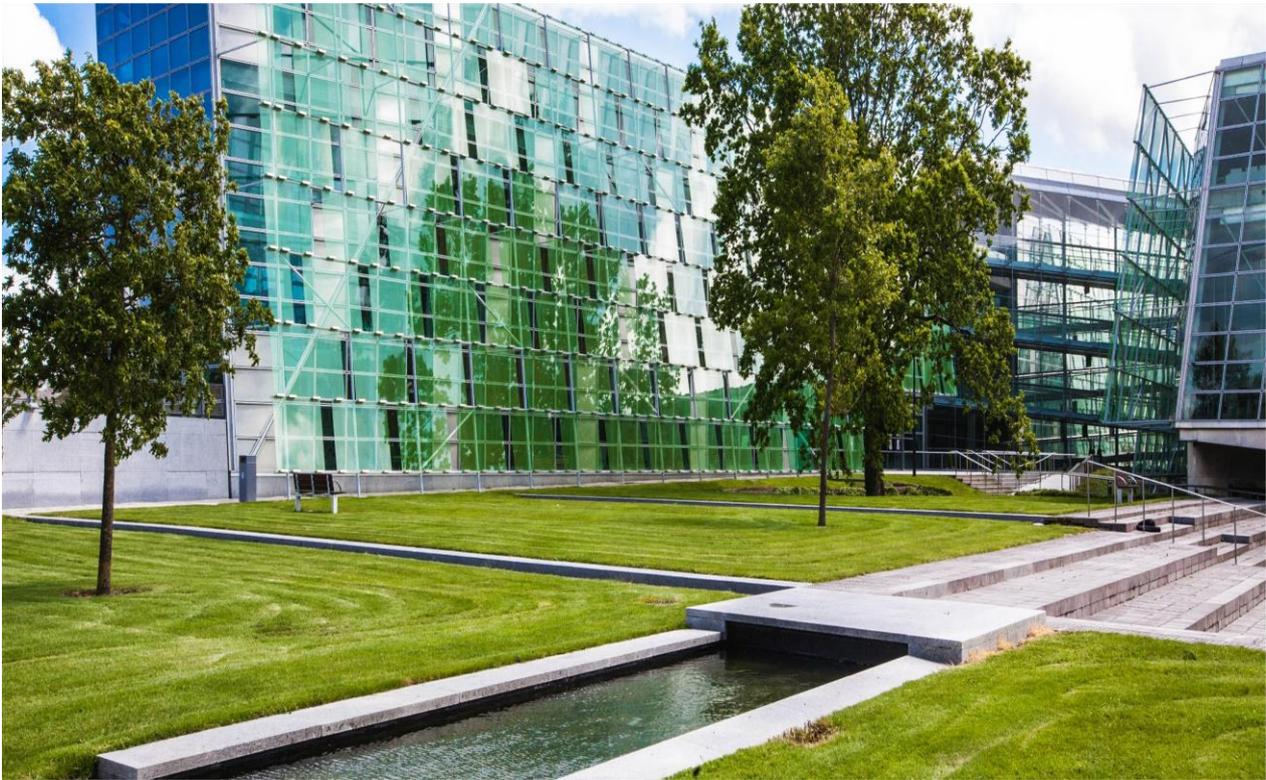




**Kildare County Council**

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





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## News Items

### **Kildare County Council Shortlisted in Local Government Awards**

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted in eleven categories in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 including Local Authority of the Year. (see page 10).

### **Fidget Feet Aerial Dance**

Four performances of House! took place in the car park of Aras Chill Dara on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August (see pages 13/14)

### **Housing Assessments**

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2023 commenced on Monday, 4 September 2023 (see pages 21/22).

### **Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices**

Ossian Smyth TD, has launched a public consultation to help inform Ireland's response to disposable vaping devices (see page 40)

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

Consultation is now underway to inform the LECP. A series of consultation sessions with local community groups and organisations took place in July organised by Kildare Public Participation Network (see page 54).

### **Municipal District Works**

Approximately 80% of the planned Surface Dressing work is now complete (see page 59)



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### **Development Management**

ePlanning went live in Kildare on 27 June 2023. This enables applications and submissions/refs to be submitted via the online planning portal (see page 61)

### **Heritage Stewardship Scheme**

The Heritage Council has awarded €25,200 to Kildare County Council for a partial review of the Record of Protected Structures in four Kildare towns (see page 64)

### **Kildare Failte**

Into Kildare hosted a number of Familiarisation trips to Kildare to help promote accommodation, hospitality and attraction offerings as part of our ongoing strategy to promote county Kildare (see page 70).

### **Municipal District Supports Roadshow:**

This autumn our team are touring the county, hosting a business get-together in each Municipal District (see page 74).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **National Play Day 2023**

Kildare County Council to host National Play Day 2023, 16 September 2023 (see pages 7/8).

### **Casual Trading**

The expiry date for casual trading licences granted since the adoption of the bye laws adopted in 2022 is approaching, all licences will expire on the 31 December 2023. (see page 9).

### **Public Sector Duty (PSD)**

PSD is going out to consultation with relevant internal staff and external stakeholders and a presentation to this group is scheduled for 03 October (see page 10).

### **County Library**

The Part 8 report for the proposed County Library will be presented at Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting on 20 September 2023 (see page 12).

### **Culture Night**

Plans are underway for Culture Night on Friday 22 September (see page 14).

### **Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics**

The next clinic in 2023 is scheduled for: Monday 23 October 2023 (see page 39)

### **LCDC**

Next meeting of the LCDC scheduled for: Wed 27 September 2023 (see page 54)

### **Women in Business**

Join us on 19 October for this fabulous lunchtime event at Clanard Court Hotel. (see page 73).



## October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Oct	3	4	5 11:30 Local Community and Culture SPC	6 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
9	10 15:00 Naas Md Briefing SPPR ; Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	11	12	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	17	18 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	19	20 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting
23 15:00 Full Council Meeting	24	25	26	27
30	31	<b>1 Nov</b>	2 14:00 Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC	3 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services Communications

#### Kildare County Council Supports 'Amber Thursday' Campaign



Amber Thursday took place on Thursday 3 August 2023, ahead of the bank holiday weekend. It's a joint initiative between road safety, water safety and fire safety officials from Local Authorities, Fire Services and Water Safety Ireland to raise awareness about the risks and dangers associated with activities on the water, at campfires and barbeques or while using the roads. Every year, the August bank holiday weekend brings tragedies and sorrow to many, either by incidents of drowning, road carnage, fire burns or smoke inhalation. Kildare County Council once again supported the Amber Thursday

campaign, helping to advise people and raise awareness to plan for a safe and enjoyable weekend. Safety officers urged people to be mindful of the risks and dangers associated with fire, road and water-based activities such as barbeques, swimming or driving.

#### Kildare County Council to host National Play Day 2023

Kildare County Council is delighted to be hosting National Play Day 2023, which promises to be a fun-filled and inclusive event suitable for every member of the family. This free family event will take place at Aras Chill Dara, Naas on 16 September 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event is organized by Kildare County Council in conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



The theme for National Play Day 2023 is 'Wonder and Discovery', chosen to represent the wonder and discovery



that unfolds when children play outside. Access to outdoor play means children have many opportunities for developing their imagination and physical abilities, playing in nature also presents opportunities for exploration and adventure.

Kildare County Council along with volunteers, workshop facilitators, entertainers and emergency services will deliver an exciting and engaging fun filled day, including live stage acts and over 30 activities held both indoors and outdoors including attractions for all age groups. It offers accessible features such as a quiet entry and wheelchair friendly access, sensory suite and accessible toilets. The event which has been running for ten years always attracts a large crowd, so we're looking forward to another busy day at Aras Chill Dara.

## Register of Electors

### Check The Register: Voter Registration.

Kildare County Council has begun its local awareness activities, which include local newspaper and radio advertising, continuing social media activities, outdoor advertising, presence at a range of community events and engagement with segments of the population that may not be reached through online or traditional advertising methods. Some of these activities are dependent upon the provision of relevant materials from Government Departments, with work on planning a schools programme ongoing.

Registering to vote is now possible online at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

**Elected representatives are strongly encouraged to promote the use of ChecktheRegister.ie** in all

engagement with our citizens. This is the most efficient way for applicants to join the Register.

In addition, existing electors can **apply to move address, check or update their details** online at [ChecktheRegister.ie](http://ChecktheRegister.ie)

Elected members and community groups are also asked to share social



media content on this available on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**THE EASY WAY TO SECURE YOUR SAY**

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

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

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

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

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

**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
Kildare County Council

**Riátas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

Members may wish to know that two new booklets have been published by Government; “[How Members of Local Authorities are Elected](#)” available in English and Irish and 14 other languages, is aimed at understanding the electoral system and how local authority members are elected. In addition a booklet on [voter registration and eligibility](#) has also been published in 16 languages. Both documents have also been shared with the Public Participation Network for inclusion in their newsletters. In addition, webpages are under development on the Kildare County

Council Website for the Local Elections 2024 and will be published in the coming weeks.

### Casual Trading Opportunities



The expiry date for casual trading licences granted since the adoption of the bye laws in 2022 is approaching. All licences will expire on the 31 December 2023. Applications to apply to renew these licences and for new applicants will be invited in quarter four of 2023. This will be advertised via local newspapers, our relevant social media channels and in cooperation with trader representative bodies/networks.

Further information in relation to casual trading within the county such as how to apply and a list of designated locations can be found at [www.kildarecoco.ie/Business/CasualTrading/](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/Business/CasualTrading/)



## Members Services

### Chamber Upgrade

At this stage we have received the panels which caused the 'supply chain' delay, the new desktops have been manufactured by the joiner and work will start on the installation of the desktops in the chamber next Monday 18 September 2023. We expect SKS Communications Ltd will follow shortly on the installation of the panels on each desk. The council expect the installation of the desktops to take six days and hope that SKS can do their installations in parallel with the joinery work and that configuration and testing can take place in the last week of September and training in the first week of October.

### October Municipal District Meetings

The Draft Budgetary Plan will be discussed at all October Municipal District meetings.

As Clane Maynooth and Naas monthly Municipal District meetings fall outside the prescribed period, special meetings will be arranged to discuss the Draft Budgetary Plan for these Municipal Districts

## Public Sector Duty

Public Sector Duty is going out to consultation with relevant internal staff and external stakeholders and a presentation to this group is scheduled for 03 October.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) are rolling out a revised training module in September following feedback from Kildare and other local authorities on difficulties encountered with the first module. A presentation will be given to the Corporate Policy Group and to elected members in October and the revised training module will also be rolled out for the members.

## Awards

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023 for the following twelve projects:

- Celbridge as an age friendly Town in Age Friendly Initiative
- Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme in Climate Change
- Get Konnected, Stay Connected: Internal Communications Campaign



- 1500 St. Brigid's Festival 2023 in Festival of the Year
- Kildare Sports Ability Day 2022 in Health & Wellbeing
- Reimagining the Potato Market in Naas in Heritage and Built Environment
- Wellbeing roadshow in Municipal District Initiative
- Newbridge Womens shed in Municipal District Initiative
- Connected Hubs - Kildare Hub Network in Promoting Economic Development
- Kildare Library Service Reader in Residence in Supporting Sustainable
- Communities Grass to Gas - in Sustainable Environment & Biodiversity
- Public Parklets in Urban Revival

Kildare County Council has also been shortlisted for Council of the Year 2023.

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, 23 November in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin.

The Barrow Blueway Economic Plan (submitted by LEADER) and the Athy Local Area Plan have been shortlisted

for awards by the Irish Planning Institute.

## Library and Arts Service

### Library and Arts Service

#### News and Highlights – Library

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

### Summer Stars

The annual Summer Stars reading challenge is coming to end with celebrations planned in September. This year's programme has been highly successful with more than 3,000 children taking part throughout the county.

### Kildare Library Service's Reader in Residence Programme

Kildare Library Service's Reader in Residence programme has been shortlisted for the Chambers Excellence in LG Awards in the Supporting Sustainable Communities category. Inaugural Reader in Residence, local writer Emma Jane Leeson, worked with Kildare Libraries throughout 2022 delivering a programme of reader development



initiatives in our part-time rural libraries.

### **Gaeilge**

Eight week online Irish language classes for adults provided by Kildare Library Service in conjunction with Cill Dara le Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge will start this September. There will be classes for three levels: beginner, intermediate and upper-intermediate. Classes will be delivered via Zoom.

### **Kathleen Lonsdale Exhibition**

Kathleen Lonsdale, an exhibition by Maeve Clancy which celebrates the life and work of the world-renowned Kildare-born crystallographer, will tour Kildare Libraries this autumn/winter. In addition to the exhibition a graphic novel was produced, and copies will be available free of charge. The exhibition and graphic novel were co-commissioned by Kildare Library Service and Riverbank Arts Centre.

### **TTT Programme**

The autumn programme for our Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme, supporting neurodiverse children and adults has been launched. The full programme can be

accessed on the library website [TTT Autumn Programme](#)

### **Ukrainian Response Forum**

Gillian Allen as Acting County Librarian is now representing Kildare County Council and the Library Service on the Ukrainian Response Forum.

In response to the identified needs for English Language supports the Library Service delivered an online information session for all participating Forum organisations and recorded the following videos which we will shortly be translating to Ukrainian

- A short video on Joining the Library online
- A short video on how to use LOTE4Kids – the online bilingual storybook resource.
- A short video on Transparent Language Online

The Library Service continues to partner with Failte Isteach to deliver English Language classes in branches where the need has been identified.

### **Capital Projects**

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

Contractors are working on the final stages of completion of the new Naas Library. Kildare County Council expects to officially open the new Library in the final quarter of this year,



the exact date is still to be confirmed and will be announced in due course.

### **County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre**

The Part 8 report for the proposed County Library and Archives in Newbridge will be presented at the next Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting on 20 September 2023.

### **New Clane Library**

The project is now at the detailed design phase in advance of the construction tender.

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

Continuing to prepare for the move of the collections and Service to Naas in the Autumn. Boxing of collection, planning layout of building for collections and public access, cataloguing of unique items in the County Kildare Local Studies and Archives collections etc. Three history articles by staff feature in the latest Allen Eye. We also continue to add content to [www.kildare.ie/ehistory](http://www.kildare.ie/ehistory), local newspapers and to the staff newsletter. We continue to facilitate free access to digitised newspapers

and other online resources through the branch library network.

### **Decade of Commemorations**

The national Decade of Centenaries programme is concluding in the coming months. James Durney gave several talks, based on his latest publication “Stand you now for Ireland’s Cause”: A biographical dictionary of County Kildare republican activists 1913-23 during Heritage Week 2023. Other events supported included an exhibition on the history of postal boxes in Athy, a cultural event in Newbridge and an event in Kilkea Castle in association with the County Kildare Archaeological Society to commemorate the centenary of the death of noted antiquarian Lord Walter Fitzgerald. The John Devoy Seminar is taking place in Naas on Saturday 23 September.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **Kildare Dance Summer School**

The Kildare Dance Summer School took place from 15 to 18 August in St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. Workshops included Dance in the Community, Inclusive Dance, Performance and Choreography and Movement Choir. Eleven artists led the workshops and documentation and



over one hundred people participated. Participants included people from diverse backgrounds, older adults from U3A, people with a range of additional needs and those collaborating with refugees and services for trauma in Glencree and De Paul.

### **Fidget Feet Aerial Dance**

Four performances of House! took place in the car park of Aras Chill Dara on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August. The cast of eight aerial dancers were supported by Soar Up! Trainee programme, breakdancers – Leo, Odwer and Jason, Cian Keeva, Shaolin Lotus Lion Dance Team, a local piper and vintage tractor enthusiast and members of Greise Youth Group, to deliver a spectacular show.

### **Culture Night**

Plans are underway for Culture Night on Friday 22 September, with over seventy events across Co Kildare. [Events • Culture Night](#) (more events to be uploaded).

### **Kildare Dance Artist in Residency**

Riverbank Arts Centre and Kildare County Council Arts Service are 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.

### **Musician in Residence**

Applications are invited by musician/s of established reputation for one position co-funded by Maynooth University, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare, Music Generation Offaly, and Music Generation Westmeath, with support from the Arts Council. The position is open but not limited to performers (as soloist or as an ensemble), composers (any medium), sound designers, music producers, music/stage directors, song writers, or combinations thereof. The residency is a one-year temporary appointment, designed to provide Maynooth University students and the broader communities in Kildare, Offaly, and Westmeath with the opportunity to engage with artist/s, as well as providing the artist/s with time to advance their current project(s).

### **Creative Places Athy**

Creative Places Athy launched the project called 'Art, Identity and



Manifesto' in Athy Library on 22 August. The project was “borne out of a desire to engage communities through art and showcase them to the people of Athy.” The launch presented work from four community groups including, Athy Sing and Sign ISL, Irish Wheelchair Association and Athy Women’s Shed. It is the beginning of developing an overall Manifesto for Athy, one community at a time.

Creative Places highlighted some of the creative talent from their arts programmes at Global Green platform in Electric Picnic, Co. Laois. Along with participating in panel discussions with creatives and organisations from all over Ireland in the Irish Environmental Network Tent, they highlighted poetry from local writers and held creative workshops in collaboration with Community Gardens Ireland, Cultivate.ie and Cloughjordan Eco Village.

## Health and Safety

### 1. Site Inspections:

Eight inspections completed in the following areas:

- Roads- Barrogstown Depot.
- Roads- Interchange Celbridge.
- Roads- Celbridge Depot.

- Roads – removal of concrete apron- Grove estate Celbridge.
  - Roads- Gallows Hill Depot.
  - Roads -Preparation of surface dressing job.
  - Corporate services - Aras
  - Roads- inspection of outdoor crew.
2. One DSE (Display Screen Equipment) completed as part of blended working application.
  3. HSA (Health and Safety Authority) Inspection of Athy Wastewater Treatment Plant.
  4. Kildare County Council (KCC) and Uisce Eireann (UE) Meeting to discuss/review HSA Inspections/findings at Athy and Rathangan WWTP's.
  5. Meeting with KCC for discussion on the UE/KCC -Support Services Agreement (SSA).
  6. Lead Worker Representatives Meeting.
  7. Created folders for all depts (within Headquarters) on shared drive containing the following:
    - Risk assessment and method statement templates.
    - Copy of safety statement V4 with CEO signature.
    - Induction presentation for refresher.



- Office-based RAMS for Aras (additional ones can be added here from the dept).
- Accident/Incident form.
- 3. Workshop on Access All Areas initiative re viability of replicating across the county.
- 4. Part of Interview Panel for Athy Access Art Project (Creative Places Athy)– artist commissioned to do a piece raising awareness of accessibility/disability for International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

### Accessibility:

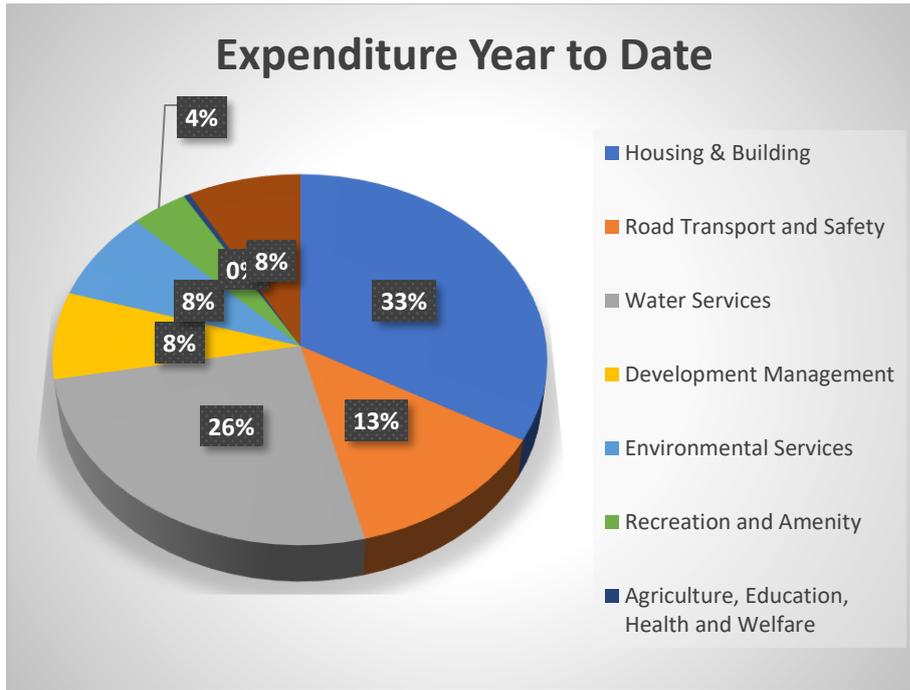
1. Meetings:
  - a. Celbridge Access Group Meeting.
  - b. Leixlip Access Group Meeting.
2. National Access for All Meeting with Disability Federation of Ireland.
5. Meeting with Now Org on additional support for JAM Card initiative.
6. Walkability Audit – Naas.

## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

<b>Kildare County Council</b>				
<b>Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 August 2023</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>			
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget Spend</b>	<b>Budget remaining</b>
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	58,620	66,041	89%	7,421
Road Transport and Safety	22,762	40,812	56%	18,050
Water Services	46,024	10,174	452% -	35,850
Development Management	13,377	25,606	52%	12,229
Environmental Services	13,950	21,947	64%	7,997
Recreation and Amenity	7,036	14,018	50%	6,982
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	767	1,376	56%	609
Miscellaneous Services	14,066	19,070	74%	5,004
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	176,602	199,044	89%	22,442



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 the elected members.



## Kildare County Council

### Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 August 2023

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	53,758	57,222	94%	3,464
Road Transport and Safety	7,287	20,555	35%	13,268
Water Services	5,450	10,009	54%	4,559
Development Management	6,435	10,004	64%	3,569
Environmental Services	3,002	6,467	46%	3,465
Recreation and Amenity	1,486	1,389	107%	97
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	159	380	42%	221
Miscellaneous Services	5,009	10,747	47%	5,738
Local Property Tax Allocation	9,642	19,283	50%	9,641
Rates	41,977	62,988	67%	21,011
				-
	134,206	199,044	67%	64,838

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 August 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/08/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	1,224,908	50,371	71,588,202	36,194,672	35,393,530
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	12,106,601	42,266	-	13,407,581	9,141,195	4,266,386
Housing Loans	1,623,567	2,628,858	-	-	4,252,425	2,143,473	2,108,952

### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 August 2023.

### Budget 2024

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



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

### 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.

### Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at [www.motortax.ie](http://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 980920.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie).

Alternatively, customers can email [motortax@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:motortax@kildarecoco.ie) or contact the office by telephone on 045 980920.

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

<b>Development Contributions Waiver Scheme</b>			
<b>Position at:</b>			<b>15 Sept 2023</b>
<b>Type of Residential Units:</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value</b>	
Houses	35	€378,517	
Apartments	12	€295,344	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>€673,861</b>	



## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Housing for All

##### Cost Rental Housing

From 01 August 2023, the income limit for Cost Rental Housing in Kildare increased from €53,000 to €59,000. This limit is based on the total net income of all prospective household members. The increased limit applies to new and existing Cost Rental Properties, and to the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme.

It is the intention of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that income limits will be indexed to an economic metric and subject to annual review. A review of metrics is currently underway.

##### Local Authority Home Loan

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has launched a national promotional campaign this month for the loan scheme (three weeks). This campaign will run on radio, digital and social media. This is being supported by a local promotion on the Council's social media.

Details of the scheme can be accessed online at

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



The council has been notified of increased lending rates (Housing Finance Agency); the interest rate on loans drawn down after 1:00 p.m. on 28 September 2023 will increase as follows:

- Fixed Rate Loan up to 25 years: Increase from 3.35% to 4%
- Fixed Rate Loan from 25-30 years: Increase from 3.45% to 4.05%

##### Affordable Housing Delivery

Applications opened on the 24 May 2023 for the sale of 21 affordable purchase units at Grey Abbey, Kildare Town. The application process closed at midnight on the 24 June 2023. Applications are currently being processed in line with Kildare County Council's Affordable Dwelling Scheme of Priorities. Full details of the scheme



are available by following this link:  
<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Housing/AffordableHousing/AffordableHousingSchemes/>.

In total the council received 105 applications, which is less than expected. It has been necessary to assess all applications. The price of the properties, which are all three bed units, ranged from €285,000 to €300,000. Further updates will be provided as we progress through the scheme.

### **Homeless Services**

#### **Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS)**

Kildare County Council has submitted four applications in total for CRTiS. One has been unsuccessful and three are still in progress.

#### **Homeless Outreach**

Street work was completed in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, Naas Municipal District and Athy Municipal District. The Outreach Team attended meetings with Mount Offaly House, Naas Hospital, Newbridge Community Gardai and provided a Homeless outreach clinic in the Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge. 19 single homeless clients exited

emergency accommodation in August and there were three Housing First sign ups in August.

### **Tenancy Sustainment**

At present we have 52 active tenancy sustainment families. We currently have 56 on our waiting list with two discharges for August. Sustainment Officers are also managing interaction with the providers for the two Family Hubs in Athy and Prosperous. Prosperous Family Hub is full at present and the Athy Family Hub has one room available for a family.

### **Emergency Accommodation**

Presentations are slightly up this month at 159. Seven families went into Emergency Accommodation (EA); five into Bed and Breakfasts and two into family hub. Efforts continue to provide progressions to more secure placements through a combination of allocations to shared housing, social housing allocations, AHB allocations and placement to transitional units.

### **Housing Assessments**

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2023 commenced on Monday 04 September 2023. The relevant review period for



the SSHA 2023 is households included on the social housing list between 01 March 2018 and 28 February 2019. This involves a review of 360 applications/households. The deadline for reply is Monday, 25 September 2023; a further reminder letter will issue to those who fail to respond. Information on applying for social housing is available at:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Housing/HowtoapplyforSocialHousing/>

### Vacant Homes

#### Croí Cónaithe

109 applications have been received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

### Housing Allocations

For the period January 2023 to August 2023, the council allocated a total of 790 properties throughout the county.

357 were council properties and 433 were Approved Housing Body (AHB) properties. This is 261 units more than in August 2023. Among the locations that allocations took place were Newbridge, Athy, Leixlip, Naas 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 increased. We are experiencing delays in the delivery of some AHB properties, which is impacting on households who have been offered and accepted allocations. Discussions are ongoing with the AHBs regarding this matter, and it will be kept under review.

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expected substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023. Currently on programme.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 4 approval received from DHLGH.



<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender documents being prepared in advance of Stage 3 application to DHLGH. Tenants whose homes are being demolished have been written to, to offer alternative units within the estate following consultation meetings.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application submitted to An Board Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed and progressing detailed design.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Design and build tender being prepared. DHLGH have reviewed pre-tender estimate.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design Team tenders received however no acceptable tenders were submitted. Alternative procurement procedure being arranged.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	ESB have removed poles and overhead line. Underground cable to be removed. Designers to consider if it can be reused. Consultation held with residents and design finalised. Section 179A being prepared.

<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Section 179A proposed to launch Q3 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Single Stage approval received. Design Team tender being prepared.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Single stage approval received 9 August 2023; progressing design team consultant tenders
<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Station Road, Kildare	26 units	Stage 1 application submitted to DHLGH. Competition entries to be put on public display following appointment of successful consultants. Initial meetings



		held with design team and contact made with adjacent residents.
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	Civil/Structural consultants appointed. Tenders received for Building Services consultants.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Architect Lead Design Team appointed, detailed design ongoing. Archaeological excavation/survey completed. Site investigation in September.
Patrician Avenue, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Main contract tender to issue in September.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Concluding main contract with successful Contractor. Expected start date September 2023.
Skenagun Castledermott	1 refurb/extension + 1 new unit	Designer appointed. Surveys and site investigation to be carried out during September.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 units + community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Pre-qualification questionnaire assessment almost complete. Invitation to participate in dialogue with suitable bidders due to proceed in October. ESB overhead lines have been removed off site.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Design team work ongoing, meetings with internal departments ongoing as well as survey works.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	100 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Design team work ongoing, meetings with internal departments ongoing as well as survey works.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team to be procured by NDFA, due to commence in September.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team to be procured by NDFA, due to commence in September.



## 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	CAS Stage 2 approval received from DHLGH. Revised Stage 2 proposal with reduced numbers discussed with DHLGH.
Cluid: Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Decision to grant issued on 22 June 2023. Cluid finalising roads details with Transportation.
The Peter McVerry Trust: Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023. Section 179A planning pack received for review by KCC.
Cill Dara HA: Cleamore Terrace, Kildare	2 x refurb + extension	Combined Stage1, 2 & 3 CAS renewal application.

## Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 August 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	24	34	34
6 - 12 Months	7	13	13
12 - 18 Months	1	1	0
18 - 24 Months	5	9	6
24 - 30 Months	2	4	3
36 Months +	1	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>



### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 August 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	6	8
6 - 12 Months	3	5	7
12 - 18 Months	5	10	6
18 - 24 Months	1	2	3
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>

### Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
<b>2022</b>	383	98	324
<b>Q1, 2023</b>	85	3	79
<b>Q2, 2023</b>	116	3	105
<b>Q3, 2023 to date</b>	56	6	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>255</b>

### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>2022 EERP</b>	69	69 units completed
<b>2023 EERP</b>	86	Works due to start in September in Clane/Maynooth. Tender documents being prepared for further units.



## Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
<b>2022</b>	309	241	7	7	362	378
<b>Q1 2023</b>	89	56	2	2	118	80
<b>Q2 2023</b>	78	37	1	1	119	72
<b>July-Aug</b>	55	14	0	0	61	9
<b>Total YTD</b>	531	348	10	10	660	539

## Acquisitions

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed Jan-Aug 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	35
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	42
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	43
<b>Total complete</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>120</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	12	34	25	41	8
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	5	33	5	65	2



## Public Realm

### Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,500,000	RRDF €8,000,000	Construction	Unbound towpath works complete, this represents 36km of the total 46km route. The road crossing Contractor has 4 crews working on crossings and are working from South to North, with crossings in Laois complete, apart from M7 works. Crews currently in Athy and Monasterevin. 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	Phase 1 will be complete end of October 2023. Pedestrian Bridge installed in Sallins on 25 <sup>th</sup> August. Part 8 required for tie in with Phase 2. Consultation with



					internal departments underway.
	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. 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. Sections already having Part 8 permission to be tendered end of November 2023.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	<b>Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1</b>



					design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. Discussions continue with various landowners to progress this project.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the business/residents surrounding The Square. Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023. Engagement continues to facilitate the delivery of interim works and the Part 8 proposal for the Square.
	Newbridge Cultural Quarter (Phase 1 County Library & Archive)	€656,412	€492,000 URDF €164,412 LPT	Part 8 (Library)	<b>County Library:</b> Part 8 Consultation: total of 17 public submissions were received with additional submissions from prescribed bodies



					and internal departments. Part 8 will come before the Members at the September Kildare Newbridge MD meeting.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	A fact-check on the Historical data and references has been carried out. Post check edits will be incorporated into the draft document. Further engagement will be required between KCC and DoD to agree a final draft document.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,300,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,600,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Athgarvan Health Check/	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Edits to be completed.



	Urban Analysis				
	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.
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€2,707,500 (RRDF) €2,200,000 (KCC)	Scheme currently on etenders	Tender uploaded on etenders. Request for additional funding submitted to RRDF, response received outlining various options.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937		Tender assessment	Preferred tenderer identified and notified – tender validity period extended. Request for additional funding submitted to RRDF, response received outlining various options.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at



					other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the works they would like to see undertaken.
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	A review of the document is underway.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Planning application by Kildare Innovation Centre to include the proposed M4 Bridge cycle/pedestrian bridge connecting Wonderful Barn to Kildare Innovation Centre, will have a bearing on Part 8 for Wonderful Barn. Preparatory work on the Part 8 proposal has commenced. Outside of Contract: KCC looking at appropriate measures to address anti-social behaviour on the site.
	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	Final edits being carried out.
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Final edits being carried out.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and document accessibility checks.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Business case approved by DHLGH; correspondence being reviewed.
	Harbourfield			Detailed Design & Works	Business case approved by DHLGH; correspondence being reviewed.
	Bawnogues Community Centre	€3,134,541	100% KCC funded	Handover	Final BCAR documentation upload ongoing
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and document accessibility checks
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and document accessibility checks
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and document accessibility checks



	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Recent presentation of Draft proposal to the elected members at their September meeting. Feedback from the members will be incorporated into the document. Next stage will be a public consultation piece.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Recent presentation of Draft proposal to the elected members at their September meeting. Feedback from the members will be incorporated into the document. Next stage will be a public consultation piece.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Recent presentation of Draft proposal to the elected members at their September meeting. Feedback from the members will be incorporated into the document. Next stage will be a



					public consultation piece.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Recent presentation of Draft proposal to the elected members at their September meeting. Feedback from the members will be incorporated into the document. Next stage will be a public consultation piece.
<b>Naas</b>	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns Initiative grant €248,931	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00. The next phase of development, subject to funding, will upgrade electricity and services and Part 8 completion. Tender has now closed for the Electrical and Drainage works with letter of appointment to issue.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	Business case approved by DHLGH; correspondence being reviewed.



	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	<p>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. Some small works to be carried out including the insertion of a fillet piece between the footpath and the parklet. Funding remains in place for 4 other parklets to be installed on the Main Street. A request has issued to Failte Ireland seeking approval to align their installation with the Pathfinder Project.</p>
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V €7,000 LPT	Masterplan	Final document to be presented to the elected members at the MD meeting in 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
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€41,243
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>€1,820,855</b>

Incl LPT  
Incl LPT

**2023 grants schemes:** Community, festival and residents' associations grants payments are ongoing and receipts are being recorded as they arrive.

All municipal district LPT awards have been advised and groups are being contacted as required.

A number of schemes have been reopened for applications where small balances remain to be distributed.

The Education Bursaries scheme closes on 08 September 2023 and assessments will take place immediately thereafter.

Community groups have been invited to apply for Christmas lights funding in the various municipal districts also.



## Water Services

### Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

The remaining clinics in 2023 are scheduled for:

- Monday 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](http://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates)

### Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy 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.



Public Consultation closed on 05 July.  
Details are on [www.mywaste.ie](http://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.

Public consultation ran until 27 July 2023.

Further information at [visit.gov.ie](http://visit.gov.ie) - Public consultation on Disposable Vaping Devices ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie))

### **Tidy Towns**

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

### **Water Framework Directive**

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

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

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

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



- Air Priorities
- Solid fuel regulations,
- Air monitoring programme

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

### **Environment Complaints**

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

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

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

### **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 to facilitate the opening of the new part of this Cemetery during Quarter 3 2023.

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



### **Climate Action Teams (CATs)**

A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs has been launched including themes of Local Authority Climate Action Plans, Trajectory 2030: Local Authority Mitigation and Energy, Community Climate Action, Creative



Climate Action, Climate Action through Heritage and Biodiversity, Adapting to Climate Change, Decarbonizing Zones.



### Online Training

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 bureaus or regional energy efficiency projects.

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

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



18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating.

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

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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



### Energy



### 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 will have 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 and CODEMA will provide core services to the local authorities associated including monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System review being undertaken.

The unit will combine efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI's Pathfinder funding scheme (Expression of Interest submitted) to provide financial support for defined projects through a register of opportunities being developed.



### Climate Action SPC:

The scheduled meeting on 10 May took place and two presentations were given. The first by Teagasc on the Signpost programme which is in keeping with a bespoke DZ for individual farms. This was followed by a presentation on the approved CA SPC workplan and an overview of the LA CAP and DZ. The next meeting is scheduled for 13 September 2023.

### Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



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

Kilcock have completed their Energy Masterplan and Ballymore Eustace are progressing theirs.

The SEC's of Monasterevin, Clane, Kilcullen and Maynooth undertook an activation program under the

stewardship of the Energy Team, a community enterprise formed from Dunleer SEC, to advance building retrofits successfully under the SEAI retrofit fund. Technical Assessments are well advanced and the application to the SEAI will advance when the appropriate funding round opens.



### 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 12th 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.

### 'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries section were successful in attaining just over €30,000 in funding from Creative Ireland for the project 'Stitching the Community Together'. The project is based on intergenerational art project centered around the medium of wool and knitting and will include three elements to the project: intergenerational workshop on wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools;



The virtual reality (VR) piece called Future Tapestry was officially launched in McAuley Place on 8 June and for many it evoked an emotional response.



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 is to be awarded on signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 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.

### 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.

### 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.



SharePoint



## Climate & Energy

### Research

#### Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

Ten Local Authorities have partnered together with Waterways Ireland.

Green Clubs have expressed their willingness to join in the near future.

The research report and practical guidance are due to be completed in the coming weeks.

#### Resourcing of Climate Action

##### Office:

The positions of Community Climate Action Officer, Climate Action Officer and Energy Efficiency Officer have been filled as of the 26 June 2023

## Local Community Development Committee

### September 2023

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 05 July 2023 in the Merits building.

### SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focusing on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities. The mid year review was approved at the last LCDC meeting.

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

### LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC as Local Action Group (LAG) and County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) as Implementing Partner, submitted a plan in mid July, to the DRCD for the next round of



LEADER funding 2023-2028. The outcome from this application is awaited.

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

The Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the all-island professional membership body for spatial planners, has shortlisted 39 entries for this year's Irish Planning Awards. The awards aim to highlight innovation and excellence in Irish planning. The LEADER funded Barrow Blueway Economic Plan has been shortlisted for an award. The plan is one of two projects to be shortlisted under the category "Employment and Enterprise".

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

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

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare.

Seed Funding applications for €75,000 for projects in Athy in 2023 have been approved by Department of Health.

The four themes are: (1) Food Insecurity (2) Traveller Wellbeing (3) Supporting vulnerable children and young people (4) Woodstock Artist in Residency. Service Level Agreement's (SLAs) are being 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 phone 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

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

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.

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](mailto:cmorrissey@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Empowering Communities**

#### **Programme Athy**

Athy has been selected by Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership will lead on this programme and employ staff.

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

Consultation is now underway to inform the LECP. A series of consultation sessions with local community groups and organisations took place in July organised by Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN). A final event is being held in McAuley Place Naas, on 14 September 2024. A public survey is also in place and has been widely advertised. The closing date is Friday 15 September 2023 and is available by clicking here [survey](#).

A range of consultation interviews are scheduled with statutory and voluntary agencies with complimentary work

taking place to engage local businesses and employers.

For further information contact: Susan Bookle, LECP Co-ordinator phone 087 6687808 or email [sbookle@kildarecoco.ie](mailto: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 27 September 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 in conjunction with TII to progress to construction.

#### M4 Westbound

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

#### Athy Main Street (N78)

Kildare National Roads Office are undertaking a pavement design for pavement improvement works on the existing N78 through Athy town. Kildare National Roads Office 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 – Department of Transport / Transport Infrastructure Ireland 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 CPO went ahead on 4 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 two 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.Prosporous 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 Ltd.

### **Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update**

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

€90,000 allocation. Detailed design and Section 38 Process complete. Project stopped as there is insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

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

€3,000,000 allocation. This project was delayed on site and the Council has agreed a settlement agreement with the contractor to terminate their completion of the project. It is expected that Section one will be open to the public in September 2023.

#### **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. Detailed design stage 98% complete. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

**Naas to Sallins Greenway**  
€5,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA received to start Part 8 Public Consultation.

**Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme**  
€140,000 allocation. Design of permanent scheme awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

**Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme**  
€10,000 allocation. 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 98% 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, advancing the scheme is unlikely in the short term.

**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 an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

### **Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme**

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

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

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

### **Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions**

€800,000 allocation. Construction completed.

### **Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme**

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

### **Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme**

€110,000 allocation. Detailed design stage complete. Project stopped. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

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

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

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

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil 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**

Work is ongoing to secure initial funding for the Part 8 and the business case application for Climate Action funding.

### **Municipal District Works**

Approximately 80% of the planned Surface Dressing work is now complete. The recent bad weather has slowed progress. It is hoped that all work will be complete before the August Bank Holiday weekend Restoration Improvement (RI) work is ongoing and is approximately 70% complete.

An additional allocation of €750,000 has been received from the Department of Transport and schemes have been identified for this funding.

### **Public Lighting**

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

### **Open Spaces (Parks)**

#### **Allenwood Playground**

Works due to commence on 11 September 2023. Works are expected to take 16 weeks to complete the work. Weather and ground conditions may impact this timeframe.

#### **St Brigids Well**

Permanent paths and resin surfacing on new tarmac paths have been completed.

#### **Sports Capital Grant**

Two applications were submitted for Kerdiffstown Park and Sallins Amenity Land.



### **Play Day**

Final preparations being made for the event on the 16 September.

### **Natural Play Area Newbridge**

Final designs and tender documents are ready for the natural play area to be installed in Newbridge Linear Park. It is planned to tender it in November.

### **Outdoor Gym, Celbridge**

The Outdoor Gym in Celbridge is being installed the week starting 11 September 2023.

### **Caragh Road Roundabout**

Tenders issued for the landscaping of the roundabouts at K – Leisure.

### **Sallins Amenity Land**

Preparation of a tender for the detail design of an initial phase are underway and it is expected the tender will be issued in mid- October. The initial phase is aimed at carrying out cut and fill on the site to establish levels for pitches and the wetland, design of the entrances, car park and perimeter path.

## **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. In February 2023 Kildare County Council was notified a judicial review of the Plan, specifically the housing targets. This case is ongoing.

Work is underway to prepare an implementation plan for objectives and actions for 2023/2024 with some work started on SUDs Guidance, Serviced Sites pilots and Permeability Guidelines.

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Kildare Town**

A Special Municipal District meeting was held on Tuesday the 18 July 2023 at which the Chief Executive's Report and Draft Plan were considered and the elected members agreed to publish Proposed Material Alterations to the draft plan. The public consultation on the Proposed Material Alterations took place from the 04 August 2023 until the 04 September 2023 where 45



submissions were submitted. The Chief Executive Report on submissions will be prepared over the next number of weeks.

**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.

**Newbridge**

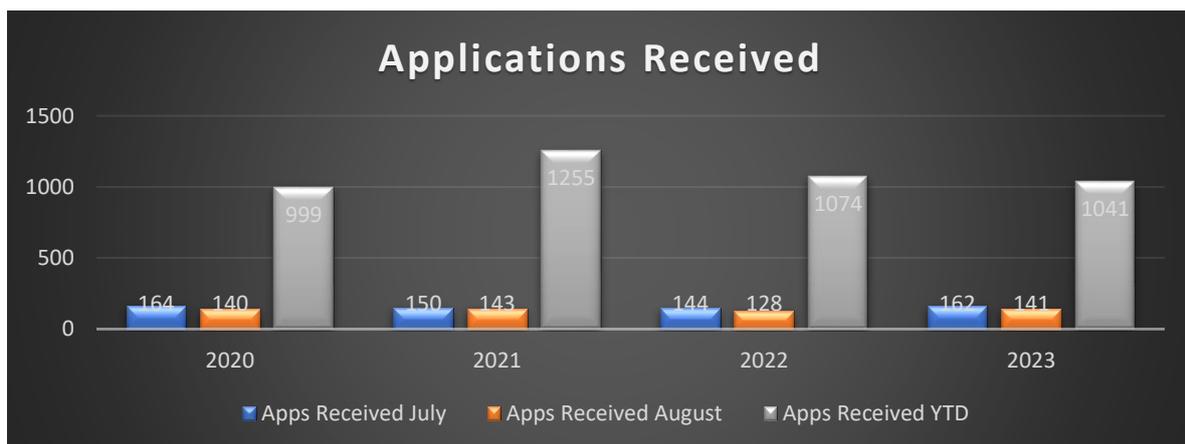
Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan, including the Area Based Transport Assessment for the plan area.

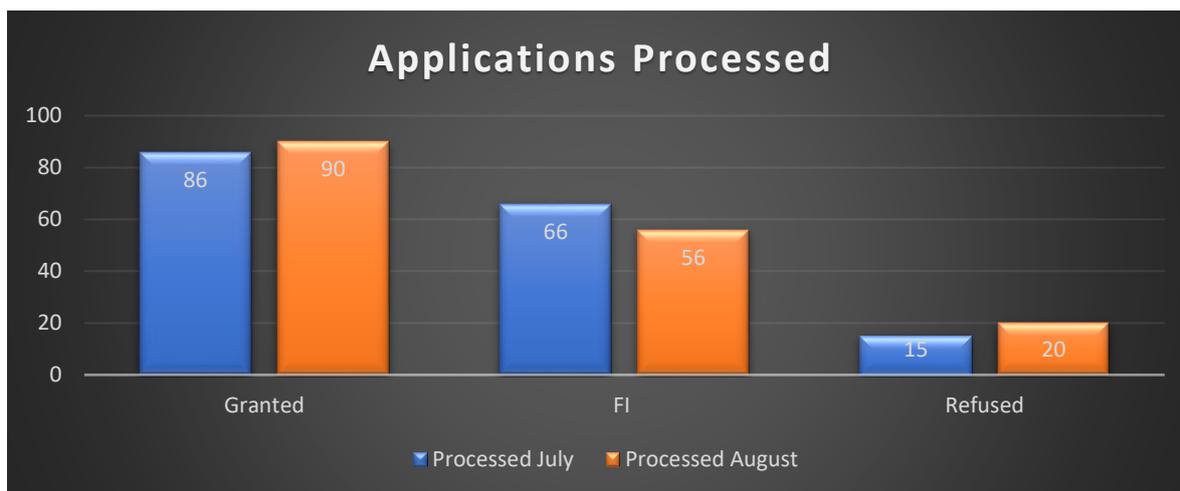
Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation programmed for Quarter three 2023.

**Development Management**

**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.55% 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 ABP.

### 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	FI Requested 14/06/2023
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,	295	FI Requested 06/07/2023



			Kildare Town		
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed Grant 04/08/2023

## Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

### Heritage Projects - Progress

#### Updates

#### 1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Date of first HMAC meeting took place on 04 July.

#### 2. Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas (€15,500)

7L Architects appointed.

#### 3. UNESCO

Brief for appointment of project coordinator approved by Steering Group. Consultants have been appointed to conduct the mapping exercise.

#### 4. Brigid 1500

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

### B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

#### 1. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP)

now completed with community groups in 2023. A BAP network to be established in September.

#### 2. Vegetation control

Lullybeg has commenced with Butterfly Conservation Ireland.

#### 3. Development of the Woodland Bat

Monitoring Survey commenced

#### 4. Kildare Citizen science in Schools and Community Project

commenced with Kildare BioBoxes.

#### 5. Jigginstown

Initial site visit arranged with OPW.

#### 6. KFM

Biodiversity infomercials running until September.

### C. Conservation Projects – Progress Updates

#### 1. Heritage Stewardship Scheme

The Heritage Council has awarded €25,200 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 has been appointed to undertake this work for Kildare County Council.

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

Consultants will be appointed to undertake the Conservation Management Plan.

**3. Kildare County Council – RPS Review ‘Reform and Reuse’**

A request for expressions of interest and quotes for a partial review of the Kildare County Council ‘Record of

Protected Structures’ was forwarded to a number of consultants on 27 June. All tenders received are currently being reviewed. It is expected that consultants will be appointed to undertake the Conservation Management Plan week commenced on 10 July.

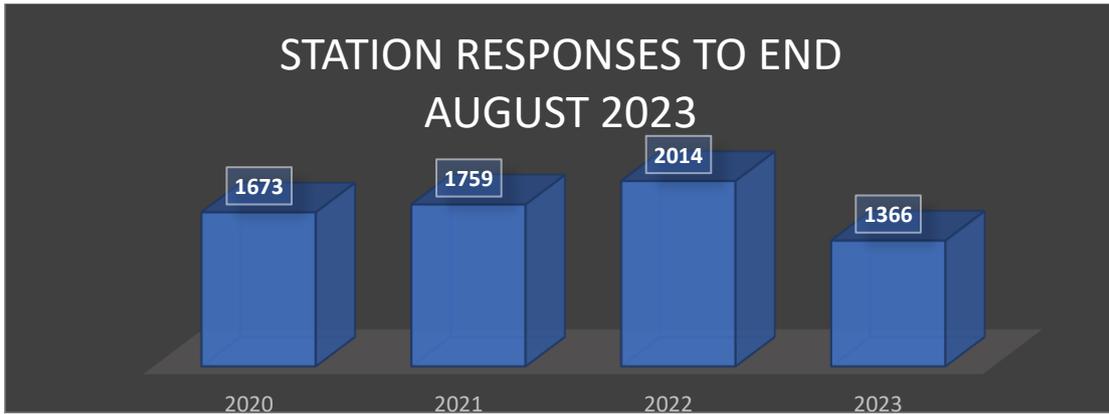
**4. Cassidy’s Distillery – Conservation Management Plan**

An invitation to submit tenders for the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for Cassidy’s Distillery, Monasterevin was uploaded to e-tenders on 30 June last. Submissions were invited up to 08 August 2023.

**Fire Service Operations:**

**2023 Summary**





### Fire Safety Certificates

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

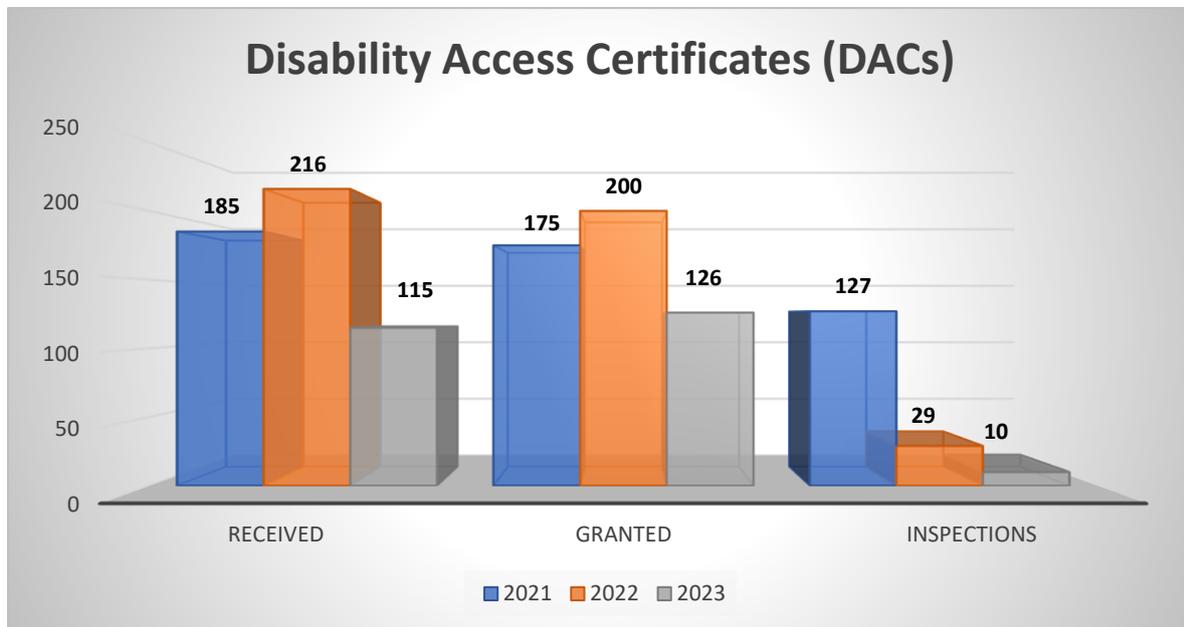
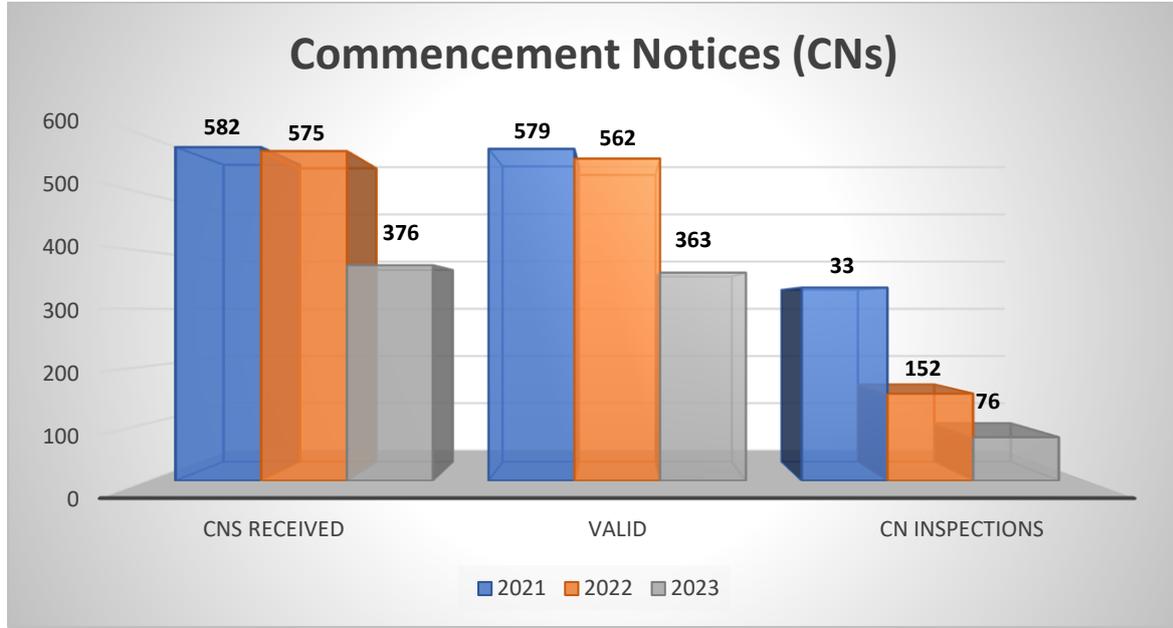


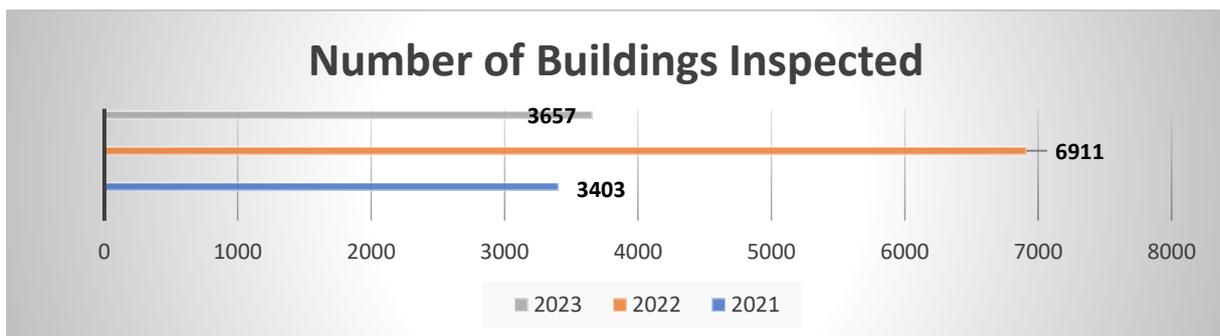
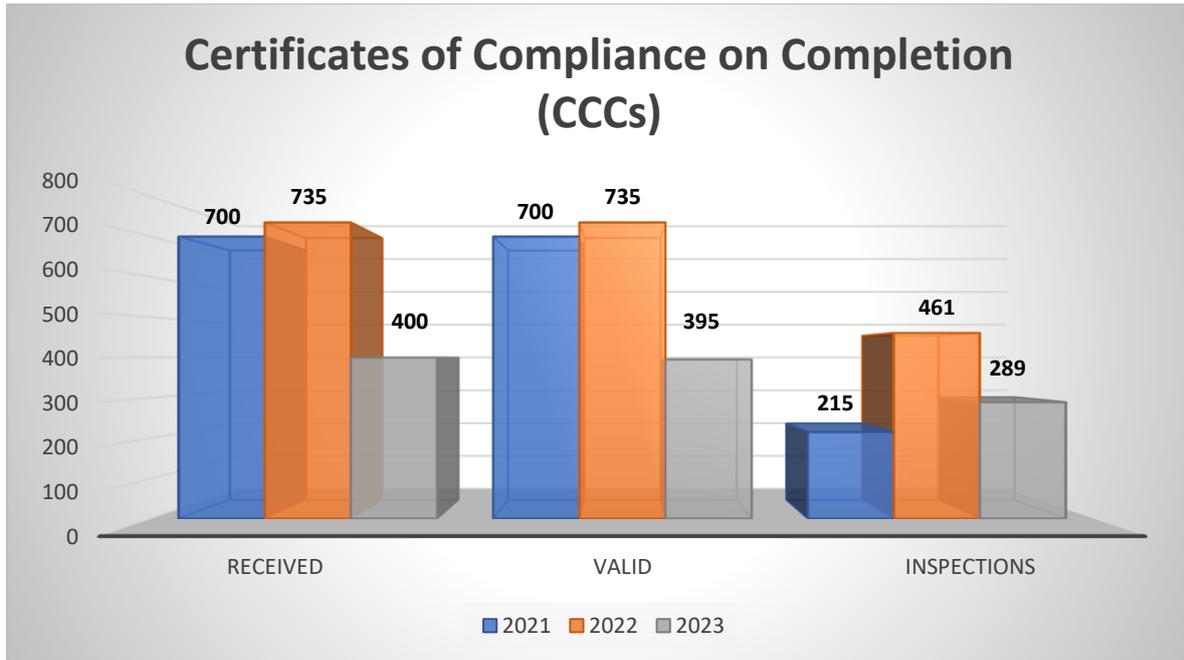


## Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of August 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.

## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

July and August are key tourist periods. The marketing message to support tourism and hospitality businesses over these months, focused on summer break inspiration and offers, daycations, events,

summer camps and activities and summer BBQ essentials.

On social media channels, the Kildare Town Derby Festival, Heritage Week,



the Horizon Irish Open were supported alongside other Kildare offerings.



Special Guest Nathan Carter

Into Kildare attended the thirtieth Anniversary celebrations of Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park where the new peatland biodiversity board walk was launched by Deputy Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Thomas Byrne. There was a great turn out from the community to support Jonathan Judge, Ray Stapleton and the Lullymore team. The park hosts a wide range of activities from play areas to heritage and peatland experiences welcoming over 50,000 paid visitors a year.



Jonathon Judge- Lullymore, An Caithearlach Daragh Fitzpatrick, Áine Mangan -IntoKidlare, Paul Kealy -Fáilte Ireland, Sonya Kavanagh -Chief Executive Kildare County Council, and Ray Stapleton -Lullymore



Fáilte Ireland hosted an Industry Webinar titled A Summer of Golf in Irelands Ancient East. This webinar stressed the importance of driving tourism growth in this area, maximizing marketing and promotional offers to attract golf visitors who typically spend over three times that of the average leisure tourist. With the focus being on The Horizon Irish Open in September 2023 in County Kildare at The K Club.



Into Kildare attended meetings in preparation for the Horizon Irish Open in The K Club in September.



Meetings took place with the Curragh Racecourse regarding the Taste of Kildare Festival to support County food and craft businesses. The outcome being the event will be held May 2024 over the Irish Guineas Festival weekend. Subject to sponsorship.



Into Kildare Chair David Mongey, Chief Executive Áine Mangan, An Cathairleach Daragh Fitzpatrick and members of the Kildare Tourism and Hospitality industry.

Into Kildare in partnership with Dublin Convention Bureau, organised and facilitated a Kildare Sales Mission to the United Kingdom. A group of the tourism and hospitality trade from hotels to attractions attended this sales

mission. They had one to one meetings with eighteen UK M.I.C.E buyers. This event was a successful networking opportunity with follow up enquiries already in process. An upcoming familiarisation trip in December is being arranged by Into Kildare for buyers interested in visiting Co. Kildare which will further relations with the United Kingdom.

Into Kildare attended the Carole Nash Historic Festival in Mondello Park and met with Dave Griffen winner of the HRCA Historics - St. Brigid's Trophy Race.



Into Kildare CE Aine Mangan, Kildare County Council Director Eoghan Ryan with Dave Griffen, winner of the St. Brigid's Trophy Race at Mondello.

Barberstown Castle hosted The Rose of Tralee Gala prior to their countywide tour. The Into Kildare team met with the Roses and rekindled relations with Ashleigh Byrne, the 2022 Kildare Rose.



Into Kildare Chief Executive Áine Mangan, Tourism Development Manager Irish National Stud David Wardell, Kildare County Council Director of Services Alan Dunney.

Into Kildare arranged a number of meetings with members accompanied by Kildare County Council Director Mr. Alan Dunny. These included a number of Kildare’s key tourism providers and attractions - the Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens, Lullymore Heritage Park, Castletown House, Kildare Village, Solas Bhríde, Firecastle and the Barge Trip and the new bike hire store in Sallins. A site inspection was also arranged with The Church of Oak Distillery, where the old BallyKelly Mills into has been converted to a modern distillery and plan to welcome guests in 2025. Into Kildare hosted a number of Familiarisation trips to Kildare to help promote accommodation, hospitality

and attraction offerings as part of our ongoing strategy to promote county Kildare.



Journalist Karen Bell Image Magazine with Into Kildare team.

Into Kildare welcomed Fáilte Ireland Manager of Ireland Ancient East and new Fáilte Ireland officer for Kildare to the Intokildare offices for meetings and presentation to IK team. This provided the opportunity to discuss industry plans and strategies for Co. Kildare.



Fáilte Ireland Lorraine Sheenan and Derek Dolan with Into Kildare Áine Mangan.



Newbridge Silverware Museum of Style Icons hosted an event for AVEA, Association of visitor Experience and Attractions, event in Newbridge Silverware Museum of Style Icons.



In keeping with the County Kildare Tourism Strategy, at the end of August, Into Kildare partnered again with the Dublin Convention Bureau to organize a sales mission to the USA. The purpose to support the tourism and hospitality network and profiling County Kildare as a place to do business. A number of Into Kildare members from the hotel and attraction industry attended meetings with buyers from the USA promoting their offerings in the M.I.C.E sector.



A number of information packs were prepared and provided for delegations visiting County Kildare.



Councillor Bill Clear welcomed Mayor Jean Stothert of Omaha to Kildare at a twinning event in Lawlors Hotel, Naas.



## 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](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

or call 045980838.

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

## Financial Supports

Funding Applications Awarded From 1 January – 12 July		
	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	67	€151,145
Priming Grant	6	€193,354
Business Expansion Grant	4	€154,771
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€50,230
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	11	€19,904
Agile Innovation Fund	1	€41,235
IP Start	2	€4,320
Gradstart	2	€60,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>€674,959</b>



### Priming Grant Approved

Ryan and Tony Casey T/A C11 Recovery were approved €35,257 to support recruitment of two new employees and capital equipment.

### Grad Start Approved

MHL Energy Pro Limited were approved €30,000 to support recruitment of one new graduate employee.

EnergyPro Asset Management Limited were approved €30,000 to support recruitment of one new graduate employee.

### Entrepreneurship Support Services BUSINESS CLINICS:

Start-up advisory clinics are offered online or in-person in MERITS weekly. Appointments can be requested [HERE](#).

Mentor clinics focusing on a specific area of business will resume on 14 September and appointments can be requested [HERE](#).

14 September - Marketing/Digital Strategy

21 September - Focus on Finance

28 September - Operational Efficiency

05 October - Advice on LEO supports

### FOCUS ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS:

Join us on 19 October for this fabulous lunchtime event at Clanard Court Hotel.



Enjoy a networking reception, a two course lunch followed by a Key Address by Rachel Doyle - who will then join an armchair panel discussion with our Kildare and Carlow Ambassadors and National President of Network Ireland. Bookings can be made online [HERE](#).

### FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY:

The next monthly briefing on the new €5,000 Energy Efficiency Grant will take place online on 14 September. Register [HERE](#) to learn how to access it as small businesses seeking to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient.





### FOCUS ON CRAFT:

25 Kildare-based makers/creators have been selected to join a Christmas Pop-Up collective in Kildare Village. The official launch will take place on 26 October, more information to follow next month.

### FOCUS ON EXPORT:

Export is the main theme of the Autumn/Winter training programme. 14 Kildare-based companies with export ambitions joined an exporters breakfast in MERITS on 29 August. Led by Dr Colm Reilly of OCO Global, these businesses are also being supported in the development of the export plans with 1-1 export mentoring.

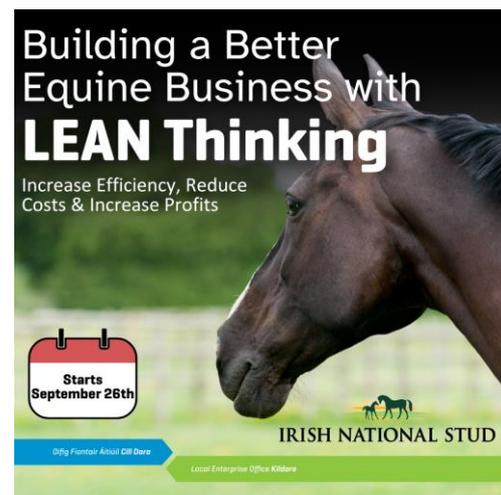
### FOCUS ON TECH:

Applications are open for our first Export Accelerator which has been specifically designed for tech products/services with ambition to reach new international markets.



This ambitious programme will be supported by specialist mentoring and all participants will work towards a competitive showcase event in January. Established tech companies can apply online [HERE](#).

### FOCUS ON EQUINE:



In collaboration with The Irish National Stud, LEO Kildare invites equestrian businesses across the county to this custom-designed programme: Building a Better Equine Business with Lean Thinking - Increase Efficiency, Reduce Costs and Increase Profits. Liveries, riding schools and instructors, trainers, freelance grooms, equine nutritionists, equine-tech entrepreneurs, and anyone working within the equine sector are invited to apply. More information and booking [HERE](#).



## Municipal District Supports

### Roadshow:

This autumn our team are touring the county, hosting a business get-together in each Municipal District. We'll discuss the supports available across all business sectors and how to access them.

This is an opportunity for existing business owners to ensure that they are maximising the supports of the Enterprise and Economic Development Unit, but also for aspiring entrepreneurs to understand the various supports available as their business grows.

8:00 a.m., 12 September- Osprey Hotel, Naas

7:00 p.m., 12 September – Clonard Court Hotel, Athy

7:00 p.m., 12 September - Westgrove Hotel, Clane

7:00 p.m., 20 September– Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge

7:00 p.m., 20 September – Springfield Hotel, Leixlip

### Economic Support Services

Retail Support Scheme 2023 now open.

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme is now closed to all applicants. The economic development team

continues to engage with retailers across the county providing them with information on all of the LEO and economic development supports available.

78 applications have been approved under the Shopfront Grant Improvement Scheme and the Retail Window Merchandising Grant scheme to date with a total value of €164,977.25.

Municipal District Applications as of 11 September 2023	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	18	€46,808
Athy	17	€38,143
Naas	20	€36,019
Clane/Maynooth	9	€14,978
Celbridge/Leixlip	14	€29,029.25

The Autumn Window Merchandising Grant is open to applicants until 13 October and businesses can avail of 80% funding on eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500. Full details are available at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Retail%20Window%20Merchandising%20Grant/>



## **Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023**

Under this scheme, retailers, 22 property owners and local groups applied for grants totalling €83,660.16 that they are using to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies in Athy. Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, CourtHouse Kildare.

The consultants are currently in the final stages of the feasibility study. The report will then be provided to the economic development team for review and consideration.

Kildare Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

All of the key stakeholders in this feasibility study have now been fully engaged. The final stages of the report are now being completed and it is expected that the draft report will be received by the economic development team by the end of September.

## **Kildare Economic Forum**

Over 150 businesses attended the Kildare Economic Forum, hosted Kildare County Council in association with Kildare Chamber on the 12 September 2023. The seminar, which was moderated by leading economist

Jim Power, heard from a number of speakers who discussed how Kildare business owners and managers can adapt to them to deliver growth and sustainability for their businesses.

## **Kilcock Enterprise Park Feasibility Study**

The feasibility report is currently in the final stages for review by the economic development team and the report is expected to be presented to the Clane Maynooth Municipal District meeting in October.

## **Hub Marketing**

K Hub Filming has taken place across all of the Hubs and a full social media campaign will take place highlighting each of the hubs across Kildare in September and October. KHub Month takes place during the month of October in which a number of hubs are hosting events in showcasing their facilities and the benefit of working from a hub or innovation space in Kildare.

## **Hub Activity**

### **Enterprise Ireland HPSU Founders Forum**

MERITS hosted the second Founders Forum of the year in June. These workshops are run by Enterprise Ireland to support and develop their



High Potential StartUp companies and they have brought 38 HPSU founders to the MERITS facility thus far in 2023.

### **Hubs Occupancy**

MERITS occupancy increased again in June with more founders and business owners being supported than ever before. Further clients will be onboarded in July.

NEIC (National Equine Innovation Centre) occupancy remains close to full capacity.

### **MERITS to become a Gigabit Hub**

MERITS has been successful in it's application to become a member of the

SIRO Gigabit Hub network which will commence in the coming months.

### **Appendix: Business Supports**

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

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