Clogheen Bridge, Cardington Bridge and Lennons Bridge. Milltown Bridge is complete. Discussions ongoing with Irish Rail regarding works at the Railway Bridge in Monasterevin. Awaiting confirmation of additional funding from RRDF.
	Greenway – Phase 1 Aylmer Bridge to Sallins	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	Construction	Sallins tie-in of Phase 1 and 2 to streamline route requires Part 8. The process will commence in September. Footbridge



					(Sallins) has been installed successfully.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€213,000	€213,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Detailed Design	Constructive engagement with WWI ongoing. Ground investigation works continue. Additional Part 8 required for 2 bridges and work on this will commence in October. Structure proposed for Lowtown to facilitate taking Greenway users off the public road and coming into Robertstown on the town side. Bridge proposed on the eastern side of existing Bonyngge Bridge, providing access to the southern side of the canal and proposed Greenway, without users crossing over the existing bridge. Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. KCC in on-going discussions with landowners.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Fáilte Ireland	Part 8	Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the



			€1,000,000 KCC/LPT		business/residents surrounding The Square. Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023. Engaging with the MD office to deliver some interim works to secure The Square and remove parking.
	Newbridge Cultural Quarter (Phase 1 County Library & Archive)	€656,412	€492,000 URDF €164,412 LPT	Part 8 (Library)	County Library: Part 8 was approved by the elected members, without modification.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Review of the draft document underway with fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)	€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.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€2,707,500 (RRDF) €2,200,000 (KCC)		Tender documents in progress. Awaiting confirmation of additional funding allocation from RRDF. A decision on an application to Just Transition for funding assistance is also expected.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€2,707,500 (RRDF) €2,200,000 (KCC)	Tender assessment	Awaiting confirmation of additional funding allocation from RRDF.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA and work has commenced.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the works they would like to see undertaken.



	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	A review of the document is underway.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	The Economic Feasibility study has been completed. Preparation will commence on the Part 8 design in preparation for URDF Call 4 application.
	The Acre Project	TBC	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	Work has commenced on preparing the tender documents for a feasibility study for the next phase of this project.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA completed.
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA completed.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case has been approved by URDF team to prepare a Masterplan informed by an urban design analysis and stakeholder/public consultation. The TRMP will include an exploration project to determine the potential for a



					district heating scheme within the historic grid town centre. (Pilot Feasibility Study). SPPR will liaise with CARO to investigate if any work has been carried out in this area. This could be a joint project SPPR/ CARO. Student collaboration project; a pilot project, participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students/community during design process may include the development of an online platform. The development of key Town Renewal Projects will proceed once the Masterplan is completed.
	Harbourfield	€3,438,500 €3,134,541	€2,574,375 URDF	Detailed Design & Works	Business case approved by DHLGH.
	Bawnogues Community Centre		€858,125 KCC/LPT 100% KCC funded	Construction	Handover date to be confirmed.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks
	Johnstown Bridge Health	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks



	Check/Urban Analysis				
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Presentation given to the elected members on September 1 st with feedback provided to the consultant. Preparing for public consultation piece which will be held in person in the coming weeks.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Presentation given to the elected members on September 1 st with feedback provided to the consultant. Preparing for public consultation piece which will be held in person in the coming weeks.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Presentation given to the elected members on September 1 st with feedback provided to the consultant. Preparing for public consultation piece which will be held in person in the coming weeks.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Presentation given to the elected members on September 1 st with feedback provided to the consultant. Preparing for public consultation piece which will



					be held in person in the coming weeks.
Naas	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns Initiative grant €248,931	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00. Letter of Acceptance has issued for the Electrical and Drainage works.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. KCC to submit an update on the Feasibility Study for the Castle Quarter, Conservation Management Plan and Archaeological Survey for St. Davids Castle and Grounds which were planned under sub project B.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the</p>



					current status of planned acquisitions. Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	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 has been relocated to outside Urban Kitchen/Costa on Dublin Road with the assistance of the MD office. Very well received. Naas Tidy Towns have generously assisted with the planting. Funding remains in place for 4 other parklets to be installed on the Main Street. Failte Ireland have confirmed that no further extensions will be granted, we had hoped to align with the Pathfinder Project. At a previous MD meeting the Naas members agreed that no



					further parking bays would be suspended to facilitate parklets. The MD Manager and Members have been informed of the current position.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V €7,000 LPT	Masterplan	Presentation to Management Team took place on 3 October.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community Grants

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

All Grants 2023			
Type	No.	Amount	
Community Grants	152	€251,702	
Festival Grants	68	€82,300	
Private Residents' Associations Grants	273	€242,695	Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€41,243	Incl LPT
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	122	€840,500	
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	69	€182,855	
Community Support Fund			
Education Bursaries			
Drehid Grants	43	€179,560	
Total	777	€1,820,855	

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

The next clinic in 2023 is scheduled for: Monday 23 October 2023.

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

Uisce Éireann is formulating responses to any outstanding queries



via the Local representative Support Desk.

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

Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy with Uisce Éireann taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services. Uisce Éireann is engaging with key national bodies and representative groups to prepare for the implementation of the Framework provisions.

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

Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

Environment

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, are co-ordinating 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. Details are on www.mywaste.ie

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



Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices

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

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

Water Framework Directive

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

The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period 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.



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: <http://www.nwcpo.ie/>

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

Capital funding is the key challenge in the delivery of this project.

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The OPW has confirmed approval of funding for the appointment of a consultant to deliver the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. A presentation detailing the design process will be



made to the Municipal District members.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

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



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

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.

Cemetery Extensions

Allen

Works are nearing completion.

Staplestown

It is expected to advance with detailed design and tendering during Quarter 3 2023 to facilitate the opening of the new part of this Cemetery.

Confey

As agreed with the Municipal District members, minor works are planned to create some additional space within



the existing cemetery, as it is approaching capacity.

Other Capital Improvement Works

Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

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

Boycetown, Kilcock

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

Cemetery Maintenance Programme

This programme includes footpath resurfacing, drainage improvements, tree maintenance, and completion of old works.

Climate

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

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 01 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.



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

The Minister has set a date of 23 February 2024 to finalise the plans plus one month for publication. The team is working towards adoption by Full Council in November/December 2023 to enable the plan to be launched by January 2024.

Local Authority Progress Reporting – Climate Adaptation Strategies:

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

collated by CARO for submission to the Department.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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

In the Southeast (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The



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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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.

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) has also committed funding for phases two and three of the programme and will provide through 2023 and 2024.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



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

The draft Climate Action Plan incorporating the Decarbonising Zone is out for public consultation until 4:00 p.m., 03 November. We are working towards adoption by Full Council on 18 December 2023 to enable the plan to be published in January 2024.



Decarbonising Zone (DZ) – Maynooth

The Climate Action Office has streamlined 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 DZ Plan was adopted on 31 July to inform the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) being compiled presently and Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and other policies.

An Taisce held a public consultation event on the evening of the 28 September to gather the local community's preferred actions.



Public Awareness of DZ and Climate Action

Maynooth Community Council in conjunction with the Climate Action Office jointly hosted the “Picnic in the Park” fun event informed on consultation opportunities and built awareness around the Decarbonizing Zone and climate action at the personal and community levels through creativity and fun. The event was attended by approximately 2,000

people and took place on the 18 June, 2023



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. CODEMA provides core



services to the local authorities associated including Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System review now finalised.

The unit is combining efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI's Pathfinder funding scheme to provide financial support for defined projects through a register of opportunities being developed. Funding for the installation of Photo Voltaic (PV) cells has been awarded for the Cotton Mills building and the works are to be undertaken in 2023 by Facilities Section.

Climate Action SPC:

The scheduled meeting on 13 September took place and two presentations were given. The first by Dr. Ursula King on conservating and restoring Kildare's Biodiversity. This was followed by a presentation on the progression of the LA CAP and DZ. The next meeting is scheduled for 06 December 2023.

Alternative Fuel of the Council's Fleet

The CCMA have published its Electric Vehicle (EV) Guidance Document for Local Authorities;

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



Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action:



Invitation to Collaboratively fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County Councils. It is 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.

Other Initiatives



‘Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action’

Under Creative Climate Action Fund II: ‘Agents for Change Creative Ireland’ informed Kildare County Council on 12 July that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 has been approved. This conditional offer is subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre

will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced with Maynooth University.

Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund



The Climate Action Office is reapplying for 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 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 the bid has been successful and funding of €50,000 awarded. 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.

Research

Climate Innovation Fund 2023



The projects funded under the 2022 scheme are concluding in July 2023. The fund launched on 30 June and the closing date was 30 July 2023. One successful submission was made in the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District.

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) has produced a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces and documented research practices undertaken and disseminated to ten Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland.

PhD research has commenced to inform the process further.

Branding

The Climate Action Office has engaged Designedly to brand the office and Decarbonising Zone along with the graph input to finalise Kildare's Climate Action Plan.

Local Community

Development Committee

October 2023

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 27 September 2023 in the Merits building.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in



Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities.

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

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

LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC as Local Action Group (LAG) and County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) as Implementing Partner, submitted a plan in mid-July, to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for the next round of LEADER funding 2023-2028. The outcome from this application is awaited.

The current LEADER budget is allocated, with projects having until 31 March 2024 to complete their work.

The LEADER funded Barrow Blueway Economic Plan project has won an award at the Irish Planning Institute's Irish Awards 2023 ceremony under the

category 'Employment and Enterprise'. The awards aim to highlight innovation and excellence in Irish planning.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare.

Seed Funding applications for €75,000 for projects in Athy in 2023 have been approved by Dept. of Health. The four themes are: (1) Food Insecurity (2) Traveller Wellbeing (3) Supporting Vulnerable Children and Young People (4) Woodstock Artist in Residency.

SLAs are finalised with the various project partners. Three of the programmes have commenced under the themes of (1) Food Insecurity (2) Traveller Wellbeing (3) Woodstock Artist in Residency.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph.



087-9974155 or email
mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county in 2023. The priorities of the programme for 2023 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have been signed with the four project partners in the HI Round 4 strategy 2023 - 2025. Programmes are ongoing.

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

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Consultation is now underway to inform the LECP. The Advisory Steering Group, Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC and LCDC met in September and received an update on progress.

Analysis of the online survey, the consultation sessions organised by Kildare PPN, alongside interviews that have taken place with businesses, statutory and community organisations is currently underway. Final consultations are scheduled, and following from this, draft objectives and actions will be developed. AIRO in Maynooth University are starting to assess Census 2022 which is being released in sections over the coming months. It is expected to have the final plan in early 2024 to allow for the updated Census data to inform the plan.

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

Community Support Fund

Kildare was allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups



with small grants towards running costs, equipment and repairs. Successful applicants are currently being paid.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 29 November 2023

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Roads

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M4 Westbound

The Westbound project will progress to the end of Phase 2.

Athy Main Street (N78)

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

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

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

Leinster Road Bridges

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

Athy Distributor Road (BAM, Roughan and O Donovan)

The scheme is nearing completion with substantial completion likely in Quarter 4 2023.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn (Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

Project is nearing completion. Regional Salt Barn is 95% complete.



Yard is 95% complete. Admin Building is 80% complete.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (Roughan and O Donovan)

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

Maynooth Transport Strategy (Aecom)

The ABTA is currently being finalised and will issue to councillors for information before being published.

Newbridge Transport Strategy (Aecom)

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

Junction Programme

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

These schemes are listed below:

- 1.Dagwelds Cross R403/R409
- 2.Prosperous Main Junction R403/L2002

- 3.Allenwood Cross Roads R403/R415
- 4.Berts Cross, Athy R417/ L8-68/7
- 5.Watchhouse Cross, Naas R411/ L2023

Surveying at these locations has commenced.

Phase 1B tender assessment is underway for the next five junctions

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

Planning permission 22/1504 for part of relief road and second bridge over the Liffey has been granted by Kildare County Council to Aston Limited.

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

€90,000 allocation. Project ready for construction, but there is insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth- Leixlip)

€3,000,000 allocation. Section one is open to the public. The rest of the scheme, from Louise Bridge to Maynooth is being retendered.



Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

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

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

€240,000. Project ready for construction, pending land transfer agreements but there is insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

€5,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA received to upgrade section of route west of Naas Harbour and to commence the Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

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. Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation. NTA has requested alternative options to be examined.

Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

€160,000 allocation. Detailed design complete. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

€2,675,000 allocation. Works progressing well.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

€500,000 allocation. Detailed design of bridge structure continuing.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Active Travel Scheme

€60,000 allocation. Following discussions with the NTA, scheme is not being advanced.

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 90% complete.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

€15,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

€800,000 allocation. Construction completed.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

€110,000 allocation. Project ready for construction, but there is insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

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

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

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



Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas Active Travel Measures

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

Supplementary Projects

Commitment given by NTA in Council chamber to approve funding for several projects and the application process is ongoing.

Pathfinder Project

Commitment given by Department of Transport to reallocate funding for the preparation of the Part 8 process and business case application for Climate Action funding.

Speed Limit Review

Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State Jack Chambers TD announced the publication of the

final report emerging from the recently finalised Speed Limit Review on 14 September 2023. This Speed Limit Review, which is a high impact action under the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, makes a number of recommendations.

Changes to the default speed limits will require primary legislation and it is envisaged that the necessary legislation could be passed in Quarter 1 2024. Statutory guidelines will also be updated such that implementation of the Review's recommendations can commence during 2024.

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2023 is nearing completion – all records now to be uploaded onto MapRoad PMS system. Surface Dressing work carried out by direct labour is fully complete and again Kildare County Council treated over 4% of Non-National Road network.

Annual call from Department of Transport for grant funding requests on Bridge Rehabilitation, Road Safety works, CCAR (Climate) and former National Roads (FNR) for 2024 are



currently being prepared to be submitted in coming weeks.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Road Surfacing grant to value €67,500 to be drawn down via PRS to cover works carried out on N78 (Athy – M9 Roundabout). Other maintenance monies will be utilised on both N78 and N81 before year end.

Winter Maintenance season starts on 16 October and preparations are well advanced (Plant, Labour and Salt stocks). Duty Engineers are appointed to monitor weather via Viasala system. Tool Box Talk to be carried out in Machinery Yard for all drivers before start of season.

Public Lighting

PLEEP Survey to commence in November of this year followed by detailed design in Quarter 1/2 2024 with works on site to commence in Quarter 3 2024. Contract duration is for eight months and due for completion in Quarter 2 2024 which will lead to annual savings of approx. € 750,000 on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

Open Spaces (Parks)

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Works have commenced on the playground. The facility is due to be completed in February 2023. However, this time scale may change depending on weather and ground conditions.

Play Day

The event was held on the 16 September. 3500 people attended the event. This included 1100 children.

Outdoor Gym, Celbridge

The Outdoor Gym in Celbridge has been installed. It features a range of equipment for use for all ages and abilities.

Kerdiffstown Park

A range of price points for the use of the All-Weather playing facilities have been developed. These have been circulated to clubs who submitted an expression of interest earlier this year. Once the initial allocations are made K- Leisure will be the contact for bookings. A specific website will be available for bookings.



Monread Park Playground

Work is currently underway to install a new basket swing, sandpit and seesaw. This work should be complete by the end of October.

Properous Playground

A new wheelchair swing has been installed in Prosperous Playground.

Communications Board

A communications board has been installed in The People's Park Playground. Work is now underway to install boards in Newbridge, Prosperous, Kill and Celbridge Playgrounds.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Service

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023 and replaced the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

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

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

Chief Executive Report on submissions issued to Elected Members for their consideration at a Special meeting of the Municipal District on 26 October 2023.

Joint Maynooth and Environs

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

Visioning workshop arranged for the 6 October 2023.

Newbridge

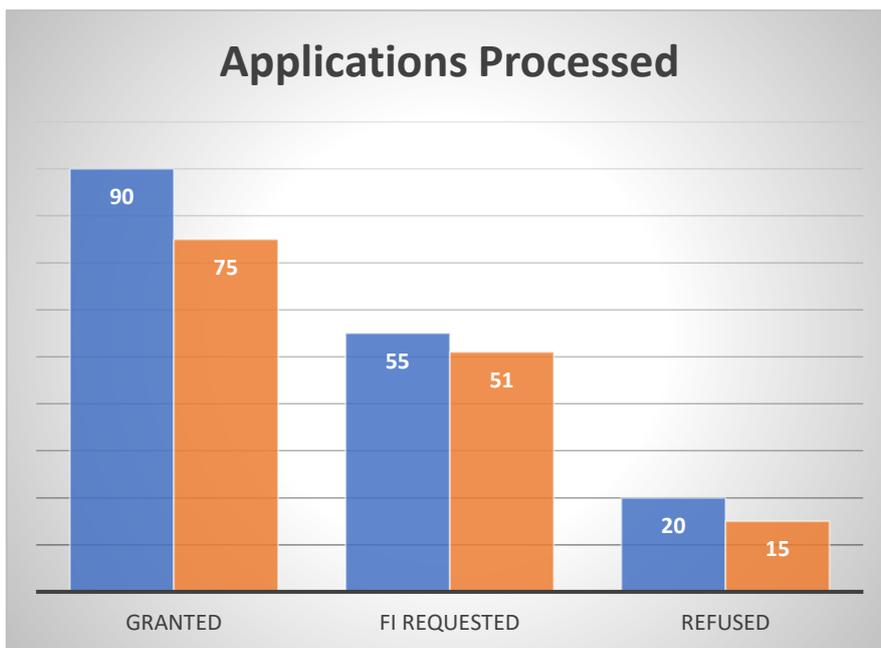
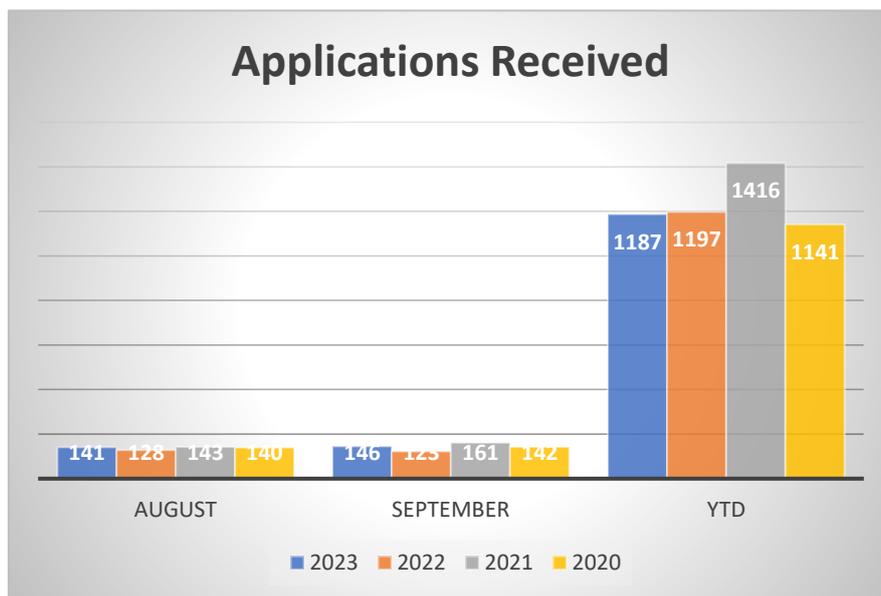
Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation will commence on 10 October 2023 with an in-community event on 09 November 2023 in Newbridge Town Hall. There is also an Art competition as part of the predraft consultation.

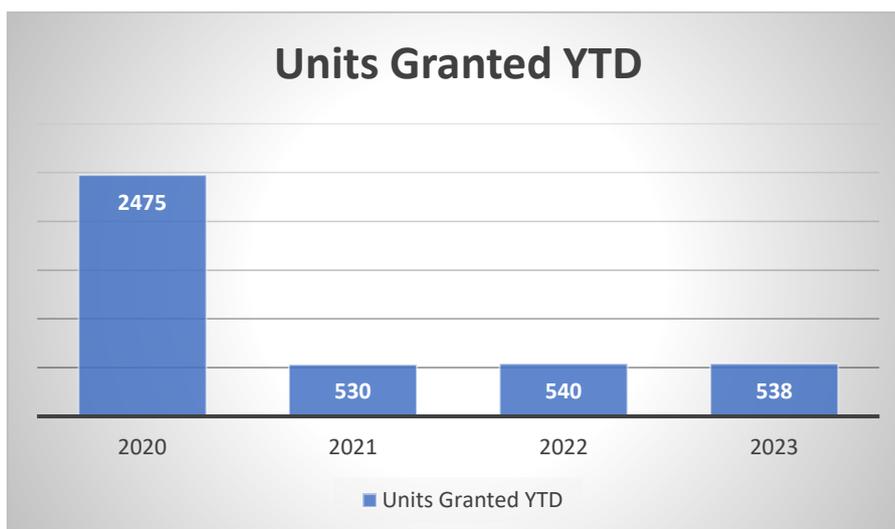


Development Management

ePlanning

ePlanning went live in Kildare on 27 June 2023. This enables applications and submissions/refs to be submitted via the online planning portal. Confirmation of our live status was communicated to planning agents and Elected Members and positively acknowledged. To date we have seen a steady rate of applications and submissions coming through the online portal, with electronic applications representing c.58.4% of all applications received.





Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Decision Date 12/10/2023
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Decision Due 12/11/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date 12/10/2023



Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Heritage - Progress Updates

1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Second HMAC meeting took place on 4 October which comprised a bus tour to Clane Friary, Donaghcumper and Laraghbryan.

2. Historic Landscape

Characterisation for Naas

7L Architects appointed (€22,694). Final report to be completed October 2023.

3. Audit of Military Structures

Archaeology Plan appointed (€14,975). Final report to be completed October 2023.

4. UNESCO

Consultants have been appointed to conduct the mapping of the site attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

5. Wells publication

Due to be published in Quarter 4 2023 which identifies all known wells throughout County Kildare. A follow-on

exhibition will then be organized to showcase the results.

6. Brigid 1500

Heritage Officer working with project manager on Brigid 1500 lesson plans, academic conference, local history talks and pattern days to wells.

Heritage Unit was involved in the schools pack and local seminars.

B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

1. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP)

LBAPs now completed, with community groups in 2023. Development of the Kildare inaugural LBAP network was established in September.

2. Lullybeg conservation project

Lullybeg project has commenced with Butterfly Conservation Ireland

3. Hedgerows

Organising a hedgerow laying course to be run in October 2023. Working with consultants on a pilot townland hedgerow survey in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.



4. Biodiversity Conference

Organising and presenting at a Kildare Biodiversity Conference in conjunction with Kildare Wildlife Rescue on 14 October at the Keadeen, Hotel where the Minister of State for Forestry, Pippa Hackett will also speak at the event.

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Site visits are being undertaken for the 17 BHIS projects that were awarded grant funding earlier in 2023. Reports on foot of these site visits will then be submitted to the Department who funds this scheme.

2. Historic Structures Fund

Site visits are being undertaken for both Lodge Park, Straffan and St. David's Castle, Naas that were awarded grant funding earlier in 2023. Reports on foot of these site visits must then be submitted to the Department who funds this scheme.

3. Heritage Stewardship Fund Scheme

The Heritage Council has awarded €28,628 to Kildare County Council for

a partial review of the Record of Protected Structures in four Kildare towns; Castledermot, Rathangan, Kilcock and Kilcullen. Alison Rea Architects Ltd has been appointed to undertake this work for Kildare County Council.

4. Conservation Management Plan for St. David's Castle, Naas

Consultants (Carrig) appointed to undertake the Conservation Management Plan to be completed by the end of Quarter 4 2023.

5. Kildare Built Heritage Stocktake Project -

A Department funded project. Consultants (Alison Rea) appointed to undertake a partial review of the Kildare County Council 'Record of Protected Structures'. Work to be completed in November 2023.

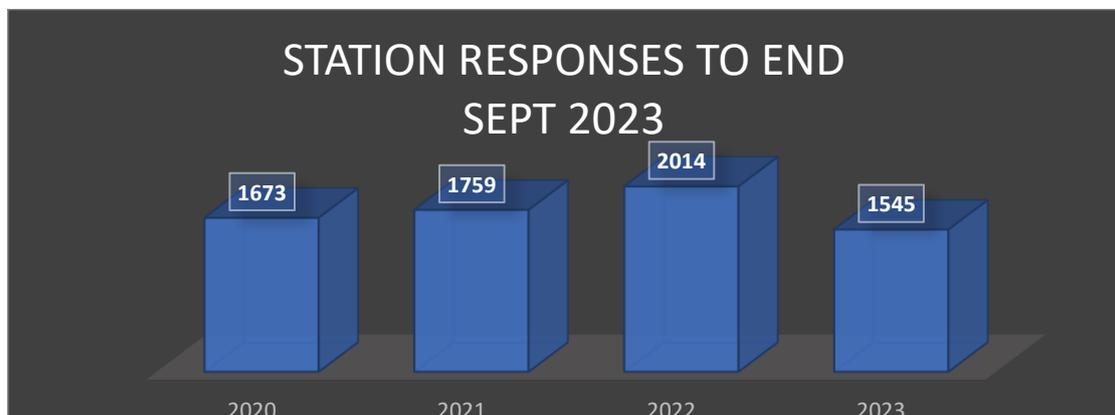
6. Cassidy's Distillery – Conservation Management Plan

Consultants (Howley Hayes Cooney) appointed to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Complex in Monasterevin. Report due for completion March 2024



Fire Service Operations:

2023 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

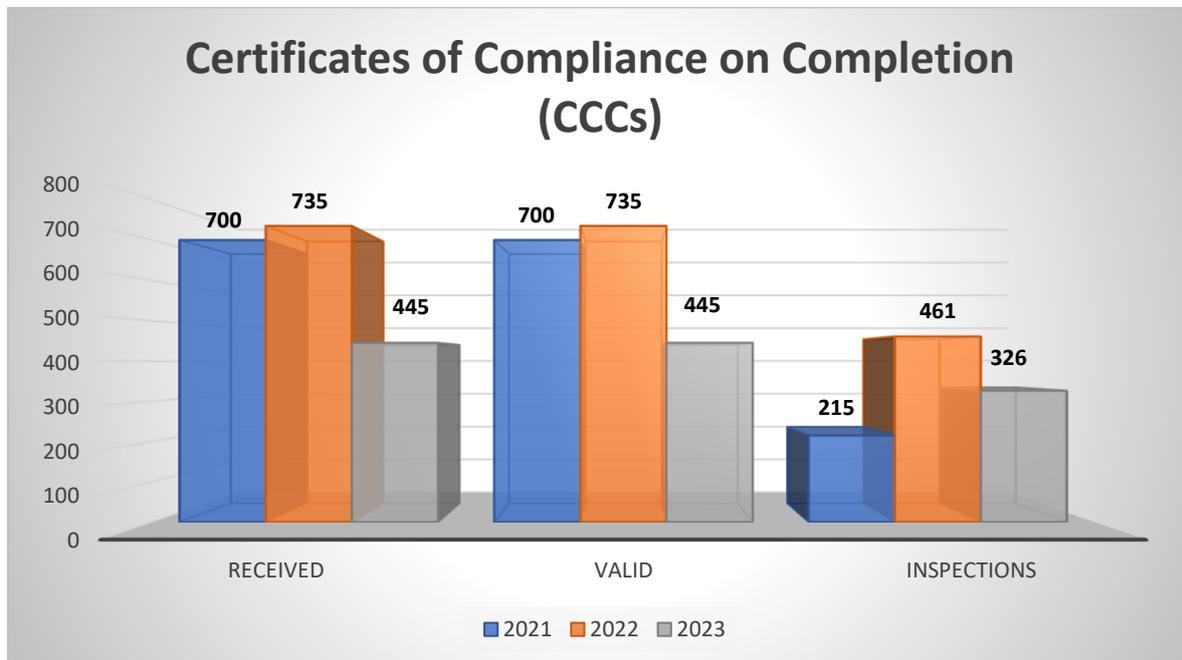
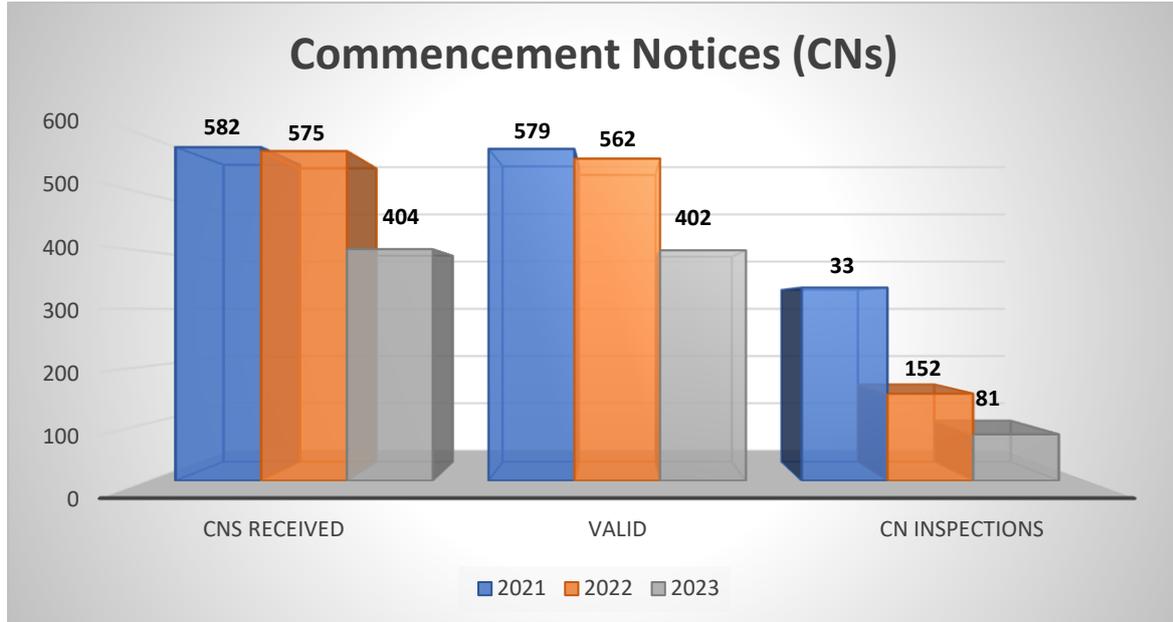


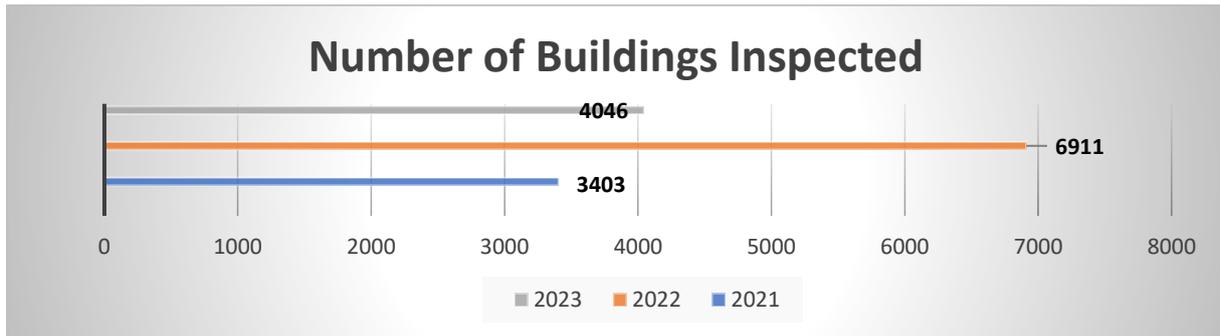


Building and Development Control

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

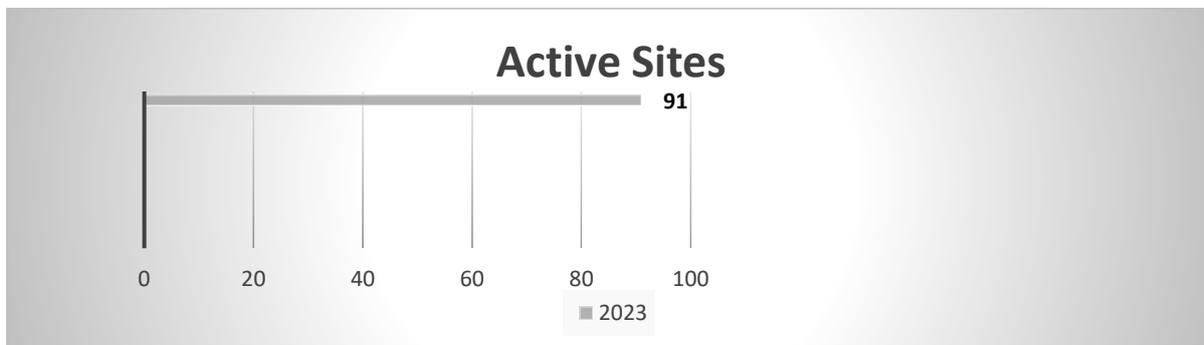
Building Control





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

Development Control



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

A number of engaging activities were successfully executed by the Into Kildare team in September, including a networking event to support members of the tourism and hospitality industry in County Kildare. Into Kildare also welcomed a number of new members

to the Into Kildare network from the tourism and hospitality trade.



Martin Donnolly Fáilte Ireland, Janet Murphy and Chloe Kimmins, Into Kildare, Brian O'Flynn IAE



Into Kildare attended the Horizon Irish Open at the K Club from the 7 September to 10 September. Into Kildare team exhibited on the Discover Ireland stand promoting County Kildare and its offerings to visitors attending the event. The Into Kildare team distributed chocolates to visitors supplied by Lily O'Brien's.



Adrian Mooney Kilkea Castle, Áine Mangan Into Kildare, Anna Quinn Kilkea Castle, Eoghan Corry, Travel Writer

Into Kildare was delighted to host a members networking luncheon in partnership with Kildare Village. Victor Biffi Rosano, Business Director of Kildare Village and his team welcomed our members to the event. The event was a great success with over 65 representatives from our membership attending. These included B&Bs, tidy towns, restaurants, hotels and attractions from all over the County and the event provided a key platform for networking. Eoghan O'Mara Walsh the CEO of the Irish Tourism Industry

Confederation (ITIC) was the guest speaker at the event. He provided valuable tourism information for the members. Victor Biffi Rosano Business Director of Kildare Village and Into Kildare CEO Áine Mangan also gave presentations on the day. Travel writer Eoghan Corry was also in attendance.



David Mongey Into Kildare, Victor Biffi Rosano Kildare Village, Áine Mangan Into Kildare, Eoghan O'Mara ITIC



Eoghan and Orla Corry, Eoghan O'Mara Walsh ITIC



Áine Mangan Into Kildare, Patrick Kielty

Áine Mangan represented Kildare at the ITIC conference that took place in Athlone. The event included many guest speakers including former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Minister Catherine Martin, and Broadcaster and personality Patrick Kielty. At the event, ITIC launched its roadmap for the future Vision 2030 and highlighted the importance of tourism and its economic impact.

At the most recent Board of Management meeting, the manager from Ireland's Ancient East gave a presentation and update to the Board of Directors specifically relating to County Kildare activities. Following this, the Into Kildare team took part in a training session with Fáilte Ireland for managing and reporting on accounts and sales calls.

Into Kildare attended and supported a number of members' events including the autumnal fashion show with Mandy Maher at Newbridge Silverware Museum of Style Icons. The event was co-hosted by Marietta Doran and Noel Cunningham including some of Kildare's designers and boutiques. This event was the first in the new dining room extension.



Marietta Doran and Chloe Kimmins Into Kildare



Karen Lynch and Chloe Kimmins Into Kildare, Ronan Mackey Newbridge Silverware

At the end of the month, the Official Opening of the Ardclough Biodiversity



Garden at the Village Centre took place. Ardclough Biodiversity Group is a community project based around an evolving 'plan of action' for local biodiversity, created and delivered voluntarily by a group of local residents who share a desire to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the environs of Ardclough, County Kildare. The project has been made possible with support and guidance from Kildare County Council.



Local Enterprise Office

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 01 January – 02 October		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved
Web Development Grant	69	€156,080
Priming Grant	7	€225,855
Business Expansion Grant	6	€171,033
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€50,230
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	13	€23,104
Agile Innovation Fund	1	€41,235
IP Start	3	€6,480
IP Plus	2	€35,100
Gradstart	2	€60,000
Total		€769,117

Priming Grant Approved in September.

Pragmatica Consulting Ireland Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €32,500 to support the recruitment of two new employees in the role of “sustainability consultants” plus support towards consultancy costs for their website development. Pragmatica provide tailored sustainability services to help their clients add value to their sustainability, carbon and ESG journeys.

Expansion Grants Approved in September.

Dazult Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €13,725 to support the recruitment of one new employee in the role of “junior software developer” plus support to assist with capital equipment costs.

Dazult Limited provide a number of data management and analysis software tools to enable those in the science and engineering sectors get the most value from the data they have gathered and generated.

Happy Tails Limited of Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District were



approved €2,357 to assist with capital expenditure.

Happy Tails Limited provide home baked dog treats using 100% natural, human grade ingredients.

FOCUS ON INNOVATION:

Intellectual Grants Approved September.

IP Start Grant Approved

Faick company Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection by undertaking “trade mark” research.

IP Plus Grants Approved

Indomed Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €16,200 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection and broaden their territorial coverage of existing and new IP as their Research and Development continues.

Natural Hygiene Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €18,900 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property Protection.

Entrepreneurship Support Services BUSINESS CLINICS:

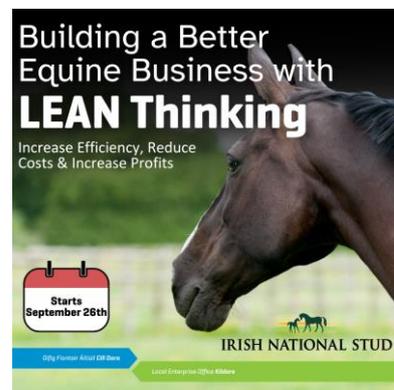
Start-up advisory clinics are offered weekly, with options for online or in-person meetings. Appointments can be requested online [HERE](#). To date 260 start-ups have availed of this service in 2023.

Mentor clinics take place each Thursday in MERITS. Upcoming topics include marketing, export, financial literacy and advice on LEO supports. This is a fully funded support and appointments can be requested online [HERE](#).

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY:

The first Eco-Entrepreneurship Start-Your-Own-Business-Programme launches in Kildare this month. 20 aspiring entrepreneurs with sustainability-focused business ideas are coming together in this unique initiative.

FOCUS ON EQUINE:





In collaboration with The Irish National Stud, LEO Kildare hosted 11 equestrian businesses in a custom-designed programme. Building a Better Equine Business with Lean Thinking. The objective is to support this industry in increasing efficiency, reducing costs, and increasing profits.

FOCUS ON CRAFT:

GATHER, a collection of beautiful gifts created in Kildare, launches as a pop-up in Kildare Village on 26 October. This collaboration with 24 Kildare-based creative small businesses runs until New Years Eve and is an ambitious and unique retail opportunity for these creative businesses. A formal invite will be issued to all elected members for the 26 October.

Municipal District SUPPORTS ROADSHOW:

This autumn our team toured the county, hosting a business get-together in each Municipal District. The team met with business owners across each Municipal District to discuss the supports available across all sectors and how to access them. Each attendee received an individual follow up from the LEO team.

FOCUS ON EXPORT:

Ten client companies joined our Tech Export Accelerator with ambitions to launch or scale their export potential. This support programme will run until January 24 with a Showcase Day in MERITS.

FOCUS ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:

A key objective of the LEO for 2024 is to advance our support for businesses seeking to digitise. We are hosting a leadership and networking lunch in The Osprey Hotel on 24 October with industry expert, Digitalisation and Sustainability Lead for Siemens in Ireland, Joan Mulvihill who has been at the forefront of driving technology adoption in Ireland for over a decade! Bookings can be made online [HERE](#).



Kildare's Digital Champions final is fast approaching with a new category this year – The People's Choice Award for Best in E-Commerce.



Voting is open until 20 October at 12.00 noon.

FOCUS ON LEAN:

A new campaign launched by Neale Richmond, T.D., Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail is encouraging small businesses in Kildare to avail of supports that will help them save time, money and energy.



The “[All In A Day's Work](#)” campaign by the Local Enterprise Offices is focused on highlighting the supports that will

enable small businesses to make significant changes to the way they work that will support small businesses to become more competitive and productive in how they work.

Economic Support Services

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

MD Applications as of 04 October 2023	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	16	€46,741
Athy	15	€37,203
Naas	19	€34,314
Clane/Maynooth	07	€14,021
Celbridge/Leixlip	16	€29,029.25

The Retail Window Merchandising Grant remains open to applicants until November and businesses can avail of 80% funding on eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500.00 for outlets to enhance their window displays for Halloween and Christmas.



Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Under this scheme, property owners and local groups have applied for grants 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 continues to work with the project team and is supporting prospective applicants with the application process. The scheme is closed for applications and successful applicants are completing projects presently.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare.

The consultants have completed the stakeholder analysis and are finalising the draft feasibility study at present. The deployment of a pilot will soon follow on a smaller footprint in the town.

Kildare Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

The consultants have submitted the feasibility study for this proposed development; funding mechanisms are being investigated at present.

Kilcock Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

A technical examination and an ecology report have been completed and the consultant has submitted the feasibility study to examine land usage to Kildare County Council. The study has been submitted to the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District.

Hub Marketing: K Hub

The team are working with the appointed consultant on devising and delivering a marketing plan to further increase the profile of hubs in Kildare. Filming of the hubs took place over the summer them and their businesses; this was showcased at the Economic Forum on 12 September in the Osprey Hotel, Naas.

K-Hub Network

The K-Hub Network of 14 hubs received coverage through a series of KFM adverts to support remote working in the County. Kildare County Council's Economic Development Team has organised and supported a diary of events occurring in October for people to visit Kildare's hub network.



Hub Activity

MERITS New Clients:

A number of technology and innovation focused businesses have joined the MERITS community in September including StryveSecure, Nua Bioenergy and Indomed.

Trinity College LaunchBox:

The MERITS team were invited to attend the pitch day for LaunchBox in Tangent, part of Trinity College's Business School as part of the MERITS and Tangent partnership. This involved ten pitches from student-led tech-startup businesses.

AI Summer-School Work and Watch:

In partnership with the RDI Hub, MERITS Tech Cluster clients were facilitated to join remotely a two day Artificial Intelligence focused Summer School whilst working in the MERITS hub.

Kildare County Council National Play Day:

The MERITS hub was included as part of the National Play Day events during

September. A soft play area and sensory room was setup in MERITS and proved very popular.

Culture Night:

The MERITS Hub hosted a number of exhibitions for Culture Night in partnership with the Kildare County Council Arts Service including in the MERITS Micro Gallery.

Appendix: Business Supports

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

[Website Localenterprise.ie/Kildare](http://Localenterprise.ie/Kildare)

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive