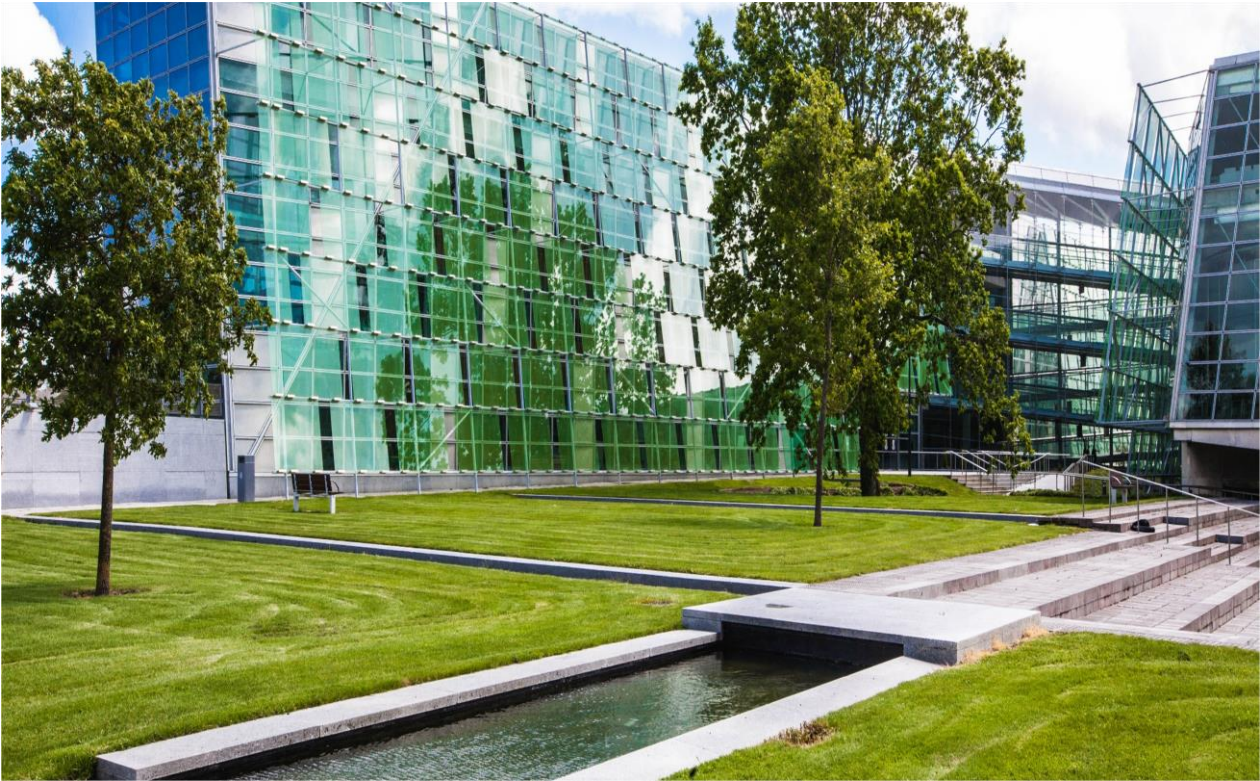




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – May 2024





News Items

Kildare Innovation Campus

Minister Peter Burke TD launched phase one of the campus development on Thursday 09 May (see page 10).

Library Capital Projects

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced a major investment in Kildare Library Service at the opening of Kilkenny Mayfair Library on 24 April (see page 16).

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

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 (see page 23).

Social Housing Delivery

The Council delivered ten housing units consisting of one, two and three bed properties at Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh and the development was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach on 30 April (see page 27).

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Part 8s

Two Part 8's will come before the Municipal Districts of Naas and Kildare-Newbridge at the May meeting for decision (see page 30).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP was approved by the full Council at their meeting on 29 April 2024. Work continues to complete the implementation plan (see page 57).



Public Lighting

PLEEP survey works ongoing – approx 30% complete. Design will follow in Quarter 3 2024 and main Retrofit Contract due to start in 2025 – further clarification being sought on timescale (see page 61).

Sallins Amenity Land

Aecom have commenced work on the detail design for phase one. It is anticipated this will take approximately four to five months to complete the necessary design works and preparation of tender documents for the works (see page 62).

Into Kildare

Fáilte Ireland's, Ireland's Ancient East Champions Programme took place in the Curragh Racecourse. This was supported and attended by Into Kildare. The objective of this program was to program was to help enhance customer service skills and build local product knowledge within the hospitality and tourism industry (see page 72).



Diary/Calendar

Local Election Count

The Count will take place at the Trackside Pavilion, Punchestown Racecourse, beginning at approximately 1.30pm on Saturday 08 June 2024 (see page 10).

Cruinniú na nÓg programme

Programme planning for the Cruinniú na nÓg festival on 15 June is underway. Creative Ireland will launch this year's programme on 15 May. (see page 15).

Maynooth University Musician in Residence Call Out Announced

Maynooth University, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare, Music Generation Offaly, and Music Generation Westmeath, with support from the Arts Council, are welcoming applications for a Major Creative Project for 2024/25 as part of the MU Musician in Residence Programme. Closing Date: Monday 03 June (see page 18).

Housing Clinics

Housing clinics have been scheduled in the Naas and Athy Municipal Districts as follows:

- Naas Library – Wednesday 12 June 14:30 – 16:30
- Athy Library – Tuesday 16 July 14:30 – 16:30(see page 30).

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

Dates for 2024 are as follows: Monday 26 June at 11.00 a.m. and Monday 23 October at 11.00 a.m. (see page 50).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 22 May 2024 (see page 57).



Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

The Draft LAP and environmental assessments are being finalised. It is envisaged that the draft will be published in June 2024 (see pages 63/64).

Skills Audit

Kildare County Council's Economic Development consultant, KPMG, is commencing the stakeholder engagement element of the research. KPMG will work to deliver a comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by July 2024 (see page 77).

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Economic Development will be completing training sessions (May and June) to accredit businesses in Kildare that have engaged with AFI to date (see pages 78/79).

Tourism

Activation of the Investment Grant Aid Scheme for Private and Community Small and Medium sized Enterprises is continuing until close for the Expression Of Interests at the end of June (see page 79).



June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Jun	4	5	6	7 Local Elections
10 11:30 County JPC	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21 15:00 Annual Full Council Meeting; Members Calendar
24 15:00 Monthly Full Council Meeting; Members Calendar	25	26	27	28 10:00 Annual Meeting - Clane/Maynooth MD; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate, People and Cultural Services	8
Corporate Services	8
Library and Arts Service	14
Finance	20
Integration Team	24
Housing and Regeneration.....	27
Housing.....	27
Public Realm	35
Climate, Community, Environment and Water	42
Community.....	42
Climate.....	43
Water Services	50
Environment	51
Local Community Development Committee	55
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces	57
Transport	57
Open Spaces (Parks)	62
Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services.....	63
Planning.....	63
Fire Service Operations.....	68
Building and Development Control	69
Kildare Fáilte.....	71
Enterprise and Economic Development	73



Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Official Opening of new Community Centre in Kilcock



Kildare County Council hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the new Community Centre in Kilcock on Friday 10 May. The official opening marks a significant milestone in Kildare County Council's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community in the County. The vision behind the centre is to provide a central hub to serve the local area, residents, sporting organisations, clubs, schools and community groups. The centre includes a multi-purpose recreation hall with changing facilities, two multi-purpose rooms and a projector room.

Kildare County Council appoints Contractor to Athy Food, Drinks and Agritech Hub



Following a competitive public procurement process, Kildare County Council has appointed JS Dooley Contracting Ltd to develop County Kildare's Food, Drinks and Agritech Hub at the former Model School in Athy. The hub, when complete, will be home to County Kildare's growing food and drinks sector and will support entrepreneurs in developing innovative products and methods.

Kildare County Council unveils new Housing Development



Kildare County Council marked the completion of a new development of ten housing units at Ard Sceach, Coill



Dubh, Co Kildare which was funded under ‘Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland.’ The development of ten housing units delivers much-needed social housing units in an area that is accessible and well-serviced by existing public transport and other important infrastructure.

The official opening took place on Tuesday, 30 April 2024 and was attended by the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive and Director of Service, Annette Aspell.

Kildare County Council announces exciting programme of events for National Bike Week 2024

National Bike Week takes place from 11 – 19 May as a celebration and promotion of the benefits of cycling, including the opportunity for physical exercise, enjoying our local natural and historical heritage and contributing towards sustainable transport. Kildare County Council in collaboration with the National Transport Authority have organised an action-packed week of events which will be held throughout the County to celebrate Bike Week 2024

Visit of Polish Ambassador.

The Polish Ambassador, and his deputy head of mission, visited Áras Chill Dara on Tuesday 07 May 2024. They were greeted by two Polish members of staff and met with the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach in the Cathaoirleach’s rooms. The Polish flag was flown, and a gift of a Cloverwood Craft oak bowl made in Kildare, was presented to the Ambassador on behalf of the people of Kildare.

Shandong Delegation

A delegation from the Chinese province of Shandong visited Áras Chill Dara on Wednesday 08 May 2024 during a two-day visit to Ireland. Their trip included a meeting with Enterprise Ireland on Tuesday 07 May. They visited the Merits building before traveling to Cork to meet with Cork County Council officials.

National Tourism Conference

The National Tourism Conference was held in Killashee House Hotel on 18 and 19 April and was very well attended. The Conference was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht,



Sport and Media, Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. There was a host of national and international speakers and Kildare featured in the presentations on Brigid 1500, the Shackleton Museum and the Thoroughbred Country.

Kildare Innovation Campus

Minister Peter Burke TD launched phase one of the campus development on Thursday 09 May. North Kildare TD's, Mayor of Kildare, representatives from IDA Ireland, Chief Executive Kildare County Council, County Kildare Chamber and Kildare Innovation Campus were in attendance.

Opening of Kilcock Community Centre

The Opening of Kilcock Community Centre took place on Friday 10 May.

Local Elections 2024



Preparations are ongoing for the local elections across the eight local electoral areas of County Kildare, to

elect forty Councillors, which will take place on Friday 07 June 2024, between 7.00a.m. to 10.00p.m.

Maps showing boundaries of the Local Electoral Areas can be [found here](#).



Count

The Count will take place at the Trackside Pavilion, Punchestown Racecourse, beginning at approximately 1.30pm on Saturday 08 June 2024.

The Local Election Returning Officer is Eoghan Ryan.

All queries regarding the local elections can be emailed to localelections2024@kildarecoco.ie.

During the Count for the Local Elections, the Council's social media accounts will be updated with results.





Agents

Candidates will be permitted one agent to attend the Count Centre. Written notice of the name and address of the agent must be given not later than 31 May, 2024. Please email localelections2024@kildarecoco.ie before the stated date.

Agent admission to the Count Centre will be subject to a count pass which can be collected on attending the Count Centre.

Polling Cards

Polling cards have issued for persons on the Register of Electors as of 07 May 2024. These were issued on a staggered basis by An Post.

However, if people don't receive this card, but are on the Register, they can still present to vote.

People should use checktheregister.ie to check if they are registered and if they locate their registration can see the name and location of their polling station.

If a person cannot find themselves on the Register call 045 980 201.

The deadline for addition to the Register is Monday May 20.

When electors attend to vote, they should bring a valid form of personal identification, more information

[available here](#)

Persons added to the Register after 07 May, 2024, will receive a Polling Card during the first week of June, prior to Polling Day, 07 June.

Local Election Website

Kildare County Council's Local Election 2024 [webpages were published in April](#) displaying

information for candidates, including:

- Nomination Papers
- Information Booklet: Canvassing and Voter Registration.
- Information on Local Election Posters
- Candidate Guide to Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure, Spending Limits and Political Donation Accounts (and a similar guide for agents).
- Links to websites with resources supporting female candidacy.
- Guides on:
 - How members of local authorities are elected.
- Immigrant Council Toolkit for candidates from a migrant background.



Candidate Nominations

The statutory period for candidate nominations ran from Saturday 11 May 2024 at 10am to Saturday 18 May 2024 at 12pm (excluding Sunday 12 May). The [Notice of Election](#) was published in local newspapers, the Council's website, and Council social media accounts. It was also emailed to all Councillors along with links to nomination forms and guides, and reminder emails were issued. On making appointments all candidates were given further guidance around ballot paper photo specifications.

In addition, every candidate attending for nomination received a letter setting out key dates including those related to postal ballots, assignment of agents, poster requirements, requests from Tidy Towns regarding posters, details of the location of polling stations, details on how to access the Register of Electors, and where to find local electoral area maps. Letters from TII and the RSA regarding posters were also provided.

The Notice of Nomination of Candidates was displayed at Áras Chill

Dara live, as candidate nominations were validated.

The final list of candidates will appear on our website on or after 21 May and will appear in local newspapers week commencing 27 May.

Voter Registration

checktheregister.ie

The deadlines for voter registration (11 May for postal voters, 20 May for all other applications) have passed.

Radio adverts regarding voter registration ran during April up to 18 May on KFM. In addition, local newspaper adverts were placed during April and May, as well as social media posts. Registration information has also been advertised in libraries using leaflets, and at the digital screen in Áras Chill Dara. This supplemented the extensive national multi-media Electoral Commission's campaign.

Extension of opening hours May 2024 – Register of Electors

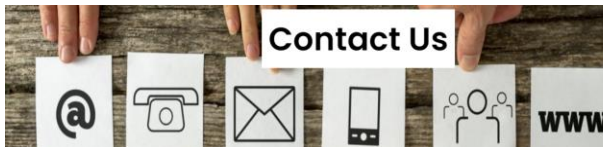
Despite the fact that this is the first time there has been an online voter registration option at local elections, the Council opened additional days at



weekends during May, on Saturday 11 May and Saturday 18 May from 9.30a.m. – 4.30p.m. at Áras Chill Dara, to receive voter registration forms and assist applicants. This was also advertised.

Candidates were asked to encourage electors to use the online Checktheregister.ie system.

Voter Registration Enquiries

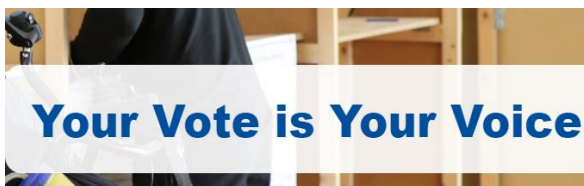


For enquires please

- email register@kildarecoco.ie
- phone 045 980 201

Our phone line will be open on 07 June from 7.00a.m. to 10.00p.m. for enquiries regarding registration of electors. Posters have been provided to Presiding Officers at all Polling Places to publicise this.

Accessible Voting



There are several options in place for people who are unable to vote in person at a polling station. These are

in place for various reasons including those related to disability, varying ability of reading and writing skills, or illness.

Please note however that the deadline for postal voter applications closed on 11 May.

Please note that when the Notice of Poll regarding candidates standing for election is advertised, that Kildare County Council will publicise a freephone facility for vision-impaired voters, with a recorded message outlining the candidates standing for election in the local electoral areas.

This will be helpful to electors in establishing their voting intentions before they attend to vote.

When attending to vote, equipment known as a Ballot Paper Template will be available at Polling Stations to assist visually impaired voters, with candidate numbers (corresponding to the candidate's names on the freephone number) and corresponding braille to assist vision-impaired voters in marking their voter preference.

Further information regarding assistance voting on the day of the election is available on the website of the Electoral Commission:

www.electoralcommission.ie



Key Dates

The key dates of note for candidates and the public are below.

Key Dates	Date	Time
Expenses Period	08/04/24 - 07/06/24	
First day to erect election poster	08/05/2024	
Last date to apply for Postal Vote	11/05/2024	
Opening of candidate nomination period	11/05/2024	10am
Closure of candidate nomination period	18/05/2024	12pm
Last date for withdrawal of candidacy	20/05/2024	by 12pm
Last date for voter registration	20/05/2024	
Issuing of Postal Votes	23/05/2024	4pm
Election Date	07/06/2024	Polls open 7am - 10pm
Opening of Postal Ballot Boxes	07/06/2024	4pm
Last day to remove election poster	14/06/2024	
Post Elections Statutory Council and Municipal District Meetings	See link to Meetings Calendar	
Written Statement of all Election Expenses	Not later than 05/09/24	

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life - Henry Ward Beecher”

Citizen Services

Libraries hosted fun events for families over the Easter holidays: arts, crafts, movies, and STEAM workshops.

Libraries hosted voter registration educational workshops in association with Kildare County Council Community Section and Dublin Adult Literacy Centre. Libraries ran local promotional campaigns to encourage participation on National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday 30 April.

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

hosted several climate action events in



recent days: Sustainable Wardrobes, Climate Friendly Foodies, Zero Waste Living and hosted the PPN's Climate Action Weekend.

We were delighted to host the Pocket Forests team as part of the Kildare Seed Library programme. Pocket Forests is a social enterprise helping people to bring nature back into their lives by planting pockets of young native trees and shrubs in towns and cities.

Plant and Read Storytime

A delightful story time session focused on flowers took place in Celbridge Library. Afterwards, children planted their own sunflower and personalized a flower name tag.

Children's coding workshops are ongoing in Leixlip and Newbridge Library.

Spring into Storytime takes places in libraries across Ireland every April, and this year we were delighted to be hosting story time events in all our library branches throughout the month of April. Spring into Storytime is part of the national Right to Read programme

which aims to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Kildare libraries hosted 49 events with a staggering 1,322 children attending events over the month of April.

Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg Bursaries

Payment processing for the Kildare Creative Ireland Award and Cruinniú na nÓg Commission Award 2024 is in progress. A total of fifteen applications were awarded funding, to a combined total of €88,579 in grants.

Cruinniú na nÓg programme planning

Programme planning for the Cruinniú na nÓg festival on 15 June is underway. Creative Ireland will launch this year's programme on 15 May. Across Kildare, we will have a new 'Teen Night' featuring GALAXYZ youth concert in Naas Library, creative workshops across 12 library branches, a new interactive concert presented by Riverbank Arts Centre, and five community-based projects funded via the bursary competition.



Library Capital Projects

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced a major investment in Kildare Library Service at the opening of Kilkenny Mayfair Library on 24 April. Under Public Library capital investment funding totaling €25million nationally, Kildare Library Service has been granted:

- €1.9m towards the delivery of Clane Community Library
- €3m towards the Kildare County Library, Archives and Local Studies project
- €232,500 towards a new bio-fuel Mobile Library vehicle.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

Required building and technical works are in progress at Harbour View, Naas, and in person appointments will be available shortly. Researchers can access digitised County Kildare archives via our Online Archives service anywhere in the world.

Websites such as the Irish Newspaper Archive and FindMyPast can be accessed in Kildare library branches. The Archivist is working on the Kildare County Council Records Management

Procedures Manual; attended Local Government Archivists and Record Managers meeting, The Heritage Council, Kilkenny; liaising with Irish Consulate, NY, and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to John Devoy chair; accessioning and cataloguing of collections.

Migration of content from Kildare.ie to library website and eHistory journal ongoing. Further County Kildare Archaeological Society journals (2007-2019) to be added to the free Kildare Observer site. The Irish Newspaper Archives has added the Kildare Nationalist 2007-2016 to its service. Planning of the John Devoy Seminar, Naas, 13-14 September is ongoing, with events planned in Naas and Kill to mark one hundred years since his final visit to Ireland.

Dates For the Diary:

10-11 May: Eight Irish Military Seminar Riverbank, Arts Centre. Programme at on www.kildare.ie/ehistory

13 April - 25 May: Bullet Points: Who, What, How We Commemorate, McKenna Gallery, Riverbank. A retrospective art exhibition of works



funded, Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme 2013-2023, with panel discussion on 16 May.

15 June: Talk on growth of industry in independent Ireland, Newbridge Local History Group, supported by Kildare Commemorative programme 2024.

18 June: Larry Stanley memorial unveiling, Caragh Village.

Arts Grants Bursaries and Awards

Applicants have been informed of the outcomes of our suite of 17 grants and bursaries.

Exciting Professional Development Programme Announced for Creatives across the County

The Arts Service team have worked in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland on a series of four professional development sessions for creatives across County Kildare in 2024. Six esteemed visual art curators from around the country will meet with Kildare creatives to share their knowledge and experience during these sessions. The first session took place in Newbridge on the 09 May.

Events will take place online, in Newbridge, Celbridge and Athy.

Brigid Sings Event Announced

Brigid Sings is a collaborative project between Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare, and Sing Ireland. Five female singer-songwriters from County Kildare have been commissioned to compose a new song to celebrate the life of Brigid. This is a county-wide project, rolled out across all five Municipal Districts and offered to every primary school child in county Kildare. The songs will be shared digitally with every primary school across Kildare, to engage the primary school sector through music and singing in the classroom. Each school will receive a digital resource pack of sheet music, lyrics, videos of the songs, backing tracks, colouring pages, and musicianship learning activities. Brigid Sings will also feature local school concert performances in each Municipal District as well as a gala performance for invited guests in Kildare Cathedral on Saturday 08 June.



Municipal Art Collection catalogue available online

A printed catalogue is available to the public to pick up for free at Naas Library and Cultural Centre, also now available [online here](#).

Maynooth University Musician in Residence Call Out Announced

Maynooth University, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare, Music Generation Offaly, and Music Generation Westmeath, with support from the Arts Council, are welcoming applications for a Major Creative Project for 2024/25 as part of the MU Musician in Residence Programme (€22,000 award). Closing Date: Monday 03 June.

Connect and Gather Award announced.

The Connect and Gather Award (€30,000) welcomes expressions of interest from local, national, or international professional artists/creatives or arts organisations/collectives in any artform to respond to the notion of 'Connect and Gather', inspired by the 'Third Space Theory'.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Five inspections completed in the following areas:

- Environment- Offices at Kerdiffstown
- Roads- Athy outdoor crew
- Library -Rathangan
- Roads Depot- Ladytown
- Roads crew - bin emptying in Naas

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:

Seven assessments completed in the following areas:

- Environment- Kerdiffstown
- Housing
- Motor tax
- HR x three
- Parks Department

3. Pregnancy Risk Assessment:

1 assessment completed in the following area: HR

4. Supported Parks Department on the preparation of an event safety management plan for events held in parks.

5. Attended Kilkenny County Council health and safety conference.

6. Review of RAMS for Brownstown refuse team- designing of SSWP specific to these works – ongoing



7. Two new safety reps selected, and training organised.
8. Local Authority Safety Officers Group (LASOG) Meeting.
9. Senior Management Health and Safety Committee Meeting.
10. Health and Safety Roadshows – Safety Manual and Safety Management System
 - Naas Municipal District and Machinery Yard -36 attendees
 - Maynooth and Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District's- 53 attendees.
11. Meeting with Innovation Team and HR about possibility of setting up a Menopause Café – train champions.
12. Health and Safety Governance Committee Meeting with Uisce Eireann
13. Health Talks:
 - Men's Health Cancer Awareness Talk (Head Office) – 24 attendees.
 - Let's Talk About Menopause – 45 in person attendees, 42 online attendees.
 - Men's Health Cancer Awareness Talk
 - Naas Municipal District and Machinery Yard – 36 attendees.
 - Maynooth and Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District's- 53 attendees.
14. Health and Safety Induction completed for new start (one attendee).
15. Update of Accident Database.
16. Safety Committee Meeting with Safety Representatives.
17. Sharing best practice with Kilkenny County Council – hosted visit by Kilkenny County Council Health and Safety Officer.
18. Review of traffic counter RAMS in transportation.
19. Presentation to school wardens – the importance of risk assessment and method statements.
20. Review of school warden rams with roads team.
21. Preparation of a new SSWP for environment team Silliot Hill team.
22. Accident investigation with member of roads section – Kilcullen.

Accessibility:

1. Deaf Awareness Training
2. Meetings:



- a. Newbridge Disability Access Group
 - b. CKAN (County Kildare Access Network)
 - c. Celbridge Disability Access Group
3. Understanding Migraine Webinar - AHEAD
- 4. Working with DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency) to get KISP (Kildare Inclusion Schools Project) participants recognised in Gaisce Awards.

Finance

Revenue Account

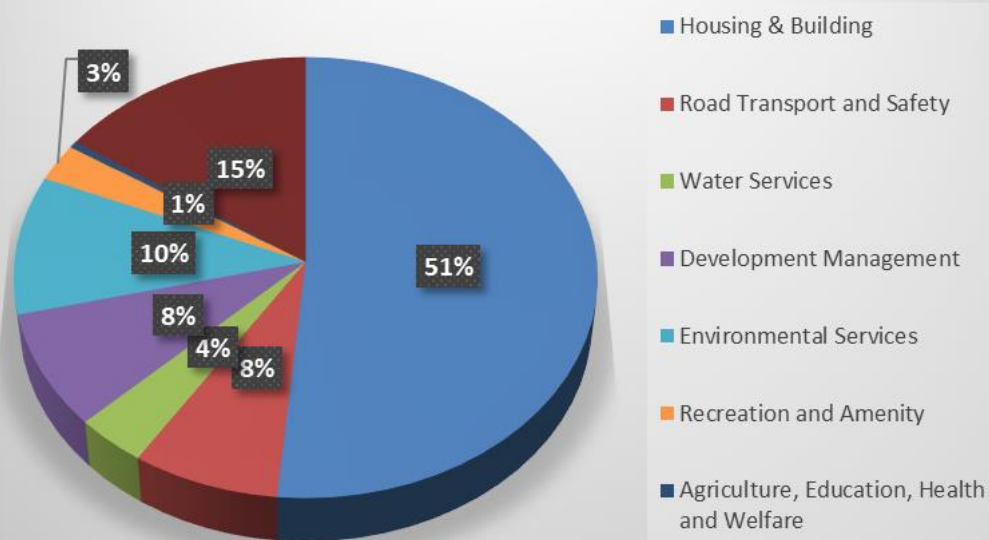
Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2024

Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	39,191	88,215	44%	49,024
Road Transport and Safety	5,836	44,078	13%	38,242
Water Services	2,796	9,767	29%	6,971
Development Management	6,402	29,330	22%	22,928
Environmental Services	7,761	24,474	32%	16,713
Recreation and Amenity	2,088	17,635	12%	15,547
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	377	1,305	29%	928
Miscellaneous Services	11,706	21,941	53%	10,235
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	76,158	236,745	32%	160,587



Expenditure Year to Date



Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2024

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	34,317	78,925	43%	44,608
Road Transport and Safety	1,897	23,074	8%	21,177
Water Services	1,609	9,685	17%	8,076
Development Management	6,862	11,182	61%	4,320
Environmental Services	1,363	7,886	17%	6,523
Recreation and Amenity	1,003	2,187	46%	1,184
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	63	308	20%	245
Miscellaneous Services	1,402	10,043	14%	8,641
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,153	21,460	33%	14,307
Rates	24,122	71,995	34%	47,873
				-
	79,791	236,745	34%	156,954



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 April 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/03/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	72,242,187	28,789		80,593,863	39,742,718	40,851,145
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	6,872,658	6,453	-	8,210,263	7,005,143	1,205,120
Housing Loans	1,387,626	1,359,386	-	-	2,747,012	1,517,766	1,229,246

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 30 April 2024.

Risk Management

The individual directorates have had workshops on their individual Risk Registers with IPB and are finalising the individual directorate risk registers. The Information Technology risk register was presented to the Audit Committee at their May meeting.

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses. Guidance is to

issue from the Department on this grant scheme and it is expected to roll out in March 2024.

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

- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023.
- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grants will be €5,000.
- Businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rates bill greater than €30,000 are not eligible to receive an ICOB grant.

A letter outlining the details of the ICOB grant was included with rates



demands issued to customers in February.

- Portal closed for registrations on 01 May.
- A total of 2869 grant submissions have been received
- 800 grants were paid on Friday 10 May with a value of €1.7 million
- A further 350 will be paid week ending 17 May.
- By 17 May 1150 or 40% of the total grants will have been paid.

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 the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15 April 2024
Type of Residential		
Units	Number	Value
Houses	476	€3,770,970
Apartments	137	€530,284
Total	613	€4,301,254



Integration Team

General:

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) recruitment now completed (staff complement of four).

Two staff recruited to the Accommodation Team with further sanction approval for 0.5 of a Clerk of Works for inspections.

Community Response Forum now renamed Community Integration Forum (CIF) and responsibility has transferred from Community to Integration. CIF meetings are to be chaired by A/Director for Integration. First meeting held on 01 May 2024.

Recent Developments

From 14 March, there is a time limit on the State supported accommodation offer to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs). All new BOTPs arriving in Ireland since that date can choose to avail of free emergency short-term accommodation, food, and support services for a maximum of 90 days in a designated accommodation centre (DAC) only. Kildare County Council are working with the Irish Red Cross sourcing accommodation

through the Offer a Home Scheme and Pledged accommodation.

BOTPs who are already in the State will not be subject to the new policy and will retain their existing entitlements.

Local Authority Integration Team:

A key function of the LAIT is to signpost services and integration supports available locally to beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTPs), international protection applicants (IPA's), those with refugee, subsidiary protection, or permission to remain status, as well as programme refugees resettling in county Kildare.

Beneficiaries of Temporary

Protection Update:

Source: LGMA update 03 May 2024

Total number of BOTP nationally:

106,500

Number of BOTP in State funded accommodation nationally: 66,400

Number of BOTP in County Kildare:

2,148

The LAIT has conducted 12 outreach visits and five clinics in accommodation for BOTPs.



International Protection Applicants Update

Source: The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DECDIY) 28 April 2024

Number of IPAs in State-funded accommodation nationally: 29,456

Number of IPAs in State funded accommodation in County Kildare: 655 (521 adults/134 children)

The LAIT has carried out eight outreach visits and hosted six clinics in accommodation centres for IPAs to signpost services available locally based on individual and family needs.

The LAIT is not responsible for providing or arranging accommodation.

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Kildare County Council is planning to resettle 66 refugees (approximately 12-15 families) in social housing in Kildare under the IRPP. The programme is expected to commence in July and take approximately 18-months to complete. The resettlement will be carried out in three tranches and refugees will be accommodated in

a combination of Kildare County Council and Approved Housing Body (AHB) housing units. The programme will be managed by Kildare County Council through an Implementing Partner. A Call for Tenders was published, and tender responses are due on the 14 May 2024.

A funding application for the International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was successful and the grant contract was signed by Director of Service and sent to IRPP. An update on progress was submitted to DECDIY at the beginning of May 2024.

A formal request was sent to IRPP to select the first five families, to commence the housing application process for the selected families and share contact details of all adults selected for garda vetting.

Kildare County Council met with the first AHB engaged in the IRPP programme and agreed an action tracker specifying each step until houses are handed to families. Meetings being arranged with each of



the other AHB's to agree a similar process.

A number of three bedroom houses are still required for the IRPP programme in 2024 or early 2025.

Accommodation Team:

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and manage the SLA agreed with The Peter McVerry Trust for the management of the Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge.

Offer a Home Scheme (update 02 May 2024)

Properties occupied	52
Properties in progress	10
Properties withdrawn	<u>32</u>
Total properties offered to date	94

Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge (16 April 2024)

Number accommodated	29
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The Accommodation Team are also involved in the following accommodation programmes:

Refurbishment Programme

Assessment and reporting on proposals logged on the LGMA

refurbishment portal. As the number of BOTP's arriving is declining the portal is currently closed for new applications. All current applications must be complete and delivered by 31 October 2024 as the temporary directive expires on 04 March 2025.

Commercial Modular Housing

The call by DECDIY for expressions of interest for private entities for the provision of Commercial Modular Housing closed at the end of March.

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 118 people.

Newhall:

The DAC at Newhall received its first resident over the weekend of 11/12 May. With the Stradbally DAC closing BOTP's will be transferred from Stradbally to Newhall during week commencing 20 May.



The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties signposted to Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

A technical working group (TWG) has been established to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS and the LGMA.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Social Housing Delivery

The Council delivered ten housing units consisting of one, two and three bed properties at Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh and the development was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach on 30 April.

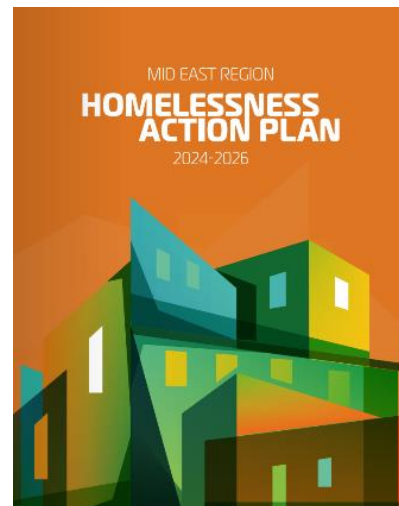
Housing Allocations

There have been 325 allocations to 29 April 2024, of which 197 were council properties and 128 were nominated to AHBs. Throughout April there were 8

refusals of an allocation, and to date, there have been 66 refusals overall. A total of 94 properties were allocated through the Choice Based Lettings system.

Serviced Sites

Site clearance work is almost completed on the seven serviced sites at Clogherinkoe. It is expected that the sites will be advertised for sale in the coming weeks.



Homelessness

Street Work / Outreach Clinics

In April the Outreach Team visited all Municipal Districts on a regular basis to identify rough sleepers. The areas covered were: Leixlip, Celbridge, Nurney, Kildangan, Naas, Kildare Town, Newbridge, Sallins, Athy and Monasterevin.



The Outreach Team continue to offer homeless advice clinics countywide to clients who are unable to attend the council offices in person. In April clinics were held in Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Curragh Family Resource Centre, Maynooth Library, Teach Termainn Kildare Town, Teach Dara Kildare Town, Maynooth Library and the Respond Community Centre in Celbridge, Athy Family Resource Centre and Cuan Mhuire Treatment Facility Athy. The team also conducted assessments with hospital and prison discharges.

Visits to Service Providers

The Outreach team organised and attended meetings with The Peter McVerry Trust in Kerdiffstown, Teach Iosa in Athy and Tiglin in Jigginstown, to review client housing needs and to discuss exit strategies and progressions from homelessness.

Exits from Emergency

Accommodation

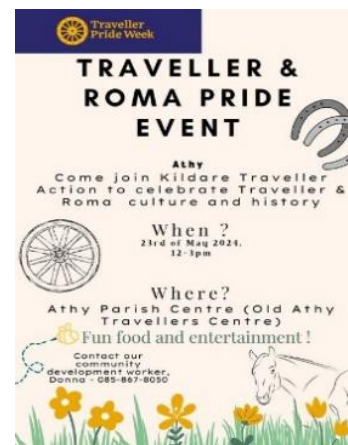
There were 16 move-ons in the month of April; facilitated through HAP, private rented, social housing allocations and some clients returning to family.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 36 active tenancy sustainment cases receiving support from the Tenancy Sustainment Officer team (16 closed in April). The team has ongoing engagement with clients referred to the service and through the two housing monthly clinics (Family Hubs in Prosperous and Athy).

Homeless HAP

The Homeless HAP scheme helps people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. The scheme offers additional support to applicants, including assistance in locating a property. 30 applications have been received year to date and are being processed, of which seven were sourced via the HAP Place Finder service. A total of 244 Homeless HAP active tenancies are now in place.





Traveller Accommodation

Preparatory work for the next Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029 is continuing, with an assessment of housing need being finalised at present.

The Council is supporting a Traveller and Roma Pride event (Kildare Traveller Action) in Athy on 23 May. The event is being hosted as part of National Traveller Pride Week.

Housing Maintenance - Tenant Support Scheme 2024

The Tenant Support Scheme 2024 has now been launched and is open to tenants of Kildare County Council. To be eligible to apply tenants are required to ensure that their rent account is up-to-date. The objective of the scheme is to assist local authority tenants to carry out improvement works to their home. The scheme can be used to replace defective windows and doors, defective kitchen units, heating systems, or for other minor works. Priority will be given to climate action improvements such as new glazing, insulation, heat pumps etc. To date 33 Applications have been received (03 May 2024). Closing date 17 May 2024.

Application forms and further details can now be requested from:

Kildare County Council Customer Services 045-980 200 / Housing Section 045-980 998

Email: tenantsupportscheme@kildarecco.ie

Also available on

<https://kildarecco.ie/AllServices/Housing/TenantInformation/TenantSupportScheme/>

Town Centre First

Clane Town Centre First

To date two funding applications for projects identified in the Clane TCF Plan have been made and a decision is awaited on these applications.

Castledermot Town Centre First

Research has commenced in preparation of the commencement of the process to produce a Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot and in the coming weeks the formation of a Town Team will begin. The Town Team is a group of local residents, business people, community representatives and other stakeholders who come together to make their area a better place to live and work. The Town Team have a unique position in the



community to become 'local experts' on their area and to take a lead on the development of projects that can make positive long-term changes for the town while being supported by the Town Regeneration Officer and Kildare County Council.

Refurbishment Projects

The Regeneration Team will also commence the refurbishment of properties acquired through CPO or Buy and Renew Schemes. A tender has been awarded for the first property and it is hoped that this will allow the bringing back into use of these properties within a short period of time once the conveyancing has been completed.

Customer Service

Housing Clinics

Housing clinics have been scheduled in the Naas and Athy Municipal Districts as follows:

- Naas Library – Wednesday 12 June 14:30 – 16:30
- Athy Library – Tuesday 16 July 14:30 – 16:30

A Housing Clinic in the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District will take place on Tuesday, 14 May in the

Maynooth Community Space, Carton Shopping Centre, 14:30 – 16:30.

Staff from various sections across the Housing Department will be in attendance to assist with queries.

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Part 8s

Two Part 8's will come before the Municipal Districts of Naas and Kildare-Newbridge at the May meeting for decision:

- Grand Canal Greenway Phase 1 and 2 Tie-In – 14 May.
- Kildare Market Square – 15 May.

Wonderful Barn

Part 8 is progressing well with the design team and internal/external stakeholders. Our aim is to launch this Part 8 in June commencing with the public consultation piece. Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members will be appraised of progress.

Harbourfield Maynooth

Tender documents have been published with a closing date extended to 22 May.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing. Expect substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Completed March 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing on site in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Letter of Acceptance issued; acknowledgment received. Archeology, SUDS, IW requirements to be concluded in advance of commencement on site.
Approval Stage 3		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender return date extended to 23.05.2024.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 being prepared.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Approval Stage 2		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 published on 08.04.2024.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement issued.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH. Further information requested by DHLGH.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Civil & Structural Engineer appointed to assist in preparing S179a planning application, design works commenced.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender evaluation complete; result letter issued. Letter of Acceptance to follow.



Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.
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Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application approved. Construction tender submission deadline 13.05.2024
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work commenced on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site in line with programme
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 launched 03.04.2024. Target July MD meeting.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: tender dialogue stage ongoing, tender deadline currently 23.05.2024.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 submission period closed on 07.05.2024. Preparing Housing report. Target July MD meeting
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Finalising design documents for Part 8 Target Part 8 launch May 2024
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team have commenced work
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team have commenced work

Approved Housing Body Schemes - CALF

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



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
Sofia Housing- St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Part 8 launched 27.03.2024.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Tender documents being prepared.

Acquisitions

	Completed 2022	Completed 2023	Completed 2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	25
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	2
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	36
Total Complete	209	247	63

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	26	70	38	68	15
Leasing 2023 (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	13	77	7	67	3
Acquisitions in 2024	11	7	9	21	15
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	0

Regeneration

Total No. CPOs	CPOs with ABP	CPOs confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved
24	1	17	5	1	191	153

Vacant property inspections in 2024	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners engaged with 2024	Pre CPO-Notices Erected 2024
64	50	41	21



Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86	<p>31 units out of 35 completed to date in Clane-Maynooth MD (2023 EERP).</p> <p>Tenant Engagement and initial survey work completed for 55 units identified in Naas/Calverstown/ Ballymore Eustace and Lakelands, Newbridge. Tender issued to engage an Obligation Party to provide support on retrofit works; tender return 16.05.2024. Expect to commence works in Q2.</p> <p>8 units in Blacklion were identified by the Traveller Accommodation Unit for retrofit works. Work commenced in April. These units are in the Maynooth Decarbonisation Zone.</p>

Homelessness

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 April 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	26	39	54
6 - 12 Months	7	14	15
12 - 18 Months	3	5	6
18 - 24 Months	2	3	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	1	2	1
	39	63	78

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults
0 - 6 Months	3	6
6 - 12 Months	2	6



12 - 18 Months	0	0
18 - 24 Months	2	3
24 - 30 Months	0	0
+ 36 Months	0	0
	7	15

Housing Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2023	320	208	15	15	436	272
Q1 2024	58	52	3	6	112	135
Q2 2024 (up to 07.05.24)	35	15	0	1	28	11

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turn arounds	New House Purchase Upgrades	Tenant Support Scheme Applications	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2023	127	19	50	11,136	8,876
2024	38	1	33	3,249	919

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,711,698 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €8,858,455 (incl add funding requested)	Construction	Additional funding request with DRCD (RRDF Call 5) decision expected in May. Contractor will have completed all elements of his contract in the coming weeks, snagging is underway.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Prelim Design	Topographical surveys progressing. Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 1 & 2 Tie In (Sallins)			Part 8	This element will tie in Phase 1 and 2 of the Grand Canal Greenway, providing safe access for users of the Greenway to join Phase 2. The project aims to provide safer crossings for the residents in Sallins while facilitating the users of the Greenway. The Part 8 is due before the May meeting of Naas Municipal District.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	This project is currently at Phase 4: Statutory Processes. Part 8 consent is already in place for the scheme, but a new Part 8 Planning consent is required for a bridge near Robertstown with a second bridge also required near Bonyngue. Part 8 documents for the bridge elements are being prepared.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,240,686	€1,752,706 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Failte Ireland drawdown deadline extended to May 2024. Interim works are nearing completion. Additional tree lighting has commenced and 2 x belly bins have been installed. The Part 8 proposal will come before the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting in May.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references completed. Final outstanding issues to be discussed with Department of Defence.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding has been submitted to RRDF Call 5 with an announcement expected in May 2024.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan	€30,000	LPT	Town Renewal Plan	This Plan will be researched, prepared, and delivered in-house by the SPPR team, drawing on external resources where specialised skills are not available within the Council. Base maps are completed, document formatting has commenced. Plans are in place to run an Art/Photography competition in conjunction with local primary and secondary schools.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding has been submitted to RRDF Call 5 with an announcement expected in May 2024
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Plan will be published on 15 th May.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Tender documents have been received. A funding request has been submitted to the Failte Ireland Just Transition Fund and a decision is awaited.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Contractor commenced on site, no issues to report, project is progressing as planned. PIN published for Exhibition Tender. The Cabin is expected to arrive in Athy in early June; arrival will coordinate with the internal construction programme.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 (LPT)	Masterplan	RPS appointed to deliver SSFRA (Site specific flood risk assessment). RPS are also delivering the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Athy. Work is now underway to complete the assessment which will then feed into completing the Masterplan.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre Part 8	Advance works continue at the site. HSF funding of €100,000 was recently confirmed. Project team working with Transport, Open Spaces/Parks to finalise the Part 8 proposal. Expect Part 8 to launch in early June.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Plan will be published on 17 th May.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Approved to proceed to tender for the preparation of the TRMP, subject to



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>€1,908,750 URDF approved</p> <p>Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>		<p>addressing several points raised by the DHLGH. Tender documents will be published during the week commencing 27th May.</p> <p>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. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. SPPR will liaise with CARO to investigate further.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects. Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>process for further development.</p> <p>Draft tender documents are prepared; one tender will be developed to secure the design team for the Maynooth and Naas TRMPs. Tender will publish shortly.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</p> <p>Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently detailed design and secure all necessary permissions/ consent. Part 8 approved. Additional funding will be required to bring the project through the construction stages. Tender documents are published with a closing date of 22nd May.</p>
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Clane Abbey Conservation Plan	€29,213	T&V with Contribution of €5,000 from the Clane Abbey Committee	Conservation Management Plan	Conservation Management Plan completed and published on 9 th May.
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>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area. Tender documents will be published during the week commencing 27th May.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Feasibility Study & Conservation Management Plan for St. David's Castle is now complete. Tender documents are being prepared to complete an Archaeological Survey for St. Davids Castle and Grounds.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions. Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are being finalised. Draft document has been received and is under review.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

Grant payments have commenced. A breakdown of the payments is detailed in the table below.

All Grants 2024		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	111	€129,435
Festival Grants	47	€41,250
Private Residents' Associations Grants	216	€195,799



Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	17	€11,052
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	16	€59,300
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	0	€0
LCDC Schemes		
Twinning Grants		
Education Bursaries		
Drehid Grants	28	€92,943
Total	435	€529,779

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their jurisdictions and coordinate activities to promote effective climate action across the local government sector. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan 2024-2027 was endorsed by a specially convened steering group, chaired by a representative of the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy, and Networks (CATCEN) committee. The training plan will oversee the delivery of training guided by the training needs and priorities of elected members and local authority staff on climate action. The CATCEN committee have endorsed the plan and will be presented to the CCMA in the coming weeks.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. Minister Ryan launched the plans on the 11



April at a climate action event in County Clare.

Focus for both the CARO and local authorities now turns to implementation planning.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

The 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 CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonization. A fleet manager network meeting took place on 27 March 2024 in LGMA offices. This event worked in support of fleet managers in their role on exploring decarbonisation interventions to achieve 2030 targets of 51% emission reductions. The working group are focusing on a publication 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 2023 is nearing completion with a report due in June to CATCEN.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:



The CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme commenced in early 2023, increasing the number of participating clubs to approximately 200. During phase two of the Programme clubs are working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Participating clubs are working to implement actions and projects detailed within the toolkits towards supporting the pursuit of climate action initiatives at club and

community level. Kildare County Council's continued support of Green Clubs will help to achieve climate actions and targets set out in the Council's new Climate Action Plan.

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

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

The CARO office provides support to the Climate Action Office (CAO). In turn the CAO assists the functional areas of the council to decarbonise their roles and work through the members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team together with the Senior Management Team.



Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (with DZ and SECAP) The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

With thanks to the Senior Management Team, we are working closely with housing section, accessibility officer and Maynooth University to refurbish a house and associated garden to enable a ‘Show and Tell’ home in which the story of fabric retrofitting, biodiversity measures, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and potential for the use of Internet of Things (IoT) to create a full accessible future proofed home.

Local permeability and access to public and private transport modes are also going to be assessed.

Tender for the house retrofit is close to being published.

The Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)

SEAI have agreed to pilot Pathfinder funding (approx. €20m between the four Mideast Energy Unit (MEEU) LA’s) for various Energy/Carbon savings related projects at scale. This matched grant funding includes projects such as:

1. The installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton Mills. This contract was awarded and an application for the generation

connection was made to ESB networks and has been approved. Works are due to start over the next two months.

2. PV and Geothermal/Air heat pumps for heating at K Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy in conjunction with works on swimming pools in Meath, Wicklow and Louth.

3. The appraisal of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings' heating systems has been undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema and reports produced.

4. Pathfinder funding is potentially available for upgrading works to some of our library buildings. This may include energy-related elements of the new Clane Library.

These projects will enable retrofit works (energy efficiency and decarbonisation) on our existing buildings, thus reducing energy utility bill costs.

District Heating

Given the potential for a future district heating scheme (DH) in Naas, a DH feasibility study will be undertaken by Codema in Q3/Q4 of 2024. SEAI have agreed to 100% fund this Naas study. Preliminary discussions on this scheme are ongoing with potential customers (Naas Hospital, local hotels, schools) and suppliers.



A more in-depth discussion into the sustainable sources of the supplied heat for this DH scheme will be required. There may also be scope to undertake a similar DH study for Maynooth later in 2024/early 2025, this to be funded directly by our planning department. Kildare has signed a partnership agreement with intereg to partake in their DH DISCO scheme.

Display Energy Certs/ BER

All public buildings with a floor area over 250 m² require Display Energy Certificates (DEC). A DEC was recently procured through our Facilities department, for the Aras, the grade received for the building was a D2 grade.

An in-depth energy audit and BER survey took place of the Aras building by a company called IES on the 02 April and we await their report, due within days.

ISO 50001 Energy Management System

Kildare County Council hopes to apply for ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) certification in Q4 of 2024, for the organisation as a whole. Our Energy Officer and Climate Action Officer are attending the SEAI Ten-day

ISO50001 accelerator training programme as part of this process. The timeline is likely to be impacted by staff movement.

Energy Audit/Analysis/BER of Aras:

Took place 02 April, report due in coming days, and this will feed into decarbonisation strategy for the Aras building. Report published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) also sets out that non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), Energy efficiency Performance -32% improvement in 2022.

Swimming Pools:

CODEMA undertook site visits to inform decarbonisation appraisal reports at Athy and Naas pools and the resulting reports have now been received with stakeholders meeting held 13 May to inform the path forward.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

First deadline of the year was 22 March, MPRN's and GPRN's verified, and target met.

Staff use EV GoCar

A six-month trial of a staff use GoCar Electric Vehicle (EV) has been under



way since the start of the year. Approx 50 staff have signed up to the scheme and 60 work-related trips have been undertaken.

Staff use E Bikes

Work on the back of house elements is close to being finalised and IPB have been very helpful in assisting. It is hoped the bikes can be launched soon through interdepartmental co-operation.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

On the 08 May, the Climate Action SPC with the Environment SPC as guests collectively journeyed by bus to view climate action projects in action. The first stop was a talk on rewetting of the bog at Prosperous under the Bord na Mona Bog Rehabilitation Scheme. The second stop was Hortland Solar Farm. The attendees enjoyed wide and varied discussions on both elements. Participants found the trip insightful. The next meeting is scheduled for the 11 September 2024.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Funding Aids and Projects:



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

Following successful implementation of Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) a second phase of the project focusses specifically on the artists resulted in an additional €35,000 in funding.

Arts Section are working dilligently with the arts and organised Bog Eco Literacy and Community Communication day in Lullymore on 23 April, 2024.

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

Action:



Kildare, Longford and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have been awarded by Pobal €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The name of the project has



changed to 'Our Shared Plate Project' to reflect the community cohesion through the celebration of food. Sites in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy have been chosen for the project and community contacts identified.

The Maynooth grouping had a highly successful street feast in May to commence the project.



'Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action'
Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:

'Agents for Change Creative Ireland' informed Kildare County Council on 12 July that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 has been approved. Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University.

The new Principal Investigator has been assigned and is Dr. Amy Fahy, School of Business, Maynooth University. Amy is coordinating aspects of the work with other third level institutes to increase awareness and has formulated communications elements alongside information gathering methodologies to inform the process. Work continues apace.

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

The list 25 projects across all Municipal District's and size of project has been submitted to the Department for consideration as of 01 May. The list also includes reserve projects should they be required.

We await the outcome.

Grass to Gas:

This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g., grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with the potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nationwide. An agreement has been formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence and the work is progressing at a pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by



Q2/3 of 2024.

Stakeholders including Microsoft, Teagasc, Kildare County Council, Gas Networks Ireland, Green Generation met in Maynooth University hosted by Terrain AI in April to advance the project inputs. A follow-up meeting in Green Generation is being undertaken in June.

Phase 2 of the project has now been agreed between Terrain Ai and the Climate Action Office to advance the measurement of the gas production and the wider socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon reduction potentials.

IRESI - International Renewables and Energy Systems Integration

A workshop was held in February with IRESI led by Fabiano Pallonetto and Amy Fahy of Maynooth University and their team, to balance energy grid usage and potential Kildare County pilot project for up to 500 houses (social and private). We continue to work collaboratively on this project and the meeting held with SFI enshrines the milestones being met.



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

Dates for 2024 are as follows:

Monday 26 June at 11.00 a.m.

Monday 23 October at 11.00 a.m.

Uisce Éireann formulates 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

<https://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 original Service Level Agreement has been replaced by a Master Co-operation Agreement with all local authorities and an individual Support Service Agreement (SSA) per local authority, takes into consideration the changes included in the new Framework.

In this regard, the Master Co-operation and Data Sharing Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

Kildare County Councils Shared Service Agreement is at the final stage of completion.

Environment

National Waste Management Plan 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, have 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 National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on Friday 01 March

National Deposit Return Scheme

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. The scheme went live on 01 February.

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

Re-turn foresees more than 2,000 return points being ready to accept returns and refund deposits at launch date. 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 will be phased out of shops and consumers will only be able to buy drinks for which a deposit is payable.

Further details can be found at <https://re-turn.ie/>

Water Framework Directive

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

The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period up to 2027.

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

Enforcement Priorities 2024

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

Tackling significant illegal waste activity,
Construction and Demolition activity,
End-of-Life Vehicles,

Waste collection,
PRI initiatives.

The Kildare County Council Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

and the 2023 Plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Kildare County Council was judged as one of the top performers Nation-wide in terms of environmental inspections.

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

Green Schools

Assessments for 23 schools in Kildare were completed in March covering a broad range of environmental themes, participation in the 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 will be awarded their coveted Green Flags at an awards ceremony this month.

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative.

The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

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

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

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/>



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

The construction of Kerdiffstown Park is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the park will be operational in Q2 2024. Final snagging on the landfill infrastructure is being completed ahead of issuing the substantial completion certificate to the contractor.



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

The local community is being kept informed of progress through the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings and the wider public have access to updates on the council website:

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

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Applications for grants submitted by cemetery Committees are currently being assessed. Applications were submitted through the Submit portal for the first time thus streamlining the process.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries.

Tenders were recently advertised for new Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme



of works, and are in the process of being assessed. All going well, it is expected works to commence in late May, with completion expected by mid Q3 2024.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

Landscape improvement works have commenced and are expected to continue until early summer in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are expected to commence in mid-summer in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

Boycetown, Kilcock

Works were recently 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.

Local Community

Development Committee

The most recent meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 27 March 2024 in Aras Chill Dara.

SICAP - Social Inclusion Programme

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

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

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

LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC have signed a contract with CKLP to implement the new EU-funded Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027, following the recent approval of the Kildare LEADER Local Development Strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to



Kildare over the lifetime of the Programme.

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

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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.

2023 Seed Funded projects are due for completion and reporting to the Department Of Health at the end of May. A focus on Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practice and Food Insecurity will continue for the duration of 2024. Needs assessments are currently underway, with consultation at a local level to identify new projects and priority areas for funding from July 2024 onwards. Additional funding has been secured through Local Property Tax and Healthy Ireland Local Government funding to progress the Athy Health and Wellbeing Kiosk in the coming months.

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

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The LCDC agreed on a number of new initiatives to be rolled out in 2024 under an additional budget of €35,000. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

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

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy was selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. The programme has continued for 2024 with the same budget allocation. An



annual report on the programme for 2023 was submitted to the Department for approval.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP was approved by the full Council at their meeting on 29 April 2024.

Work continues to complete the implementation plan. AIRO have completed demographic, economic development/commuting, housing, education and health 2022 analysis. There are some minor amendments to be made with the final reports expected over the coming weeks.

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

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

Kildare LCDC has been awarded Dormant Account funding of €16,852 in 2024 to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations. Funding has been allocated to help provide services to LGBTI+ organisations targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI+ identities.

Local Enhancement Funding

Kildare has been allocated Local Enhancement Funding in 2024 to support community groups for capital type costs. Funding is allocated as follows: €163,322.51 towards community groups and €34,749.47 for women's groups. The fund is now closed for applications, and it is expected that applicants will be informed of the outcome soon.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 22 May 2024

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

A speed limit reduction will be in place from April to December 2024 from Junction 6 to Junction 5 on the M4 Eastbound to enable these works to commence.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

The project is 95% complete and is moving from the capital phase to



implementation phase. Outstanding items are being assessed. Certification of compliance on completion has been received for the building.

The IT department have facilitated the delivery of IT to the facility, insurances (IPB) are in place, furniture has been delivered and site security has been put in place.

Technical and administrative staff from both the Machinery Yard and Naas Municipal District have relocated to the new facility. Machinery yard outdoor staff and drivers are currently moving to the new building, and this is expected to be completed by the end of May.

A contract has been awarded for consultancy services for traffic management and operational plans for the development, in line with Department of Transport requirements. A draft traffic management plan has been completed and is under review. An operational plan for the development has commenced and will be developed over the coming months. A tender process has been commenced for a teleporter for the new machinery yard.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The CPO has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. The project team is

now focusing on completing the CPO administrative procedures, completing the detailed design and compilation of tender documents.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) (administrators of the LIHAF element of the scheme) have been informed accordingly. The first few LIHAF landowners were met in February to appraise them of status of project.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

It is expected CPO and Planning Consent will be submitted in Q2 2024. DHLGH / URDF team have been kept informed and expect / require a Business Case to be submitted which should be complete in April 2024.

Murtagh's Corner/ Corban's Lane

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

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The ABTA is in the final stages of being published.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

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



for later this year. Preliminary Draft will be in place in April 2024

Junction Programme

Phase 1A and 1B of the Rural Junctions Improvement Project is for the delivery of five separate schemes each (10 in total), which are to be delivered in tandem. Consultants are O'Connor Sutton Cronin (1A) and Clandillon (1B). Option reports have been completed for phase 1A.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

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

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

An allocation of €1,500,000 has been received from the NTA to start construction of this scheme in 2024. Discussions continuing with Manor Mills Shopping Centre to agree a temporary works licence and a

construction tender will be released on completion.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

An allocation of €2,750,000 has been received from the NTA and the construction of this scheme has recommenced in May 2024.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €1,200,000 has been received from the NTA to start construction of this scheme in 2024. The scheme will be tendered in Q3 2024.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. A Section 38 public consultation process has commenced on the section of project along the public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge).

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €50,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. The preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.



Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Following the Phase 2 Option Selection/Rapid Build Report being re-submitted to the NTA, a tender process to appoint a consultant to progress the Preliminary Design to public consultation has commenced.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Substantial completion in Q2 2024.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

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

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €75,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation. A tender process to appoint a consultant to progress the Preliminary Design to public consultation has commenced.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €150,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Preliminary design commencing on section to Newbridge Railway Station.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€140,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

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

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.



Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

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

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

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

Speed Limit Review

Circular 1 RS 01/2024 published by the Department of Transport sets out timescales for implementation of new county bye-laws in accordance with new legislation passed in April 2024.

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2024 has commenced – Restoration Improvement works are ongoing and tender being sought for other schemes ie Former National and Climate Resilience works.

All road works are to be uploaded on AMS MapRoad – as is requirement of RMO / DoT – recent Regional meeting refers.

Road Safety schemes are in design - planning stage and intention is to draw down full 2024 allocation.

Restoration Maintenance works ie Direct Labour surface dressing is due to commence on 04 July and Health and Safety Tool Box talk is to take place in advance

Annual Meeting with GSSs is to take place in Clane on 22 May ie Review of Winter Maintenance and plan for Summer surface dressing works.

Public Lighting

PLEEP survey works ongoing – approx 30% complete. Design will follow in Quarter 3 2024 and main Retrofit Contract due to start in 2025 – further clarification being sought on timescale.

Savings of approx. €750,000 per annum on energy and maintenance costs going forward is expected once Contract is complete.

Public Lighting Maintenance Contract Enerveo have served notice that they plan to exit market and not tender for upcoming competition.

Existing faults level on network is as low as 1.4% of total Public lights Closing date for new PL Maintenance tender is 16 May and it is expected that successful contractor will be notified by mid June



Open Spaces (Parks)

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Agreement on a final lease regarding the playground is being finalised between the Council and ACDAL. It is hoped to complete this in the next week.

DeBurghs Woodland Garden

Fencing of the boundary of the gardens along Mill Lane has been completed. The remaining fencing of hazards within the site will take place once the path works are complete. Work on resurfacing the paths started 07 May and will take approximately six weeks to complete.

Kilcock Playground

The tender documents for the playground have been advertised. The tenders close the end of June.

St Catherines Park Sensory Garden

A final design for the sensory garden has been completed. Work on details within the plan are ongoing and once these are completed the construction of the garden will be tendered.

Sallins Amenity Land

Aecom have commenced work on the detail design for phase one. It is anticipated this will take approximately four to five months to complete the necessary design works and preparation of tender documents for the works.

Newbridge Natural Playground

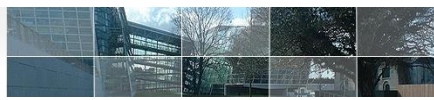
Work on the construction of the playground is expected to start in August and will take eight to twelve weeks to complete.

Monread Park

Work on the design and installation of five additional seating areas in Monread Park is ongoing. It is hoped to complete the seating over the Summer.

Leixlip Playground

Tenders have closed for the upgrade of the car park surrounding the playground. It is hoped to award this by the end of May. Similarly with contract for the design and construction of the new playground. The appointment of a contractor to remove the existing playground is expected to be completed by mid May. Work on this will commence the end of June.



Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2024, including: An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework; Car Parking Standards; new s28 GPA on Sustainable Residential development and Compact Settlements; Kilcullen Town Plan; Landscape Character Assessment; and Strategic Employment Locations Study.

Kildare County Council SuDS Guidelines and Kildare County Council Permeability Guidelines were noted by the Members at the April Full Council meeting and are available on the Council's website.

The CDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023 is to be published w/c 13 May 2024.

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

- Allotments Strategy.
- Strategic Employment Locations Study
- County Kildare Urban and Regional Parks Strategy;
- Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study.
- Corbally Canal / River Liffey enhancement (Kilcullen to Newbridge) Feasibility Study.
- Active Recreational Infrastructure Study.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

Project commenced March 2024 and has an 18-month programme for preparation. Engagement strategy and baseline data and evaluation is under preparation.

Collinstown Masterplan, Leixlip:

Landowner consultation completed. Masterplan being finalised for publication.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

The Draft LAP and environmental assessments are being finalised. It is



envisaged that the draft will be published in June 2024.

Newbridge LAP

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to pre-draft consultation was circulated to the Members on the 20 March 2024.

Monasterevin LAP

The Pre-Draft Consultation Stage commenced on the 09 April 2024. Submissions are invited up to 22 May 2024 at 4.00p.m. Drop in Event arranged for Thursday 16 May 2024 from 4.00p.m. to 8.00p.m. in the Monasterevin Council Hall.

Sallins LAP

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

Leixlip LAP

Proposed Alteration No.1 (Confey Masterplan) to Leixlip LAP adopted by Council on 25 March 2024. The OPR welcomed the adoption of Alteration No. 1 by the Members. The Alteration came into legal effect on 06 May 2024.

Development Management ePlanning

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

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

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

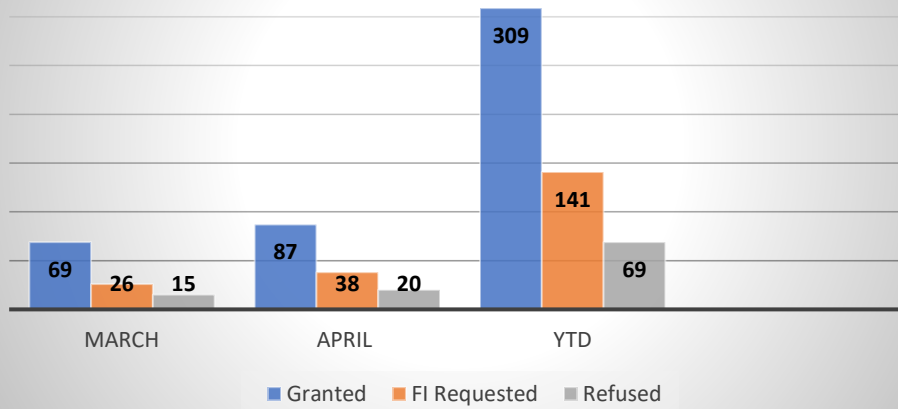
In 2024 to date, 74% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.

Agents Information Seminar

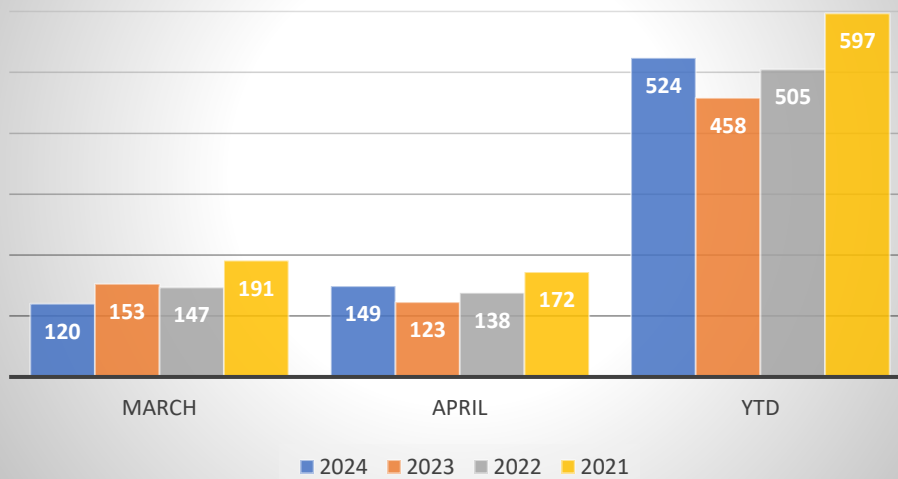
An Agents Seminar was held in Aras Chill Dara, with more than 180 local agents invited to attend. From Kildare County Council, the Director of Services, the Senior Executive Officer, Senior Planner, A/Senior Planner and two Senior Executive Planners were all in attendance along with several additional Planning staff members from both admin and technical areas. There were only four agents present.

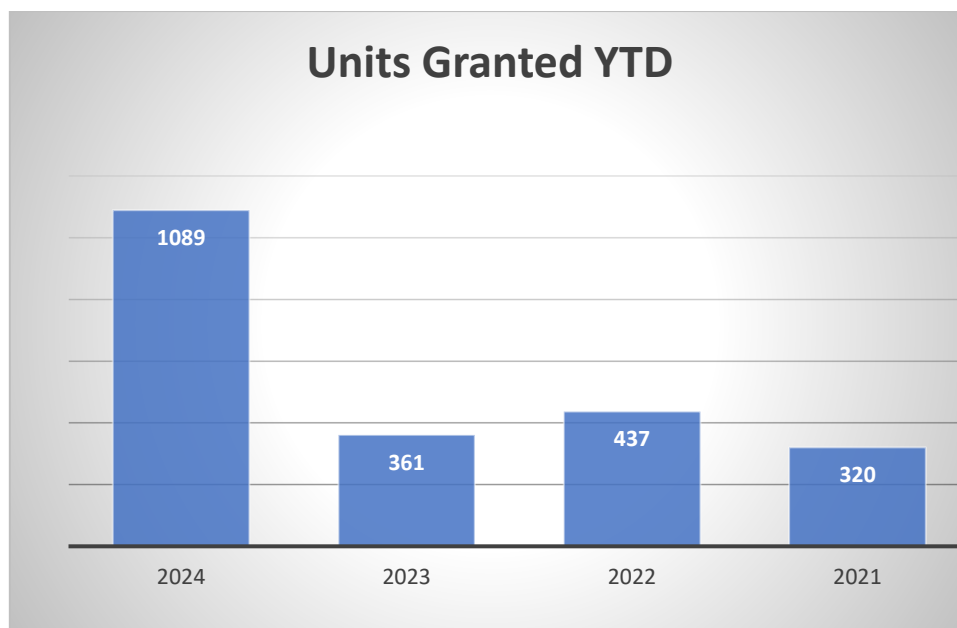


Applications Processed 2024



Applications Received





Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed: Granted on Appeal
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed & Appeal Withdrawn:-Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Appealed: Refused on appeal
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed: Granted on



					appeal. Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date Appealed: Granted on appeal
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crockaun commons Clane	190	Appealed: KCC Granted 15/03/2024
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 Granted 05/04/2024

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Biodiversity Week takes place between 17 and 26 May. Details of all events will be published on the website in due course and staff (and families) are invited to attend as many events as possible, most of which are free.

Work is progressing on the four projects that have been awarded funding under the 'Heritage Council Biodiversity Action Plan Fund' (€16,750)

Work is progressing on the ten projects that have been awarded funding (€100,000).

B. Heritage - Progress Updates

Work is progressing on four projects that have received funding (€359,500) under the 'Community Monuments Fund'.

Work is progressing on the four Heritage Plan related projects that have, cumulatively, received funding of €37,500.



C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. St. David’s Castle, Naas

The Conservation Management Plan for St. David’s has now been completed.

2. Cassidy’s Distillery, Monasterevin

The Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy’s site has now been completed. It is timely that the review of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan has now commenced which will provide the ‘statutory’ link for the CMP.

Heritage Training Series

Heritage Training commenced on 24 April with a session titled ‘Biodiversity and its links with Climate Change’ by Dr. Meabh Boylan (Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer). 70 Kildare County Council staff attended (in person and online). The first

session was recorded and a link was forwarded to all staff on 25 April.

Further upcoming sessions include;

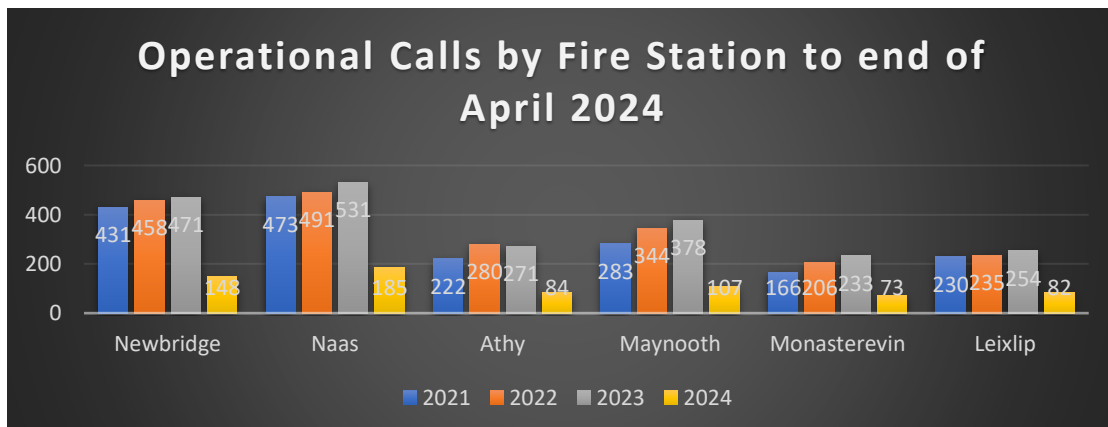
May 22 – ‘An introduction to Appropriate Assessment screening’ by Bridget Loughlin, Kildare County Council’s Heritage Officer and

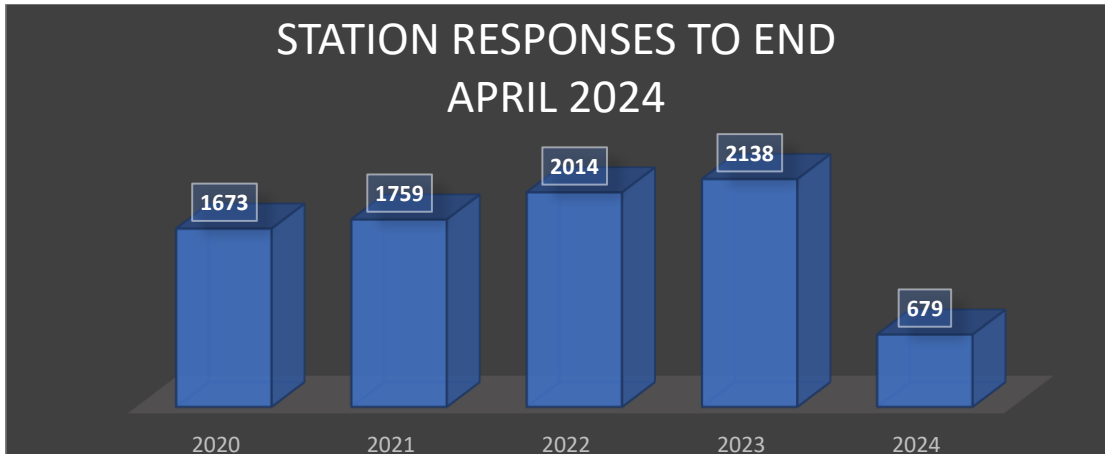
12 June – ‘Local Authority Waters Programme – Structures and Opportunities’ by Ruth Gaj McKeever, Community Water Officer, LAWPRO

The Heritage Team is also screening a documentary film ‘Birdsong’ for Kildare County Council staff in the Council Chamber during lunchtime on both 21 May and 23 May. To date, in excess of 40 staff have indicated that they would like to attend either session.

Fire Service Operations

2024 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

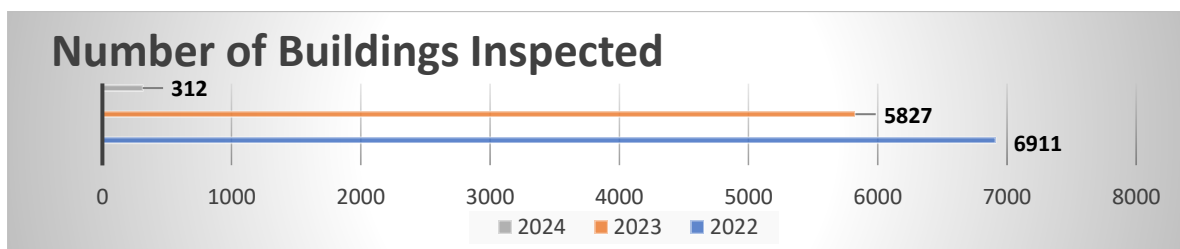
Applications received to the end of April 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

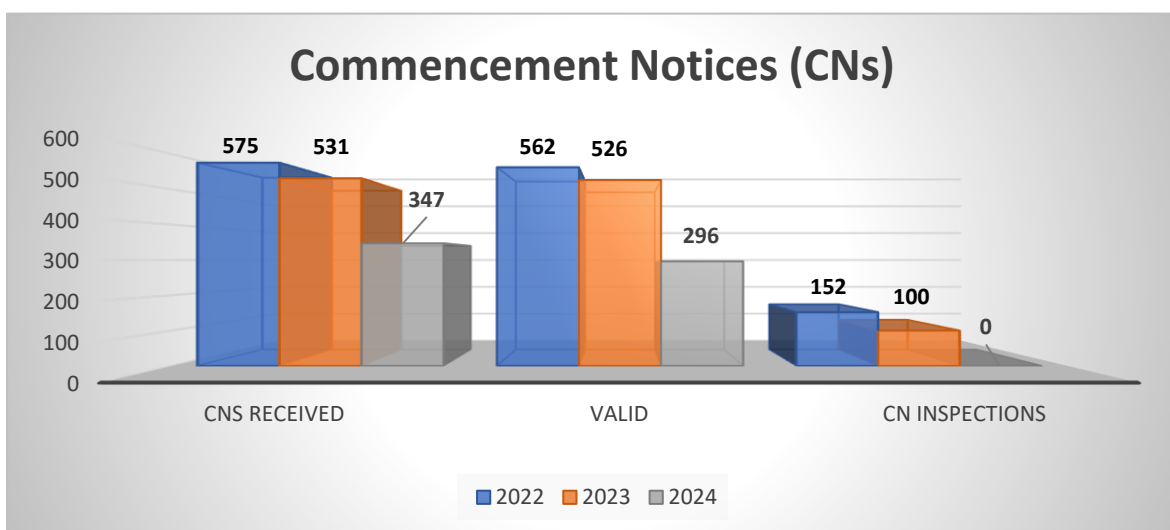
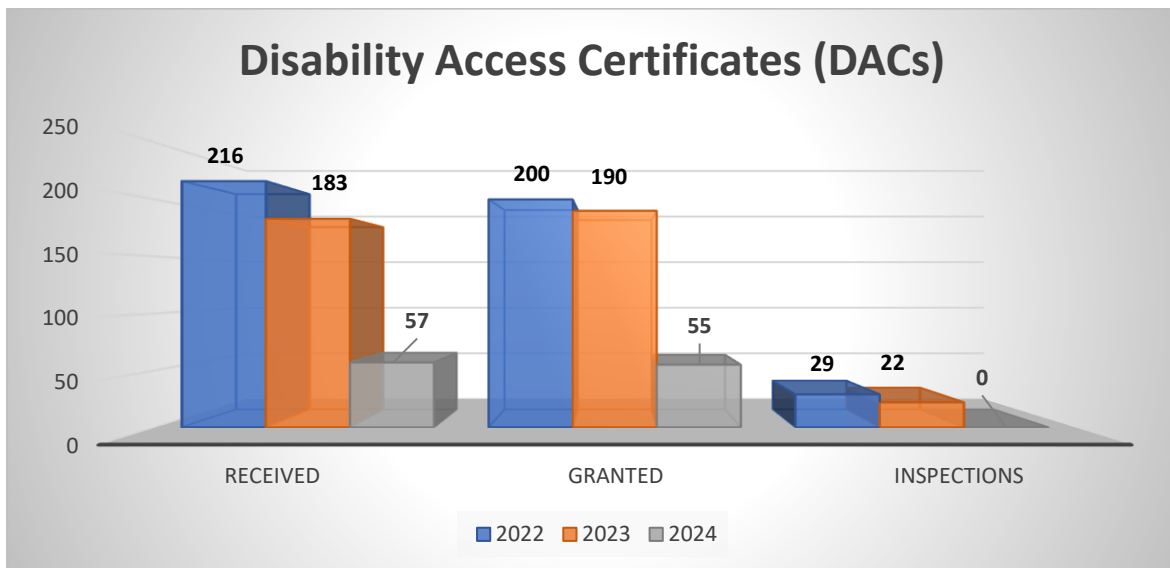
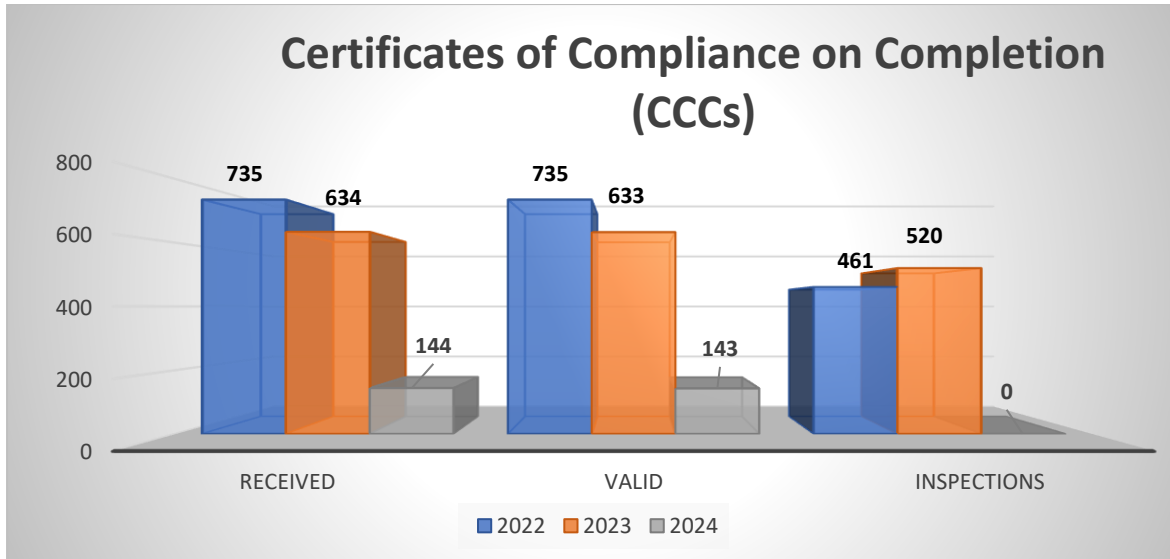


Building and Development Control

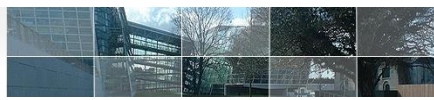
The following figures are cumulative up to end of April 2024 set against full year figures for 2022 and 2023.

Building Control





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



Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

A number of events were attended by the Into Kildare team in April including Meitheal and the LGMA conference that was hosted in County Kildare. Marketing and brand awareness focused on upcoming events in the county and were promoted at events including Punchestown Racing Festival.



Fáilte Ireland invited Into Kildare to attend Meitheal held in Killarney this year. Meitheal is an annual event that provides the opportunity for the Irish tourism industry and over 200 overseas tourism buyers to meet and conduct business. The event attracted several Kildare hotel and tourism attractions to showcase the unique offerings of County Kildare. Along with supporting the county's providers, Into Kildare highlighted to buyers the investment in the Shackleton

Museum, St. Brigid, and other key tourist attractions.

The LGMA, Local Government Tourism Conference, took place in the Killashee Hotel over three days. The conference provided an opportunity to bring the sector and key stakeholders together to hear from a range of engaging speakers, share knowledge and ideas, and look to the future of Tourism in Ireland with sustainability being the key message. Into Kildare represented the county during their attendance at the conference and promoted the upcoming Taste of Kildare festival.



Sinead McDermot, Chief Executive. Sonya Kavanagh, Mayor Daragh Fitzpatrick, Aine Mangan, David Mongey at the LGMA dinner. Following the LGMA Conference, the inaugural Local Government Tourism Officer Network met. This meeting of tourism officers, representing all county councils, marked the beginning



of a collaborative effort to promote cross-council tourism initiatives and share ideas for the benefit of the tourism and hospitality industry.



Local Government Tourism Network Officers,
April 2024

Aine Mangan from Into Kildare was elected Chair and John Neary from Galway County Council was elected Deputy Chair.

Into Kildare were delighted to attend Fáilte Ireland's EU Regenerative Tourism Placemaking scheme opening conference.



This program runs from 2023 – 2026 and is designed to build tourism business' capability and individual professional development, to support growth and contribute to future proofing sustainable tourism development.

Fáilte Ireland's, Ireland's Ancient East Champions Programme took place in the Curragh Racecourse. This was supported and attended by Into Kildare. The objective of this program was to help enhance customer service skills and build local product knowledge within the hospitality and tourism industry. The Into Kildare team took the opportunity to share insights and information about upcoming events, including Taste of Kildare.

Planning is underway for the Taste of Kildare three-day festival scheduled for September. This will be officially launched on Thursday 16 May at Naas Racecourse.

Other ongoing initiatives include recruitment of trade and organising a Kildare Stand at Bord Bia Bloom – Ireland's largest garden festival. This will support a number of the tourism and hospitality providers in Kildare



with significant exposure in exhibiting over the five days.

A site inspection and planning meeting took place to explore options for a Kildare Stand at the Ladies Irish Open in August at Carton House.

Additionally a number of meetings took place to support Into Kildare members, with media coverage in the Irish Times and Daily Mail including a travel writers visit to Kilkea Castle and Newbridge Silverwear.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Total LEO Financial Supports direct to Clients at 08.05.2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant .	29	€63,113
Business Expansion Grant	2	€50,797
Feasibility Study Grant	3	€36,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	8	€17,131
IP Start grant	3	€6,480
Total	45	€174,474

Business Expansion Grants

Approved in April:

Modular Living Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €24,217 to support the recruitment of two new employees plus support towards capital expenditure. The business manufactures modular living



spaces for use as Garden rooms, home offices, home gyms, temporary living accommodation etc.

Feasibility Study Grants Approved in April

Gerry Ryan and Karl Hegarty t/a Phoneaway Box of Kildare / Newbridge Municipal District were approved €7,000 to undertake a feasibility study to assist with the development of an App to facilitate more efficient compliance monitoring of mobile phones being placed in secure acrylic boxes in secondary schools. Students will sign in their phones using the App via facial recognition.

Buckeye Hills Limited of Naas Municipal District were approved €15,000 to undertake a feasibility study to assist with the development of an App to provide faster and easier access to the private healthcare sector for patients and also allow medical consultants operate their private medical practice more efficiently.

Focus On Innovation: Intellectual Grants Approved in April.

IP Start Grant Approved

Retail and Grow Limited of Athy Municipal District was approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection by undertaking trademark research and filing.

Hestio Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection by undertaking trademark research and filing.

Grant support online Briefing:

Our next monthly online briefing is on 13 June from 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.

The briefing is aimed at new and existing business owners who intend to apply for grant support or loan support for their business. Also includes access to step-by-step tutorial on how to prepare financial projections for your business.

Link to apply is [here](#)



Entrepreneurship Support

Achievement Of KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	770
SYOB	160	127
MDP	72	13
Mentoring	468	208
Digital	7	5
Lean	20	26
Green	20	42

Focus On Start-Ups:

Our Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#). To date 117 clients have received 1-1 start-up business advice.

Focus On Entrepreneurship:

Placing focus on both retail and export for May/June, all upcoming training opportunities are available to book [HERE](#).



LEO Business Advisor Phyllis Donohoe delivered a presentation to the Association of Optometrists Ireland on the supports of the Local Enterprise Office and the Economic Development Unit of Kildare County Council.

Focus On Women In Business:

The schedule of events for She Succeeds is available [HERE](#).



Over 30 female entrepreneurs participated in a Value-based pricing workshop on 09 April.

The next event, scheduled for 14 May looks to strategies for scaling efficiently without adding costs or resources.

Focus On Export:

The 2024 Export Development ran over 12 weeks and saw 11 companies undertake extensive market research to identify an international market



opportunity.



Judging took place in MERITS on 08 May with Enterprise Ireland and former International Business Director for Pull and Bear, Sue McLoughlin. Kildare-based Siog Botanicals was named the winner!

The Positive Economist, Susan Hayes led an export workshop in MERITS on 30 April with almost 40 early exporters.



To further support these businesses on their export journey, LEO Kildare launched the First Time Exporters Programme and applications can be made online [HERE](#)

A new page on the website has been created to provide access to [EXPORT SUPPORTS](#) for businesses.

Focus On Sustainability:

Businesses in all sectors with up to 50 employees are encouraged to apply for the Energy Efficiency Grant.



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

This scheme prioritizes reducing the impact of enterprises on the environment and in turn increase the agility and resilience of these businesses.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#) or contact localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie for assistance.



Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	1	€72
CBLX	2	€1,916
CLMN	2	€5,280
KDNB	11	€2,158
NAAS	4	€1,450

The General Shopfront Improvement Scheme Grant and Retail Window Merchandising Grant for 2024 have opened. The Economic Development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all the supports available. On 13 May, we are hosting a masterclass workshop in Southwell's, Kildare Town to train and assist businesses in window merchandising for the Dubai Derby.

Skills Audit

Kildare County Council's Economic Development consultant, KPMG, is commencing the stakeholder engagement element of the research. They are arranging interviews and workshops with key stakeholders as well as a survey to all employers in the County. This will be concluded by end-June and, thereafter, will inform

Kildare County Council's strategic employment/ industrial land study (currently being undertaken by Kildare County Council's Forward Planning Department). KPMG will then work to deliver a comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by July 2024.

Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy

An article was published in Irish Central, the US's leading Irish diaspora publication, last month for a call to the Kildare diaspora to register with the Kildare County Council database and newsletter. The second quarterly newsletter is due to be published this month.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

The evaluation tender process has been completed for the construction of the Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub and JS Dooley Contracting Ltd has been successfully awarded the contract. Construction works have been formally approved to commence on 13 May, 2024. It has been programmed that the works will be completed in 16 months upon commencement notice. On 03 May to mark the commencement of the



project, a photo opp and press release was scheduled with the successful contractor, design team, the Chief Executive of Kildare County Council Sonya Kavanagh, Director Alan Dunney and elected representatives for Athy Municipal District.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare and Southwell's Unit

A suite of contract documents is being developed to procure an architect-led detail design contract for the development. Subject to planning and development regulations, it is anticipated that the tender package will be published to align with an appropriate funding mechanism once identified.

Economic Development has procured a consultant to undertake a strategic review of the 'Gather' popup shop that operated in Kildare Village in Q4 2023. The report is expected in Q2, 2024. The Council has reached a lease agreement for the deployment of a pilot on a smaller footprint in two retail units in Kildare Town's Market Square. The unit will be used to facilitate an activation workshop for local retailers and businesses to upskill in visual merchandising in good time for the Dubai Derby, at the Curragh.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

Capital funding for the proposed development of the former BOI building has been secured. A suite of contract documents is being developed to procure an architect-led detail design contract for the development. Subject to planning and development regulations, it is anticipated that the tender package will be published in Q2/Q3 2024.

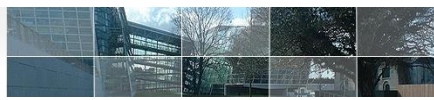
Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Kildare County Council applied to the EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, as managed by Pobal in late January.

The application seeks to commission a master plan and technical support to achieve full planning, procurement, and a strategic business plan for the proposed development of the site as a 'Sustainable Growth Business Park'. Economic Development is awaiting feedback from Pobal with regard to its application.

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Economic Development will be completing training sessions (May and



June) to accredit businesses in Kildare that have engaged with AFI to date. Economic Development will continue to work closely with Kildare County Council Age Friendly Team and AFI to roll out a further training session in the coming months.

Kildare County Council Industrial Estate Enhancement

Signage infrastructure for three of the industrial sites have been manufactured and are to be supplied and erected by end-May. It is anticipated the contractor's works will be completed to align with signage erection including greening and final enhancements.

Tourism

Activation of the Investment Grant Aid Scheme for Private and Community Small and Medium sized Enterprises is continuing until close for the Expression Of Interests at the end of June. All nine projects eligible for Expression Of Interests have now had follow up calls and face to face meetings where needed. One new Expressions of Interest has been submitted. Four potential applicants had one to one support with Expressions of Interest. Three applicants have been referred for

mentoring support with their business plans.

An information meeting was hosted jointly with Fáilte Ireland and Laois County Council in the Talbot Hotel on 16 April.

The final call for Expressions of Interest and Information Evenings in both eligible Municipal Districts have been widely advertised.

A presentation on the Barrow Blueway Plans as an international best practice example in sustainable tourism development was delivered to the European Council of Town Planners [ECTP EU Biennale](#) and published in the conference catalogue.

K-Hub Activity:

MERITS in Naas hosted a number of training and capability-development programmes in April including a Masterclass in Pitching, Tax Advisory Clinics, a "Build your MVP" Workshop, a Lunch and Learn with the Innovation Exchange and one to one Equity Clinics with Intertrade Ireland. MERITS continues to facilitate a pilot Coder-Dojo to encourage young people in the Kildare community to develop their knowledge and expertise around technology and software development.



The National Equine Innovation Centre is making preparations to welcome a new client shortly, a French equine-tech company who wishes to expand into the Irish market.

The Athy Enterprise Centre's most recent client company commenced operations from the Centre in April - Bradbury's supply hot school meals

from the center to schools all over Kildare daily.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive