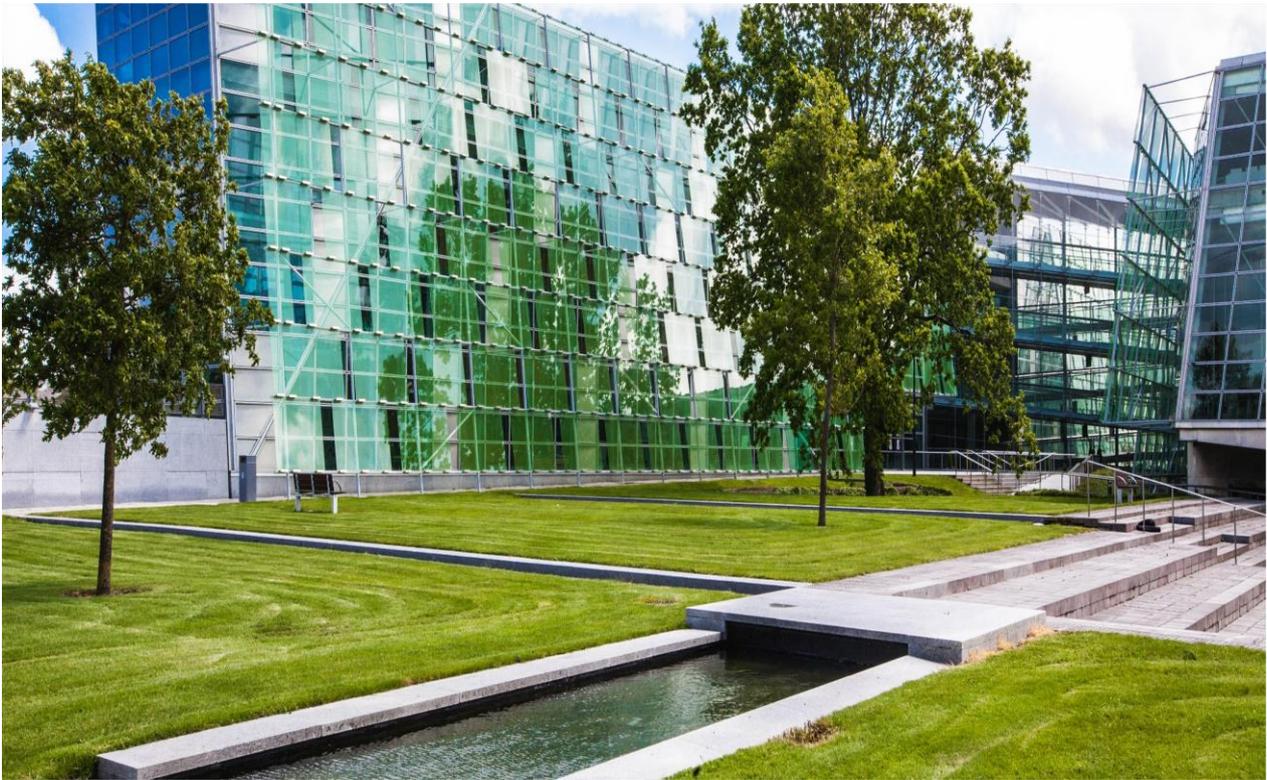




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – July 2023





News Items

Official Launch of Mid-East Regional Innovation Thinkspace

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD was guest of honour for the official opening of the MERITS, hosted by Kildare County Council.

(see page 9).

Appointment of new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

Elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Darragh Fitzpatrick and Councillor Tracey O Dwyer as Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, at the Annual meeting. (see page 10).

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Handover from the contractor is expected in August and the library will be open to the public in Autumn 2023 (Page 13)

Creative Ireland

Recruitment of a Creative Communities Engagement Officer, to support the delivery of Kildare's Creative Ireland programme is underway (see page 15).

Innovation

Following Kildare County Council's 'Call for Ideas' the Evaluation Committee has met with staff – members were very impressed with the number, diversity and creativity of the ideas received from staff (see page 20/21)

Traveller and Roma Pride 2023

Members of the Council's LTACC attended the Traveller and Roma Pride Day in Newbridge Resource Centre on Thursday, 13 July last (see page 23)



Housing Allocations

For the period January 2023 to June 2023, the council allocated a total of 607 properties throughout the county (see page 23)

National Food Waste Recycling Week

Kildare County Council held a number of public events as part of National Food Waste Recycling Week (see page 43)

Decarbonising Zone

The DZ Plan will be made available for adoption in July (see page 50)

Gas Network Ireland's Gas 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 (see page 53/54)

Junction Programme

Phase 1A of the Rural Junctions Improvement Project is for the delivery of five separate schemes (see page 58)

Focus on Women in Business:

LEOs Kildare and Carlow are collaborating to host National Women's Enterprise Day on 19 October 2023 in Clonard Court Hotel, Athy (see page 74)



Diary/Calendar

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The Library Service is aiming for a Culture Night event on 22 September 2023 (see page 13/14)

Community Grants

The Education Bursaries scheme opened for application on 3 July 2023 until 8 September 2023 (see page 40)

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

The remaining clinic in 2023 is scheduled for: Monday 23 October 2023 (see page 41).

Climate Action SPC

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 September 2023 (see page 51).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 27 September 2023 (see page 56).

DeBurgh Gardens

Free tours of the DeBurgh Gardens have been organised for Heritage Week. The tours will take place from 12 –20 August 2023 (see page 62).

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Advisory clinics will be offered on demand over the summer months.

Mentor clinics will resume on 14 September 2023 (see page 74)



September Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 Aug	29	30	31	1 Sep 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
4 15:00 County JPC	5 14:30 Audit Committee	6	7 14:00 Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC	8
11 14:30 Protocol	12 14:30 Naas JPC 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	13 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services and Water SPC	14 14:30 Housing SPC	15 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Committee
18 09:00 Athy JPC 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	19 11:00 Rural Water Monitoring Committee; Committee Room; Meetings	20 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting	21 10:30 LTACC 15:00 Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	22
25 15:00 Full Council Meeting	26	27 10:00 LCDC	28	29



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Publication of Kildare County Council's 2022 Annual Report



Kildare County Council's Chief Executive, Sonya Kavanagh and then Cathaoirleach, Councillor Fintan Brett took part in a photocall to announce the publication of the 2022 Annual Report on 22 June 2023, giving an overview of the Council's programme of work delivered in 2022.

Many significant and important projects and milestones were advanced by Kildare County Council throughout 2022. The 2022 Annual Report reflects on the activities and achievements of Kildare County Council as well as highlighting the wide range of services provided by the local authority in Kildare, across all aspects of daily life.

Communications Campaign to highlight Impact and Contribution of 2022 Local Property Tax Funding



Kildare County Council published an overview of the extensive contribution and impact of Local Property Tax funding in 2022. As part of the extensive communications campaign, an information video and podcast were published featuring contributions from many groups and individuals across the County highlighted some of the projects and initiatives that benefitted from LPT funding last year. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness and understanding of 'where your local property tax is going', how it is allocated and how all communities are benefiting.

To date the information video has over 1,000 views and the podcast has almost 400 listens and reach of over 47,000 on social media posts for the campaign.



Launch of first Digital Strategy for County Kildare



Kildare County Council has published the first Digital Strategy for County Kildare, aimed at creating an inclusive, progressive, innovative and connected digital society and economy for the benefit of Kildare's citizens and businesses.

Minister of State with responsibility for Research and Development, Farm Safety and New Market Development, at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Martin Heydon TD joined Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh, Cathaoirleach, Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick and members of the Kildare County Council executive and consultant team for the launch of Kildare Connected.

Kildare Connected identifies five strategic pillars which aim to maximise the opportunities of digital transformation and development for the benefit of our society and

economy, ensuring that Kildare is among the best places to live, work, visit or invest.

Publication of Monasterevin Town Renewal Master Plan



Kildare County Council has published a Master Plan for the future of Monasterevin, highlighting exciting and ambitious recommended changes and proposed developments to the spatial configuration of the town to guide sustainable growth and enable it to be a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and prosper as well as an exciting place to visit and explore.

Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District gathered in Monasterevin and were joined by members of Kildare County Council's Strategic Projects and Public Realm along with consultants from the Paul Hogarth Company for the launch.



Official Launch of Mid-East Regional Innovation Thinkspace



Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD was guest of honour for the official opening of the Mid-East Regional Innovation Thinkspace (MERITS), hosted by Kildare County Council.

The innovative hub is co-funded by Kildare County Council and Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REFD) and is already home to 20 client companies, employing over 40 people.



MERITS is an innovation thinkspace hub created to support digital and technology innovation in the Mid-East region (Kildare, Meath and Wicklow). The state-of-the-art 1200sqm

incubation space for start-up and scaling technology businesses, comprises the latest tools and technologies along with office space, meeting rooms and conference suites in an immersive experience.

A huge crowd gathered in the MERITS building for the exciting launch, which include speeches from Minister Coveney along with Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council; then Cathaoirleach, Councillor Fintan Brett and Leo Clancy, Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Ireland.

FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2023	Total received Quarter 2, 2023	Total
Freedom of Information Requests	34	61	95
Freedom of information appeals	5	5	10
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	4	6	10
Ombudsman	11	7	18



Members Services

Appointment of new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach



Elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Darragh Fitzpatrick and Councillor Tracey O Dwyer as Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare respectively, at the Annual meeting of the County Council which took place in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara on Friday 23 June 2023.

The new appointees succeed the outgoing Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Fintan Brett and Councillor Joe Neville, following their term of office.

The following Councillors were elected at the Annual meetings of Municipal Districts held in July.

Clane Maynooth

Cathaoirleach Councillor Tim Durkan, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Angela Feeney.

Naas

Mayor Councillor Bill Clear, Deputy Mayor Councillor Seamie Moore.

Athy

Cathaoirleach Vera Louise Behan, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Mark Leigh.

Kildare Newbridge

Mayor Councillor Noel Heavey, Deputy Mayor Councillor Ann Connolly.

Celbridge Leixlip

Cathaoirleach Councillor Bernard Caldwell. Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Ciara Galvin.

Councillor Bob Quinn was co-opted to replace former Councillor Colm Kenny of the Green Party.

A casual vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Councillor Mark Stafford Fine Gael and a nominee for co-option is awaited.

Council Chamber upgrade

Work is well underway on the upgrade of the chamber. Due to a supply chain delay it is probable that the chamber will not be ready for Municipal District and other meetings in September. All meetings will be relocated to either the Boardroom or the Committee Room. It



is hoped to have the chamber available for the full council meeting on the 25 September 2023.

Public Sector Duty

The Draft Framework is now almost complete and a Public Sector Steering Group/Committee is being established. Training will be rolled out on a phased basis beginning in July to be completed by the end of September for all grades and elected members. Staff and Members will be advised of this training and can register for the course.

Awards

A structure has been put in place to encourage staff participation in National Award Competitions to showcase Kildare County Council's achievements throughout the year. To date the following submissions have been made.

16 entries to the Excellence in Local Government Awards in the following categories:

- Age Friendly
- Climate Change
- Diversity
- Festival of the Year
- Health and Wellbeing

- Heritage and Built Environment
- Innovation x 2
- Economic Development
- Sustainable Biodiversity
- Sustaining Communities
- Sustaining the Arts
- Urban Revival

Irish Planning Institute Awards – submission made.

National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) Good Practice Event 2023 – submission made.

Open Government Partnership

Research on the co-creation process is continuing and discussions have taken place with OGP personnel in central government, Glasgow Local Authority and the OGP European body. The members will be updated of progress through the Chief Executive's report.

Register of Electors

Check The Register – Voter Registration.

A national awareness campaign around www.checktheregister.ie began on 21 June and has been running with radio, outdoor, social media and newspaper adverts in the last 3-4 weeks.



The link to the press release about this is [here](#)

As the national campaign now begins to wind down, Kildare County Council will initiate its own local awareness activities over the next number of months, which will include local newspaper and local radio advertising, continuing social media activities, outdoor advertising, presence at a range of community events and engagement with schools and other 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, work on which is ongoing.

In the interim elected members and community groups are asked to share our social media content on this available on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

checktheregister.ie

Even if you're registered to vote, now is the time to check the Electoral Register.

Local Authorities are updating the Electoral Register and it's your responsibility to ensure that your details are current and correct.

Even if you're already registered to vote, now's the time to check the Electoral Register and either confirm or update your details by providing your PPSN, Eircode and Date of Birth.

To have your say on shaping Ireland's future, you must be on the Electoral Register. Checking is easy. Simply go to [checktheregister.ie](#)

The Easy Way to Secure Your Say

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”

— Maya Angelou

Kildare Libraries in partnership with the Irish Writers Centre presents the **Connections Through Literature** Series this summer and autumn. The series of short creative writing courses has been born out of a joint love of literature, with the goal to unite our readers, writers and artists with our audiences through the medium of stimulating, contemporary and accessible events.

Naas Library are back providing a library service to Naas Hospital every Wednesday. The feedback has been very positive.

Kildare Libraries have been awarded €8,000 under the **All Strategy Collaboration and Innovation Fund** in partnership with KWETB. The funding will be used with target migrant groups to help building language skills via a series of functional literacy programmes.

Naas Library

Naas Library are busy with preparations for move to the new library.

But all that was halted when we proudly welcomed Haley Nolan who is a Kildare native and an Irish Ladies international footballer. Hayley spoke about the huge work she puts into her football career but stressed the importance of friends, family, and academic studies. It was wonderful for our young library members to meet Hayley and see what is possible with hard work and dedication.

HR matters

Libraries are looking to July as health and Safety month to review and revitalise for the benefit of all our staff and patrons.

Vacancies are being filled at Branch Librarian and Senior Library Assistant and Summer staff will keep the small libraries operational during the holidays.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre Handover from the contractor is expected in August and the library will be open to the public in Autumn 2023.



The Library Service is aiming for a Culture Night event on 22 September 2023.

New Clane Library

The project is now at the detailed design phase in advance of the construction tender. Awaiting results of DRCD capital grant application of €1.8m – expected in September.

Ballitore

Contractor on site in Ballitore to look at removal of render and revitalise the Mary Leadbeater House and Museum and help preserve it for future generations.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Organising the move to Naas, including boxing the collection, planning layout of building for archives collection etc.

Publication of an article in History Ireland magazine by Karel Kiely, archivist, about Mary Leadbeater of Ballitore, highlighting the Quaker material in the Kildare County Archives.

James Durney, Local Studies, appeared in an episode of Who Do You Think You Are? on BBC1 on 14 July, featuring Dev Griffin (radio

presenter, DJ, actor), whose ancestor from Maynooth took part in the Easter Rising 1916.

Decade of Commemorations

The series of talks by James Durney, based on his latest publication Stand you now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of County Kildare republican activists 1913-23 continued in Maynooth and Leixlip libraries. Upcoming talks will be in Kilcock and Athy libraries.

County Kildare Archaeological Society will host a lecture to mark the centenary of the death of Lord Walter Fitzgerald, 31 July, Kilkea Castle.

Arts Service

Arts Grants and Bursary Awards

The 2023 Arts Grants and Awards have been approved by all five Municipal Districts at their June meetings.

A Writer in Residence opportunity 2023/24 with Kildare Library and Arts Service and the Department of English, Maynooth University has been announced. Deadline for applications is 16 July 2023.



The Per Cent for Art Scheme for Naas Library and Cultural Centre is being progressed, following a two-stage process. The commission was awarded on Monday 12 June and the Contract signed.

The Arts Service assisted St. Conleth and Mary's Primary School and St. Conleth and Mary's Infant School, Newbridge for the Per Cent for Art commission for their new school development. Commission was awarded on 19 June 2023.

Creative Ireland

Recruitment of a Creative Communities Engagement Officer, to support the delivery of Kildare's Creative Ireland programme (5 Year Contract/Grade 5) is underway. Deadline for applications was 1 June 2023.

The programme for **Cruinniú na nÓg**, the national day celebrating creativity on children and young people took place on 10 June 2023. Over 4,260 children and young people took part in events around the county.

Health and Safety

- Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Assessments: Seven completed as part of blended working application.
 - Site Inspections: Eight inspections completed in the following areas:
 - Finance/IT
 - Athy Library
 - Motor tax office- Aras Chill Dara
 - Roads – surface dressing traffic management plan
 - Roads – Surface dressing- Milltown
 - Community
 - Housing
 - Roads
1. Review and update of Health and Safety Induction for new employees
 2. Induction for 30 new employees
 3. Office workstation assessment- Planning
 4. Support and advice:
 - a. Roads:
 - RA and MS, fire safety information for National Roads Office



- Machinery yard-risk assessments and method statements
 - NRO – Road Safety Improvement Scheme Carlow
- b. Housing:
- Housing inspection team
5. Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
 6. Safety Committee Meeting with Safety Representatives
 7. HSA (Health and Safety Authority) Inspection Athy WWTP.
 8. Review of Safety Statements:
 - a. 25 depts reviewed for presence of hard copy of safety statement.
 - b. 9 departments had in place – 16 not in place.
 - c. All dept have now received a copy of the safety statement and the e- link to the shared portal location.
 - d. A word version of the “arrangement” sections template with clear direction on how to complete has been forwarded to all line managers.
 - e. Safety boxes are being considered for removal/ consider reuse.
 9. Distribution of LGMA safety handbooks to safety reps and Water and Wastewater.
 10. Safety Meet and Greet:
 - a. Building and Development Control
 11. Health Screening Initiative went live.
 12. Pregnancy Risk Assessments including Visual Display Unit (VDU) assessment:

Two Pregnancy Risk assessments completed in the following sections:

 - a. Planning

Accessibility:

- Working with consultant on development of County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Website.
- Review of second draft of Accessibility video.
- Employee Monitoring Committee Meeting with Department of Housing.
- Review of Athy Access Opportunity Art Proposals.



- Member of Interview Panel for Athy Access Opportunity project.
- Attended IWA (Irish Wheelchair Association Open Day).
- Meetings:
 - Naas and Access Group Meeting
 - Celbridge Access Group Meeting
 - Athy Access Group Meeting
 - Leixlip Access Group Meeting
 - CKAN Meeting
- Meeting with KARE Supported Employment Services Team Leader regarding possibility of employment opportunities within Kildare County Council.
- Meeting with Lough Ree Access for All – review of Disability Boating Project.
- Initial Meeting with Majella O’Keefe to help her prepare for her presentation for National Disability Authority (NDA) Conference- **Participation in Public Life** - a short presentation focusing on her experiences of engaging at a County Council level on disability issues.
- National Access for All Meeting with DFI (Disability Federation of Ireland)
- Workshop on Access All Areas initiative regarding viability of replicating across the county.

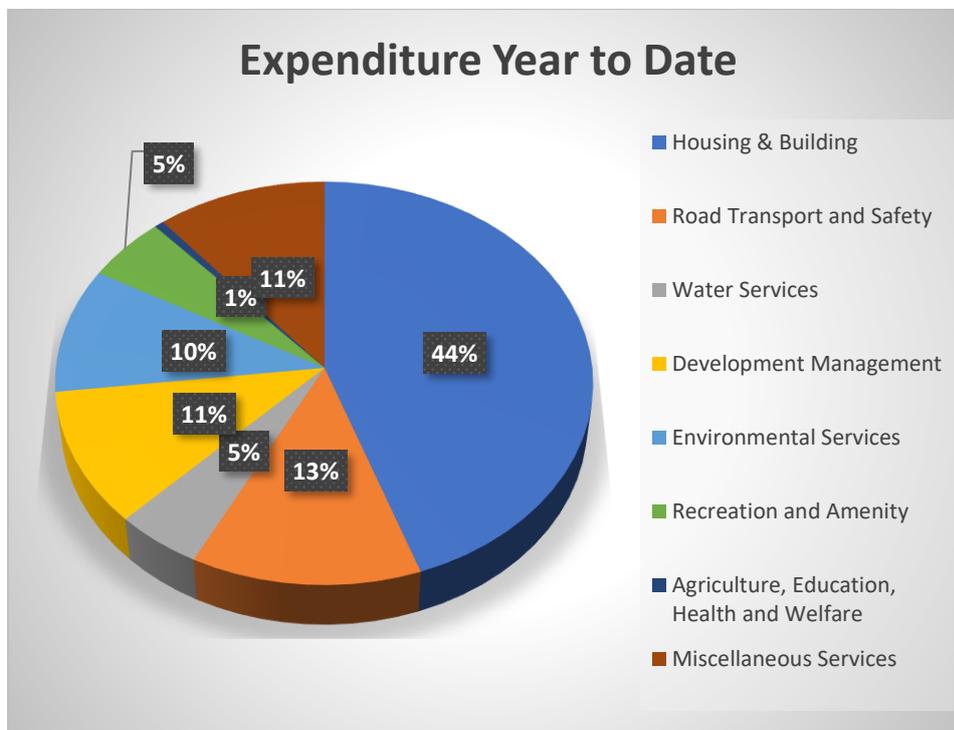


Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 June 2023				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	45,431	66,041	69%	20,610
Road Transport and Safety	13,152	40,812	32%	27,660
Water Services	4,952	10,174	49%	5,222
Development Management	10,950	25,606	43%	14,656
Environmental Services	10,247	21,947	47%	11,700
Recreation and Amenity	5,328	14,018	38%	8,690
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	621	1,376	45%	755
Miscellaneous Services	11,210	19,070	59%	7,860
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	101,891	199,044	51%	97,153





Kildare County Council

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

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	44,586	57,222	78%	12,636
Road Transport and Safety	3,512	20,555	17%	17,043
Water Services	3,438	10,009	34%	6,571
Development Management	5,775	10,004	58%	4,229
Environmental Services	2,174	6,467	34%	4,293
Recreation and Amenity	1,282	1,389	92%	107
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	130	380	34%	250
Miscellaneous Services	656	10,747	6%	10,091
Local Property Tax Allocation	9,642	19,283	50%	9,641
Rates	31,487	62,988	50%	31,501
	102,682	199,044	52%	96,362

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

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure.

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

Revenue expenditure is currently running at 51% - this is slightly ahead of budget as it includes savings in the non-spend of Retained LPT, however senior management will continue to review this situation to ensure the year out-turns on target.



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 June 2023							
	Arrears 01/01/2023	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/05/2023
Commercial Rates	9,906,814	62,956,667	948,433	50,371	71,864,677	36,194,672	35,670,005
Rents & Annuities	1,343,246	9,137,132	36,005	-	10,444,373	9,141,195	1,303,178
Housing Loans	1,623,567	1,948,497	-	-	3,572,064	2,143,473	1,428,591

Cashflow / Overdraft

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

2022 Audit

The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of the 2022 Annual Financial Statements on 28 July 2023.

Risk Management

Management Team work-shopped the Corporate Risk Register with IPB in June. The revised updated register will be brought to the Audit and Risk Committee in September.

Kildare County Council and IPB are scheduling dates to workshop individual departmental risk registers in early autumn.

Innovation



The Process





As advised in the June Chief Executive Report an Evaluation Committee, made up of internal and external members, was scheduled to meet following Kildare County Council's 'Call for Ideas' with staff – this committee has now met and members were very impressed with the number, diversity and creativity of the ideas received from staff.

The ideas fell into three broad categories:

1. Initiatives that are already complete or in progress
2. Initiatives that require a more national approach e.g. change in legislation.
3. Initiatives to progress to the next phase

The ideas in the third category can be mainly categorised as **Quick Wins** (i.e. ideas that once implemented can bring a lot of value and can be easily realised) and **Major Projects** (i.e. ideas that would bring great value but more significant resources are needed to implement them successfully).

The next step is to agree Phase one with Se Management Team. This will be a balanced portfolio of projects i.e. a mix of **Quick Wins** and **Major**

Projects to progress to the next stage and will look to delivering a number of these projects over the coming months.

Motor Tax

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

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

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Town Centre Living Architectural Design Competition

The 'Town Centre Living' competition, launched on 27 January 2023, aims to encourage innovative designs from architectural firms for social housing within town centres and progress the



Town Centre First policy. On 14 June last, Minister Darragh O'Brien announced the winning proposals and the scheme at Station Road, Kildare Town was chosen as one of the four winning entries, from 114 entries. The Stage one application for the site is being prepared for submission to DHLGH.



Summary of Social Housing Assessments - SSHA

Local authorities have been asked to prepare a summary of social housing assessments (under Section.21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009) in their respective administrative areas. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has directed that the Summary for 2023 be prepared on 1 November 2023 for return on or before 29 November 2023. Local authority, HAP, RAS or transfer tenants are not included in this assessment.

Homeless Services

Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS)

The Council has submitted one CRTiS application to the Housing Agency.

Homeless Outreach

Street work was completed in Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, Naas Municipal District and Athy Municipal District. National Quality Standard Framework inspections were completed in Kerdiffstown House and Jigginstown Manor. The Outreach Team attended meetings with Mount Offaly House, Naas Hospital, HSE Addiction Team, ARAS, Heads Up Programme and Cuan Mhuire.

Outreach provided Homeless outreach clinics in the Ballymakealy Community Centre, Celbridge and Newbridge Family Resource Centre. Seventeen single homeless clients exited emergency accommodation in June.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 55 active tenancy sustainment cases, with 44 on the waiting list and two successful discharges in June. Sustainment Officers have engaged in 2 housing clinics, in the Prosperous Family Hub and Athy Family Hub.



Emergency Accommodation

Homeless Services had secured the use of 15 emergency rooms in The Gables, Newbridge. Ownership of this building recently changed and as a result alternative accommodation was secured for people placed in this hotel.

Traveller Accommodation

Traveller and Roma Pride 2023



Members of the Council's Local Traveller Consultative Accommodation Committee (LTACC) attended the Traveller and Roma Pride Day in Newbridge Resource Centre on Thursday, 13 July last. The event was organised by Kildare Traveller Action and supported by the Council.

Caravan Loan Scheme 2023

The DHLGH is continuing the nationwide Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme under Section 25 of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998. The scheme is to support the provision of Traveller-specific accommodation to

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

Vacant Homes

Croí Cónaithe

Eighty-one (81) applications have been received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

Town Centre First (TCF)

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

Housing Allocations

For the period January 2023 to June 2023, the council allocated a total of 607 properties throughout the county. 265 were Council properties and 342 were AHB properties. This is 151 units more than in June 2022. 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.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expected substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Construction commenced. Substantial completion projected for Q4 2023.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender documents being prepared in advance of Stage 3 application to DHLGH.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Planning application to An Board Pleanala scheduled for Q3 2023.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team appointed and progressing detailed design.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Tenders returned and being assessed.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Design and build tender being prepared.
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Civil/Structural Engineering Consultants appointed.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design Team tenders received and being assessed.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Civil works associated with diversion of RSB cables complete. ESB to remove poles and redundant underground and overhead cable and to install new poles and underground and overhead cable on new line. Consultation held with residents and design finalised.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Part 8 proposed to launch Q3 2023.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender being prepared.



Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	18 units	Town Centre Living Design Competition entries assessed and winning entry announced. Stage 1 application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Competition entries to be put on public display following appointment of successful consultants.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Stage 1 application submitted to DHLGH on 9 th June.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Architect Lead Design Team appointed, archaeological excavation/survey completed.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Main contract tender issued on 2 nd July.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Main contract tender issued on 21 st June.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Pre-qualification questionnaire assessment underway. Invitation to participate in discussion with interested bidders due to proceed in August. ESB overheads to be diverted in August
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/45 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
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	All units delivered in April 2023
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
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	CAS Application for Craddockstown withdrawn by KARE. KCC developing alternative proposal for this site.
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
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application approved by DHLGH January 2023.

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	24	38	37
6 - 12 Months	10	20	14
12 - 18 Months	4	7	3
18 - 24 Months	3	7	3
24 - 30 Months	1	1	2
36 Months +	1	2	6
Total	43	75	65



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2023

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	6	13	13
6 - 12 Months	6	10	11
12 - 18 Months	1	1	2
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	1	0
Total	14	25	26

Homeless Presentations

2022	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1357	506	851
2023	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	441	153	288
Quarter 2	497	119	378
Total	938	272	666

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2022	Adults	Dependents
Total	595	438
2023	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	182	147
Quarter 2	138	102
Total	320	249

Housing Adaptation Grants

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



Q2 2023	78	37	1	1	119	72
Total YTD	167	93	3	3	237	152

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2022 EERP	69	Works complete to Ballyroe and Lacken View and Ottomy.
2023 EERP	86	Initial tender issued for 32 units in Kilcock, Maynooth and Celbridge. Tenders returned 13 th July.

Acquisitions

	Completed 2019	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed Jan-June 2023
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	41	10
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	82	22
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	86	42
Total complete	379	187	110	209	74

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	5	11	25	31	2
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	1	1	2	59	2



Local Authority Home Loan

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

Tenant Purchase Scheme

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

Social Housing Assessments

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

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2022	127	45	9,361	8,275
Q1 2023	42	5	3,157	2,407
Q2 2023	29	8	2,342	1,535
Total	71	13	5,499	3,942



Differential Rents Scheme - Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA HAP Review
2022 Total	1336	334	479
Q1 2023	541	98	109
Q2 2023	532	123	95
2023 YTD	1073	221	204

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2022	383	98	324
Q1 2023	85	3	79
Q2 2023	116	3	105
2023 YTD	201	6	184

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	Paving continues at locations along the route. Ready to commence earthworks at the M7 underpass. Discussions ongoing with Irish Rail regarding works at the Railway Bridge in Monasterevin. Project on target. Awaiting confirmation of



					additional funding from RRDF.
	Greenway – Phase 1 Aylmer Bridge to Sallins	€3,000,000	€3,000,000	Construction	Sallins tie-in of Phase 1 and 2 to streamline route also requires Part 8. Footbridge (Sallins) will be installed between Friday, 25 th August and Friday, 1 st September with temporary road closure at Canal View (advertised on 27 th June last).
	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 Bonyng Bridge, providing access to the southern side of the canal and proposed Greenway, without users



					crossing over the existing bridge. Part 8 report September 2023 followed by Part 8. Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval to proceed.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design. KCC Agent in on-going discussions with various landowners.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final design details submitted to the design team following a meeting with the business/residents surrounding The Square. Failte Ireland drawdown deadline of November 2023. Engaging with the MD office to deliver some



					interim works to secure The Square and remove parking. Expect to have Part 8 documents in August in advance of publication in September.
	Newbridge Cultural Quarter (Phase 1 County Library & Archive)	€656,412	€492,000 URDF €164,412 LPT	Part 8 (Library)	County Library: Part 8 Consultation: total of 17 public submissions were received with additional submissions from prescribed bodies and internal departments. Part 8 process will be finalised at the September MD meeting.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Review of the draft document underway.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,300,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,600,000	€200,000	Part 8	Part 8 approved. A new funding application required to advance this project.



	Athgarvan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Final edits required for policy updates – CDP, Maps etc.
	Monasterevin Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€150,000	€98,000 T&V €52,000 RRDF	Town Masterplan	Published. All final claims will be processed and the job code closed out.
Athy	Emily Square	€2,616,050	€2,707,500 (RRDF) €2,200,000		Tender documents in progress
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,677,350	0 (KCC)	Tender assessment	Preferred tenderer withdrew from the project; next preferred tenderer has been assessed and recommendation with tender report issued to the Department. Request for additional funding submitted to RRDF with the tender report; decision awaited.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 LPT	Masterplan	RPS appointed to complete the SSFRA. Commencement meeting has taken place and workshops expected in mid-August.



	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Athy Dry Dock		€40,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	WWI have confirmed that this dock is still operational. Education facilities, as suggested by the members, have been provided at other dry docks no longer in use. Clarification sought from the members around the works they would like to see undertaken.
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed with accessibility checks required.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn			Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Current Contracts associated with preparation of Part 8. Contract 1: Ground Investigation - Tender offered. Contract 2: Investigative Opening Up Works of Buildings and Courtyard - Tender Prepared Traffic Survey for Part 8: completed.



					<p>Buildings Asbestos Survey for Opening up Works Contract: completed Other Contracts: Contract for emergency repairs to the barn part funded by Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) – Tender documents completed by Conservation Consultants. Advance Works Tender Package: Fine detail/ conservation agreed by all parties. Consultants have commenced preparation of necessary Contract Documents. Other Items: Planning application by Kildare Innovation Centre to include the proposed M4 Bridge cycle/pedestrian bridge connecting Wonderful Barn to Kildare Innovation Centre. Will have bearing on the</p>
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					Part 8 for Wonderful Barn Outside of Contract: KCC looking at installing CCTV security on the main building / tower as an anti-vandalism measure.
	The Acre Project	TBC	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Not commenced	Work has commenced on preparing the tender documents for a feasibility study for the next phase of this project.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA completed.
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Draft presented to elected members for their input and comments. AA/SEA completed.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	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	Construction	Completion date confirmed for end of July 2023.
	Prosperous Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	Works are complete.
	Kilcock Gateway	€125,000	€100,000 T&V €25,000 LPT	Construction	Works are complete.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and accessibility checks
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Small edits to be completed and 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 accessibility checks
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review. Further analysis required.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review. Further analysis required
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review. Further analysis required.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Draft provided for review. Further analysis required.



Naas	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.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	TBC	Business case to be approved.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Faillte Ireland Outdoor Scheme (Parklets)	€187,275	€187,275	1 parklet installed	Parklet on Main Street has been relocated to outside Urban Kitchen/Costa on Dublin Road with the assistance of the MD office. Very well received. Naas Tidy Towns have generously assisted with the planting. Some small works to be carried out including the insertion of a filler piece between the footpath and the parklet.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€63,000 T&V	Masterplan	Final document will be ready in October with



			€7,000 LPT		deadline for funding drawdown in November.
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Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community Grants

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

All Grants 2023			
Type	No.	Amount	
Community Grants	152	€251,702	
Festival Grants	68	€82,300	
Private Residents' Associations Grants	273	€242,695	Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€41,243	Incl LPT
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	60	€476,506	
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	68	€132,855	
Community Support Fund			
Education Bursaries			
Drehid Grants	43	€179,560	
Total	714	€1,406,861	

2023 grants schemes: Community, festival and residents' associations grants payments are ongoing.

Where LPT awards have been notified, groups are being contacted as required. Assessments of LPT-funded grant schemes have now been included (Athy and Celbridge-Leixlip).

The Education Bursaries scheme opened for application on 3 July 2023 (until 8 September 2023).



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

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

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

The existing Service Level Agreement will be replaced by a Master Agreement for all local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority, possibly by end of Quarter two 2023 taking into consideration changes included 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, have co-ordinated the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 – 2029.



Public Consultation for the Draft National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy commenced on Wednesday 3 May and ran until Wednesday 5 July.

Details are on www.mywaste.ie

The draft plan was discussed at the Environment and Water Services SPC meeting on 9 May. The SPC members undertook to make a joint submission on the draft plan.

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.

The public consultation is open for submissions until 27 July 2023.

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

Tidy Towns

Grants to local Tidy Towns committees were approved by the members at the last round of Municipal District meetings.

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

National Food Waste Recycling Week

Kildare County Council held a number of public events as part of National Food Waste Recycling Week. An awareness campaign on using brown bins properly was underpinned by three kitchen caddy distribution events in Athy, Celbridge and Naas. Over 1,500 caddies were distributed and the events were very well received by the public.

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

A Market Sounding exercise took place in late 2022. An update on the findings was presented to the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District in March. Capital funding is the key



challenge delaying 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/Kerdiffst>
ownPark

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Current plans are as follows:

Columbarium Walls

a) New

It is proposed to install new Columbarium Walls in a number of cemeteries subject to funding: Contract Documents are at design stage currently and the proposal is to advance to tender.

b) Completion

Works completed of Columbarium Walls in Rathangan and Crookstown.

Cemetery Extensions

a) Allen

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

b) Staplestown

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

c) Confey

As agreed with the Municipal District members, minor works are planned to create some additional space within the existing cemetery, as it is approaching capacity.

Other Capital Improvement Works

a) Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

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

b) 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. Some of the works currently at planning stage include the following:

- a) Churchtown Cemetery
Wiring works completed and now awaiting on ESB to do final connection for the public lighting on this project.

- b) Confey Cemetery
Municipal District members have supported the proposal to relocate the altar in order to create extra capacity.

Climate Action Regional Office



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their counties, with particular focus on implementing actions contained within climate adaptation strategies /climate action plans. For more information on

the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie



Climate Action Teams (CATs)

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



Online Training

This new version is being rolled out by all Local Authority training departments, with assistance from the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG), from the 1 March 2023.





Thematic Training

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



Outdoor Staff

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



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the Institute of Public

Administration (IPA) and Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG), who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and rolled out across the CARO regions over the year, before opening to all local authorities in October / November.



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 Decarbonising Zone actions plan will also inform the Maynooth joint Local Area Plan (LAP) Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and other policies. The DZ Plan will be made available for adoption in July to inform the Maynooth LAP (Local Area Plan) being compiled presently.

Climate Action Energy Management Team



Further external and internal consultation on the Draft SECAP/CAP will be undertaken in late summer.



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.

The unit will combine efforts to effect change utilising the SEAI’s Pathfinder funding scheme to provide finance 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.

The number of SECs (Sustainable Energy Communities) in the county continues to grow and there are currently 29 SEAI registered SEC's in County Kildare. Kilcock 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 has recently published its Electric Vehicle (EV) Guidance Document for Local Authorities; The Climate Action Office is examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas heavy goods vehicle into Kildare County Council's fleet with mechanical services, while smaller vans have suitable options such as electrification; the larger trucks are an issue. One solution to this is a compressed natural gas vehicle. Presently the installation of a pumping station at the New Hall Depot is being progressed.



Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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

'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries section were successful in attaining just over €30,000 in funding from Creative Ireland for the project 'Stitching the Community Together'. The project is based on intergenerational art project centered around the medium of wool and

knitting and will include three elements to the project: intergenerational workshop on wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools, virtual reality (VR) educational piece to explore the 'Farm-to-Fleece' process of wool co-created with students and an exhibition phase showcasing the work.

Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund



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



To advance the project financially an application was made to the Public Service Innovation Fund 2023 the bid has been successful and funding of €50,000 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.

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 is 30 July, 2023.



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

The most recent meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was on the 5 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. A Mid-Year Review of the SICAP Programme was approved by the LCDC at their July meeting.

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

LEADER Programme

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

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

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

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

Healthy Ireland (HI)

The application for HI Round four 2023-2025 has been approved and the contract has been signed by Pobal and the Department of Health. The priorities of the programme are in relation to mental health and physical activity.

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



Empowering Communities

Programme Athy

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

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Socio-Economic Statement with draft vision and draft high-level goals was presented for approval at both the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC and the LCDC at their recent meetings. This was the result of extensive preparation through analysis of data, policies and current plans. A copy of the socio-economic statement has been circulated to all elected members. Consultation is now commencing to determine the views of various stakeholders on the draft vision/high level goals. This will also outline priority actions for inclusion in the plan. A collaborative approach with Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN) who are also developing a plan

is underway. Five meetings across the county targeting voluntary community groups are taking place to gather views to feed into the LECP and PPN plans. Details have been circulated. A survey targeting the general public will be circulated in the coming weeks. Consultations are also planned with local businesses, statutory bodies, voluntary sector organisations and elected members in the coming months. It is anticipated that the plan will be finalised before the end of the year.

Community Support Fund

Kildare LCDC was allocated €332,848 under this fund to support community groups with small grants towards running costs, equipment and repairs. Groups were informed of the outcome of their application following approval at the July LCDC meeting.

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

Leinster Road Bridges

Rehabilitation Contract Scheme

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

Athy Distributor Road

(BAM, Roughan and O Donovan)

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

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

(Clonmel Enterprises, Kilgallon and Partners)

Construction is ongoing on site.

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

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

(Roughan and O Donovan)

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



Maynooth Transport Strategy

(Aecom)

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

Surveying at these locations has commenced.

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

€90,000 allocation. Detailed design stage completed. Agreement to complete Section 38 Process for Mill Street being discussed with the NTA. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

€3,000,000 allocation. This project has been subject to delays on site and the Council is in dispute with the contractor.

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 continuing. Insufficient funding in 2023 to commence construction.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

€5,000 allocation. Approval from the NTA sought 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. Preliminary design continuing. Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.

Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme

€160,000 allocation. Detailed design continuing.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

€2,675,000 allocation. Construction started in Jan 2023. Works are 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. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Dublin Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

€150,000 allocation. Detailed design stage continuing.

Cycle Parking at Schools and Clubs

€110,000 allocation. Pilot schemes completed.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

€15,000 allocation. Preliminary design continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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



Naas to Newbridge Interurban Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Cycle Safety Infrastructure at Signalised Junctions

€800,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Blessington Road Active Travel Scheme

€500,000 allocation. Construction continuing in 2023.

Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme

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

R418/R408 Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

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

Safe Routes to School Round one Schemes

€50,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

€50,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane

Safe Routes to School Round two Schemes

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil 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.

Pathfinder Project

Work is ongoing to secure initial funding for the Part 8 and the business case application for Climate Action funding. Work has commenced on the preparation of tender documentation for a consultant for the Part 8 process.



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.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

The tender for Allenwood has been awarded. The perimeter fencing has been installed and the proposed start date for the playground construction is September.

Leixlip Playground

The Part 8 is being presented to the members of the Municipal District this month. Work in the establishment of a framework for playground design and construction is being advertised before the end of July. The tender will be completed if the Part 8 is approved.

Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District Tree Works

Works in Leixlip should be completed in the next month

Naas Municipal District Tree Works

A tender for works is due to be advertised before the end of July.

Athy Municipal District Tree Works

A tender for work is due to be advertised before the end of July.



Maynooth Municipal District Tree Works

All inspection for these works have been completed. Final tender preparation is continuing and it is planned to issue a tender in early August.

Newbridge Playground

Work is continuing on the preparation of a tender for the works. It is hoped to issue this in September once a new framework for playgrounds design and construction has been completed.

DeBurgh Gardens

Free tours of the DeBurgh Gardens have been organised for Heritage Week. The tours will take place from 12 –20 August 2023. Booking for the event is available on <https://buytickets.at/kildarecountycouncilparkssection/958300>

Monread Playground

A new slide, swing and sand pit will be installed in the playground in September. Drainage works to resolve water ponding has been carried out.

Outdoor Gym Celbridge

A tender is being prepared for an outdoor gym in Celbridge Abbey

Carpark. It is hoped to install the unit in October.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

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 of two applications to the High Court for leave to seek a judicial review of the Plan, specifically the housing targets and the addition of a structure to the Record of Protected Structures.

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

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



Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the Draft Plan was circulated to the Elected Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on 12 June for their consideration. A workshop took place with the Members on the 21 June in this regard. A Special Municipal District meeting will be held on Tuesday the 18 July at which the Chief Executive's Report and Draft Plan will be considered.

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.

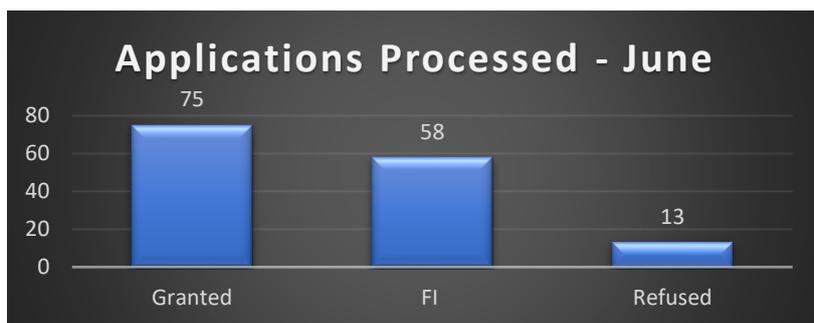
Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation programmed for Quarter three 2023

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. Information was sent to agents and Elected Members regarding our live status and use of the system. To date, 38 applications and 31 submissions have been received via the online portal.





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
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	FI Requested 06/07/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Due 08/08/2023



Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

Heritage Projects - Progress Updates

1. Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)

Date of first HMAC meeting taking place on 4 July.

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

7L Architects appointed.

3. Audit of Military Structures (€10k)

Archaeology Plan appointed.

4. Control of American Skunk Cabbage

Aquens appointed

5. Himalayan Balsam Control

Aquens appointed

6. Irish Walled Towns of Kildare publication

Research consultants (Abarta Heritage) appointed

7. Clane Friary Conservation

Community Monuments funding of €60k for conservation works to Clane Friary has now been received and the

tendering process for same has now commenced.

8. Donaghcumper Church Conservation

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

9. UNESCO

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

10. Wells publication

consultants appointed to design and print a study of Co. Kildare wells.

11. Brigid 1500

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

12. Gordon Bennett

videos launched by the Minister in Carlow in June which will be screened in Kilcullen during Heritage Week



13. Heritage Week

12 – 20 August – collating of event guide has now commenced.

8. KFM

biodiversity infomercials running until September

B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

1. 11 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. Biodiversity Awareness Project 2023 sustainable gardening project

6. Feighcullen

initial site visit undertaken and preliminary action list being collated.

7. Jigginstown

initial site visit arranged with OPW

C. Conservation Projects – Progress Updates

1. Heritage Stewardship Scheme

The Heritage Council has provided €25,200 to Kildare County Council for a partial review of the Record of Protected Structures in four Kildare town; Castledermot, Rathangan, Kilcock and Kilcullen. Alison Rea Architects was appointed on 28 June last to undertake this work for Kildare County Council which will add to work already undertaken, through the Heritage Council, in 2022 in Monasterevin and Newbridge.

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

A request for expressions of interest and quotes for a CMP for St. David's 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 commencing 10 July 2022.



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

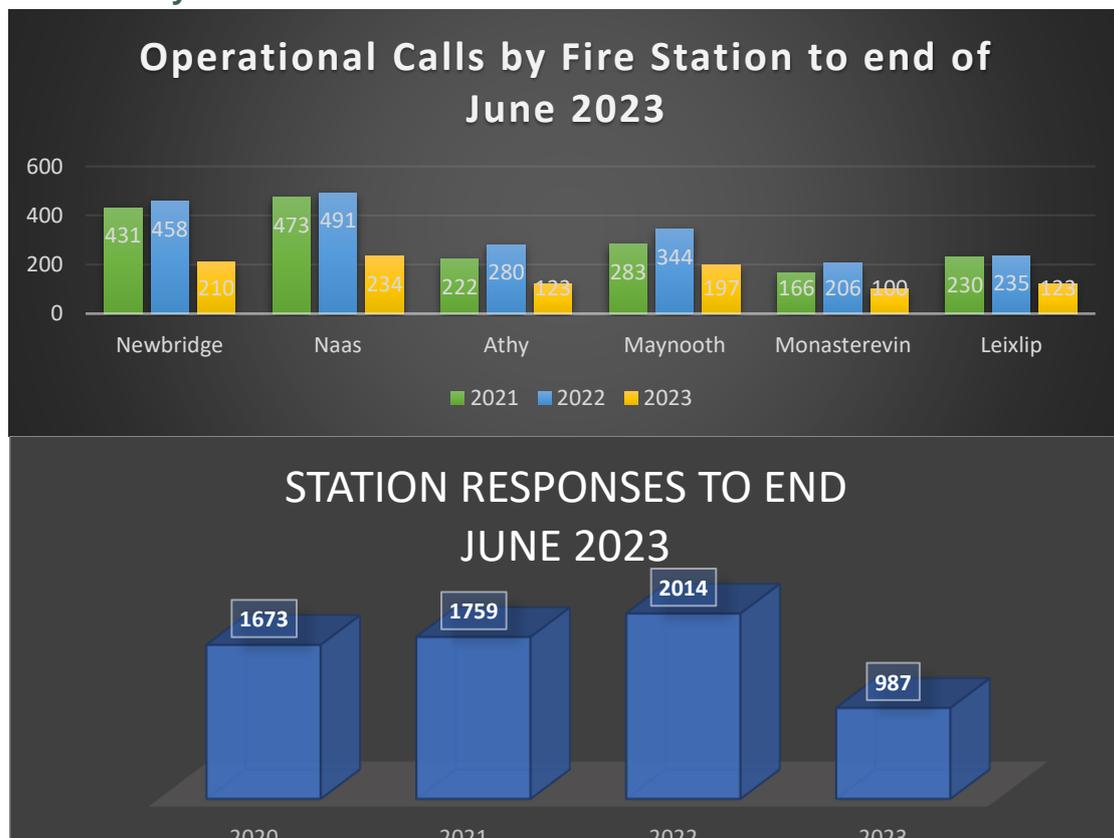
A request for expressions of interest and quotes for a partial review of the Kildare County Council ‘Record of Protected Structures’ was forwarded to a number of consultants on 27 June. All tenders received are currently being reviewed. It is expected that consultants will be appointed to undertake the Conservation Management Plan week commencing 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 are invited up to 8 August 2023.

Fire Service Operations:

2023 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

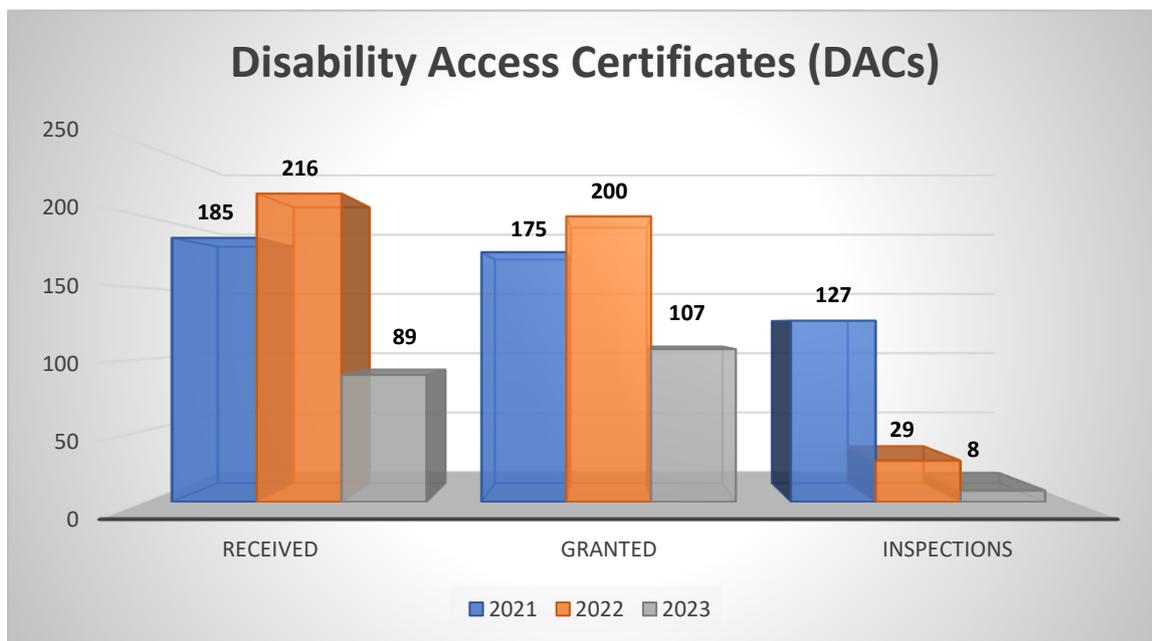
Applications received to the end of June 2023 compared with the totals received in previous years.

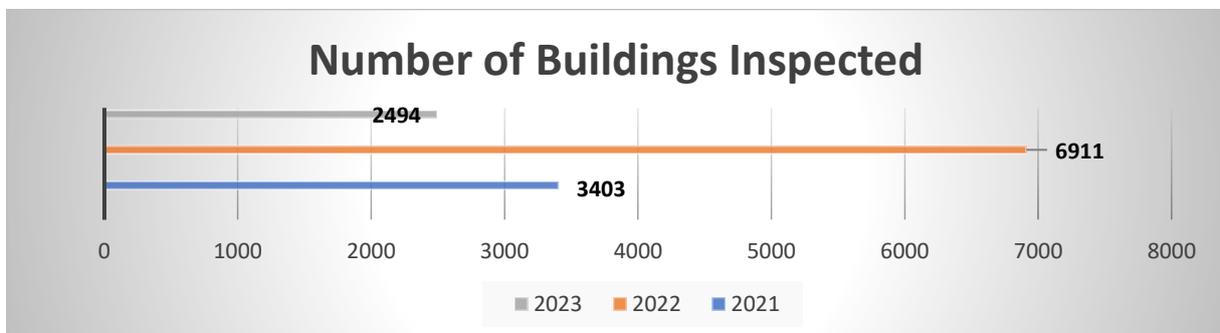
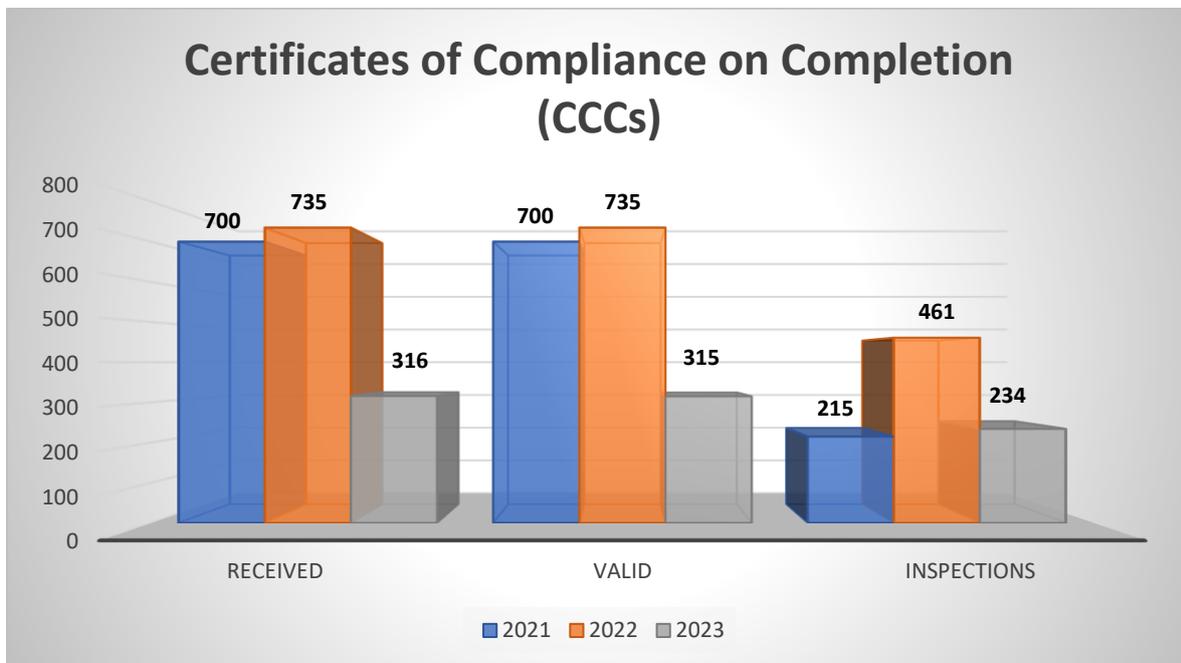
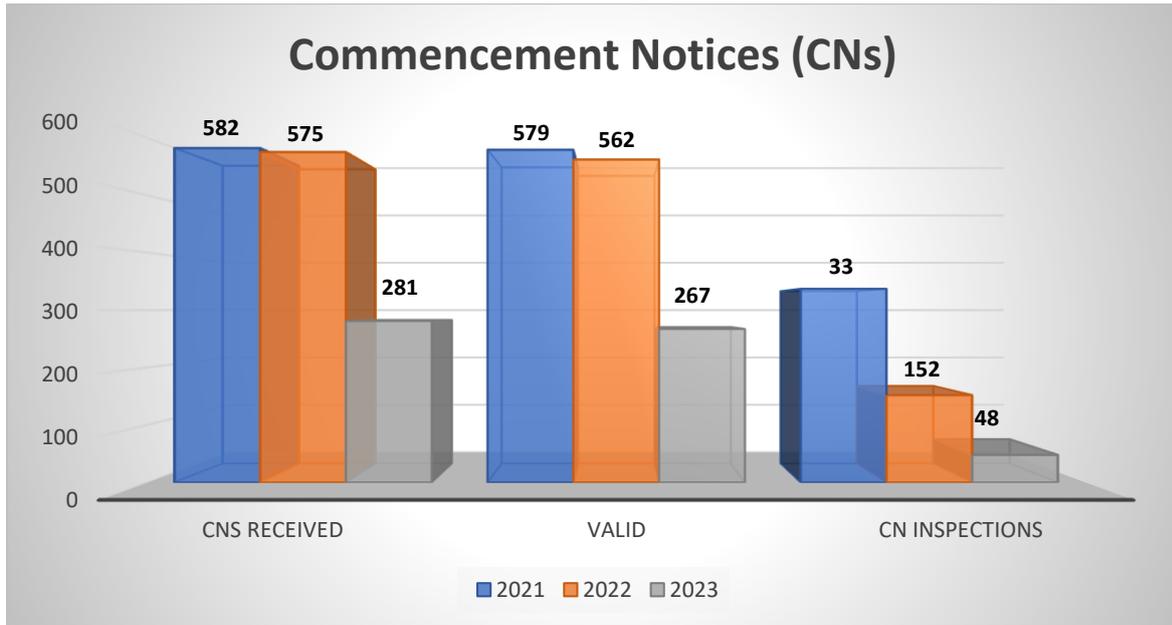


Building and Development Control

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

BUILDING CONTROL

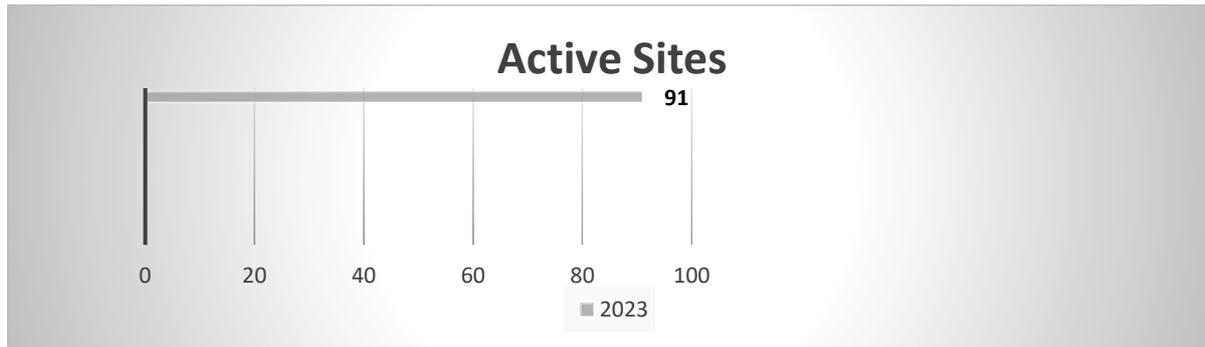




Note: Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 are due to staff shortages.



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Into Kildare executed and facilitated several engaging activities in June. Over the bank holiday weekend, Into Kildare (IK) organised an exhibition stand at the highly anticipated lifestyle and gardening show of the year, Bord Bia Bloom.



Karen Lynch, Áine Mangan from Into Kildare team, Amanda Kelly National Stud and Japanese Gardens and Nicola Flynn from Barberstown Castle.

Over 18 County Kildare companies from the tourism and hospitality trade exhibited on the stand supported by IK with a footfall of 100,000 visitors over the five days.



Áine Mangan from Into Kildare team and Brian Lenehan from Firecastle.

Kildare trade sponsored prizes to encourage footfall to the County and promote future family trips and engagement. This will contribute to an increased influx of visitors to County Kildare in the forthcoming months and promote engagement through the IK



ezone with an increased number of newsletter sign-ups creating traffic to IK website. Towpath trail brochures proved very popular with 6k distributed throughout this five day event.

Into Kildare facilitated a number of familiarisation trips to County Kildare for Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Joyce from the esteemed Guild of St. Bride's Church in London.

During their visit to Kildare, Into Kildare facilitated a detailed itinerary of activities to showcase the region's prominent attractions. Moreover, our members welcomed Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Joyce and her daughter, offering them an immersive experience of what Kildare has to offer alongside Into Kildare team.



Reverend Canon Dr Alison Joyce, Sinead Joyce, and Ted Robinson CEO of Barberstown Castle.

Into Kildare arranged and facilitated an invitation to celebrate Summer Solstice in Solas Bride with Sr.Rita Minahan as well as an opportunity to stay in Silken Thomas. A visit to Kildare Heritage Centre where they were introduced to the Virtual Reality experience of St. Brigid ending with a stroll on St. Brigid's Trail. After this they visited The National Stud, Castletown House and Gardens, Maynooth University and then to Barberstown Castle for a walk around their grounds.

Newbridge Silverware kindly welcomed Reverend Canon Dr Alison Joyce and Sinead for a behind-the-scenes factory tour and to see the Museum of Style Icons.



Prof. Mary Corcoran Chair of Brigid 1500 Committee, Reverend Canon Dr Alison Joyce and Chloe Kimmins Into Kildare.

The month commenced with a warm welcome provided to the twinning committee from The Ocala Delegation



in Florida. County Kildare Fáilte was delighted to meet with them at The Killashee Hotel alongside Kildare County Council Chief Executive, Into Kildare Chairperson and CEO of Into Kildare.



Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh with Chairperson David Mongey and Áine Mangan CEO IntoKildare with the Ocala Delegation.

Other meetings attended included Into Kildare participation in Brigid 1500 Steering group meeting, Kildare Diaspora Steering committee meeting. Into Kildare also attended a meeting with the Curragh Racecourse to prepare for Kildare Derby Festival.

Planning and preparations are underway by the Into Kildare team in collaboration with Dublin Convention Bureau for UK and USA sales missions to promote County Kildare and facilitate tourism and hospitality trade in Kildare to have appointments with key meeting and incentive buyers to drive business to the County.

Communication and messaging in June included promoting Bloom, encouraging people to come and visit Into Kildare's stand and sign up to our Newsletter, Kildare Derby Festival, and an itinerary of things to do for father's day promoting businesses and locations throughout County Kildare.



The Kildare Derby Festival took place in Kildare town at the end of June, as a key project, was supported by County Kildare Fáilte through website content creation. The festival and individual events were also promoted on Into Kildare social media channels, radio and in press. Itineraries promoting Kildare town and its environs were shared to drive visitor numbers to the towns and villages ahead of and during the racing festival. IK Aine Mangan attended and met with a number of guests of Dubai Duty Free and media.

Into Kildare continued to increase engagement by promoting the top



places to Stay, Eat, Drink and See this Summer in Kildare on our website and throughout our social channels.



For all other queries email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or call 045980838.

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

Local Enterprise Office

Enterprise and Economic Development Activity 2023

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

Immediate business support:
Request to speak to a Business Advisor:

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

Financial Supports

Funding Applications Awarded

From Jan 1 – 5 July

	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant	52	€116,872
Priming Grant	5	€158,098
Business Expansion Grant	4	€154,771
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€50,230
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	9	€16,239
Total		€496,210
Pending		€136,489



Feasibility Study Grants approved

Myla Scon Limited was approved a grant of €8750 to support technical development and research for new product.

Faick Company Limited was approved a grant of €13,500 to support technical development of a prototype.

Priming Grants approved:

Velacor Limited was approved a grant of €21,925 to support the recruitment of one new employee, capital equipment and consultancy.

Puca Lane Limited was approved a grant of €37,748 to support the recruitment of two new employees, capital equipment and consultancy.

Expansion Grants approved:

Burke Bros Joinery Limited was approved a grant of €48,382 to support the recruitment of one new employee and capital equipment.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

BUSINESS CLINICS:

Advisory clinics will be offered on demand over the summer months.

Mentor clinics will resume on 14 September 2023.

Focus on Women in Business:

SAVE THE DATE! LEOs Kildare and Carlow are collaborating to host National Women's Enterprise Day on 19 October 2023 in Clonard Court Hotel, Athy.

Focus on Sustainability:

The next monthly briefing on the new €5,000 Energy Efficiency Grant will take place online on 20 July 12:00-1:00 pm.

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.

The grant will be available to companies who, through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes, have identified the technology and equipment needs and benefits.

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](#).

FOCUS ON CRAFT:

Bríd Og Norrby, a ceramic artist based in Prosperous, Naas, has won the bi-annual competition to design and make trophies for the numerous awards events led by the LEO and Economic Development teams.



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.

8:00am, 12 September - Osprey Hotel, Naas

7:00pm, 12 September – Clonard Court Hotel, Athy

7:00pm, 12 September - Westgrove Hotel, Clane

7:00pm, 20 September – Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge

7:00pm, 20 September – Springfield Hotel, Leixlip

Economic Support Services

Retail Support Scheme 2023 now open.

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme grant is open to all applicants until



Friday 28 July. The economic development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all of the supports available.

The total number of applications approved to date is 49 totalling a budget commitment of €109,998.45

MD Applications as of 12 July 2023	No. of Apps	Value of App Approved
Kildare/Newbridge	17	€46,808
Athy	10	€22,462
Naas	10	€18,754
Clane/Maynooth	7	€6,628.20
Celbridge/Leixlip	5	€15,346.25

Under this scheme, 13 applications have been approved to date for accessibility/age friendly works.

The Retail Window Merchandising Grant remains open to applicants until 27 November 2023 and businesses can avail of 80% funding on eligible expenditure up to a maximum of €500.00.

Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022-2023

Under this scheme, retailers, property owners and local groups can apply for grants that they can use to improve the

facades of their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies in Athy.

The economic development team have evaluated the applications and issued letters of offer to successful applicants. All works are required to be completed by 31 August.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub Court House Kildare

The consultants have completed the stakeholder analysis. A draft report is expected in the coming weeks and the deployment of a pilot will soon follow on a smaller foot print in the town.

Kildare Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

Stakeholder engagement is currently being carried out and an assessment of the building in Monasterevin is taking place as part of the feasibility study process.

Kilcock Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

The final draft report will be presented to the economic development team by the end of July for review.



Hub Marketing: K Hub Network
Filming took place in all of the hubs across June and July to showcase them and the individuals and businesses that are located there. A marketing campaign will formally commence in August for all of the hubs and continue until early 2024.

Diaspora Strategy

The first meeting of the committee took place in MERITS. A number of actions have emerged and the team will be working with the committee to complete the actions. A portal is available at

<https://leokildare.submit.com/show/357>

where Kildare's diaspora can become part of the network and help to connect Kildare's global population, the diaspora, through relevant and interesting stories, events and news relating to Kildare's international connections.

Hub Activity

MERITS Official Opening:

The MERITS Hub official opening was held in June attended by Minister Simon Coveney T.D. and other distinguished guests.

MERITS Pre-Accelerator:

15 participants completed pre-accelerator in MERITS developed and funded by Local Enterprise Office Kildare in May with the programme culminating in a live pitch-day before a panel of investors and support agency representatives. A winner and runner-up were selected and awarded in June.



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