



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – February 2024

BRIGID 1500





News Items

Kildare County Council launches new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Kildare County Council published its Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This plan determines the actions to be delivered by Kildare County Council, businesses, and citizens in the county in response to the climate challenge (see page 8).

Brigid 1500

It has been a busy and very exciting period with events taking place throughout the month (see pages 9/10).

New Mayor of Kildare Newbridge MD

Councillor Paddy Curran was elected Mayor of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District at a special meeting of the MD on the 31 January 2024 (see page 11).

New Naas Library and Cultural Centre opens its doors

Kildare County Council and Kildare Library Service were delighted to announce the opening of the new Naas Library and Cultural Centre, in the former Town Hall, Main Street, Naas (see page 9).

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

The process of unpacking both the County Archives and Local Studies collections in the new location at Harbour View, Naas is ongoing (see pages 12/13).

Increased Cost of Business Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses. Guidance is to issue from the Department on this grant scheme and it is expected to roll out in March 2024 (see pages 18/19).



Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and the Local Authority Integration Team

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is being established. David Creighton has been appointed as A/Director of Services with responsibility for this area of work. (see page 22).

SICAP - Social Inclusion Programme

Kildare LCDC has appointed County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 following an open procurement process (see page 52).

Kildare Failte

Into Kildare in collaboration with Solas Bhríde and Kildare Community School, organised a day in advance of Brigid's Day on the 11 January to gather peace ambassadors from 13 secondary schools across County Kildare (see page 67).

Minister Richmond visits client showcase

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Business, Employment and Retail. Neale Richmond, TD visited Kildare County Council's Enterprise and Economic Development Team on 08 February (see page 73).



Diary/Calendar

Ethics Declarations

Completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 29 February 2024 (see page 11).

Applications for Arts Grants and Bursaries

Applications can now be made to any of the 18 separate awards through the online portal. The deadline for receipt of applications is 12:00 p.m., Wednesday 28 February 2024 (see pages 13/14).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 27 March 2024 (see page 13).

Community Grants

Kildare County Council has announced details of a number of grant opportunities to support community groups, projects, events, and residents' associations across the county for 2024. The deadline for receipt of applications for all grants is Friday 15 March 2024 (see page 37).

Climate Action SPC

The next meeting is scheduled for the 08 May 2024 (see page 42).

Community Climate Action Program Fund

Our Community Climate Action Officer has undertaken a scheduled program of outreach to gain appropriate submissions by 06 March deadline. (see page 44).

Waste Management

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 is to be launched on Friday 01 March in Limerick (see page 46).



Community Heritage Fund

This scheme has been advertised, with a closing date of 08 March 2024 (see page 62).

Focus on Start ups

The LEO Team plan to host an out-reach advisory clinic at the Athy Enterprise Hub on 04 March where walk-in appointments will be available for both established and early stage entrepreneurs who wish to access LEO services (see page 71).

Local Enterprise Week 2024

On 05 March 7.00 p.m. 2024, Kildare County Council will host its Pride of Premises Awards at the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge as part of our Local Enterprise Week events programme (see page 74).



March Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 Feb 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	27	28	29	1 Mar 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
4 15:00 County JPC	5	6	7	8
11 10:00 Athy MD Meeting March ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Members Calendar	12 14:30 Housing Disability Steering Group 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber ; Members Calendar	13	14	15 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
18	19 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Members Calendar	20 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	21 15:00 Economic Development Enterprise & Planning SPC	22
25 12:00 Special Meeting of Full Council to consider Amendment No. 1 of the Leixlip Local Area Plan (Confey maste... 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	26	27 10:00 LCDC	28	29



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare Local Community Development Committee signs contracts with County Kildare LEADER Partnership CLG



Kildare County Council appointed County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) the contract to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) following an open procurement process. The SICAP Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund Plus with a budget in Kildare of at least €8 million over the next five years. Kildare LCDC will oversee the implementation of SICAP across the lifetime of the Programme.

Kildare County Council launches new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



Kildare County Council is delighted to announce the publication of the local authority's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. This plan determines the actions to be delivered by Kildare County Council, businesses, and citizens in the county in response to the climate challenge. The ambitions of the Climate Action Plan are aligned to the Government's national climate objective which seeks to achieve the transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The strategic vision of the plan states "Kildare County Council will deliver climate action across all council functions and will lead the community of County Kildare in the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral local economy".



New Naas Library and Cultural Centre opens its doors



Kildare County Council and Kildare Library Service were delighted to announce the opening of the new Naas Library and Cultural Centre, in the former Town Hall, Main Street, Naas on Friday 19 January. Following a three year, conservation, renovation and construction programme, the new facility not only provides the community with a modern cutting-edge library service but it also reinstates the historic building as a prominent focal point within the community. This new Library and Cultural Centre in the historic Town Hall will be a sustainable driver of heritage, cultural and amenity pursuits in a welcoming and attractive space at the heart of the town.

Kildare County Council announce Community Grants for 2024



Kildare County Council has announced details of a number of grant opportunities to support community groups, projects, events, and residents' associations across the county for 2024. Applications for funding are invited from groups whose activities and projects benefit communities in County Kildare. Full details of the eligibility criteria and online application forms for each are available

at: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/>

The deadline for receipt of applications for all grants is Friday 15 March 2024.

Brigid 1500

It has been a busy and very exciting period with events taking place throughout the month. Interviews and filming took place with Tourism Ireland, Nationwide and newspapers which reached wide audiences in Ireland and beyond. The hugely successful events



organised by the Brigid 1500 team were attended by the Chief Executive and Directors. With the delegation from “Into Kildare” Alan Dunney, Director Of Services, travelled to London where they were welcomed at St. Brides Church, the Palace of Westminster, and the Irish Embassy.

LPT

The handover of the LPT coordination to the executive suite is now complete. Members of each Municipal District have been introduced to their contact in the executive suite. Although one person from the team is assigned to each Municipal District, contact can be made with any person in the team in the absence of their delegated contact. The handling of LPT matters within the executive suite should facilitate a more uniform approach throughout the Municipal District’s. The executive suite can be contacted by email executivesuiteadmin@kildarecoco.ie or by telephone at 045.980866.

Director of Services for Integration

David Creighton, Senior Architect has been appointed as Acting Director of Services for Integration.

Head of Finance

Eileen Hanlon has resumed her role as Head of Finance from 12 February 2024.

Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 was amended by the [Protected Disclosures \(Amendment\) Act 2022](#).

This legislation which came into force on 01 January 2023 imposes new requirements on employers in both the public and private sectors and for prescribed persons. The scope of the act was widened to include board members (this includes Councillors), shareholders, job applicants and volunteers.

The Minister issued final guidance for public bodies and prescribed persons which was received in December 2023. Kildare County Councils Protected Disclosures policy and procedure for internal disclosures has been updated and along with a new policy and procedure for external reporting to the Chief Executive of a local authority as a prescribed person under SI 367 of 2020, is available on the council website, the staff app and the members portal.



Christine O’Grady, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, is the Designated Officer for receipt of protected disclosures 045-980721.

The internal channel email for workers to make disclosures is cogrady@kildarecoco.ie

The email address for the external channel for the making of protected disclosures to the Prescribed Person is Protecteddisclosures@kildarecoco.ie.

The Chief Executive is the prescribed person in each local authority. The Designated Officer will also handle disclosures made on the external channel.

Annual Ethics Declaration

On 08 January 2024, the Ethics Registrar issued notices to all Councillors and Relevant Employees via email regarding their obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to submit an annual written declaration containing particulars of their declarable interests. Copies of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and blank 2024 declaration forms were appended to her email.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that Councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors

and that they understand its meaning, and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in the exercise of their functions.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 29 February 2024.

Members Services

Councillor Paddy Curran was elected Mayor at a special meeting of the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District on the 31 January 2024.





Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.” Cicero

‘Let’s talk about Parenting’

The Spring series of Kildare Library Service’s ‘Let’s talk about Parenting’ programme has just been launched with a selection of talks and workshops for parents, caregivers and professionals working with families in County Kildare. Events, as always, are free and take place in the main library branches, as well as online. The link to the brochure can be found here.

[Let’s Talk About Parenting - Kildare Library Service \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://www.kildarecoco.ie)

Kildare Town Library

Kildare Library kicked off the year by organising Fighting Words workshops for the local primary school - a programme (by Roddy Doyle) which provides children and young people with the opportunity to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. Kildare Library participated in an accessibility review with KARE Social Inclusion Development, Education and

Research Department to look at ways of improving accessibility and use of JAM cards.

Kildare Library together with Kildare Education Centre and Concern supporting National Debating Festival for Primary Schools with finals in Kildare Education Centre and Kildare County Council Chambers.

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The Per Cent for Art pieces were installed in Naas library over the Brigid holiday weekend and look superb. The library also featured in our celebrations with Herstory Light Show illuminations projected on front of the building on St. Brigid’s Day – in the evening.

Library Development Plan

Our public consultation phase concluded with an online survey. We had 727 responses with over 10% non-members, which is a very good result due to wide circulation over different networks.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

The process of unpacking both the County Archives and Local Studies collections in the new location at



Harbour View, Naas is ongoing. Both services are currently closed to the public, although emails and phone calls are being dealt with by staff.

Local Studies collections will be accessible to the wider community when we re-open, with most of the collection searchable through the library catalogue. Historic Irish newspapers, including many decades of The Leinster Leader and Kildare Nationalist, can be accessed through the Irish Newspaper Archives resource that is now available in all branch libraries in County Kildare. Further digital content is available on the library website, with more to be added in the coming weeks.

The installation of the archival shelving is complete.

Three digitised Naas Urban District Council Minute Books covering the years 1910-1924 are now available via the Online Archives service at <https://kildarecoco.ie/library/KildareCountyArchivesandLocalStudies/Archives/OnlineArchives/> The volumes can be searched using Transkribus, handwritten text recognition (HTR). This digitisation was funded by the

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme 2023 and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-23 initiative.

The World's Brigid 1500 conference takes place in conjunction with Maynooth University from 15 to 17 September 2024.

Rebel Hearts, A biographical list of republican women activists in Co. Kildare 1913-1923 by archivist Karel Kiely will be launched in Naas Library and Cultural Centre on Thursday, 15 February.

Arts Service

Applications being submitted for Arts Grants and Bursaries

Applications can now be made to any of the 18 separate awards through our [online portal](#). The deadline for receipt of applications is 12:00 p.m., Wednesday 28 February 2024. Full details of the eligibility criteria are available through each individual call out.



The Creative Places Athy Arts Impact Award is also currently live until Wednesday 28 February 2024.

Kildare Dance Project – Stepping the Land

Kildare dance artist in residence Philippa Donnellan will be leading workshops in Kildare developing a unique creative performance project Stepping the Land exploring our relationship to nature and to the land alongside theatre artist Ruth Lehane. The project will culminate in public performances by participants on a local farm in Kildare in May 2024.

Ignite Creative Climate Action Residential Training

Acting Arts Officer Elaine Donnelly is attending this training in Borris House, Co. Carlow this week.

Creative Places Athy Billboard Project

The Athy Billboard Project continues to raise awareness about accessibility barriers people face every day. The fifth in the series is currently on view at Leinster Street, Athy.

Life Drawing Classes at Athy Community Arts Centre

Life Drawing Classes are currently ongoing with Athy Community Arts Centre. Waiting list Interest has led to a further series of workshops being scheduled for a later date.

Kildare Municipal Art Collection Rehang

Artworks from the Municipal Art Collection have been installed in Riverbank Arts Centre, including pieces by Isabel Nolan, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Jack B. Yeats and Robert Ballagh. An oil painting by Eileen Costello has also been added to the collection of works hanging at Arás Chill Dara. Works have been put into storage while renovation work takes place in Kildare Library.

Grant Information Sessions for Creative Ireland Bursary Award at MERITS

On Tuesday 06 February, working alongside Kildare Local Enterprise Office, Creative Communities Engagement Officer Colleen Werle spoke to individuals working in tech innovation and craft about grant opportunities.



Wall of Wool unveiled in Kildare Cathedral

A new community artwork was unveiled in St Brigid's Cathedral, on 27 January, in conjunction with the Brigid 1500 celebrations across the county. The artwork 'St Brigid's Cloaks' consists of four handmade wool tapestries, thoughtfully crafted through a series of educational workshops led by Wool in School, in association with Creative Ireland and Kildare County Council. The completed 'cloak' now consists of four large panels created by more than 950 participants from around the country, including 250 Kildare school children.

Cruinniú na nÓg Consultations

A consultation process is underway with local children and young people, to gather their thoughts, ideas and perspectives around creativity and what they would like to do for Cruinniú na nÓg. Comhairle na nOg, Kildare Childcare Committee, County Kildare LEADER Partnership, and youth drama groups are involved in the process, which includes both in-person workshops and a voluntary survey.

2024 Budget and Programme Planning

Members of the Culture and Creativity Team are currently developing project ideas for our 2024 programme of events/projects, guided by the five strategic priorities.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Five inspections completed in the following areas:

- Environment team /Naas graveyard
- Parks team /Moore abbey.
- Motor tax
- Naas library
- Merits

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:

Three assessments completed in the following areas:

- Athy Library (two)
- Motor Tax

3. Pregnancy Risk Assessment

one assessment completed :

4. Scheduled Safety Committee

meetings with Safety representatives for the year-one every two months.



5. ESB networks briefing sessions set up for 12/13 February 2024.
6. Briefing sessions:
 - a. Briefing session with Proworks Team on use of APP with roads crew
7. Health and Safety Work Plan for 2024 completed.
8. Support to Architects section on the completion of Arrangements section for Safety Manual.
9. Updated the safety statement 2024 – revision four now on portal and Konnect
10. Review of Policy and procedure (2)
 - a. Management of noise- on portal and Konnect
 - b. Management of assets -to be placed on portal and Konnect.
11. Uploading of Safety Checklists on to Proworks App
12. Update of Accident Database and logging accidents with Health and Safety Authority (HAS).
13. Meeting with IT re delivering Safety Statement training through Metacompliance.
14. Annual Service Delivery Plan completed.
15. Liaising with Human Resources Training on the delivery of the

following training to five Municipal District areas:

- a. Chemical Safety Training
- b. Silica Dust Awareness Training
- c. Fire Safety Training
- d. Ladder Safety Training

Accessibility:

1. Workplan completed for 2024 with set objectives and timeframes.
2. Meeting with Access Officer Fingal County Council on Voting process and accessibility
3. Review of Framework for the Human Rights and Equality Public Sector Duty
4. Athy Billboard Project-
 - a. Scripting of Final billboard series
 - b. Amendments to the Art piece to clearly reflect accessibility obstacles.
 - c. Art works displayed on billboard on Leinster Street Athy until 28 February.
5. FOI request re Part M compliance for public buildings.
6. 360 degree virtual tour for Naas Library and Cultural Centre
7. Meetings:



- a. County Kildare Access Network Meeting
 - b. Celbridge Disability Access Group Meeting
 - c. Naas Disability Access Group Meeting
8. Meeting with Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Coordinator re TTT Collection- plan for 2024:
- a. Review of catalogue by Occupational Therapist.
 - b. Purchase of new items.
 - c. Decommissioning and replacement of worn or broken stock.
 - d. Update/refresh TTT Catalogue
 - e. Over 100 items in catalogue – three of everything to cover the three libraries holding the items – Naas, Leixlip, Athy.
9. National Access for All Meeting with Disability Federation of Ireland
10. Meetings:
- a. Naas Disability Access Group Meeting
 - b. CKAN
 - c. Athy Disability Access Group

Finance

Financial Reports

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2023 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2024. It will be brought to Council when complete.

Schedule of Uncollected Rates

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2024, the total amount collected on Rates for 2023 was €57.9m compared to €55.6m for 2022.

The closing arrears balance has decreased from €9.9m for 2022 to €8.3m for 2023.

The overall collection percentage for 2023 is 88% an increase on the 2022 collection percentage of 86%.

The total amount of rate vacancy adjustments has decreased from €3.9m in 2022 to €3.4m for 2023.

The total amount of rate waivers for 2023 was €50k compared to €1.9m rate waivers for 2022.



Rates Demands 2024

The Rate Demands for 2024 will issue in February to all ratepayers.

New legislation regarding commercial rates took effect from 01 January 2024. The Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 effects the following changes:

- Replaces the payment of rates in two moieties with one rates amount due on the first of the year
- Replaces the issuing of Property Entry Levy (PEL) and valuations taking effect the year after issue of a schedule (by Tailte Eireann) with immediate billing through the calendar year.
- Provides for the application of interest on unpaid rates from 2025. Interest will be added to rates bills issued from 2026.
- Removes the requirement for public notice to be given regarding Kildare County Council's intention to 'make the rate'. This is replaced by a notice advising that a 'rate has been levied'.

- Removes the requirement for the rate book to be available for inspection, either in paper form or electronically.

Kildare County Council Finance Department wrote to all rates customers in December 2023 to advise them of these changes, particularly the transition from two moieties to one and advising of their payment options, including Direct Debit to facilitate payment across the calendar year.

Should customers have any queries regarding their accounts, they should contact the rates office on 045 980 656 or rates@kildarecoco.ie

Increased Cost of Business Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses. Guidance is to issue from the Department on this grant scheme and it is expected to roll out in March 2024.

The grant is for commercially trading businesses operating from a rateable premises. The grant is as follows:



- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023.

- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grants will be €5,000.

- Businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rates bill greater than €30,000 are not eligible to receive an ICOB grant.

The excluded categories are identified based on the following assumptions:

- Anything that cannot be defined as a 'commercially trading business operating directly within a premises that is commercially rateable' should be excluded (e.g., advertising stations).
- For the sake of clarity, this includes, but is not limited to:
 - Public institutions do not qualify.
 - Financial institutions do not qualify, with exceptions for credit unions and post offices (i.e., larger financial

institutions are excluded).

- Vacant properties do not qualify.

Monthly Management Reports

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

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Homeless Services

Homeless Action Plan

The Draft Homeless Action Plan 2024 -2026 (Mid-East Region) is being finalised and will be presented to the Council in the coming months.

The plan seeks to address issues relating to the prevention of homelessness; reduction of homelessness in its extent or duration; the provision of services, including accommodation, to address the needs of homeless households; the provision of assistance to persons who were formerly homeless; and the promotion of effective co-ordination of activities



by relevant agencies and stakeholders in the county.

Street Work / Outreach Clinics

During January, the Outreach Team visited all Municipal Districts on a regular basis to identify rough sleepers. The areas covered were Leixlip, Kilcock, Celbridge, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Sallins, Kilcullen, Athy and Kildare Town.



The Outreach Team continues to facilitate monthly housing advice clinics (in each Municipal District) for individuals and families who cannot attend the council offices in person. The team also conducted assessments with hospital and prison discharges.

Visits to Service Providers

Meetings were held with The Peter McVerry Trust in Eyre Street, Newbridge and Kerdiffstown, Mount

Offaly in Athy and Tiglin in Jigginstown to review clients' housing needs and to discuss exit strategies.

Exits from Emergency

Accommodation

There were nine (9) move-ons in January, facilitated through HAP, social housing and some clients returning to family. In 2023, a total of 199 households left emergency accommodation, comprising 61 families and 138 singles.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 45 active tenancy sustainment cases receiving TSO support (21 cases closed in January). Tenancy Sustainment Officers have ongoing engagement with clients referred to the service and through the two housing monthly clinics (Family Hubs in Prosperous and Athy).

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP scheme helps people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The scheme offers additional support to applicants, including assistance in locating a property. Eight applications were



received in January and are being processed.

Cost Rental Tenant in Situ Scheme (CRTiS)

The scheme (introduced in April last year following the end of the winter eviction ban) allows the Housing Agency to buy rental properties from private landlords who are selling. The Agency rents these properties to the tenants who are living there. To date nine applications (including one in 2024) have been received by the Council and submitted to the Housing Agency. Of these, one purchase has now been completed, three properties are sale agreed, two at purchase offer stage and two awaiting inspection. One application has been withdrawn.

Housing Allocations

In January, there were 112 social housing allocations of which 42 were council properties and 70 were nominated to Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). The majority of AHB nominations were for the new development at Ardrath, Celbridge. Throughout January, there were 24 refusals of an allocation. A total of 30 properties were allocated

through the Choice Based Lettings system.

Affordable Housing Grey Abbey Scheme

This scheme is now finalised. Out of a potential 21 sales, 19 sales concluded. The Housing Department is engaging with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on a post project review.

Ready to Build/Serviced Sites Scheme

Work on preparing the Clogherinkoe serviced sites is ongoing. Tenders have been received for site clearance. A sewer upgrade is required and we are liaising with Uisce Eireann on this matter. We will keep the elected members updated as the scheme progresses.

Traveller Accommodation Sixth Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) issued guidelines to assist housing authorities in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the sixth Traveller Accommodation Programme



[2025 – 2029] under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. On the 26 January, the Notice of Intention to Prepare a Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was circulated to all stakeholders. The closing date for submissions is the 25 February 2024.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and the Local Authority Integration Team

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is being established. David Creighton is the A/Director of Services with responsibility for this area of work. Specialist integration officers and support staff are being recruited. Ruth Ferreras has been appointed as Integration Support Coordinator. Work related to the Ukrainian Crisis will transfer to this team.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expect substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Works progressing well on site. Substantial completion projected for Q1 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing with site set-up and clearance complete and piling works commencing this week.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Stage 4 approval received; notice letters issued, stand-still period complete and contract documents being prepared.
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.	Further information requested by DHLGH in relation to Stage 3 application; response being prepared for submission.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 launch - February 2024.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.



Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 being finalised.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Framework Agreement being prepared.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	ESB have removed poles and overhead line. ESB to return to remove redundant underground cable crossing PPP site and halting site extension. Section 179A application being prepared.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 planned for submission to DHLGH in February 2024.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Section 179A proposed to launch Q1 2024.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Preparation of Design Team tender in final stages; expected tender date February 2024.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents to follow.

Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works ongoing.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to the DHLGH.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application to be submitted to DHLGH in February 2024.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work to commence on site during February 2024.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site; substantial completion expected Q3 2024.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Draft Design drawings received, EIA and AA screening reports being prepared. Part 8 consultation in Q1 2024



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: tender dialogue stage ongoing, tender deadline end of May
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Finalising design documents for Part 8. Target Part 8 launch March 2024.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units 32 affordable units	PPP Bundle 5: Finalising design documents for Part 8 Target Part 8 launch March 2024
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social units 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team appointment imminent.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team appointment imminent.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - CALF

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	36 units	Draft Section 179A documents received for review. Briefing to be arranged with Celbridge-Leixlip MD members early 2024

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
Sofia Housing- St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Draft Part 8 being prepared.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Tender documents being prepared.

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 January 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	15	21	26
6 - 12 Months	10	18	20
12 - 18 Months	6	11	9
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	1	2	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
	32	52	56



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 January 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	6	3
6 - 12 Months	6	13	14
12 - 18 Months	3	4	7
18 - 24 Months	1	1	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	0	0	0
Total	13	24	26

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
2023	320	208	15	15	436	272
Q1 2024	20	21	0	2	28	74

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86	31 units in Clane-Maynooth MD: Commenced November 2023 - 15 units completed. 55 units identified in Naas/Ballymore Eustace: Tender to be published Q1 2024.

Acquisitions

	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023	Completed 2024
Housing Acquisitions	13	41	96	1
Housing Turnkeys	27	82	42	0



Part V Acquisitions	70	86	109	9
Total Complete	110	209	247	10

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	31	71	42	85	18
Acquisitions in 2024 to date		1			9
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	0	0	0	0	0

Regeneration

Total No. CPOs	CPOs with ABP	CPOs confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved
22	1	16	4	1	153	115

Vacant property inspections in 2024	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners engaged with 2024	Pre CPO-Notices Erected 2024
17	15	9	5

Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2023	41	€8,327,127	19	€2,679,765.30	19	€3,754,714
Q1 2024	1	€275,900.00	1	€208,000	1	€125,000

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Approved
2023	53	4	26
Q1 2024	4	0	0



Social Housing Assessments - Quarterly

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
2023	323	26	1,049	16	329
Q1 2024	15	13	120	2	14

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2023	125	15	11,136	8,876
Q1 2024	11	0	1,362	192

Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA Hap Review
2023	2205	458	413
Q1 2024	223	52	58

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2023	397	16	414
Q1 2024	35	1	35

Public Realm

Proposed Sallins Grand Canal Greenway Link – Phase one and two tie in

The Part 8 proposal for the Sallins Grand Canal Greenway Link, which will tie in Phase one and two in Sallins, is currently on public display. Final date for receipt of submissions is 22 February 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Public Realm Improvement Works to Market Square, Kildare Town

The proposal includes the public areas North and South of Bride Street, Church Lane extended to Heffernan’s Lane and the pedestrian laneway to Nugent Street carpark. A recent non-statutory public information session was held in Kildare Library where approximately 110 people attended



and engaged with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) Team and Metropolitan Workshop. SPPR are running a quick survey via a QR code which will run alongside the consultation portal. Final date for receipt of submissions on the proposal is 29 February 2024.

Kildare Town Renewal Plan: following a briefing to the elected members the Plan will now be prepared for publication.

Ardclough; Derrinturn;
Johnstownbridge; Straffan;
Castledermot and Athgarvan:
briefings to the relevant municipal districts are underway.

Town and Village Renewal Plans

Leixlip Town Renewal Plan: being prepared for Publication.

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,711,698 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €5,067,000 DHLG €1,690,000	Construction	Additional funding is required to complete the project. A funding application will be submitted to RRDF Call 5 which closes on 8 th February.
	Barrow Blueway Trailhead	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund		The purchase of Land at Canal Side Athy has been progressed, to provide a trailhead for the Barrow Blueway. Potential facilities could include parking, bicycle hire, seating.
	Greenway Phase 1 and 2 tie-in			Part 8 Ongoing	Phase 1 is complete. The Part 8 proposal for the tie in of Phase 1 and 2 will see additional improvement works in Sallins. The proposal is currently at public consultation stage, with last day for



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					submissions 22 nd February.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Detailed design ongoing. Meeting held in November with TII Structures Section to agree requirements to progress from design to delivery. Structural surveys have been carried out by WWI but information has yet to be received by the Project Team. This project is currently at Phase 4: Statutory Processes. Part 8 consent is already in place for the scheme but a new Part 8 Planning consent is required for a bridge near Robertstown with a second bridge also required near Bonyngue.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Pre Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Given the challenges in meeting the needs of all stakeholders, this project will be paused.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8 Ongoing	Failte Ireland have granted an extension to the funding deadline of end May 2024. Part 8 proposal was published on 17 th January with a briefing given to the elected members on 10 th January. A non-statutory public consultation session



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					was held in Kildare Library on Saturday, 27 th January with approximately 110 people attending. A survey, operated through a QR code, is running alongside the consultation portal.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Review of the draft document ongoing, including fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. The MD office is planning to commence a small element of the works to improve the footpath; scheduled for February 2024. An application for funding will be submitted to RRDF Call 5.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding will be submitted to RRDF Call 5.
	Athgarvan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Edits to be completed following a briefing to MD members.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Briefing on final document presented to the Kildare-Newbridge MD members on 10 th January in advance of publication.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)		Tender documents have been received. A funding request has been submitted to the Failte Ireland Just Transition Fund and a decision is awaited.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Contractor commenced on site, no issues to report, project is progressing as planned.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 (LPT)	Masterplan	RPS appointed to deliver SSFRA (Site specific flood risk assessment). RPS are also delivering the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Athy. Work is now underway to complete the assessment which will then feed into completing the Masterplan.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	A final draft is now prepared in advance of publication. A briefing to the MD members is scheduled for 19 th February.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Economic Business Case and Pre-Tender	Expected Part 8 publication in February 2024
	The Acre Project	€13,500	€10,000 LPT for feasibility study in 2023	Feasibility Study	The Study has commenced.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Presentation to the elected representatives has taken place. Document will be published later in 2024.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Presentation to the elected representatives has taken place. Document is being prepared for publication.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Some edits to be completed.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Approved to proceed to tender for the preparation of the TRMP, subject to addressing several points raised by the DHLGH. Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town centre – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. SPPR will liaise with CARO to investigate further. Sub Project C: Potential Pilot



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects. Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. SPPR team preparing the necessary tender documents; expect to publish tenders during Q1 2024.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway. Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently detailed design and secure all necessary permissions/ consent. Part 8 approved. Additional funding will</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					be required to bring the project through the construction stages. SPPR team preparing the necessary tender documents; expect to publish tenders during Q1 2024.
	Bawnogues Community Centre	€3,327,919	100% KCC funded	Handover	Building has been handed over to K-Leisure.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Some edits to be done following presentation to MD members.
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Some edits to be done following presentation to MD members.
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Some edits to be done following presentation to MD members.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation took place on 23 rd November in person and online. All plans shared with internal departments for comment.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation took place on 30 th November in person and online. All plans shared with internal departments for comment.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation took place on 30 th November in person and online. All plans shared with internal departments for comment.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Public consultation took place on 23 rd November in person and online. All plans shared with internal departments for comment.
Naas	Potato Market	€248,931	Historic Towns Initiative grant €248,931	Phase 1 delivered.	Farmers Market operating on Saturdays 10:00 – 15:00. Electrical works completed so generator can now be taken off site. Road opening licence applied for by UE – approx 4 weeks.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case	TBC	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – Approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area. Sub Project B: Background Assessments. KCC to submit clarification to the Department regarding the impact of the sale of St David's Castle on the proposal. The Department notes



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>that St David's Castle and grounds has been privately purchased since Call 2 was submitted. KCC to confirm the impact the acquisition will have on the Feasibility Study for the Castle Quarter, Conservation Management Plan and Archaeological Survey for St David's Castle and Grounds which were planned under sub project B. The Heritage and Conservation Team are managing the Conservation and Management Plan.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p> <p>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.</p>
	Market House Naas	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	(Canal Quarter)				
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Review ongoing.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

Community Grants

Kildare County Council has announced details of a number of grant opportunities to support community groups, projects, events, and residents' associations across the county for 2024. The deadline for receipt of applications for all grants is Friday 15 March 2024

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their jurisdictions and coordinate activities to promote effective climate action across the local government

sector. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The training programme 2020-2023 is nearing the end of its term. The programme maintains an objective to build capacity of the c.29,000 staff and 949 elected members on climate change, climate action and the role of local authorities on climate action. Through six unique training pillars the programme has to date, provided some 27,000 training places to almost 23,000 participants (figures correct as of end of January 2024). Training continues with outdoor staff until the end of March 2024 under an extended Service Level Agreement (SLA) with



the Department. Training will also include fire services staff. A high level steering group chaired by a representative of the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy and Network (CATCEN) committee has progressed the development of a training plan guiding future training needs and priorities in the area of local authority climate action. Quantitative and qualitative data is currently being explored to help inform the training plan.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

Local authorities continue to engage with the process of developing their LA CAPs for adoption on or before the 23 February 2024.

Kildare County Council adopted their LACAP on the 18 December 2023 and nine other local authorities in the EM region have adopted their plan (as of 12 February). Currently local authorities are at the third and final stage preparing the final draft for adoption by resolution with the elected members of the council. Elected members will have the opportunity to consider all documentation including adaptation and mitigation evidence base, draft plan, SEA and AA reports

and submissions of stakeholders before adopting the plan by way of resolution.

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 collated by CARO for progress in the 2022 – 2023 period was submitted to the Department in November 2023.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

The CARO are working with local authorities in each of the four sub-regions to develop regional energy units to avail of funding for projects that support the decarbonisation of local authority buildings. The energy units comprise:

Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth), commencing projects and accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.



Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon), have developed their project pipeline and sourced funding to match Pathfinder support.

Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI to build a project pipeline.

South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City and County) have prepared a position paper and issued to SEAI for their consideration. Further discussion will continue to progress to MOU stage.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonization. A survey was distributed to local authorities recently to gauge their alignment with Avoid-Shift-Improve principles. The findings of this survey was compiled for the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy and Network (CATCEN) committee meeting in December and will be used

as the basis for a fleet manager network meeting on 27 March 2024.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2022 was published in December 2023. Data collection for 2023 will be undertaken in March 2024. Data collection will be undertaken from 26 February to 09 March from all local authorities.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme commenced in early 2023 increasing the number of participating clubs to approximately 200. During phase two of the Programme clubs are working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as



provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel. Participating clubs are working to implement actions and projects detailed within the toolkits towards supporting the pursuit of climate action initiatives at club and community level. Kildare County Council's continued support of Green Clubs will help to achieve climate actions and targets set out in the Council's new Climate Action Plan.

Points of Contact have been identified in each local authority and CARO has undertaken two webinars to support points of contact in engaging with clubs in their area.

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office

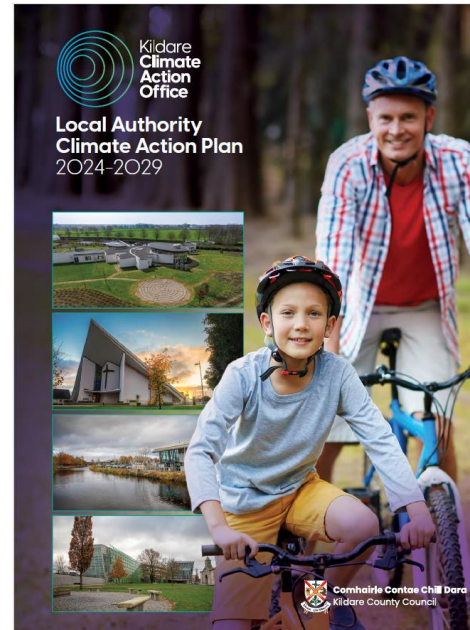


Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

The CARO office provides support to the Climate Action Office (CAO). In turn the CAO assists the functional areas of the council to decarbonise their roles and work through the

members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team together with the Senior Management Team.

Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (with DZ and SECAP)



Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was officially the first plan to be adopted in the country as of the 18 December 2023. The plan and associated documentation are digitally available on our Council website from 17 January 2024 as statutorily required. The plan is available digitally in Irish.

The challenging work of all contributors is acknowledged, and we look forward to continuing to work together to reach the targets set.



The official launch of the CAP is being considered as part of 'Hacktheclimate' on 23 February 2024.

Decarbonising Zone Maynooth



Chapter five of the Climate Action Plan is dedicated to the Decarbonising Zone (DZ), a test bed or living laboratory to test solutions to decarbonising society. To promote this essential element that will inform other towns and villages known as fast followers, a logo and byline as depicted above has been developed to market and brand the associated research, actions and resulting outcomes.

The Mid East Energy Unit (MEEU)

SEAI have agreed to pilot Pathfinder funding (approx. €20m between the four Mideast Energy Unit (MEEU) LA's) for various Energy/Carbon savings related projects at scale, these include the installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton Mills, PV and Geothermal heat pumps for heating at K Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy in conjunction with

works on swimming pools in Meath, Wicklow and Louth. The Aras PV panel project was tendered late 2023 and contract has been awarded. The heating system appraisals of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings is at an early stage and is being undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema.

There may also be pathfinder funding available for upgrading works to some of our library buildings, this will include some energy related elements of the new Clane Library. The work will enable retrofit works (energy efficiency and decarbonisation) on our existing buildings, thus reducing energy utility bill costs.

Given the potential for a future district heating scheme (DH) in Naas, a DH feasibility study will be undertaken by Codema in Q2/Q3 of 2024. SEAI have agreed to 100% fund this Naas study. There may also be scope to undertake a similar DH study for Maynooth later in 2024/early 2025, this to be funded directly by our planning dept. Kildare County Council hopes to apply for ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) certification in Q3/Q4 of 2024, for the organisation as a whole. Our Energy Officer and the SEE of Property Management will be attending the



SEAI ISO50001 accelerator training from 12 March as part of this process.

Climate Action SPC:

The scheduled meeting on 07 February 2024 took place in the newly refurbished Naas Library in the former Town Hall. All Councilors and members of the six SPC were invited to attend.

The meeting gave an overview of the work of the Climate Action Office to explain the basis of the plan for the next five years including:

Victoria Kavanagh (Community Climate Action Officer) presenting on the Community Climate Action Programme Fund,
Paddy Lynch (Energy Efficiency Officer) presenting on the KCC's Energy Efficiency Plan to reach the National Objective of 50% increase in energy efficiency within the council and his experience in the field,
Mary Morrissey (Climate Action Officer) presented on her work and expertise in built environment,
Paula O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator) presented on the monitoring and reporting of CA SPC's work plan together with Kildare's Climate Strategy 2019-2024, CARO, the Climate Action Plan and Decarbonising Zone.

This was complimented, given the biodiversity crisis, with a presentation by Meabh Boylan (Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer) on Biodiversity and Climate change. The information was actively discussed and well received.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 08 May 2024.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Funding Aids and Projects:



An Roinn Leanaí, 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 has been completed.

The ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath brought the urgency of climate action to the forefront.

An application to the Arts Council for a continuation / Phase two of the project that focusses specifically on the artists has been successful and provides an additional €35,000 in funding.



People's Patches/‘Our Shared Plate Project’ for Community Climate Action:

Kildare, Longford and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have been awarded, by Pobal, €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The project is to inform in communities how to source and grow quality local food and increase cooking skills to enable meaningful dietary skills to combat poor nutritional uptake especially within deprived neighbourhoods.

The name of the project has changed to ‘Our Shared Plate Project’ to reflect the community cohesion through the celebration of food. We await the outcome of the County Community Gardens/Allotment proposal to inform the sites proposed in Kildare.



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

Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:

‘Agents for Change Creative Ireland’ informed Kildare County Council on 12 July that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 has been approved. This conditional offer is subject to a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University. To advance understanding of the 19 Ignite projects Creative Ireland held a four day workshop for project teams in Borris House from 30 January to 02 February. The Climate Design Lab has been provisionally asked to attend the National Climate Stakeholder Forum being organised by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on the 28 February in the Convention Centre Dublin. We await clarification.



Community Climate Action Program Fund:

Our Community Climate Action Officer has undertaken a scheduled program of outreach to gain appropriate submission by 06 March deadline. Kildare at county level has been awarded €897,000 grant funding. To date the information has been received well and potential projects are being put forward by interested parties with 28 projects at various stages of the application process.

‘HacktheClimate’ and Open data Engagement Fund:

In collaboration with the innovation Team and MERITS we have successfully been awarded €5,000 from the Open Data Unit in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The funding is to sponsor prizes for our hackathon called ‘Hacktheclimate’ on 23 February which should place us firmly on the map for participants. Final calls are being made for attendees as the registration numbers are reaching capacity. It is expected between 40-55 attendees will be achieved on the day.

Research

Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund:

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 the potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nationwide. An agreement has been formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence and the work is progressing at a pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Q2/3 of 2024.

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

Kildare County Council’s research project - alternatives for pesticides - continues with the help of our collaborating partners, Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, National Biodiversity Data Centre and Teagasc. The finalised data report and practical guide for the maintenance of open spaces have been disseminated to all partners. Analysis of soil biomes continues with additional experiments being undertaken to finalise maintenance aspects. Sophia Couchman has commenced her PhD and it is expected she will have the work



completed Q1/2 of 2025. It is with thanks to partners the findings will inform the National Biodiversity Data Centre latest brochures. Presently the short guidance document is to be graphically designed and published with copies provided to each partner.

Awards

The Grass2Gas project was shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023, Sustainability Environment and Biodiversity Award held in November 2023.

The project is shortlisted for the Green Awards under the Green Technology Award which will be held on 27 February 2024.

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy on Water Services in Ireland. Kildare County Council signed its Master Co-operation and Data Sharing Agreement with Uisce Eireann in May 2023, and Uisce Éireann are now in full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater

services in County Kildare.

As per its Master Co-operation Agreement and in support of the delivery of Water Services functions up to the end of December 2026, Kildare County Council are in the process of agreeing its Shared Support Services agreement with Uisce Eireann, which is due for final sign off in Q1 2024.

Elected Members Supports:

Uisce Eireann provides a dedicated support to the elected members via the Local Representative Support desk - email address and contact number are as follows: localrepsupport@water.ie and 0818178178.

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics are held online for the elected members on selected dates throughout the year. The agreed dates for 2024 are as follows:

- Monday 27 February at 11:00 a.m.
- Monday 26 June at 11:00 a.m.
- Monday 23 October 11:00 a.m.

At the request of the elected members, Uisce Éireann attended a meeting in Áras Chill Dara on Monday 29 January at which they gave a comprehensive



presentation and enabled a lengthy question and answer session with the members. Uisce Éireann and the elected members welcomed the open engagement on both parts.

The 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

Environment

Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Waste Management Act 1996, as amended requires each local authority to make a Waste Management Plan. The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, are co-ordinating the preparation of a new Plan on a national basis, titled “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.” A copy of the latest update was recently circulated to each Chief Executive.

The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030,

and it is expected that the new Plan will be implemented in Q1 2024 by Chief Executive Order in each of the Local Authorities.

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 is to be launched on Friday 01 March in Limerick.

Details are on www.mywaste.ie

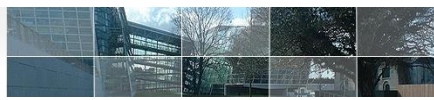
A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been launched by DECC. The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) being introduced is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. The scheme went live on 01 February.

Irish Business Against Litter



Maynooth topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2023 survey.

Maynooth was commended for attaining a level of cleanliness over the



course of 2023 which ‘IBAL “have not encountered in two decades of surveying”.



Naas, the top ranking town in 2021 and 2022 also performed well achieving status ‘cleaner than European norms.”

Christmas Tree Recycling scheme

This scheme was in operation at seven different sites around the county for three weeks in January. The scheme again proved very popular, with approximately 5,000 trees shredded for composting. In addition, eight different community groups took delivery of loads of mulch to use in community gardens etc. and as a circular economy action, this will be promoted further next year.

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period up 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 2024

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 were recently reviewed by the National Steering Group and a number of changes were made to reflect these discussions. The following remain as high-level priorities in the area of waste enforcement:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
- Construction and Demolition activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles,
- Waste collection,
- PRI initiatives.

The Kildare County Council 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

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 joint project of the civic amenity in conjunction with the proposed Municipal District depot is being assessed.

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, with 58% of the scheme completed.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. Specification of survey work and investigation contracts have begun. A



Public Participation Day is scheduled for 27 February in Athy Library.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the 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 in Q1 2024.



The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed on Kildare County Council website:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/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:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/KerdiffstownPark/>

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries.

It is proposed to install further Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. Detailed design drawings and draft plans were presented to each of the relevant Municipal District's in January 2024.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

Landscape improvement works are expected to commence during Q1



2024 to open the lands to the rear for future internments.

Confey

Works have been recently completed to allocate additional plots for internments within the cemetery.

Athy Cemetery Boundary Wall

Works completed on new boundary wall between the cemetery and the new Athy Southern Distributor Road.

Boycetown, Kilcock

Tenders have issued for major drainage improvement works and a letter of intent has issued to a preferred contractor. Works will commence in mid-February 2024.

Newbridge

Works were completed on Newbridge Cemetery car park in December 2023 providing a new surfacing, delineated parking, fencing and improved drainage.

Monasterevin

Works have been carried out on cutting back shrubs and bushes within the cemetery. Removal of rubbish (stone, clay etc) from the cemetery has also taken place.

Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 31 January 2024 in Aras Chill Dara.

SICAP - Social Inclusion Programme

Kildare LCDC has appointed County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 following an open procurement process.

SICAP focuses on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities.

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

LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC have signed a contract with CKLP to implement the new EU-funded Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027, following the recent approval of the Kildare LEADER Local Development Strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Funding of



€5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare over the lifetime of the Programme. Details on the process and how to apply for and access LEADER grant aid is currently being finalised by the Department.

The current LEADER programme is at the final stages with projects having until 31 March 2024 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.

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare. The four themes of Department of Health Funded Projects of €75,000 in 2023/2024 are

- (1) Food Insecurity
- (2) Traveller Wellbeing
- (3) Supporting vulnerable children and young people
- (4) Woodstock Artist in Residency.

Service Level Agreements are in place with the various project partners and agreed actions under each of the four

themes are ongoing.

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

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. Pobal announced additional funding of €35,000 towards the 2024 budget which will fund new initiatives agreed by the LCDC. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

Service Level Agreements are in place with the five project partners in the HI Round 4 Programme 2023 – 2025 and programmes are ongoing.

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

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

County Kildare LEADER Partnership



are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. The programme has continued for 2024 with the same budget allocation.

Local Economic and Community Plan

Over 1,300 individuals engaged directly in consultation for the LECP through targeted meetings, survey and focus groups as part of the Consultation Stage two. The outcomes of the consultation were considered by the Advisory Steering Group, and amendments to the draft vision and high-level goals were agreed by the LCDC and the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC at their meetings at the end of 2024. Work is underway to draft the plan based on the analysis and consultations that took place in Stages one and two. AIRO in Maynooth University are finalising updating and analysing Census 2022. The plan is on track to be finalised in early 2024.

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

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

Kildare LCDC has been awarded Dormant Account funding of €16,852

to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations. Funding will be allocated to help provide services to LGBTI+ organisations targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI+ identities.

Local Enhancement Funding

Kildare has been allocated Local Enhancement Funding in 2024 to support community groups for capital type costs. Funding is allocated as follows: €163,322.51 towards community groups and €34,749.47 for women's groups. The fund is open for applications until 29 February and details of how to apply are at the following link: [Local Enhancement Programme 2024 - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://www.kildarecoco.ie/Local-Enhancement-Programme-2024)

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 27 March 2024.



Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M4 Westbound

The Westbound project will progress to the end of Phase 2. 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) have undertaken a pavement design and safety improvement for pavement improvement works on the existing N78 through Athy town and have also been liaising with Public Realm and Kildare County Council Roads with regard to the Emily Square project. Now that the Athy Distributor Road (ADR) is open, TII are being asked by the Department of Transport (DoT) to

contribute to a more significant public realm type project / one way pilot, through Athy Mainstreet. If agreement can be reached then Kildare County Council Roads Project team will assume responsibility for delivery. Existing N78 to be reclassified - new ADR will become N78 in Athy – DoT / TII in discussion as to further requirements.

Leinster Road Bridges

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

Athy Distributor Road

The ADR is now open (31 October 2023). BAM has achieved substantial completion however, snagging work still continues.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Project is nearing completion. Regional Salt Barn is 99% complete. Yard is 99% complete. Admin Building is 95% complete. Project has largely



transferred from Capital Project to Implementation phase.

The construction phase of the project is due to be completed by Mid-February 2024 (There was a slight delay due to ESB connection of distribution board – which is now in hand). The IT department will then commence the delivery of IT to the facility in February, with commencement of staff moving to the new offices in March. Insurances (IPB) are in place, furniture has been ordered and arrangements being made for security.

A tender is being prepared for consultancy services for traffic management and operational plans for the site. It is expected that the machinery yard operatives will commence moving into the new facility in May 2024.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. The project team is now focusing on completing the CPO administrative procedures, completing the detailed design and compilation of tender documents.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) (administrators of the local infrastructure housing activation fund

(LIHAF) element of the scheme) have been informed accordingly. It is intended to meet the landowners during February 2024 for an update.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

It is expected CPO and Planning Consent will be submitted in Q2 2024. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage /Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) team have been kept informed. They require a Business case to be submitted which will be complete end March 2024.

Murtagh's Corner

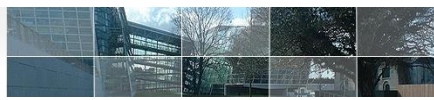
The design team are in the process of putting a brief together, to expedite this project.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The ABTA is in the final stages of being published

Newbridge Transport Strategy

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



Junction Programme

Phase 1A and 1B of the Rural Junctions Improvement Project is for the delivery of five separate schemes each (ten in total), which are to be delivered in tandem. Consultants are O'Connor Sutton Cronin (1A) and Clandillon (1B). Option reports have been completed for phase 1A.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

Planning permission 22/1504 for part of relief road and second bridge over the Liffey has been granted by Kildare County Council to Aston Ltd. Kildare County Council is in touch with Department of Transport in relation to a funding application.

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

An allocation of €1,500,000 has been received from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to start construction of this scheme in 2024. The scheme will be tendered in Q1 2024.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

An allocation of €2,750,000 has been received from the NTA to restart

construction of this scheme in 2024.

The scheme has been tendered and an award will be made in Q1 2024.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €1,200,000 has been received from the NTA to start construction of this scheme in 2024. The scheme will be tendered in Q1 2024.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Part 8 to commence in Q1 2024 on the section of project along the public road.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €50,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. The design of the permanent scheme is awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €75,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. The Phase 2 Option Selection/Rapid Build Report was submitted to the NTA in January 2024.



Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Works progressing and due to finish in Q2 2024.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

Detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works are continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €10,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €75,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €50,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

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

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €150,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

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

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€140,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

€200,000 allocation – St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town – Section 38 proposals being prepared.

€150,000 allocation – Holy Child School Ballycane – Section 38 proposals being prepared.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

An allocation of €50,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.



Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

An allocation of €500,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Details of how to progress this work is awaited from the NTA.

Speed Limit Review

No update from the Department of Transport at present.

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2023 is complete – all records uploaded onto MapRoad and claims submitted to Department of Transport.

Restoration Improvement schemes to value of €11.1 million on 67 Km of Local and Regional Roads.

Restoration Maintenance i.e. Surface Dressing work carried out by direct labour on 104 km of roads – 4% of non-national road network (€2.64 million).

€500,000 of road works carried out under Climate Change Adaptation Resilience Grant on three sites and a similar amount under Former National Roads Grants.

Safety Improvement schemes completed at ten sites countywide to value € 260,000.

Annual call from DoT for grant funding requests on Bridge Rehabilitation, Road Safety works, CCAR (Climate)

and former National roads (FNR) for 2024 have been submitted to DoT.

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

Winter Maintenance season commenced on 16 October. 705 km of roads now being treated and allowing for National Primary roads covered by TII – 31.5 % of all public roads included in county Winter Maintenance programme – higher than neighbouring counties. Salting route map is available to view on the Council website.

Public Lighting

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Survey commencing in Q1 2024 with detailed design to follow. Works on site to commence in Q3 2024. Contract duration is for eight months and due for completion in Q2 2025 which will lead to annual savings of approx €750,000 on energy and maintenance costs going forward.



Open Spaces (Parks)

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Works are continuing on the site. The playground equipment installation is ongoing and works on the multi use games area.

Sallins Amenity Land

Two tenders have been received for the detail design of phase 1. These are currently being evaluated.

Tree Pruning and Removal Works

Works have commenced on a programme of works in the Naas and Maynooth Municipal Districts. This work is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Grass Maintenance Contract

A tender for the contract to renew for four years has been advertised. It is hoped to have the contract awarded by April.

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. A number of variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2024, including: An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework; Car Parking Standards; and a Landscape Character Assessment.

Work is underway on implementing a series of objectives and actions, including the following:

- SuDS Guidelines
- Permeability Guidelines
- Allotments Strategy
- Strategic Employment Locations Study
- County Kildare Urban and Regional Parks Strategy; and
- Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study.
- Active Recreational Infrastructure Study; and



- Corbally Canal / River Liffey enhancement (Kilcullen to Newbridge) Feasibility Study.

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

Multi-disciplinary design team consultants to commence project February 2024.

Local Area Plans (LAP)

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

The Draft LAP is currently being finalised and environmental assessments are underway. The Steering Group is meeting in February to confirm a publication date for the Draft Plan.

Newbridge LAP

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to pre-draft consultation is being finalised and will be circulated to the Members in February.

Sallins LAP and Monasterevin LAP

Work has commenced on the review of the Sallins Local Area Plan and the Monasterevin Local Area Plan, including consideration of pre-draft public consultation.

Leixlip

Proposed Alteration to the Leixlip LAP: Confey Masterplan was on public consultation to 06 February 2024. Chief Executive's Report under preparation to summarise issues raised in c.100 submissions

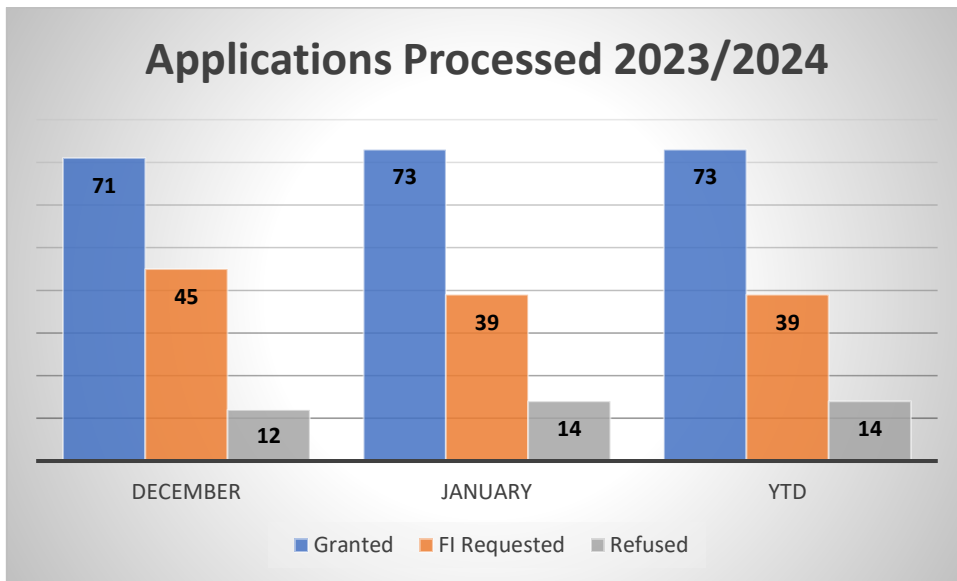
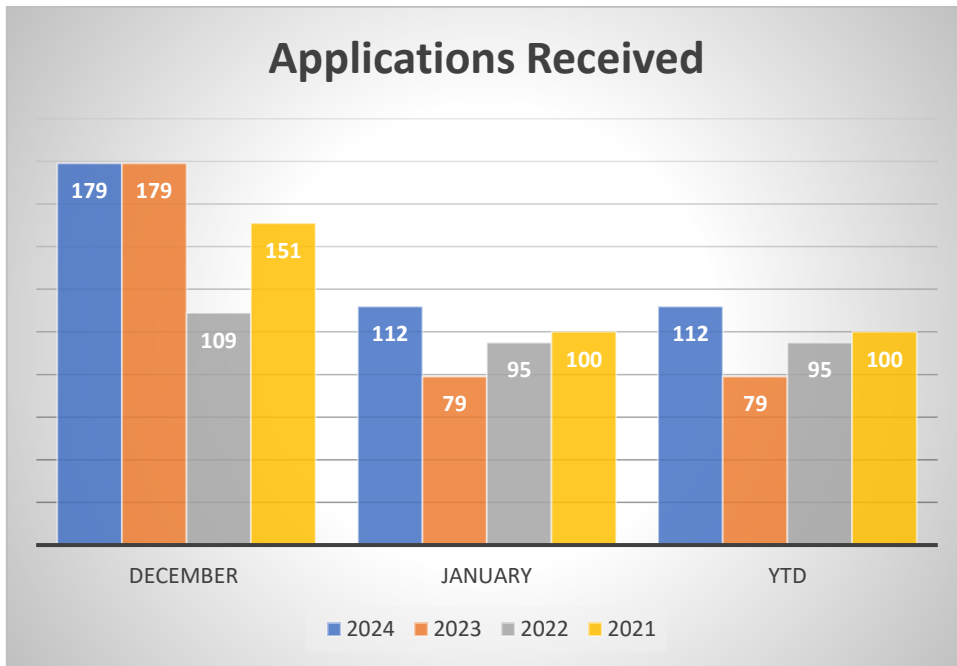
Development Management ePlanning

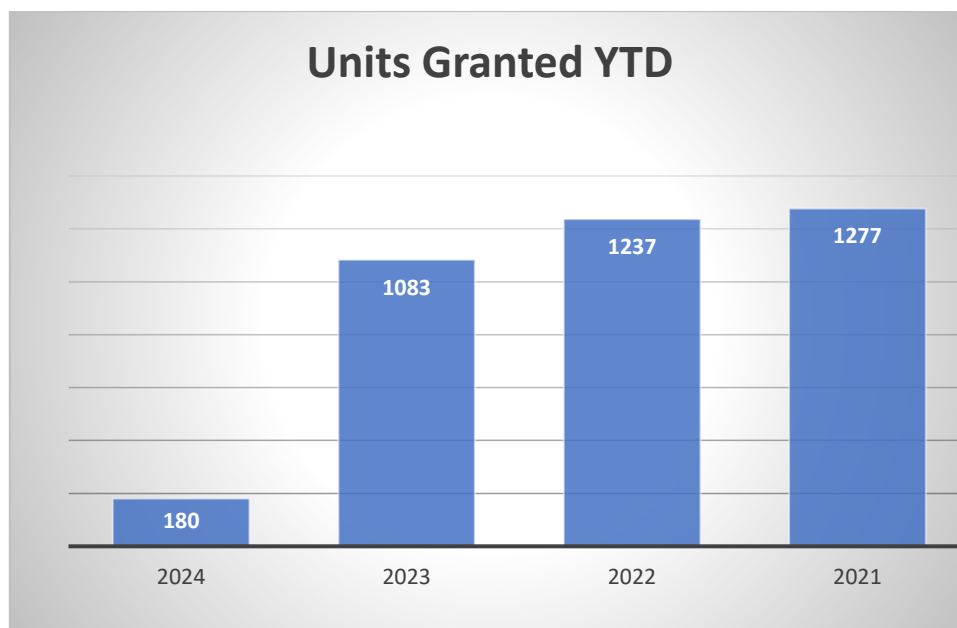
ePlanning went live in Kildare on 27/06/2023, enabling applications and submissions/refs to be submitted via the online planning portal.

Confirmation of our live status was communicated to planning agents and Elected Members and positively acknowledged.

In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online.

In 2024 to date, 66.7% of all applications received are via the online planning 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
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed Refuse 12/10/2023
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed & Appeal Withdrawn: Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Appealed: Refused 12/11/2023
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed: Granted on



					appeal. Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date Appealed Grant 12/10/2023
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crocaun commons Clane	190	Decision Due Date 03/01/2024: Further information requested
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP- 307223-20	Decision due 24/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Decision due 17/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Decision due 16/02/2024

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Heritage - Progress Updates

1. Community Monuments Fund

Date for Community Monuments Fund applications has now passed (01 February) and are being reviewed/assessed.

2. Community Heritage Fund (Kildare County Council)

This scheme has been advertised, with a closing date of 08 March 2024.

3. UNESCO

MoU to be signed by each of the Local Authorities.

B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

€96k has been allocated by the

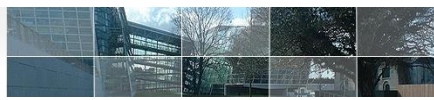
Department for 2024. A number of projects are being considered for this funding. Closing date for Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects has now passed (31 January).

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024

The 2024 BHIS scheme has been advertised and the closing date for applications has now passed.

Recommendations must be forwarded



to the Department for their consideration by 09 February.

2. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2024

The 2024 HSF scheme has been advertised and the closing date for applications has now passed.

Recommendations must be forwarded to the Department for their consideration by 09 February.

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

Consultants (Carrig) are preparing a Conservation Management Plan for St. David’s Castle, a draft of which is expected week commencing 05 February.

4. Cassidy’s Distillery – Conservation Management Plan

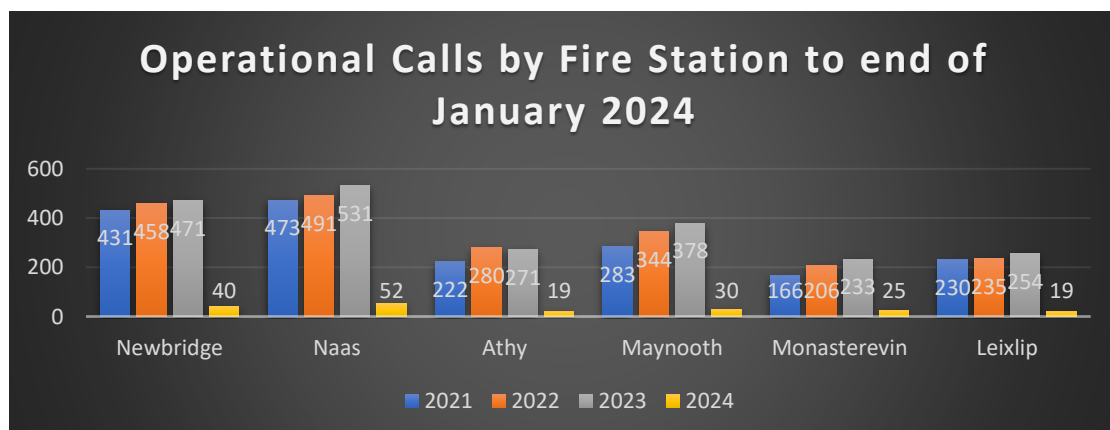
Consultants (Howley Hayes Cooney) have been appointed to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Complex in Monasterevin. Report due for completion end of March 2024. A number of meetings have taken place to date with the relevant landowners along with Councillor Kevin Duffy and a number of site visits have been undertaken by the consultant and his team. The initial feedback is that the Cassidy’s site is of national significance by reason of its industrial heritage.

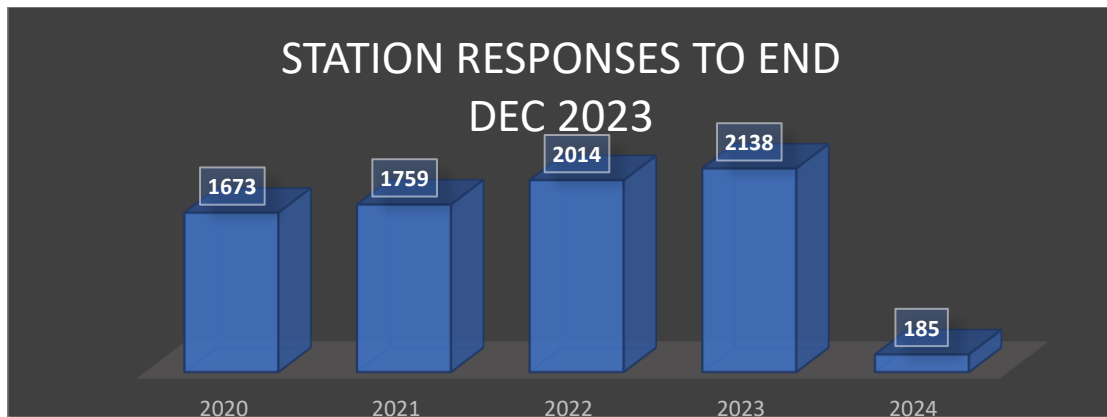
5. Architectural Conservation Officer

The ACO post remains to be filled, HR is aware of the urgency of filling this post.

Fire Service Operations

2024 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

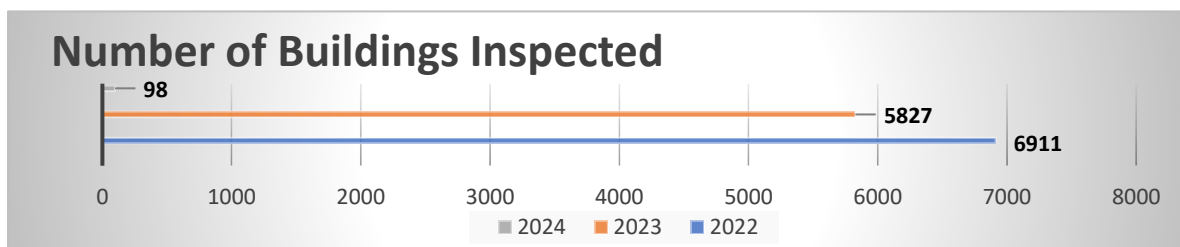
Applications received to the end of January 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

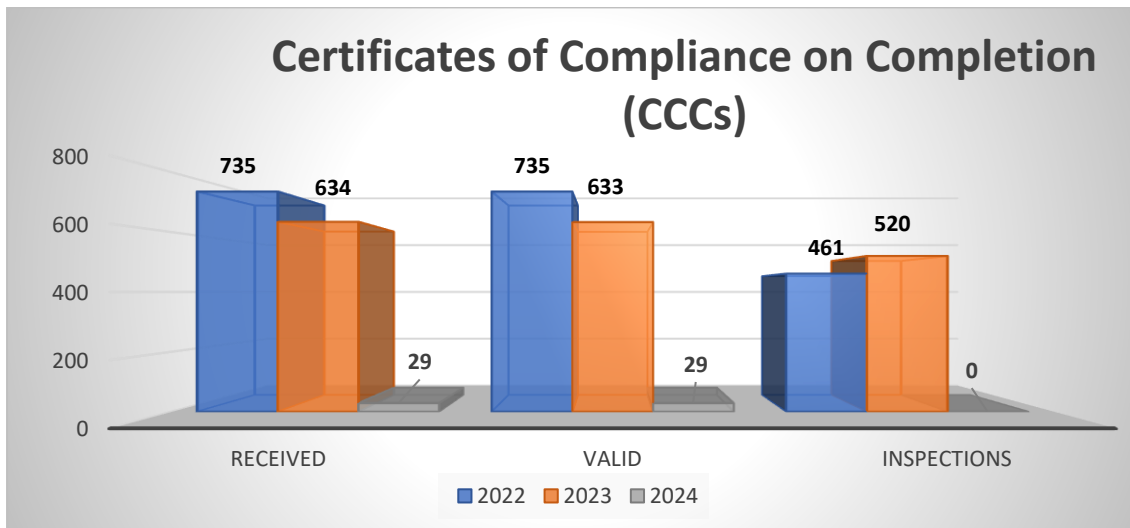
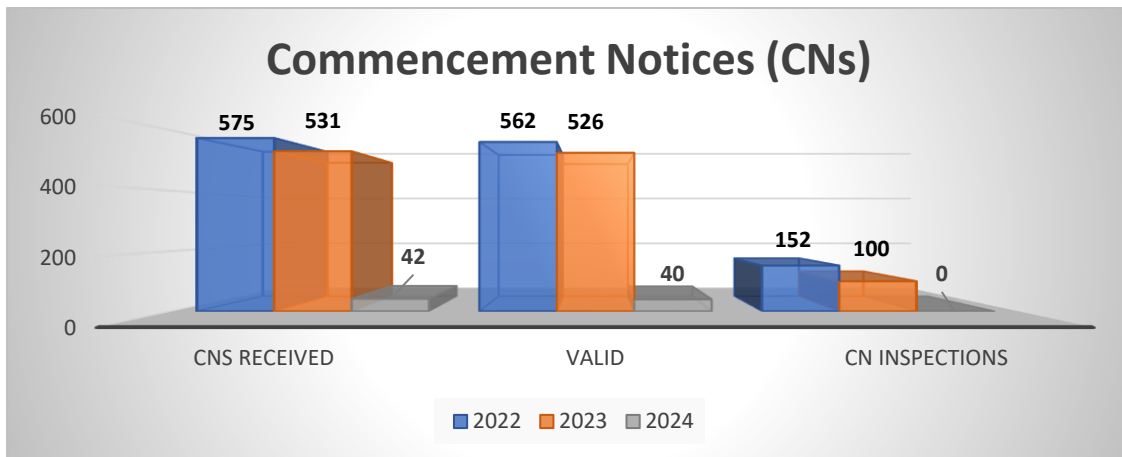
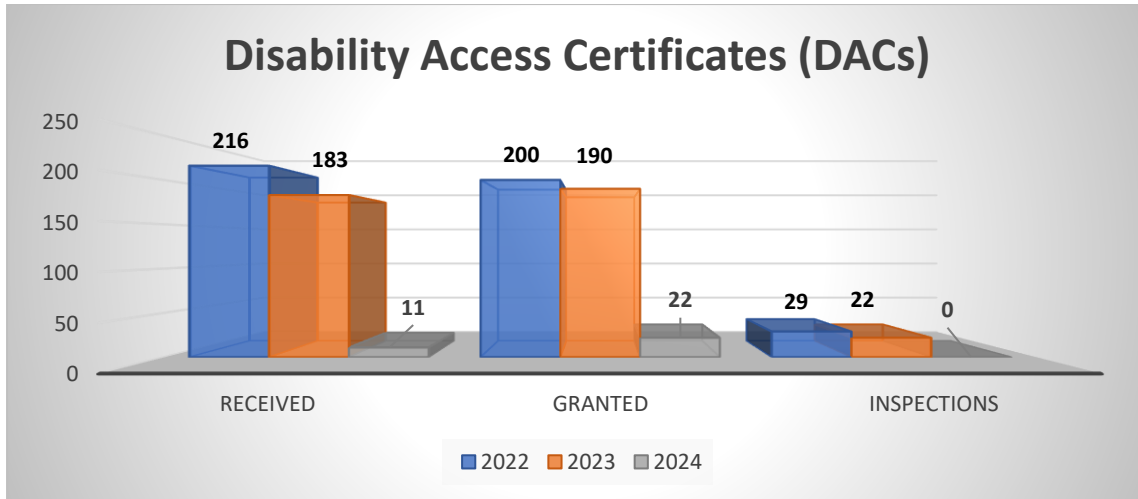


Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of January 2024 set against full year figures for 2022 and 2023

Building Control





Note: Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 and 2024 is due to staff shortages.



Kildare Fáilte

Key activities

Into Kildare's (IK) activities throughout January underscores the organisation's proactive and multifaceted approach to promoting tourism and cultural heritage in County Kildare. These initiatives not only celebrate the rich history and vibrant present of the region but also position Kildare as a dynamic destination for both domestic and international visitors.

January activities were centered around a diverse range of events, including the commemoration of St. Brigid's Day, the centenary of Naas Racecourse, and preparations for the Taste of Kildare 2024 festival.

Into Kildare were delighted to attend Naas Racecourse for their Centenary Year Event. The new Centenary Wall at Naas Racecourse was unveiled, representing the past 100 years in a stunning photographic collage. It highlights some of the memorable moments and winners at the track.

In early January, Into Kildare took part in the significant event of Tourism Ireland's 2024 marketing plans unveiling and the overseas business

exchange gathering. This meeting was an opportunity for Tourism Ireland to disseminate insights gathered from the tourism sector in 2023 and to outline the strategic marketing initiatives aimed at bolstering tourism for the year 2024. A key component of this event was the series of one-to-one meetings that allowed Into Kildare representatives to engage directly with Tourism Ireland's representatives from various overseas offices.



The Into Kildare team assisted and participated in the Fáilte Ireland Kildare Derby Festival workshop, held at the Curragh Racecourse. This workshop featured a presentation by CEO -Áine Mangan, who detailed the upcoming events for St. Brigid's Day and Taste of Kildare 2024 to the attendees. This session provided valuable insights and information on the planned festivities, highlighting the efforts to promote Kildare's rich cultural heritage and culinary excellence through these significant events.



Into Kildare attended The K Club's - St Brigid's Day launch event ahead of their upcoming feast of Brigid event on 02 February 2024. Several invited women spoke on the legacy of Brigid and her relevance today.



Into Kildare in collaboration with Solas Bhríde and Kildare Community School, organised a day in advance of Brigid's Day on the 11 January to gather pause for peace ambassadors from 13 secondary schools across County Kildare. They congregated at Solas Bhríde to initiate and prepare for the annual global Pause for Peace event. The ambassadors engaged in a workshop designed to deepen their

understanding of peace and solidarity, followed by a visit to the Curragh Racecourse. This visit served as a preparatory step for the human St. Brigid's Cross event, symbolising a collective commitment to peace and the legacy of St. Brigid.



Into Kildare successfully facilitated and coordinated with the Taoiseach's office for the filming of the Taoiseach's annual message in honor of St. Brigid's Day.



This collaboration highlighted the significance of the day and promoted the Pause for Peace movement, emphasising the importance of unity



and reflection. Additionally they provided the office with St. Brigid's cross pins to wear on the day.

Into Kildare attended the launch of the thirty-first Annual Féile Bhríde, held at Solas Bhríde, marking a momentous occasion as the event coincided with the commemoration of the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid.



Into Kildare commissioned the national platform of RTÉ's Today Show, hosted by Dáithí Ó Sé, to showcase the offerings of County Kildare in a live broadcast from the Irish National Stud and Gardens, just ahead of the St. Brigid's Day bank holiday weekend. This segment featured Sr. Rita Minihan and a group of peace ambassadors who highlighted St. Brigid's legacy and her significance in Kildare, particularly from the sacred site of St. Brigid's Well. The celebration was enriched by a performance from Jack Lukeman, a

renowned singer-songwriter from Athy, further celebrating the county's cultural contributions. Another segment of the show dedicated to Kildare spotlighted various local activities and hospitality, offering viewers a glimpse into the region's vast array of attractions, events and hospitality offerings. Taste of Kildare 2024 was highlighted with a number of food providers present showcasing their produce.

Additionally, Into Kildare members sponsored the 50:50 quiz on the show, providing an extended opportunity for national exposure.



The sacred relics of Saint Brigid made a monumental return to County Kildare after almost a millennium, an event significantly promoted by Into Kildare. Through wide-ranging campaigns, PR strategies, and media outreach, Into



Kildare aimed to amplify the event's impact and encourage visits to Kildare, drawing attention from both local and national press as well as TV media. Minister Catherine Martin, attending at the invitation of Into Kildare, underscored the event's importance with a supportive speech post-service. A cross was presented to Minister Martin from County Kildare. This effort not only cast a spotlight on the cultural and spiritual heritage associated with Saint Brigid but also positioned Kildare as a pivotal site for historical and religious tourism.



On the eve of St. Brigid's Day, 31 January, and on 01 February, Into Kildare successfully organised the

annual Light Up Kildare event. This event, enriched by a streaming message from the Taoiseach, achieved impressive reach, impressions, and engagement across various social media platforms, demonstrating strong community engagement and collaboration. The highlight of the ceremony was a performance by Kildare's own Luka Bloom, who performed his song 'Don't be afraid of the light that shines within you' at the foot of the tower, encapsulating the essence of St. Brigid's message of grace, hope, and light to the world.



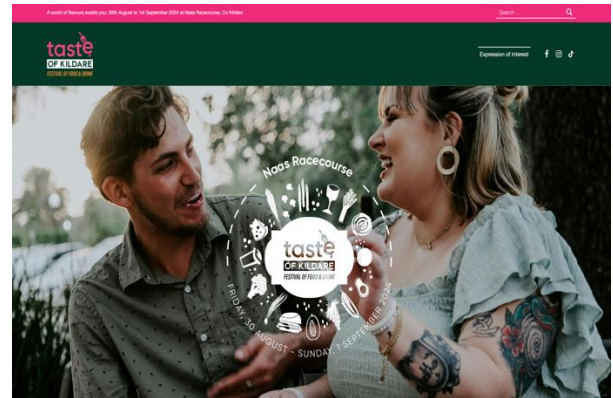
The Light Up Kildare event at the Hill of Allen also served as a platform to promote the Pause for Peace initiative, inviting participation from locals and those afar to take part.



Planning and preparations also took place for events in UK – St. Brides Church, House of commons and in the Irish Embassy in London.

In parallel, Into Kildare is making strides in preparations for the Taste of Kildare 2024. A detailed planning visit to Naas Racecourse has been conducted to ensure the event, scheduled for August 30th to September 1st, 2024, will effectively highlight Kildare's culinary talents and attract visitors. This preparation reflects IK's commitment to showcasing the region's gastronomic offerings and enhancing Kildare's appeal as a culinary destination. Complementing these efforts, Into Kildare is preparing a new website for Taste of Kildare 2024. This online platform is designed to provide essential information, facilitate ticket purchases, and enhance the event's visibility, making it easier for attendees

to plan their visit to one of Kildare's premier food festivals.



Local Enterprise Office

Total LEO Financial Supports direct to Clients at 07.02.2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant .	14	€29,843
Business Expansion Grant	1	€26,580
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€14,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	4	€9,631
IP Start grant	1	€2,160
Total	21	€83,167



Salon Nutri Limited of Athy Municipal District was approved €26,580 to support the recruitment of two new employees plus support towards capital expenditure. The business provides 100% Natural, Irish made supplements for the hair and skin market.

The Domestic Food Waste Company Limited of Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District was approved €14,953 to undertake a feasibility study to develop a new and innovative waste to compost solution.

Entrepreneurship Support Achievement ff KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	321
SYOB	160	32
MDP	72	-
Mentoring	468	58
Digital	7	-
Lean	20	7
Green	20	14

Focus on Start-Ups:

Our Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made .

The LEO Team plan to host an out-reach advisory clinic at the Athy Enterprise Hub on 04 March where walk-in appointments will be available for both established and early stage entrepreneurs who wish to access LEO services.

Focus on Craft:

Showcase - Ireland’s Creative Expo® is the foremost place for Irish and international retailers to discover unique, design-led craft. Nationally the LEO Network has a designated area for a selection of their clients. Kildare has been represented by Nina Patterson (Clane-Maynooth) , Tanya Ryan of Fiadh and Finn and Vivian Wong of One More Thing (both Kildare-Newbridge).

As part of the Brigid 1500 celebrations, ten UK influencers were escorted on a Kildare craft tour by Tourism Ireland. They visited De Bruir, Pure Oskar (Kildare-Newbridge) and Emmet Kane Athy).





Showcase OVER ALL Best Product –
In WELLNESS: was Pure Oskar
another Kildare LEO Client

Focus on Women in Business:

Kildare, 01 February 2024 – Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office proudly hosted the She Succeeds Brigid 1500 luncheon in Kilkea Castle. The event, attended by over 150 businesswomen, was a remarkable celebration of achievement, empowerment, and the spirit of St. Brigid.

This event marked a significant milestone in fostering a culture of empowerment and success for women in Kildare with the launch of a full programme of events for Kildare's Women in Business.

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office launches She Succeeds at Brigid 1500 Luncheon. She Succeeds which is a unique programme designed to increase the number of women-led companies in Kildare scaling internationally.



To take part in She Succeeds Women in business can visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events> or connect with the LEO team via localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 838.

Focus on Export:

In 2023 LEO launched the MERITS Export Accelerator – a programme for established, high performing tech companies who had already begun their export journey but needed strategic intervention, guidance and structure to scale.

The winner was named as Hest.io and Waggi Connected Pets as the One to Watch! Both tech companies are now operating out of MERITS .

Energy Efficiency Grant launched

The aim of the Energy Efficiency Grant is to support businesses in their investment in technologies and equipment to support their



sustainability journey as a follow on from the Green for Micro or GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit Reports.

The grant of 50% of eligible costs at a minimum of €1,000 to a maximum grant of €5,000 is intended for small enterprises (employing between 1 and 50) who are not currently clients of Enterprise Ireland or IDA.

This scheme prioritizes the grant aid of energy efficiency expenditure associated with the operation of an enterprise thus reducing the impact of enterprises on the environment and in turn increase the agility and resilience of these businesses.

Eligible Businesses

- Small enterprises (employing between 1 and 50).
- who have undertaken a Green for Micro, GreenStart or recent energy audit by a SEAI registered energy auditor and who are not currently clients of Enterprise Ireland or IDA.
- who are established, registered, and operate within the area of the Local Enterprise Office.
- who have a turnover in excess of €30,000 annually and the business is trading in excess of six months.

Focus on Food



Kildare LEO hosted over 150 food and drinks companies on the 31 January in MERITS and arranged for 26 International Buyers to meet with them.

Significant deals were closed on the day and discussions on exporting Kildare based food and drinks products is ongoing .

Minister Richmond visits client showcase:

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Business, Employment and Retail. Neale Richmond, TD visited Kildare County Council's Enterprise and Economic Development Team on 08 February. He and his team meet a selection of Kildare-based business owners at a showcase event in MERITS, the region's hub for innovative start-ups.



Focus on Tech:

On our MERITS Tech Pre-Accelerator aspiring entrepreneurs Discover, Test and Validate their idea through our guided modules, one-on-one mentor sessions and peer-to-peer group meetings.

Seven aspiring entrepreneurs completed their final pitches as part of this competitive programme. On his visit to LEO Kildare Minister Richmond announced the winner - Ben Moran and his idea Proactive Paths.

Focus on Digital:

Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Jacqui McNabb joined a panel discussion at the recent Small Firms Association conference on digital transformation for business and how to access support on your digitization journey.

Save the Date!

We invite you to join us as we acknowledge and celebrate our aspiring entrepreneurs of the future.

Local Enterprise Office Kildare and Kildare County Council invites you to the County Final of the

Student Enterprise Programme 2023/2024 In the Killashee Hotel, Naas,

On Thursday 29 February at 1:30 p.m. Concluding 3.30 p.m.

Economic Support Services Pride of Premises Awards 2024

Kildare County Council's Business Support Unit established its Shopfront Improvement, Accessibility and Age-Friendly Grant and Retail Window Grant to support retail excellence in appearance and accessibility. Smart shop fronts make a town feel more prosperous, improve its image and contribute towards a stronger sense of identity.

On 05 March 7.00 p.m. 2024, Kildare County Council will host its Pride of Premises Awards at the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge as part of our Local Enterprise Week events programme to recognise the efforts of businesses across the county who have availed of these support streams.

The General Shopfront Improvement Scheme Grant for 2024 is due to open in the early Spring while the Brigid 1500 Retail Window Merchandising Grant is open for January and



February; to date, the Brigid 1500 scheme has:

No. Approved	Value Approved
15	€2,700

The Economic Development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all the supports available.

Skills Audit

Kildare County Council is evaluating Responses for Quotations from suitable consultancy to undertake a skills audit of County Kildare.

The audit will comprise a detailed analysis of the existing talent and skills within the county and the skills requirements across the county over the medium term. It is anticipated the audit will be completed by April 2024 when, at this point, it will inform Kildare County Council’s strategic employment/ industrial land study (currently being undertaken by the councils Forward Planning Department) and the tenderer will then work to deliver a comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by June 2024.

Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy

Kildare County Council published its first Diaspora newsletter with a New Year message from Ms. Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive Kildare County Council; the newsletter comprised topical stories of interest to Kildare’s global population including Brigid 1500, the ‘Gather’ pop-up shop experience at Kildare Village and a profile of Ernest Shackleton.

The Irish World interviewed Paula O’Brien, Senior Executive Officer Community, on behalf of Kildare County Council and its Brigid 1500 program; the Irish World is a leading diaspora publication in the UK.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

The date for tender submissions passed end-January and the evaluation committee is reviewing the application.

The successful bidder is anticipated to be appointed by late-March once the tender validation and evaluation process has been completed. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 13 months upon commencement.



Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Upon the completion of a feasibility study, Kildare County Council applied to the Just Transition Fund for potential funding for the proposed development. Progression will be very much subject to the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order.

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Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare

The consultants have completed feasibility study of the proposed development. Kildare County Council is now reviewing funding options potentially through the Department of Rural and Community Development. Kildare County Council has reached a lease agreement for the deployment of a pilot on a smaller footprint in two

retail units in Kildare Town's Market Square.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

The consultants have submitted the feasibility study for the building; Kildare County Council has included its proposed development as part of its capital projects and will fund its development should the appropriate planning and development regulations be in place.

Kildare Hub Strategy

Kildare County Council was awarded Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) funding to assist in the marketing of the KHUB Network. In January, the Sunday Business Post published a two-piece article with Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive Kildare County Council, being interviewed about the County and its strengths and opportunities; the second piece interviewed Hub Managers throughout the County offering exposure to their locations and offerings.

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
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare>

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive