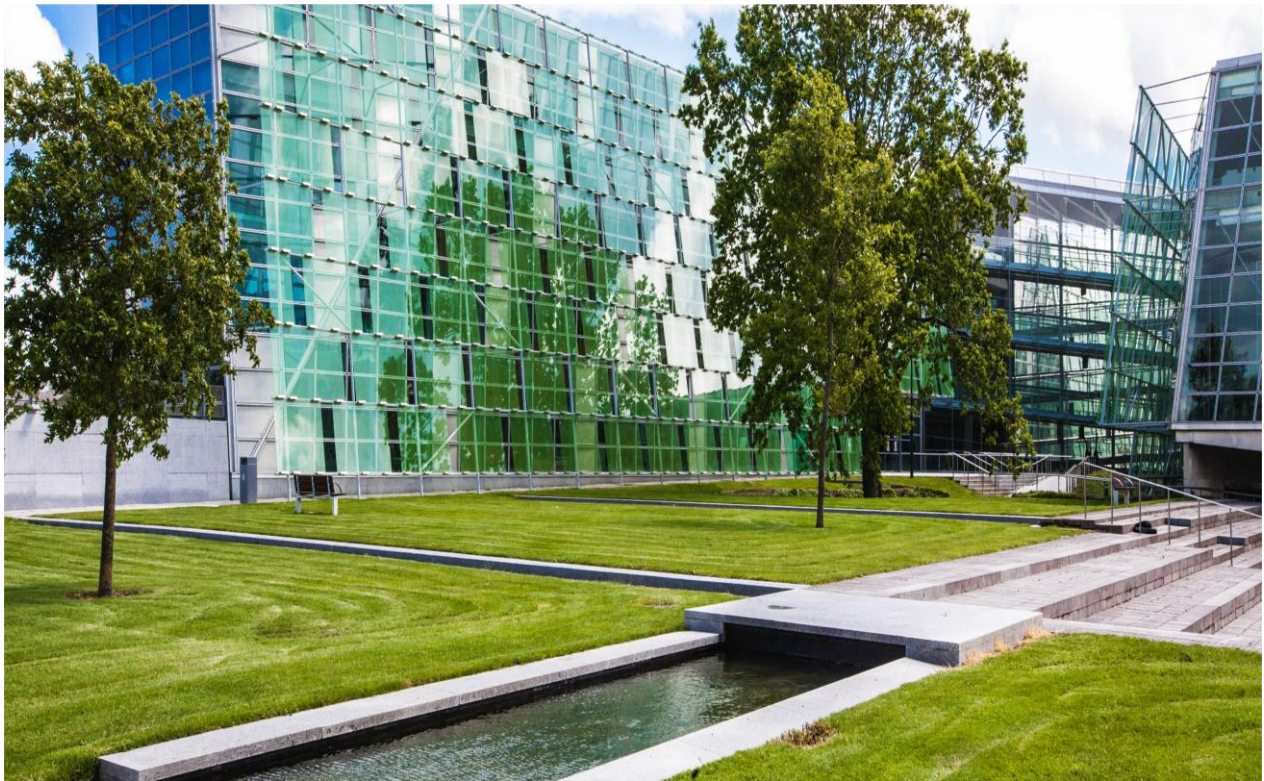




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## Kildare County Council

### Chief Executive's Management Report – November 2024





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## News Items

### **Ireland's Top Teen Enterprise Programme**

Second level schools across Kildare are encouraged to sign-up for this year's Student Enterprise Programme. The Programme is open for registration for the academic year 2024/25, with some exciting new additions to the competition (see pages 9-10).

### **Excellence in Local Government Awards**

The excellence in Local Government Awards take place on 21 November. Kildare County Council has been shortlisted for two awards - Ballymore Eustace as an Age Friendly Climate Friendly Village and Leinster Women's shed Fest (see page 13).

### **Social Inclusion and Parenting**

Three 'Raising Bilingual Children in Ireland' talks with Mother Tongues have taken place on the 'Let's talk about Parenting' programme in Naas, Celbridge and Maynooth libraries. Another talk is taking place in Newbridge Library on 22 November (see page 15).

### **Homelessness Outreach Clinics**

The Homeless Team continue to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media (see page 23).

### **Community Climate Action Program Fund**

Twenty four projects were approved by DECC for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have eighteen months to complete the projects. (see page 45).

### **Kerdiffstown Park opens its gates**

A "soft" opening of Kerdiffstown park took place on 21 October and it is anticipated that the park will be fully operational in 2025. (see page 51).



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## **Healthy Ireland**

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC, additional funding to continue the project supports of €75,000 in 2025 was announced recently (see page 53).

## **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations commenced for the 2024/2025 season. 8,000 tonnes of salt was delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024 (see page 57).

## **Kildare Fáilte**

As the school mid-term approached, the tourism and hospitality industry strategically focused its marketing message on autumn breaks, seasonal activities, and Halloween events (see pages 66-68).

## **Economic Forum: FORWARD25**

The team hosted its annual Economic Forum at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, on 07 November. The conference was opened by Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive and leading economist Jim Power presented his economic analysis and outlook before moderating the morning conference (see page 71).

## **Creation of a Food and Beverage Trail**

A request for tenders has been issued for concept development, marketing and branding of a new Food and Beverage Trail in County Kildare (see page 74).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Kildare County Council launches Walk in Clinics to assist businesses with Energy Efficiency Grant applications**

The free walk-in clinics are taking place every Friday in November between 10.00am and 4.00pm, in MERITS, Naas (see page 10).

### **Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team – Funding Opportunities**

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) Category two is now open for consideration with a closing date of 12.00pm on 14 March 2025 (see page 22).

### **The Community Integration Forum**

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Service. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 04 December 2024 (see page 39).

### **Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

A special meeting with the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was held on the 21 October. The Proposed Material Alteration will be placed on public display from the 08 November to the 06 December (see page 61).

### **Public Procurement Day**

Kildare County Council will host its Procurement Day on Wednesday 20 November in the Osprey Hotel, Naas. (see page 72).

### **Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub**

Part 8 statutory process launched on Tuesday 29 October. Closing date for submissions on 10 December 2024 (see pages 74-75)



## December Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Dec	3 14:30 Housing Disability Steering Group	4	5	6 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
9 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting ; Council Chamber ; Members Calendar	11	12	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting December; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:30 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	17	18 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19	20 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
23	24	25	26	27
30	31	<b>1 Jan</b>	2	3



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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services

#### Communications

#### Official Opening of the Safe Routes to School Scheme at the Holy Child National School, Ballycane, Naas



#### Communications

#### Official Opening of the Safe Routes to School Scheme at the Holy Child National School, Ballycane, Naas

To enhance road safety for children and other vulnerable road users Kildare County Council hosted Minister for Transport, Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamonn Ryan and Minister of State at the Department of Transport and at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, James Lawless, in the presence of the Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Councillor Joe Nevile for the official opening of the Safe Routes to School

Scheme at the Holy Child National School, Ballycane, Naas.

### Oscailt Oifigiúil na Scéime um Bhealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile ag Scoil Náisiúnta an Linbh Íosa, An Nás Thoir

D'fhonn cur le sábháilteacht ar bhóithre do leanaí agus d'úsáideoirí leochaileacha bóithre D'óstáil Comhairle Contae Chill Dara an tAire Iompair, Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, Eamonn Ryan agus an tAire Stáit ag an Roinn Iompair agus ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, James Lawless nuair a osclaíodh an Scéim um Bhealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile go hoifigiúil ag Scoil Náisiúnta an Linbh Íosa, An Nás Thoir, mar a raibh Cathaoirleach Chontae Chill Dara, an Comhairleoir Joe Neville i láthair.





## **Kildare County Council Celebrates National Women's Enterprise Day** Advocating for Enhanced Access to Business Supports for Female Entrepreneurs

On Thursday 17 October 2024, Kildare County Council, in collaboration with County Kildare Chamber and Network Ireland Kildare, celebrated National Women's Enterprise Day, by hosting "Girls Just Wanna Have Funds!" in the Moat Theatre, Naas.

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office emphasises the critical need for access to business supports for female entrepreneurs and this event focused on equipping women with the knowledge and resources they need to successfully secure funding or investment to start or scale their businesses. It was attended by over 100 female entrepreneurs with an incredible range of experience – seasoned entrepreneurs, industry leaders, innovators and future trailblazers.



## **Recipient of Kildare County Council's Short Grass Film Commission Award 2024 commences filming in Kildare**

In June 2024, Kildare County Council were delighted to announce Rye Films as the recipient of the Short Grass Film Commission Award 2024. This annual award (€12,500) which supports film production locally, commissioned an original film to be shot in County Kildare in 2024/25. Production of this short film took place on location in Kildare in September.

## **Opportunity Knocks: Kildare - Lexington Student Exchange Programme returns for 2025**

County Kildare has been twinned with Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A., since 1984. Lexington is a charming city with a population of about 300,000. One of the most successful aspects of Kildare's twinning with Lexington has been the annual student exchange, which affords Kildare students the opportunity to spend time in Lexington and to welcome a student into their home in return.





## Deis le tapú: Clár Malartaithe Chill Dara- Lexington do dhaltáí á réachtáil arís don bhliain 2025

Tá Contae Chill Dara nasctha le Lexington, Kentucky i Meiriceá ón mbliain 1984 i leith. Cathair álainn is ea Lexington agus tá daonra de thart ar 300,000 ann. Ceann de na gnéithe is rathúla de nascadh Chill Dara le Lexington ná an malartú bliantúil daltáí, a thugann deis do dhaltáí ó Chill Dara am a chaitheamh i Lexington agus fáilte a chur roimh dhaltáí as Lexington go dtí a dtithe féin anseo i gCill Dara.



The draft Settlement Plan aims to ensure that the town has an adequate supply of development land to meet the needs of the town for residential, employment, commercial, community, recreational and other uses. It also includes measures for the provision of new infrastructure and the conservation of the town's built and natural heritage, biodiversity, and much more. The plan aims to ensure that Kildare will be a thriving small town that offers an excellent quality of life to those living there that are proud to call it home.



## Draft Kilcullen Settlement Plan

Online Public Consultation now open  
Public Consultation event on Tuesday  
05 November

Kildare County Council has published a draft plan for Kilcullen that updates the objectives from the Kilcullen Local Area Plan 2014-2020 to achieve the successful planning and sustainable development of the town.

## Kildare County Council encourages students across Kildare to sign-up for Ireland's Top Teen Enterprise Programme





Second level schools across Kildare are encouraged to sign-up for this year's Student Enterprise Programme which will see over 28,000 students nationally set-up and run a mini enterprise over the course of the academic year.

Led by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, The Kildare Student Enterprise Programme is open for registration for the academic year 2024/25, with some exciting new additions to the competition.

### **Tá Comhairle Contae Chill Dara ag spreagadh daltaí fud fad Chill Dara chun clárú do Chlár Fiontraíochta na nDéagóirí is Fearr in Éirinn**

Spreagtar scoileanna dara leibhéal ar fud Chill Dara chun clárú do Chlár Fiontraíochta do Dhaltaí na bliana seo. Trí mheán an chláir seo, bunóidh agus riarfaidh os cionn 28,000 dalta timpeall na tíre mionghnó le linn na bliana acadúla.

Tá an Clár ar oscailt do chlárúcháin don bhliain acadúil 2024/25 agus tá catagóirí nua spreagúla curtha leis an gcomórtas.

### **Kildare County Council launches Walk in Clinics to assist businesses with Energy Efficiency Grant applications**

Kildare County Council have launched dedicated walk-in clinics to assist Kildare's Business community with applying for the €10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant, which can be used for a variety of upgrades, including meters, smart energy controls, lighting upgrades to LED, heat recovery, equipment upgrades and much more. The free walk-in clinics are taking place every Friday in November between 10.00am and 4.00pm, in MERITS, Naas (W91 FE8V). No appointments are necessary. With growing interest in energy-efficient upgrades and the availability of substantial grants, many business owners are unsure of where to start, or how to apply. The clinics aim to streamline the application process and provide expert personalised guidance to help business owners access these vital funds.



## Winners of the 2024 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Revealed



Ballymore Eustace has been given national recognition as an age-and-climate friendly village with an award at the 2024 National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards. Announced at the eight annual awards on 07 November, the winning campaigns were chosen for their exceptional contribution to making Ireland an outstanding place to grow older.

## General Election



Following the passing of the voter registration deadline for inclusion on the Register of Electors, on 12 November, the following should be noted:

## Registration

Almost 8,000 applications were received between Friday – Tuesday, November 08 – 12 inclusive.

Applications are being processed in order of the date received and with priority given to applications related to the right of the elector to exercise their franchise/vote. This means that certain applications, such as updates to contact information etc., are unlikely to be processed before Polling Day. This prioritisation is necessary to ensure that all eligible electors are processed in time for polling cards to be issued before the General Election. Emails will issue via ChecktheRegister as people are added to the Register. The patience of electors and candidates in this regard is appreciated.

## Eligibility

To vote in the General Election on November 29, you must:

- Be over 18 years of age
- An Irish or British citizen
- Resident in Ireland
- Be listed on the Register of Electors (Electoral Register)



If you have received a postal vote you cannot attend at a Polling Station to vote on November 29.

### **Polling Cards**

Registered electors do not need to have their polling information card with them when they go to vote. However, they should bring a valid form of personal identification such as a passport, a driving licence, a public services card, or an employee or student identity card with a photograph. Other forms of identification are also acceptable.

### **Find your Constituency and Polling Station**

County Kildare comprises two constituencies for the General Election, Kildare North and Kildare South. To find out which constituency you are in see the Electoral Commission's website [www.electoralcommission.ie/what-constituency-am-i-in/](http://www.electoralcommission.ie/what-constituency-am-i-in/)

If you are on the Register of Electors, the Polling Station to which you have been assigned can be checked on [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)

**checktheregister.ie**

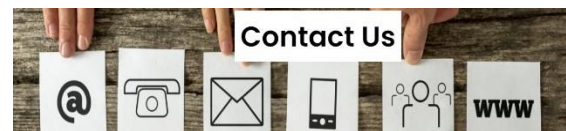
More information on the General Election, including candidate lists, accessible voting, and assistance voting for visually impaired electors is available on the website of the Electoral Commission:

[www.electoralcommission.ie/general-elections/](http://www.electoralcommission.ie/general-elections/)



Information is also available on the website of the Returning Officer [www.kildarereturningofficer.com/index.php](http://www.kildarereturningofficer.com/index.php)

### **Contact regarding voter registration**



If you have queries in relation to your registration, please:

Email: [register@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:register@kildarecoco.ie)

Phone: 045 980201

Polling Day Phonenumber – Please note that the above phonenumber will be open on Polling Day, November 29 from 7.00am until 10.00pm, to take enquiries regarding the registration of electors.



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## Contact regarding Polling Stations and Candidates

If you have questions regarding:

- Issues with facilities or your experience at your Polling Station, these can be directed to the Presiding Officer at the Polling Station on the day or to the Returning Officer (details below).
- Queries regarding candidate nomination can be directed to the Returning Officer.

### Returning Officer

Email:

[info@kildarereturningofficer.com](mailto:info@kildarereturningofficer.com)

Website:

[www.kildarereturningofficer.com/index.php](http://www.kildarereturningofficer.com/index.php)

### Executive Suite

A draft foreign travel policy is currently being drawn up for review.

LPT quarterly checks completed for each Municipal District.

Travel abroad for 2024 being collated to calculate our carbon tax liability for 2024.

The excellence in Local Government Awards take place in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Santry on 21

November. Kildare County Council has been shortlisted for two awards - Ballymore Eustace as an Age Friendly Climate Friendly Village in Age Friendly Initiative and Leinster Women's shed Fest in Municipal District Initiative.

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights

**I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book. Groucho Marx**

### Climate Action Workshops

Newbridge Library hosted several Climate Change workshops such as cooking with leftovers and winter gardening. In October, Maynooth Library held a cooking demonstration for adults with locavore chef Tadgh Byrne who gave a taste of some seasonally inspired dishes made with locally sourced ingredients. The event was organised by the Kildare Libraries Climate Action Team and supports the



following sustainable development goals: Three Good Health and Wellbeing, eleven Sustainable cities and communities, twelve Responsible consumption and production.

### **Naas Library**

The Makerspace in Naas Library and Cultural Centre is in full swing with funding provided by the Creative Ireland Programme. From September to December the makerspace will host 38 workshops for adults, children and teenagers, comprising taster sessions, an afterschool programme and a mid-term programme. Designed and delivered by Make Create Innovate, it is an exciting line-up and includes 3D Printing, Jesmonite Casting, Laser Cutting, T-shirt Upcycling and Soldering.

The 15 Kildare Readers Festival took place between 09 and 16 October this year.

The festival featured a variety of events and speakers, including talks and readings. Some of the highlights of the festival included:

A lecture by historian Diarmaid Ferriter on the modern history of Ireland, Páraic Kerrigan speaking with Anna

Nolan on LGBTQ+ history in Ireland, a conversation between award-winning author Mike McCormack and Aingeala Flannery about his latest novel. The festival opened and closed with events as Gaeilge in Riverbank Arts Centre and Naas Library and Cultural Centre. Over one thousand people attended the festival events.

### **Dads Fest**

Following on from the success of 'DadsFest' last year in Newbridge Town Hall there were two events this year – Leixlip on Sunday 06 Oct in Leixlip Youth and Community Centre, and Athy on Saturday 19 Oct in Athy Town Football club. Dads Fest is an inter-agency partnership initiative from the Kildare and West Wicklow Parenting Forum, which is chaired by Kildare Library Service. The working group was set up to explore ways to engage more Dads with our services and is funded by TUSLA parental participation funding and Healthy Ireland. DadsFest was a great success with lots of free events for Dads and their children, and information stands present from organization's involved - Kildare Library Service, In Sync, Newbridge FRC, Kildare CYPSC,



CKLP, Leixlip Youth and Community Centre, HSE and TUSLA. Fifty Eight Dads and eighty Eight kids attended the Leixlip event and Thirty Dads and Fifty two kids attended in Athy.

### **Social Inclusion and Parenting**

Three 'Raising Bilingual Children in Ireland' talks with Mother Tongues have taken place on the 'Let's talk about Parenting' programme in Naas, Celbridge and Maynooth libraries. These were very well attended and aimed to provide some support to International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in these localities, as well as other parents. Another one is taking place in Newbridge Library on 22 November.

### **Kildare County Archives and Local Studies**

"125 Years of Irish Local Government" a digital exhibition produced as a collaboration between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Government Archivists and Record Managers network was launched on 11 October and is available on our website, with some limited hardcopies also available in libraries.

The first of four workshops, Writing the Past - Memoirs, family history and historical non-fiction, facilitated by Dr. Francesca Bratton, Kildare Writer in Residence 2023-24 and the county archivist took place on 24 October. Accessing, listing and processing archival collections, including records stored in Kefron continues. Working on Phase I of digital records clean up with IT in preparation for a move of files to a DAMS. Subscription to provide the Irish Newspaper Archive in all library branches, including each edition of the Kildare Nationalist and the first fifty years of the Leinster Leader, has been renewed for another twelve months. Activities supported by the commemorations programme in October included a lecture on John Devoy at the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups Seminar in Kilcullen; history talks in Celbridge and Leixlip branch libraries and a presentation by RTÉ Radio the History Show presenter Myles Dungan to primary schools as part of the Children's Books Festival. A successful exhibition and public event also took place in Kildare Town Library curated by artist Aileen McGee on the



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heritage of the wallpaper factory in Kildare Town during the final week of October.

### **New Artist in Residence opportunity at Naas General Hospital**

On October 01 Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service in partnership with Naas General Hospital announced a new Artist in Residence opportunity.

The Artist in Residence Programme seeks to support the health and wellbeing of patients and staff in Naas General Hospital by providing weekly creative engagement with a professional artist and/or arts collective, from November 2024 to December 2025. Interviews are in progress, with the artist to be announced in early December.

Funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme.

### **Kildare Arts Service Professional Development Event at Athy Library**

Kildare Arts Service has teamed up with Visual Artists Ireland to deliver the third in their series of PDP sessions for artists focusing on the funding

landscape for creatives in Ireland and how to plan effective funding applications. Led by Dr. Marianne O’Kane Boal, the session took place at Athy Library on Thursday 03 October, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

### **Six in the Attic Opportunity for Theatre Producers from Kildare**

Kildare Arts Service have partnered with the Irish Theatre Institute’s yearlong artist development programme which provides playwrights and theatre makers with resources to develop their practice and a community of peers. Applications are now invited for this programme.

### **Kildare Young Filmmakers celebrate 10 years**

Kildare Young Filmmakers showcased a variety of short films with panel discussions with current and former KYF members and summer camp attendees from the last 10 years at Riverbank Arts Centre on Sunday 27 October.

### **Musician Support Salons**

These informal meet ups continue at Riverbank Arts Centre led by Kildare Musician in Residence Elizabeth





Hilliard offering professional musicians and other creative practitioners an opportunity to network and talk about their working processes in a supportive environment.

### **ACRE Project Artist in Residence**

Weekly writing sessions for new mothers continues at the ACRE Project in Celbridge lead by artist in residence Krystal Sweedman.

## **Health and Safety**

### **Site Inspections:**

Five inspections completed in the following areas:

- Kildare Library
- Kerdiffsown Park
- Castlewarden WWTP- Joint inspection with Uisce Eireann representative
- Library at Clocha Rince school
- Transportation-Machinery yard salting shed

### **Pregnancy Risk Assessments**

Three assessments were completed.

### **Hosted Annual Health and Safety Conference:**

- Two hundred and Seventy-Six in person attendees
- One hundred and five online attendees

### **Flu Vaccination Programme:**

- One hundred and ninety-nine vaccines administered.

### **Health Screening Programme:**

- Two hundred and Seventy-Five availed of personal health screening.

### **Accessibility:**

Development of an online Disability Awareness Training Programme which will sit on Meta-compliance platform.

### **CKAN Workshop**

Working on planning disability event to be hosted in the Curragh Racecourse. Celebration of Disability/ Ability Games.



## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

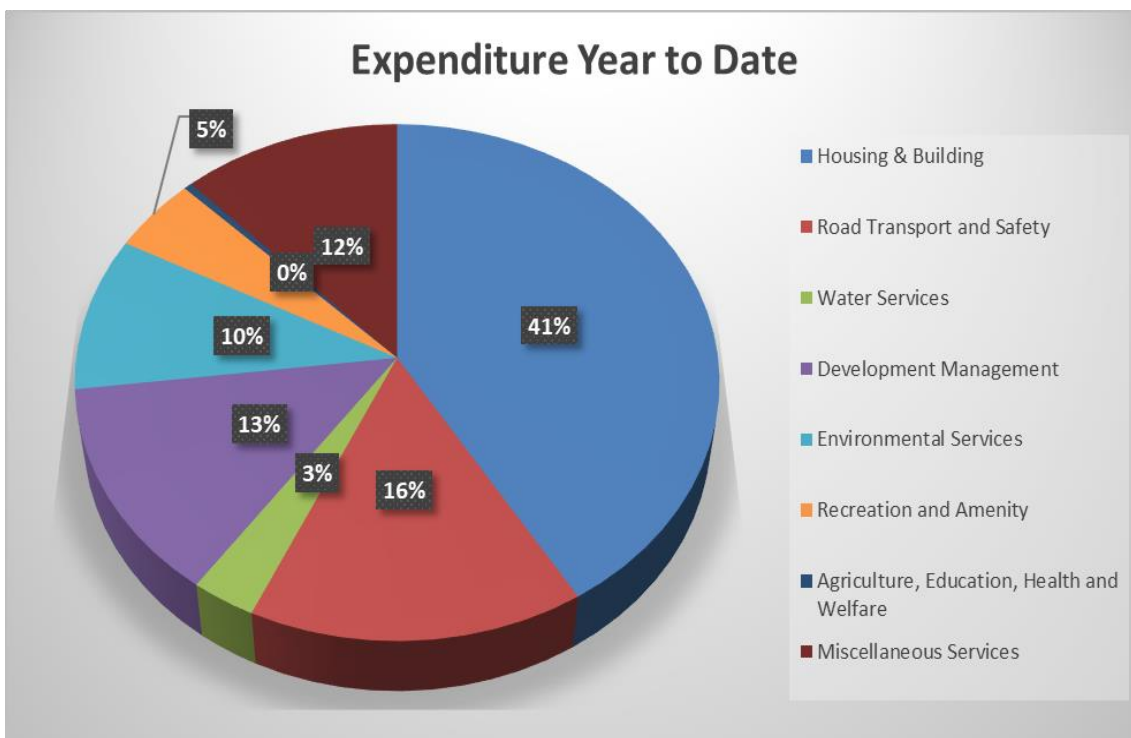
### Finance

#### Revenue Account

#### Kildare County Council

#### Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 Oct 2024

Division	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	89,327	88,215	101% -	1,112
Road Transport and Safety	33,401	44,078	76%	10,677
Water Services	6,452	9,767	66%	3,315
Development Management	28,687	29,330	98%	643
Environmental Services	20,908	24,474	85%	3,566
Recreation and Amenity	10,275	17,635	58%	7,360
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	974	1,305	75%	331
Miscellaneous Services	26,053	21,941	119% -	4,112
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	216,077	236,745	91%	20,668





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

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure or by receiving additional grant income. You will note that the expenditure and income in Housing and Building is significantly ahead of budget, this is due to additional expenditure and

matching increased income on social housing leasing initiatives.

Development Management is also significantly ahead of budget, this is due to the expenditure and income on the “Increased Cost of Business Grant Scheme” of €9.9million being included in this division but not budgeted for in 2024 as the scheme was announced at a date after the Kildare County Council 2024 budget was adopted.

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

<b>Kildare County Council</b>				
<b>Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 Oct 2024</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Income</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget collected</b>	<b>Budget to be collected</b>
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	83,967	78,925	106%	5,042
Road Transport and Safety	17,135	23,074	74%	5,939
Water Services	6,072	9,685	63%	3,613
Development Management	18,996	11,182	170%	7,814
Environmental Services	5,335	7,886	68%	2,551
Recreation and Amenity	1,820	2,187	83%	367
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	261	308	85%	47
Miscellaneous Services	8,700	10,043	87%	1,343
Local Property Tax Allocation	21,460	21,460	100%	-
Rates	60,338	71,995	84%	11,657
	224,083	236,745	95%	12,662



## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 October 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers/ Tribunal	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/10/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	72,405,447	1,859,398	482,777	78,443,737	61,150,426	17,293,311
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	17,932,001	6,453	-	19,269,606	18,077,333	1,192,273
Housing Loans	1,387,626	3,357,419	13	-	4,745,032	3,243,032	1,502,000

### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 October 2024.

### Risk Management

The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed by senior management in October. As the corporate risk register is a “live” document it is updated on an ongoing basis and a further full review is planned for early 2025.

### Local Government Audit

Eamon Daly, Local Government Auditor has finalised his audit of the Financial Statements of Kildare County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023. He has issued a clean audit opinion and no

adjustments necessary to the statements. Mr Daly attended the audit committee meeting on November 05 and presented his audit report to them. A report from the audit committee will issue to the members for the November meeting.

### Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant/Power Up Grant

A third ICOB grant called the ‘Power Up’ grant was announced in Budget 2025. Those 1,807 businesses who received the second ICOB retail and Hospitality payment will receive a further €4,000 payment each before the end of 2024 and this is expected to total €7.2m. The portal is now open and business have been contacted advising them to register for this grant. The deadline for submission of applications is 22 November. This



grant must be paid by the Finance Department before the end of 2024. The first ICOB grant was equivalent to 50% of each customer’s rates bill up to a maximum grant of €5,000. A total of €6.25 million was paid to 3,187 small and medium businesses in County Kildare who had a rates bill of less than €30,000 (78% take up). The second ICOB grant totalling €3.7m was paid to 1,807 businesses in the Retail and Hospitality industry. It is estimated that Kildare County Council on behalf of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (DETE) for the year 2024 will have paid a total of €17.15m to small and medium businesses as part of the ICOB/Power Grant Schemes.

### Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

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

The Government has approved, on 23 April 2024, an extension of the current arrangements for the waiving of local authority “section 48” development contributions to 31 December 2024 and the refunding of Uisce Éireann water and wastewater connection charges to 30 September 2024. On the fifteenth of each month each Local Authority is to submit a claim to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15-Oct-24
Total number of residential units		2489
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	1588	€11,645,637
Apartments	901	€3,747,744
Specials Roads Car Parking etc		€252,086
Car parking		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2489</b>	<b>€15,645,467</b>

### Digital Services

New Computers - To date the IT department have deployed 33 new laptops to Council Members with five in preparation and two waiting for response from Members.



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## Budget 2025

The Statutory 2025 Budget meeting will take place on – 18 November 2024, at 3.00pm with a briefing on Monday 11 November at 3.00pm.

The following documents issued to the Members for consideration and adoption at the budget meeting:

- Draft Budget Book 2025
- Abatement of Rates in respect of Vacant Properties Scheme
- Capital Programme 2025 – 2027 (for noting)

## Housing and Regeneration

### Regeneration

#### Strategic Projects and Public Realm

#### Team – Funding Opportunities

#### RRDF Call 4 – Category 2

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) Category two is now open for consideration with a closing date of 12.00pm on 14 March 2025. The focus on this fund is to invite proposals which are in the project development and enabling stages and for which this fund would enable them to reach Category one readiness. Feasibility studies or research to underpin a business case

are not covered by this funding model. More details are available within the funding pack. A maximum of two applications from Kildare County Council are permitted.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme

With regards to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS), the Department had hoped to open the call earlier in October, however, for several reasons this has now been deferred in the short-term.

### Town Regeneration

- Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund: Consultants have been appointed to provide capacity building to town teams in Kilcullen and Ballymore Eustace. Two meetings have been held to date with the Kilcullen team, both meetings were positive, and more are planned. The first meeting with the Ballymore Eustace team was held on 30 October 2024. Following consultation with LEO an Invitation to Quote has been issued for a consultant to complete a training needs analysis with the funding that has been received for Monasterevin.



- The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund [URDF] Call 3 programme saw a dedicated fund being made available to local authorities to tackle long term vacant and derelict properties in URDF eligible areas. Compulsory Acquisition has commenced on ten of the approved properties.

## Housing

### Homelessness Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continue to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Team can be contacted at 045 980230.

### Traveller Accommodation

- The newly established Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) held their first meeting on 07 November and

considered the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029. This report is listed for consideration by the Council at the November monthly meeting.

- Kildare Traveller Action has officially opened their new Athy Traveller Outreach Support Centre at Mount Hawkins, Athy. Pictured are Breda Fay, Kildare Traveller Action and LTACC Members, Councillor Anne Breen and Athy Municipal District Cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing. Expect substantial completion November 2024. NFU



Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site substantially in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site. NFU
<b>Approval Stage 3</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender assessment complete. Stage 4 submitted to the Department.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanala on 22 <sup>nd</sup> August. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at the November meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Stage 2 approval received with conditions. Revised plans forwarded to DHLGH for consideration having regard to conditions of approval. Revised stage 2 approval received. 14/10/24. Part 8 being prepared, to be launched in November 24
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved. Site Clearance ongoing to allow completion of site investigation and finalisation of civils design. Site clearance completed: Part 8 being prepared, to be launched 2 <sup>nd</sup> week in January 2025
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 presented and approved subject to amendments: Change to vehicular access requires further Part 8 consultation. Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement being assessed.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH in November.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed. Design of existing units to be finalised: Additional unit may be provided in existing building: decision on number and type of units to be agreed with Allocations
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.





Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing. Tender for Conservation Architect complete; appointment to follow.
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Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Tender for Structural Condition Surveys complete.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing. Civils design to be finalised subject to agreement on Arborist's Report with Parks Department. Stage 3 submission being prepared to be submitted in November 24: Tender to be finalised and issued in Q1 2025
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 4 approval received 1 <sup>st</sup> October. Awaiting contractor's insurance details before issuing letter of offer.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Substantial completion issued. Handover expected during the first week of November.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLH on 28 <sup>th</sup> October.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: 3 tenders received. Tender Assessment complete. Preferred Bidder to be approved by Project Board in early October. Commence works March/April 2025.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement has started.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at September MD Meeting. Fire Cert and DAC applications being submitted. Procurement has started.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.



Rathasker Road, Naas	82 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.
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### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27	Part 8 presented to MD and accepted: Stage 3 submission being prepared, to be completed for review on 18/11/24 and submitted Dec 24.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents being prepared.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved.

\*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme

\*CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility

### Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	56
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	29
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>133</b>

### Homeless Services

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	18	28	29



6 - 12 Months	14	21	30
12 - 18 Months	3	6	6
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	2	2	1
36 Months +	1	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>66</b>

## Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 October 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	8	17	19
6 - 12 Months	2	3	1
12 - 18 Months	2	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	2	3	5
+ 36 Months	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>

## Public Realm

### Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
<b>Countywide</b>	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	<p><u>Road Crossings &amp; Bound Surfaces:</u> There is approximately a week left in the contractors programme for works around the Railway Bridge in Rathangan.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Bridge:</u> This is located at Rathangan. Contracts have been issued to deliver the pedestrian bridge. Expected 12-month delivery programme once contract is awarded.</p> <p><u>Access Jetties:</u> Work by Waterways Ireland continues on these pieces of infrastructure with a target completion of January 2025.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p><u>Wayfinding &amp; Animation:</u>            Desktop works are complete with the relevant consultants and these works will commence upon conclusion of the Pedestrian bridge tender, ensuring the best use of allocated funds. The delivery on the bridge, a critical piece of infrastructure, along with Wayfinding and Interpretation will be central to the commencement of the Blueway Accreditation process. This project requires Blueway Accreditation before being deemed complete.</p>
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Part 8 will be published on 27 <sup>th</sup> November and will come before the members of Athy MD at their April meeting. Project proposal includes a Trailhead Car Park for the Barrow Blueway in Athy, bicycle parking, campervan set down area, picnic tables and benches incorporating SuDS in the overall project design.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€18,475,000	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	<p>Part 8 consultation for the two additional bridges on the scheme has commenced. The Part 8 will come before the Clane-Maynooth members at their December meeting. While the project crosses several MD's, however the sites for the proposed bridges sit within the Clane-Maynooth MD area. Detailed design for Phase 2 is ongoing. The project will be split into phases and tendered accordingly:            Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2; made up of 4 tender packages totaling €18,475,000            Tender 1 Package Sallins Phase 1 &amp; 2 Tie-in; end 2024 early 2025</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Tender Package 2 Towpath Works; undertaken by Waterways Ireland (sensitive area) 2025 and 2026 Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 - 2027 Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	SPPR and Department of Defence continue to engage to complete a Final Draft Plan.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	A report on the Public Consultation process has been prepared for circulation. Surveys are complete; Movement Strategy and Drawings will commence once the traffic results are analysed.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work programme to recommence with Metropolitan Workshop in first week of November.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project  Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3))	Pre-Part 8	SPPR have successfully received funding under T&V (TCF Measure 3) to assist with bringing a project identified in the Monasterevin Masterplan through planning consent stages. The project identified is the Market Square. The project will progress as resources become available.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Construction commenced with clash detection being carried out on site with excavation of slit trenches included. ESB works have also commenced to facilitate Shackelton and Emily Square with works carried out at Meeting Lane. The contractor has taken control of the site and new trading locations have been identified for the market traders.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Shard Extension: steel extension has arrived and will take 3 weeks to erect. A 2-week installation programme for glazing will follow.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	Part 8 accepted at October Celbridge-Leixlip MD meeting. Oldstone Conservation, specialist conservation team, have been appointed. They commenced on site in early September to deliver the conservation works for this project through the enabling works contract. All works will be completed by year end.
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	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. <b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b> Letters of regret and intent will issue before 8 <sup>th</sup> November. <b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b> Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.		<p>the preparation of a feasibility study and report. Codema have indicated they will be able to commence the Maynooth project in Q1 2025.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</b></p> <p>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. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield , Maynooth	€181,794		Detailed Design & Works	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b></p> <p>Tender has been awarded to bring the project through detailed design and prepare a tender package. The consultant is currently engaging with internal departments. Discussions are also taking place with Waterways Ireland.</p> <p>An additional funding source is required to bring this project to the next stage and beyond.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Naas	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	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – Letters of regret and intent will issue before 8<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b> Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David’s Castle is now complete. Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St. David’s Castle and grounds.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b> KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions. Final Business Case submitted to the URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b> 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>
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF/KCC	Masterplan	AECOM have been appointed to deliver the Masterplan. Workshops and Surveys have taken place.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are finalised. Revised draft is under review.





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## Integration

### General

#### Changes in Newhall DAC

The proposed pilot programme to use the Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) as a relocations hub for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BoTP's) as part of the consolidation of the portfolio of commercial properties under Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) contract has been indefinitely postponed. Members will be updated on any future proposed changes.

#### Changes to Hours of Operation of Citywest Transit Hub

The hours of operation at the Citywest Transit Hub have changed. The new hours of operation are:

Office Opening Hours: 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

New Temporary Protection Applicants:  
Admission Time: Monday to Friday  
8:00am – 2:30pm

#### **BoTP Accommodation Queries:**

Admission Time: Monday to Friday  
9:00am – 4.00pm

### Department of Justice:

Voluntary Withdrawals Admission

Time: Monday to Sunday 8:00am – 5:00pm.

Appointments for Irish Residents Permit Card (IRP) On arrival to Citywest Transit Hub, applicants should show appointment time.

### Department of Social Protection:

Intreo Light Service Admission Time: Monday to Friday 9:30 am – 4:00 pm  
A Christmas period operations schedule is due to be issued in the coming days.

### Accommodation Recognition Payment

On 25 June 2024, the European Council further extended the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for the protection of individuals fleeing the Ukraine crisis until 04 March 2026 (yet to be signed into law in Ireland).

With this in mind, and following consultations across depts, the expectation is that the ARP will continue as is, with minor adjustments possible. Availability of the ARP is important to the supply of Offer a Home and Pledged accommodation.



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## Recent Developments

### Consolidation of Accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) continue to consolidate its existing accommodation portfolio for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 as numbers decline and existing BOTP's source their own accommodation. Relocations from existing commercial accommodation centres contracted by DCEDIY has been largely postponed.

### Change to Social Welfare Entitlements for BOTPs in Full Board Accommodation

The second tranche of changes in payment for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are expected to be announced in the coming weeks for implementation before the end of the year.

### Renewal of Irish Immigration Residents Permits

As of 14 October, all renewal responsibilities have transferred to the Registration Office of Immigration

Service Delivery (ISD), and can be processed via the ISD online renewal portal. A new online self-service portal has launched for immigration customers as part of a broader modernization project.

## Legislative Updates

### Employment

#### Employment Permits Act 2024:

Repeals previous acts and sets provisions for the employment of foreign nationals.

### Refugee Law

#### International Protection Act 2015 (Safe Countries of Origin)(No. 2)

#### Order 2024:

Adds Egypt, Brazil, Morocco, India and Malawi to the designated list of safe countries of origin under section 72 of the International Protection Act 2015.

#### International Protection Act 2015

#### (Application for International Protection Form) Regulations 2024:

Amend the international protection application form and revokes the previous form set out under International Protection Act 2015 (Application for International



Protection Form) Regulations 2016 (SI No. 660/2016).

## Visas

### **Immigration Act 2004 (Visas) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2024:**

Imposes visa requirements for nationals of Botswana and South Africa in order to land in the State. It also introduces a transit visa requirement for these nationalities.

### **Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)**

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities to facilitate coordination of the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model

grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### **Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection:**

During October 2024, Kildare LAIT arranged 17 clinics with 104 beneficiaries of temporary protection. Most queries were related to access to accommodation (ARP, rent a room, private rented accommodation); employment; health services; community services; public services; and queries around finances and supplementary income. Vulnerable groups in State provided accommodation include children and young persons impacted by loss; and adults and children with mental health needs who have experienced trauma.

### **CSO 14th Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Report:**

As of 29 September 2024, an estimated 109,566 individuals arrived



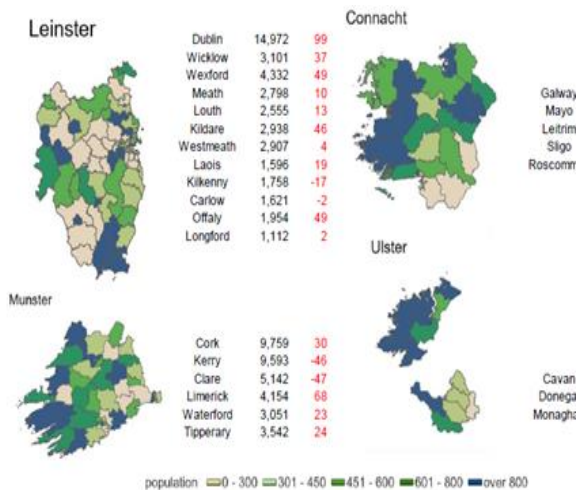
in Ireland under the Temporary Protection Directive, approximately 25% have left Ireland.

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 851 (672 adults/ 179 children)

Data source DECDIY – 11 November 2024

The current distribution of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) nationally is as follows (6 September):

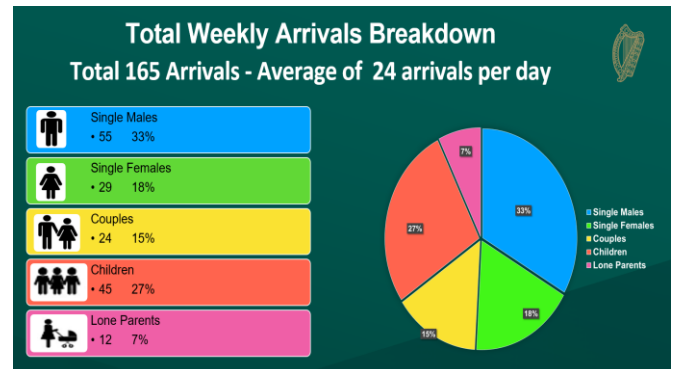
### National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection



### International Protection Applicants:

IP applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 671 (568 adults/103 children) - Source Department of Children, Equality,

Disability, Integration and Youth DECDIY) 06 November 2024. The current breakdown of new arrival during the week of 02 October is as follows:



### Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	424	Kerry County	925	Offaly County	487
Cavan County	148	Kildare County	671	Roscommon County	212
Clare County	1012	Kilkenny County	173	Sligo County	647
Cork City	523	Laois County	458	South Dublin County	4325
Cork County	1496	Leitrim County	232	Tipperary County	742
Donegal County	1963	Limerick City & County	500	Waterford City and County	646
Dublin City	3529	Longford County	143	Westmeath County	789
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1300	Louth County	1172	Wexford County	622
Fingal County	2455	Mayo County	1582	Wicklow County	1521
Galway City Council	1722	Meath County	1117	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32645</b>
Galway County Council	395	Monaghan County	714		

During October Kildare Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) arranged four visits to centres and seven clinics supporting 35 international protection applicants and persons with status. Most queries were related to access to health, education, employment, community services, English classes, and other local services. Vulnerable



groups in State provided accommodation include survivors of gender-based violence. From 08 March to the 08 November 2024, Kildare LAIT has arranged 144 clinics, 74 clinics in UCTAT and 70 clinics in IPAS accommodation centres, 5 of which were group clinics. Through the clinics Kildare LAIT provided information to 878 people.

From 08 March to the 08 November 2024, Kildare LAIT has received 1,305 queries regarding accessing local services, overcoming barriers related to access and/or solving queries. Kildare LAIT has resolved 1,299 queries out of these 712 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 482 by international protection applicants and 109 by persons with status.

### **International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)**

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of AHB and Kildare County Council housing

units through various tranches 2024, and the second quarter of 2025. The first resettlement of three families took place at the beginning of October with the second resettlement of two families due to take place in December.

Integration supports are in place with EU funds through the IRPP/DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council as an implementing partner through a tender process for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).

The Resettlement Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired/facilitated by the LAIT. The IAWG first meeting took place on 1st July to review and accept the terms of reference by all members and agree upon preparatory actions. A second meeting took place on the 27 of September to coordinate the first



resettlement, discuss the integration supports planned, and start planning for the second resettlement.

### National ISC and ISW Networks

The LAIT continues participating in the Integration Support Coordinators (ISC) and Integration Support Workers (ISW) networks. The aim of these networks is to facilitate the sharing of tools and best practices across LAITs.

### Accommodation Team

#### Offer a Home Scheme

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) (update 11 November 2024)

Properties occupied	62
Properties in progress	8
Properties withdrawn	<u>33</u>
Total properties offered to date	103

### Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge

The rest centre at Liffey Lodge closed on the 16 October with the remaining residents relocated to other accommodation centres.

### Refurbishment Programme

The Refurbishment Programme closed on 31 October 2024 and is unlikely to resume in 2025.

### Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Established to accommodate BOTP's arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. Kildare has two DAC's:

#### Punchestown:

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 134 people (11 November 2024).

#### Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 335 people (11 November 2024).

Kildare County Council integration staff held Day-75 Clinics at the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's on 22 October and 5 November with further clinics scheduled for 19 November.

### Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the



International Protection  
Accommodation Service (IPAS) in  
DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

**The Community Integration Forum**  
Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Service. The Community Integration Forum has met five times on 01 May, 05 June, 03 of July, 04 September and 02 October 2024. A revised format has been agreed with members of the CIF. Meetings will be held bi-monthly with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 04 December 2024.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). Links with the Kildare Integration Strategy Working Group need to be defined. The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies. Participation in the CIF includes Kildare County Council (LAIT and Accommodation Team, Community Services, Library Services) Citizens Information Centre, An Garda Siochana Community Policing, County Kildare Leader Partnership, The Irish Red Cross, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare CYPSC/Tusla, Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board, INTREO, HSE Social Inclusion coordinator, Local Link, Regional Education and Learning Teams Coordinator.



## Climate, Community, Environment and Water

### Community

A breakdown of the payments is detailed in the table below.

<b>All Grants 2024</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>€213,920</b>
<b>Festival Grants</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>€78,360</b>
<b>Private Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>€226,004</b>
<b>Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>€53,682</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Specific Grants</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>€812,591</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Mini Schemes</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>€155,210</b>
<b>LCDC Schemes</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>€182,501</b>
<b>Twinning Grants</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>€13,270</b>
<b>Education Bursaries</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>€40,000</b>
<b>Brigid 1500</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>€191,214</b>
<b>Drehid Grants</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>€161,428</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>€2,128,180</b>

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

Kildare County Council is the host local authority for the Eastern and Midlands (EM) CARO, one of four CAROs working as a shared service within local government on climate. There are 17 local authorities within the EM CARO region.





The CAROs are funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and work through the four lead local authorities by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to mid 2029.

### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



Training SLA between Kildare County Council and DECC signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase climate training for the sector. Training will be delivered to elected members within the duration of the training plan, in partnership with the AILG.

Training for Fire Services Staff and Outdoor staff training commenced in September through regional training centres.

Elected member training webinar on Energy Efficiency and emission

reduction targets to be delivered on 15 November with SEAI. Update on Green Club programme to be delivered by webinar on 22 November. Both webinars are to be delivered through the AILG.

Planning for 2025 training ongoing at present.

### Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is published and identifies:

3935 climate actions adopted across the sector

637 actions related to DZ areas.

38% of all actions are mitigation, 13% adaptation and 49% combined mitigation and adaptation.

To support the implementation of Decarbonising Zones (DZ), Four DZ workshop events were delivered as follows:

25 September in Kilkenny based on theme of Built Environment

01 October in Mullingar based on theme of Community Activation

09 October in Roscommon town based on natural environment.



16 October in Tipperary based on Bioeconomy (in conjunction with DECC/DAFM through EIT climate KIC)



### Sub-Regional Energy Projects

The EM CARO is 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 issued a position

paper to SEAI for their consideration. Further discussion will continue to progress to MOU stage.



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The EM CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonisation.

The working group published guidance for local authorities on fleet management system elements necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation.

### Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2024 is in planning for January 2025 to collect data relating to 10 KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action.



## GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

### Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. A recognition event was held in Croke Park on 09 November 2024 to celebrate the work of over 70 clubs from Phase two of the Programme. Phase 3 is now open to any club to work 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.

## 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

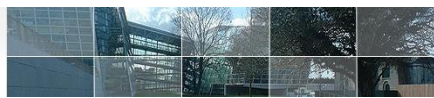
and operational areas of the council to decarbonise their roles and work through the members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team together with the Senior Management Team.

## Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (with DZ and SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans))

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

Presently, the circular economy regarding white goods and furnishings is being explored. Planting of the front and back gardens for biodiversity, and implementation of SuDS, rain garden and other features have been designed and costed. The outdoor elements will be the final works by the contractors.

Communications piece is now being examined further from the visitor's viewpoint. A soft launch with personalities from Kildare to give their reactions on film to the initiative is being planned. It is hoped the project will be broadcast as part of National programming in early 2025.



## **Augmented Reality Image**

### **Maynooth:**

To increase climate literacy and buy in a call for bids was made to create a 3D visualisation of Maynooth main street to show the main features should the DZ plan be implemented by 2030. NOHO has been the successful bidder with thanks to funding under the Creative Ireland funding administered by the Arts Section. The piece is expected to be available mid November.

### **Recruitment**

The Energy Efficiency office is to commence on the 02 December and assistant late Jan/early February 2025. Community Climate Action Officer's replacement is in progress and person likely to commence as soon as possible in the new year.

The position of Decarbonising Climate Officer has received 27 applications and shortlisting is scheduled for 12 November.

### **Energy Audit/Analysis/BER:**

#### **Aras:**

The energy review of Aras has been completed.

Libraries: Reviews are underway for Athy and Leixlip libraries. Drafts being reviewed.

Swimming Pools: A meeting was convened to discuss the implementation of the works based on the framework presently being finalised. The tendering process is to commence soon pending final framework item being satisfactorily qualified.

### **SEAI Monitoring and Reporting**

The data required covering travel, building stock, projects and vehicles is being finalised with the help of various departments for submission by 15 November.

### **Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles)**

#### **GoCar**

The underground services to supply a dedicated charger for the Go Car and Sports Partnership vehicle have been installed with Facilities assistance while ESB consider the grid capacity before ruling on the installation of the charger points.



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

**Action:**



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to create community gardens. The 18 month programme will see the planting of trees this winter and vegetables in the spring.

**Community Climate Action Program Fund:**

Twenty four projects were approved by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in September, four of the projects have already been completed. The first recoument from DECC will be completed in early December and drawdowns will be

quarterly from then on. The first drawdown will cover approximately €200,000 of the total allocation of €897,000

When all the projects are completed 635 solar PV panels will have been installed as well as pumped wall insulation for four social housing units and two community halls. Other projects focus on replacing floodlights or pitch walkways with LED bulbs. A number of biodiversity measures will also be implemented, including native tree planting and the installation of swift nest boxes.

DECC have indicated that they will be finalising the second iteration of the grant in 2025 for climate projects for community groups in the county next year. As there are some geographic and demographic gaps in the county in the applications for the first round, it is proposed to highlight the scheme to these groupings to improve participation.

**Climate Innovation Fund 2024:**

Except for Nass which had no projects assigned, the county projects are well advanced and funding is being drawn down as expected.



### **Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance:**

The project has been extended out to January/February 2025 as a little more time is required to complete aspects.

### **Water Services**

#### **Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics**

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

Uisce Éireann is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk. Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at [www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates](http://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates)

#### **Uisce Éireann Framework**

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

implementation of the Framework provisions.

The existing Service Level Agreement will be replaced by a Master Agreement for all local authorities and an individual support service agreement per local authority, taking into consideration changes included in the new Framework. In this regard, the Master Cooperation and Data Sharing Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

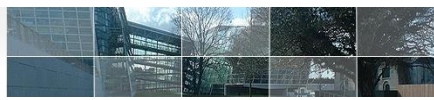
#### **Water Action Plan 2024**

The Water Action Plan is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors – local authorities, public sector agencies, public and private sector companies, environmental organisations, farm organisations, etc - are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters.

### **Environment**

#### **National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) for a Circular Economy**

The Waste Management Act 1996, 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, co-ordinated the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030. The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030.

The NWMP for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on 01 March 2024.

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

### **National Deposit Return Scheme**

The National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in February 2024. The DRS is a circular economy

initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminum/steel cans.

The scheme is operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland (DRSI) CLG trading as Re-turn.

Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

From 01 June, all stock not branded with the Re-turn logo has been phased out of shops and consumers are now only able to buy drinks for which a deposit is payable.



An October report indicates that over 600 million containers have been returned nationally since the beginning of the scheme.

In Kildare 86 stores are accepting containers.



The local government sector has the responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Deposit Return Scheme.

### National Tidy Towns 2024



The results of the national Tidy Towns competition 2024 were announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, at an awards ceremony in Croke Park on 01 November.

The Tidy Towns competition involves participating areas being rated on various aspects of their local environment.



Kildare participants fared well in the competition with gold medals awarded to Celbridge, Clane, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas and Straffan.

Silver medals were awarded to Ballymore Eustace, Kilcullen and Rathangan.

Broadford received a bronze medal and Kildare town received a special Endeavour award.

### Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) survey June 2024

The first national litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) since the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme revealed a fall in cans and plastic bottles on our streets contributing to an overall improvement in litter levels.

Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities.

The study, conducted by An Taisce on behalf of IBAL, showed a rise in towns reaching the upper tier of cleanliness – ‘Cleaner than European Norms’ - and a fall of 35% in the number of towns branded ‘littered’.

### Anti Dumping Initiative projects

A mattress amnesty was held in partnership with the Regional Waste Enforcement Office on 31 August in Naas. 22.92 tonnes of waste mattresses were collected and recycled.

A paint amnesty was held at Áras Chill Dara Naas on 28 September. 37.3





tonnes of waste paint were collected for disposal.

The participation in both amnesties will help eliminate dumping of these waste materials.

### **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**

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

### **Green Schools**

Participation in the Green Schools initiative is increasing as schools improve their waste management, the rollout of the brown bin food waste infrastructure has been a catalyst for this. The schools were awarded their Green Flags at an awards ceremony in May.



### **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.

### **Flood Risk Management 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.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme (FRS)**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy FRS. A Public Participation Day was held on 27 February in Athy. This was the first of a series of community engagement and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the Naas FRS. Details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

### **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.**

New Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidelines have been published. The preparation of the Guidelines was an action of the newly adopted County Development Plan. The document establishes a strong vision for implementing excellent SuDS in County Kildare through the



planning process and for the lifelong maintenance of SuDS landscapes.

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

A “soft” opening of Kerdiffstown park took place on 21 October and it is anticipated that the park will be fully operational in 2025.



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

### **Cemetery Maintenance Grants**

Annual applications were submitted through the Submit portal for the first time this year thus streamlining the process. Grants have since been paid to the respective local cemetery committees.

### **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**

Contracts have been awarded for the provision of new Columbarium Walls in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth’s Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. Works on all three walls will be substantially complete by early December.

### **Cemetery Works**

#### **Allen**

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

#### **Staplestown**

Landscape improvement works have commenced in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are ongoing in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

#### **Boycetown Kilcock**

Works were completed in Boycetown cemetery to help alleviate the ongoing drainage problems. Additional road and pathway resurfacing works as well as landscape improvements were also carried out as part of the project.



## **Ballybracken,**

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

## **Legislation XL Bully Type dogs**

From 01 October, 2024, new regulations prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs, and from 01 February, 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a Certificate of Exemption. This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner.

## **Local Community**

### **Development Committee**

#### **November 2024**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 02 October 2024. This was held via Teams, and focused on agenda items that required approval only due to the funeral of former Mayor Michael Nolan.

### **SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare. The SICAP sub group are

scheduled to meet on 14 November 2024.

The SICAP Manager post is currently vacant.

A case study on social farming was recently submitted to Pobal in line with requirements.

An audit of the programme by Kildare County Council in line with requirements is underway. The SICAP 2023 programme has also been randomly selected for LGAS audit commencing in November.

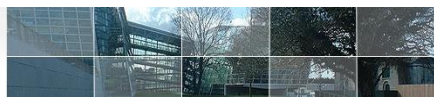
The SICAP Plan 2025 is due for submission for LCDC review on 13 December.

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

### **LEADER Programme**

The LEADER Rural Development Sub group is scheduled to meet on 12 November 2024. Maeve Howe is the new Rural Development Manager. Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare to implement the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027. This is implemented by CKLP, over the lifetime of the Programme.

The previous LEADER programme is at the final project claims stage. Work



is underway to promote the new programme across Kildare.

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

### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

The Health and Wellbeing sub group is scheduled to meet on 05 November.

Work is continuing to progress positively in Athy under the Healthy Communities programme with a range of needs led and evidence-based Health and Wellbeing initiatives being rolled out. Progress is being made on the Athy Health and Wellbeing Kiosk. An application was submitted for Dormant Accounts funding to progress work with Travellers in Slaintecare areas. If successful this funding will secure up to €140,000 over two years to support education and mens engagement plans. For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer phone. 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Healthy Ireland**

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post is current

vacant with recruitment to fill the position advancing. Additional funding to continue the project supports of €75,000 in 2025 was announced recently as part of budget 2025.

### **Empowering Communities Programme Athy**

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

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

Work is commencing to implement the LECP. Justin Gleeson from AIRO presented key datasets to the Kildare County Council Senior Executive Officers as part of their workshop to develop the Kildare County Council Corporate Plan.

For further information contact: Terrie Devlin, Administrative Officer Community [tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie) phone: 087 1919765



## **Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan**

Kildare was successful as one of four areas nationally, to secure funding under this initiative. A joint CYPSC/LCDC application was made to develop and build on work to support neurodiverse children and their families. €100,000 was secured over a two year period to develop this work. Work is starting to plan for the implementation of this plan which will see occupational therapy supports available in local areas for neurodiverse children across Kildare.

## **Home Visiting Programme**

A Tusla application with LCDC support submitted in August was successful for new Home Visiting Programme in Kildare. This results in two home visiting posts for the Athy area with funding of €40,000 for 2024.

## **Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces**

### **Transport**

#### **Capital Projects**

#### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

Notices to Treat letters have issue to affected landowners and engagement

to agree accommodation works is ongoing.

Detailed design and issue of tender documents being prepared with a tender due to issue in November 2024.

#### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

A joint application to An Bord Pleanála for compulsory purchase of land and planning consent will be submitted in late 2024. All documents for the application are due from the consultant later this month and will be reviewed internally and by Senior Counsel prior to submission to the Board.

#### **Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane**

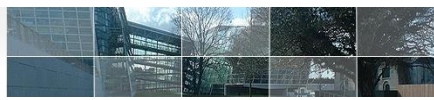
A tender has issued to appoint a consultant to finalise the design for the short section of road and incorporate the traffic signal design.

#### **Newbridge Transport Strategy**

Phase 2 consultation has now finished. The final ABTA report will be finalised following consideration of the submissions.

#### **Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.**

A consultant has started work on the development of a preliminary business case for this project. This will be



completed in early 2025 and will be submitted to the Department of Transport to seek funding for the project thereafter.

#### **R448 National Cycle Network Pilot**

Tender documents have issued for the appointment of a contractor to complete this project. Works will commence in early 2025 following the completion of tender evaluation and the appointment process.

#### **Road Safety**

##### **Speed Limit Review**

Public consultation process for the Supplementary Special Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads closed on 20 September and a report has been prepared for Full Council. No supplementary special speed limits are recommended. The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph has been confirmed as 07 February 2025. Subsequent phases (i.e. urban speed limit of 30kph and national secondary speed limit default of 80kph) are scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

##### **Junction Improvement Programme**

Option reports have been received and being assessed for delivery of the 10 junctions.

- JP01 Dagwelds
- JP02 Prosperous Main
- JP03 Allenwood Crossroads
- JP04 Firmount Cross
- JP05 Cloncurry Cross
- JP06 Bert Cross
- JP07 Perry Street
- JP08 Watchhouse Cross
- JP09 Thompsons Cross
- JP10 Allen Cross

#### **Safety Improvement Schemes**

Allocation: €320,000

Works ongoing at 12 locations under municipal district offices.

#### **Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes (NTA funded)**

Straffan National School (€140,000). Design being agreed with the NTA.

**St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town** (€200,000): Construction underway.

**Holy Child School Ballycane** (€150,000): Construction completed. Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)

**Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge** (€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.



**Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phadraig, Clane**  
(€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.

**Scoil Mochua, Celbridge**  
(€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.

### **Operations**

#### **Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded) Allocation:**

€10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of 72 road improvement projects covering approximately 64 km of regional and local roads. 95% completed to date.

Restoration Maintenance Allocation:

€1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

This has facilitated the delivery of 53 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 80 km of regional and local roads. Works are substantially complete with the final grants being drawn down.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads**

#### **Grants as follows:**

CCAR - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000  
This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with works substantially complete.

### **National Roads**

#### **Allocation:**

€22,386 for N78/N81 for the general maintenance of both National Secondary roads.

### **Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes**

The Municipal District offices continue to deliver a significant volume of LPT funded projects, improving roads, footpaths and associated works throughout the county.

### **General Maintenance**

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

### **Public Lighting**

Kilaree Lighting Services are the new public lighting maintenance contractor with effect from 15 July 2024. Public





lighting faults should be logged on the following website:

[www.deadsureapp.com](http://www.deadsureapp.com)

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. Works are due to commence in 2025. This project will deliver significant savings on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

### **Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn**

Vehicle servicing and associated works have been transferred to the new facility, with surface dressing works being the focus of operations over the summer months.

Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles has been completed with the commencement of the installation process to commence in September 2024.

Five electric vehicles and a velocity patcher to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts have been delivered and are now in operation.

### **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations commenced for the 2024/2025 season. 8,000 tonnes of salt was delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024.

### **Sustainable Transport (NTA Funded)**

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

€1,500,000.

Tenders have been evaluated and the appointment process can be completed when funding for 2025 is confirmed.

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

€2,750,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by Summer 2025.

#### **Green Lane Active Travel Scheme Allocation:**

€1,200,000

Tenders have been evaluated and the appointment process can be completed when funding for 2025 is confirmed.

#### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

#### **Allocation:**

€225,000



Implementation of road closures along public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge) and at Basin Street/Abbey Street junction complete.

### **Sallins Village Active Travel**

#### **Scheme Allocation:**

€50,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.

### **Celbridge Road Active Travel**

#### **Scheme Allocation:**

€75,000

Appointment of consultant for Preliminary Design made and work continuing.

### **Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme**

Work on this scheme is complete.

### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

#### **Allocation:**

€225,000

Site investigations are delaying the detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works.

### **Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme Allocation:**

€10,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA. Safety concerns raised about

the current layout of the Sallins Road Roundabout and this is to be examined.

### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme Allocation:**

€75,000

Appointment of consultant for Preliminary Design made and work continuing.

### **Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme Allocation:**

€50,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

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

#### **Allocation:**

€150,000

Part 8 drawings and report prepared for the Station Road scheme from the Railway Station to Main Street, subject to NTA approval.

### **Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop Allocation:**

€50,000

Section 38 drawings prepared and circulated to the elected members for comment.



## **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

### **Allocation:**

€500,000

Team awaiting the appointment of an Executive Engineer to progress the prioritising of work across the county.

## **National Roads Office**

### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4**

#### **Eastbound Bus Priority Measures**

Works have now commenced (a speed limit reduction will be in place from April to December 2024).

### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4**

#### **Westbound Bus Priority Measures**

Contract signed with Arup for Phases 3 and 4 (Design and Statutory Process) for the M4 Westbound Bus Priority Measures.

## **M9 Park and Share Scheme**

### **Traffic surveys carried out at M9 (Junctions 3-11)**

Junctions 3, 4, 5 are to be investigated further at this time (the remaining junctions may follow in the future).

Kildare NRO examining suitable sites in conjunction with Carlow regarding junction 5 and Kilkenny regarding junction 9. Preparing feasibility and options report for TII.

Upcoming National Road Temporary Road Closure: None

## **Road Works Speed Limit Orders in place on the National Roads:**

### **M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order**

NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 02 December 2024

## **N78 Athy to the M9 Pavement Scheme**

Funding requested from TII for pavement testing and topographical surveys to commence a pavement rehabilitation scheme on the N78 from Athy town to the M9 motorway. No response yet.

## **TII Active Travel Severance Seed Funding**

Application made to TII for funding for four active travel measures crossing the M7 (one) and the M4 (three), however there have been hundreds of applications from local authorities around the country and only a small number of projects will receive funding. No response yet.

## **Open Spaces**

### **Leixlip Playground**

Works on the car park surrounding the playground are due to be completed by mid-November. The contract for the playground is due to be awarded in early December. Once this is



completed a timeframe for the completion of the playground will be given.

### **Kerdiffstown Park**

The park is now open to the public and the All Weather Pitches are available for booking on

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

### **Newbridge Natural Play Area**

This is due to be completed by the end of November.

### **Monasterevin to Portarlington Greenway Feasibility Study**

A tender to carry out this work has been advertised and it is hope to appoint consultants before the end of the year so work can commence in early 2025.

## **Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services**

### **Planning**

#### **Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:**

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect in January 2023. Several variations to the

development plan are likely to be brought forward, including:

- Kilcullen Town Plan – draft Variation published with deadline for submissions 20 November 2024.
- An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework.
- Car Parking Standards.
- s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.
- Landscape Character Assessment; and
- Economic Strategy.

### **CDP Actions**

A range of projects are being progressed, including Strategic Employment Locations Study; Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; CK Urban Neighbourhood Parks Strategy; CK Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy.

### **Masterplans**

#### **Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:**

Synthesis and Vision to be prepared in November-December 2024.



Masterplan Options to follow in Q1 2025.

**Naas Canal Quarter masterplan:**  
Masterplan Options under preparation. Key Stakeholder Options Workshop to be held in December 2024. Public consultation to follow.

**Local Area Plans**

**Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

A special meeting with the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was held on the 21 October. The Proposed Material Alteration will be placed on public display from the 08 November to the 06 December.

**Newbridge LAP**

Work is on-going in preparing the evidence-based reports to support the preparation of Draft Plan.

**Monasterevin LAP**

Work is on-going in preparing the evidence-based reports to support the Draft Plan.

**Sallins LAP**

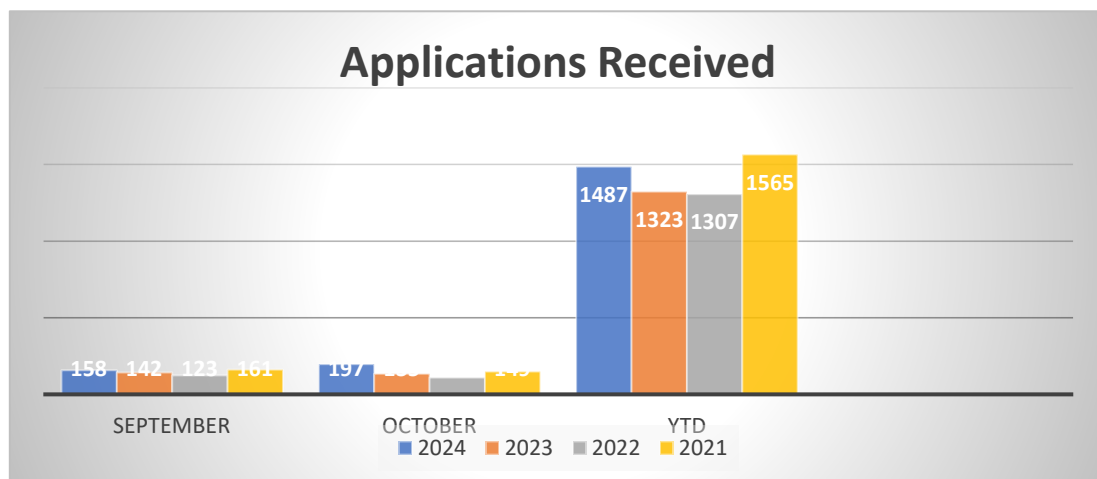
Work has commenced on the review of the Sallins Local Area, including consideration of pre-draft public consultation. However, work has ceased due to staff resources.

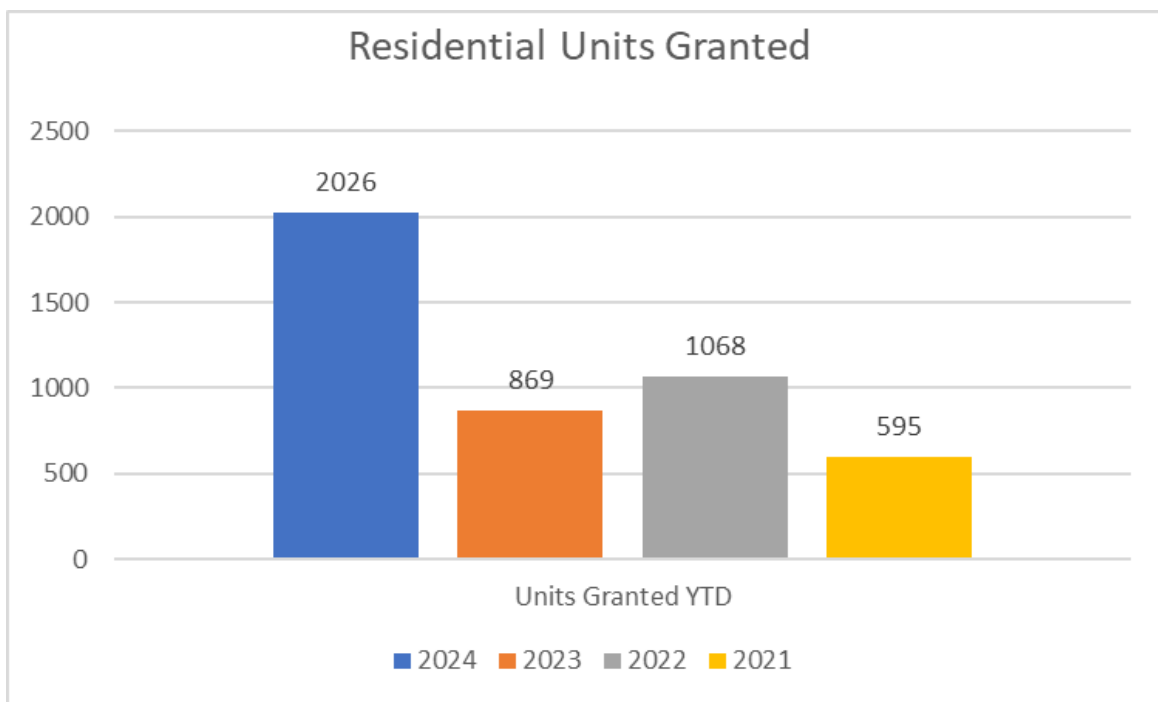
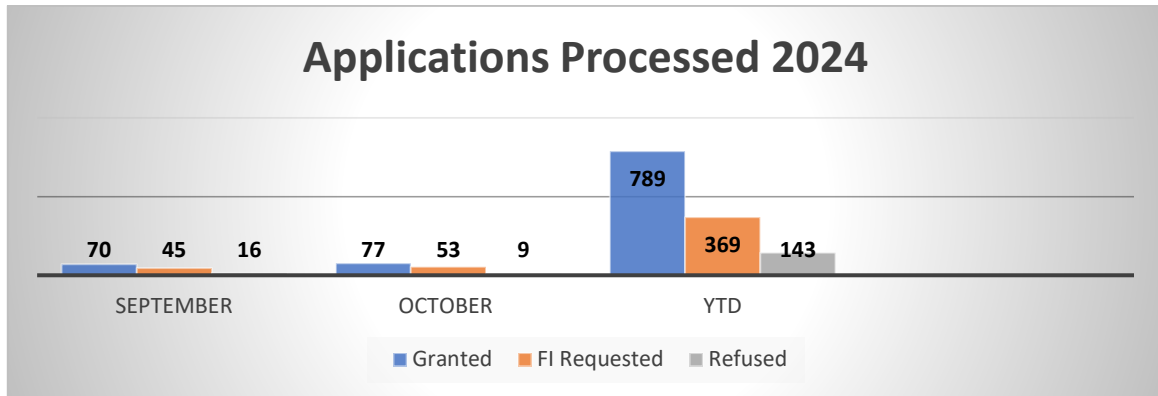
**Development Management**

**ePlanning**

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

In 2024 to date, 77.2% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.





#### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD applications must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion. Year to date, three LRD opinions have been issued.

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP-307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024



24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed; KCC Grant 05/04/2024 Appeal Upheld 17/07/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Granted 22/07/2024
24/245	26/07/2024	Debussy Properties Ltd	Crockaun Commons, Clane	Amendments to 23/972	Granted 11/09/2024
24/60774	08/08/2024	Ladas Property Company Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	Amendments to 23/494	Granted 01/10/2024
2461073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes	Leixlip Gate	Amendments to 2360485	Due 12/12/2024

**Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)**

Five SHD applications due lodged between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with ABP.

**Planning Enforcement**

For period 01 October – 31 October 2024

15	New Consultations
7	Cases Closed
6	Enforcement Notices Served
3	Warning Letters Served
1	Case referred re Court Proceedings
8	Cases due before the Courts in October
1	Case heard but ruling deferred



**Heritage / Biodiversity /  
Conservation Unit**

**A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates**

Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer is working towards 15 November deadline for recouplements for Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Council projects.

**Staffing**

Interviews for an Ecologist have now taken place and an offer has been made. It is anticipated that the new

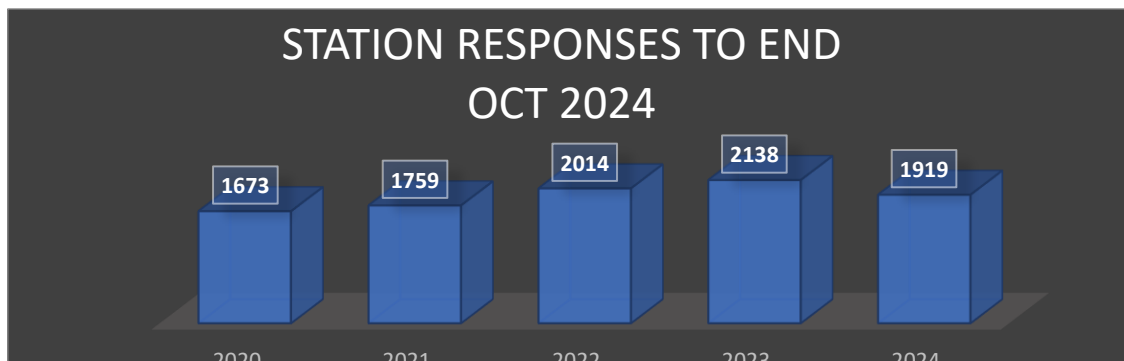
Ecologist will commence in January 2025.

Interviews for both the Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer have taken place in October and offers of employment have been made to the successful candidates. We are awaiting responses from the candidates for both positions.

The Heritage Team manager has left Kildare County Council during October and a process has been commenced to find a replacement

**Fire Service Operations:**

**2024 Summary**







### Fire Safety Certificates

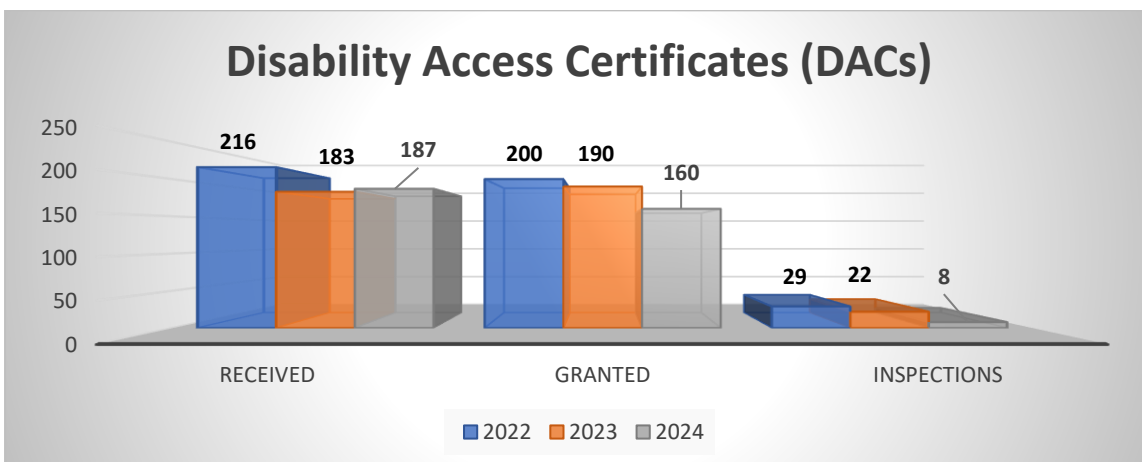
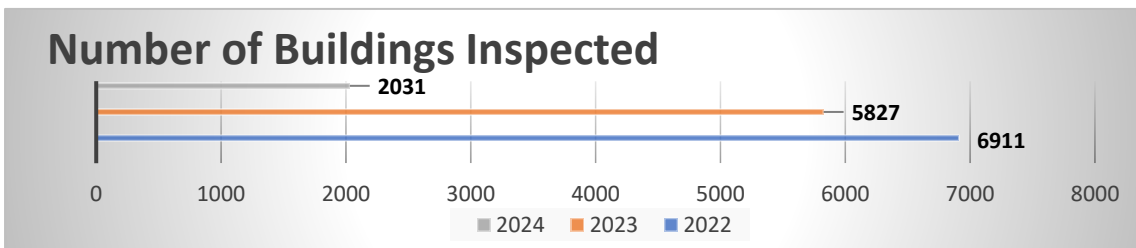
Applications received to the end of October 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

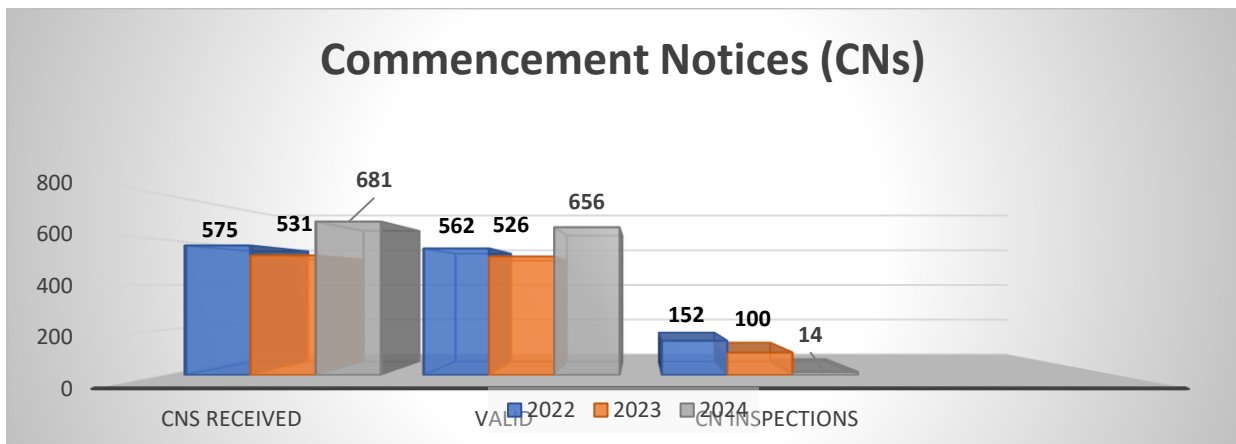
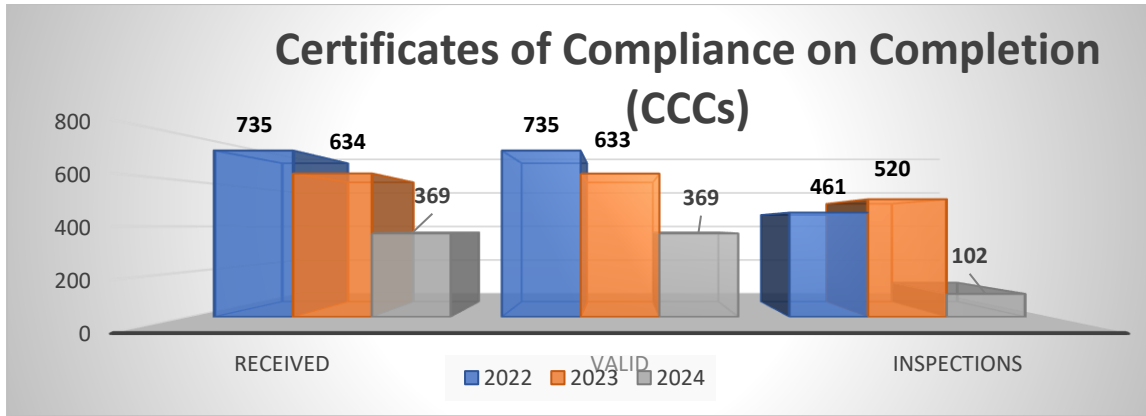


### Building and Development Control

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

#### Building Control





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

## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

As the school mid-term approached, the tourism and hospitality industry strategically focused its marketing message on autumn breaks, seasonal activities, and Halloween events. The primary target demographic was families looking to capitalise on the school holidays, with diverse offerings tailored for all visitors seeking short

getaways, day trips, and autumnal walks.



In October, the third Local Government Tourism Officer Network meeting took



place. This meeting was hosted by Cork City Council and took place in the council Chamber and in attendance was tourism officers from all over Ireland and chaired by Aine Mangan. The aim of this meeting was to promote a collaborative effort to advance cross-council tourism initiatives and training while sharing ideas for the benefit of the tourism and hospitality industry in Ireland.



Into Kildare CEO Áine Mangan attended a US sales mission in San Francisco, where she conducted several scheduled appointments and events showcasing County Kildare's offerings to luxury golf clientele.



Into Kildare participated in Fáilte Ireland's Thoroughbred County Storytelling workshop as part of the Destination Development programme. The aim was to learn how Into Kildare could support the programme and help members embrace the story.



A press release we issued, "Spooktacular Fun: Promoting Great Places to Visit in County Kildare This Halloween," resulted in Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park securing a live slot on Ireland AM on Halloween. This was a great opportunity to showcase what County Kildare has to



offer. Into Kildare organised logistics and supported crew on the day.



Post event meetings took place re Taste of Kildare and planning for forthcoming Uk and Tourism Ireland International Sales Missions. On social media, Into Kildare supported tourism attractions, Halloween activities, and upcoming events in preparation for the bank holiday weekend and school mid-term break.



## Enterprise and Economic Development

### Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	86	€183,637
Business Expansion Grant	11	€330,383
Priming Grant	3	€57,235
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€39,598
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	16	€30,685
RD&I and IP	6	€150,773
GradStart	2	€60,000
Energy Efficiency Grant	13	€90,319
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>€942,629</b>

### Business Expansion Grants

#### approved in November:

Danemma Limited T/A Newtown  
Woodworks (Naas Municipal District)



approved €49,250 to support the recruitment of three new employees and capital expenditure for new machinery. The business designs and manufactures bespoke cabinetry and kitchens for the domestic and corporate markets.

Leir Education Limited (Newbridge – Kildare Municipal District) approved €11,000 to support recruitment of one new employee and capital expenditure for office refurbishment. The business provides English classes to the international market sector.

Power and Chemical Plant Limited T/A PCP Group (Naas Municipal District) approved €44,500 to support recruitment of three new employees and capital expenditure for office fit out. The business provides dust and odour control solutions.

**Priming Grants approved in November:**

Sasta Chocolates Limited (Kildare Municipal District) approved €14,200 to support recruitment of one employee and consultancy. The business manufactures artisan handmade chocolates.

**Feasibility Grants approved in November:**

Boland Builders Limited (Naas Municipal District) approved €2,645 to develop a working desktop model of a wind/water turbine.

**HPSU Founder of the Year:**

The Enterprise Ireland HPSU Founder of the Year award was presented to a Kildare-based business CEO Heidi Davis of PERI.

**Entrepreneurship Support Achievement Of KPIS:**

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	1639
SYOB	160	267
MDP	72	87
Mentoring	468	536
Digital	7	14
Lean	20	40
Green	20	68

**Focus On Start-Ups:**

Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#).

**Focus On Export:**

Pure Oskar and One More Thing, both operational from Kildare-Newbridge



Municipal District, travelled to Brussels as part of a collaborative trade mission with EEN and LEO Carlow.



They are each meeting with new business customers in the Benelux territory as part of an extensive programme of export development support.

**Focus On Women In Business:**

Over 100 female entrepreneurs attended the Moat Theatre on Thursday 17 October for "Girls Just Wanna Have Funds!" The theatre was filled with an incredible range of experience—seasoned entrepreneurs, industry leaders, innovators, and future trailblazers.



The event focused on equipping women with the knowledge and resources they need to successfully secure funding or investment to start or scale their businesses.

**Focus On Sustainability:**

Kildare County Council’s Local Enterprise Office announces the launch of dedicated walk-in clinics to assist Kildare’s Business community with applying for the €10,000 energy Efficiency Grant.

This free clinic will offer expert assistance, making it easier than ever for eligible applicants to take advantage of the €10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant.

These free, walk-in clinics will be hosted in MERITS, Naas every Friday in November.

**Focus On Digital:**

The week beginning 11 November, Kildare County Council’s Local Enterprise Office will host Grow Digital Week. Businesses across Kildare are set to embark on a transformative journey during Grow Digital Week, a week-long event dedicated to helping businesses with up to 50 employees to harness the power of digital



technologies supported by the €5,000 Grow Digital Grant.

delivered two in Leixlip on Tuesday 05 of November.

### Economic Support Services

#### Focus on Retail:

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	10	€11,434
CBLX	5	€6,391
CLMN	6	€12,290
KDNB	25	€39,426
NAAS	17	€36,154



The Shopfront Improvement Scheme 2024 is now closed however some Christmas Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024 remain open for applications from Athy, Celbridge/Leixlip, Clane/Maynooth, and Kildare/Newbridge and Naas funding has been fully allocated. Any surpluses in the Municipal Districts will target other retail supports and customized Shop local Campaigns.

The Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development Team continued its delivery of retail window merchandising workshops and

#### Economic Forum: FORWARD25

The team hosted its annual Economic Forum at the Osprey Hotel, Naas, on 07 November. The conference was opened by Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive Kildare County Council, and leading economist Jim Power presented his economic analysis and outlook before moderating the morning conference including presentations from:

- Maynooth University's All-Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) with its refined data based on recent CSO statistics (2022),
- KPMG with its interpretation of the data collated from the Kildare County Council commissioned skills audit,



- Grant Thornton with its economic outlook of Co Kildare through its partnership with the County Kildare Chamber,
- Kildare’s LEO outlining supports available through Kildare County Council and Enterprise Ireland.

Jim Power moderated three panel discussions throughout the morning leading with Kildare County Council Directors of Services discussing keeping pace with service delivery in a growing economy, followed by business owners discussing the challenges in retaining and recruiting staff and entrepreneurs discussing the how Kildare County Council/ LEO supports have assisted in addressing business constraints.

The event, in partnership with County Kildare Chamber, attracted over 150 attendees from businesses and stakeholder groups across County Kildare.

### **Kildare County Council County wide Skills Audit**

KPMG was commissioned by Kildare County Council in partnership with the County Kildare Chamber to conduct a County-wide skills audit. Interpretation

of the preliminary data will be presented at the Economic Forum on 07 November. It is anticipated that the final report will be submitted to Kildare County Council Elected members in the coming weeks.

### **Public Procurement Day**

Kildare County Council will host its Procurement Day on Wednesday 20 November in the Osprey Hotel, Naas. The agenda for the morning event includes guidance on Irish procurement and overviews of procurement plans of individual Kildare County Council departments. Attendees from the business community will have the opportunity to meet with the relevant department to discuss needs and to understand how to engage with the procurement process.

### **European Projects**

#### **Young Equine Innovators (Erasmus+):**

As part of Work Packages, Kildare County Council and its project partners is now creating case studies of young entrepreneurs; this will showcase three Kildare-based equine companies at a European level.





### **Repower Regions (Erasmus+):**

Kildare County Council, has been awarded the position of Project Coordinator for this international sustainability project. The project has now formally commenced with the project's official launch meeting with the 12 international partners to be arranged in Kildare.

### **Diageo: Learning for Life**

Kildare County Council's Economic team assisted Diageo with engaging local stakeholders and community groups in Athy/ South County to attract the 20 successful applicants to Diageo's 'Learning for Life' (QQI Level 4) programme. The programme is designed to attract individuals to the hospitality sector including those from marginalised backgrounds.

The training course, commenced on 04 November, is being delivered at the Clanard Court Hotel, Athy, with a series of field trips included. The students will receive work experience post-course completion with Diageo hospitality clients in the vicinity for the Christmas period.

### **Focus on food**

#### **Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub**

Construction works have entered the 26th week of the programme. 40% of construction programme complete. 87% of structural works (below/above ground structural works and civil works) completed. Infill redundant opes, reinforce GF slab and pour final non-structural slab nearing completion. First floor and ceiling works completed. Pitched roof over IT room 95% complete. Storm and foul drainage 100% complete. Fit-out kitchen specialist procured, and draft layout design commenced.





### Creation of a Food and Beverage Trail

A request for tenders has been issued for concept development, marketing and branding of a new Food and Beverage Trail in Co. Kildare. The closing date for the receipt of Tenders is 18 November.

### Beár Bia Podcast

Kildare County Council Eco Dev commissioned an episode of Beár Bia – a Food and Drink Podcast by writers Dee Laffan and Oisín Davis has been recorded in Co. Kildare featuring local food and drink pairings with producers from the Flavours of Kildare network and Kildare LEO. The episode is in editing and will be available in the coming weeks.

### Blas Awards



Blas na hÉireann 2024, the Irish food awards, took place from 03 - 05 October, celebrating the very best of Irish food and drink. The Award for Best of Kildare sponsored by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office went to Killadoon Milk who also won Gold in their category, best in Leinster and Best Start Up. County Kildare had nine winners overall, with some taking home several of the coveted awards. The winners are Killadoon Milk, O'Brien Fine Foods, Coghlan's Bakery Products Ltd, The Brown Bread Guy, Daisy Desserts, Couverture Desserts Ltd, Wild Women Bitters Ltd, trading as Beara Bitters, Rye River and Dew Drop Inn.

### MERITS TECH Co-working HUB

#### Success:

MERITS was invited by DRCD to partake in a piece of research entitled



"Mapping Success in CoWorking Spaces" which will be used to inform the Connected Hubs team and members about successful CoWorking strategies.

### Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Part 8 statutory process launched on Tuesday 29 October. Part 8 project can be found on the consultation portal:

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/proposed-monasterevin-fashion-textiles-design-hub-former-bank-ireland-site-dublin-road-monasterevin-0>

and on Level 1 in Áras Chill Dara. Closing date for submissions on 10 December 2024. Submissions are being collated and comments prepared for the Planners Report. Procured Architectural lead to commence detail design upon outcome of Part 8 process. Chief Executive Report to be presented to the Elected Members at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Meeting in February 2025 for decision.

### Focus On Tourism

#### EU JTF – Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme

The final in the series of finance webinars for tourism businesses was

delivered on 04 November 2024 with 19 participants. An applicant in Athy Municipal District has received approval of a grant to the value of €42,500 for the design of a new website under the JT Digital Transformation Programme from Fáilte Ireland.

Scheme B: Open Call Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private and Community SMEs	
SMEs whose Expression of Interest has been deemed eligible	Number
Athy MD	14
Clane Maynooth MD	17
Total	31
SMEs whose applications are under Evaluation	
SMEs whose applications are under Evaluation	Number
Athy MD	1
Clane Maynooth MD	1
Total	2

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