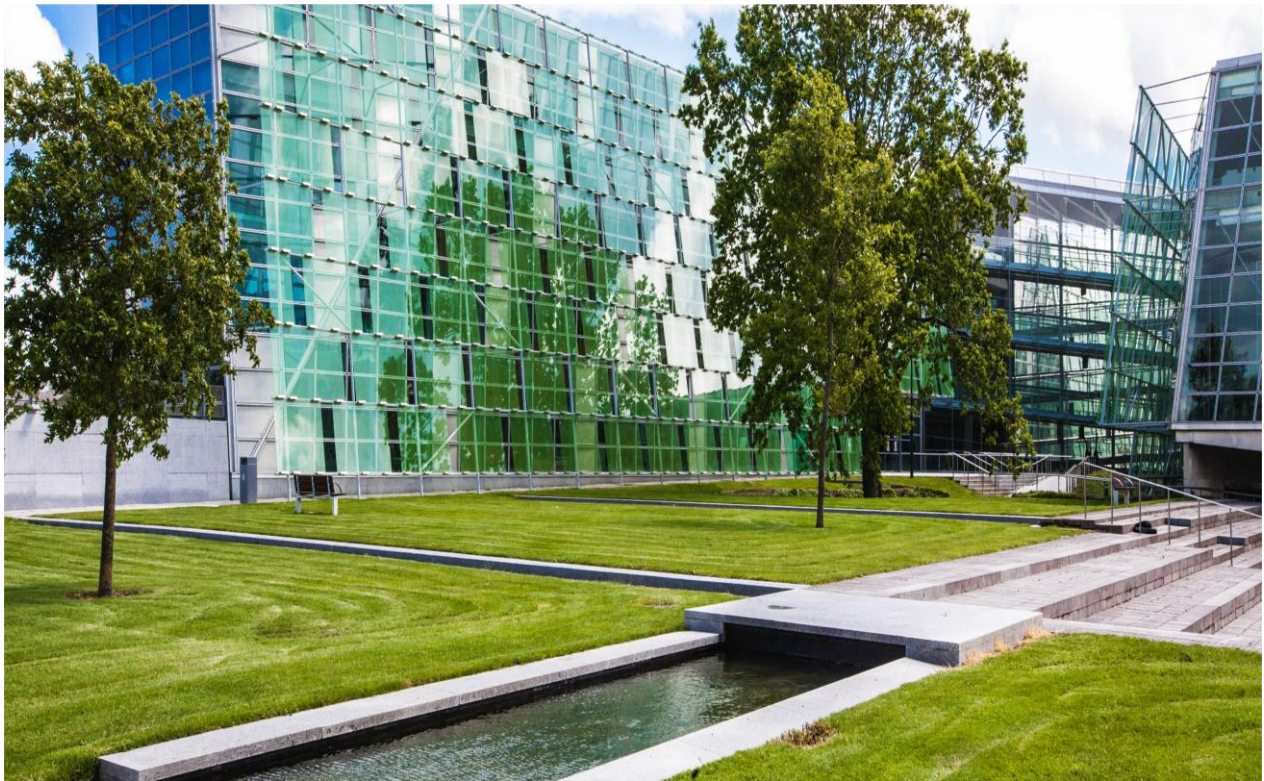




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – October 2024





News Items

Kildare County Council's Paint Amnesty Event A 'Huge Success'

Kildare County Council in partnership with the Regional Waste Enforcement Office and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, held a free domestic waste paint recycling event on Saturday 28 September 2024 at Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas (see pages 8-9).

Kildare County Council issues reminder on Landspreading 'Closed Season'

Kildare County Council would like to remind farmers and agricultural contractors that the spreading of organic fertilisers is prohibited in County Kildare from 01 October until 12 January (see page 12).

Culture Night 2024

Culture Night took place on Friday, 20 September from 4.00pm with over 70 free events available to the public across the county including a number of Kildare Arts Service commissioned projects (see page 19).

Integration - Changes in Newhall DAC

DCEDIY are progressing a pilot programme at the Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre where Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection will be temporarily accommodated when moving from accommodation centres that are closing under the accommodation consolidation process or where existing contracts are coming to an end (see pages 40-41).

Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles) GoCar

Go Car provided a morning of car driving trials and in person registration for car usage. The trial has proven effective, and a tender is to issue by the transport section in the near future (see page 52).



Ban XL Bully Type dogs

From 01 October, 2024, new regulations prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully Type dogs (see page 55).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Work is commencing to implement the LECP. Justin Gleeson from AIRO presented key datasets to the Kildare County Council Senior Executive Officers as part of their workshop to develop the Kildare County Council Corporate Plan (see page 61).

Speed Limit Review

Public consultation process for the Supplementary Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads closed on 20 September and a report to be prepared for Full Council in October. (see page 63).

Play Day 2024

Organised by the Parks Department in conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the Council once again threw open its doors for National Play Day 2024 (see pages 69-70).

Kildare Fáilte

Key September highlights included the closing event of the KPMG Women's Irish Open at Carton House, the organisation meetings and hosting of key incentive buyers from the UK to Kildare, and the Taste of Kildare Food Festival at Naas Racecourse (see pages 78-81).

National Ploughing Championships

Local Enterprise Office Kildare was proud to support Equine Products Ireland Limited from Narraghmore who exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village (see page 84).



Diary/Calendar

Kildare County Council Active and Passive Recreation Needs Survey 2024

Kildare County Council is undertaking a survey of sporting organisations and recreational groups in County Kildare that participate in active and passive recreational activities, including those that host activities, to inform us about themselves, their membership, where they undertake their activities. The closing date for survey completion is 25 October 2024. (see page 10).

Library and Arts

Forthcoming events: 19 October – Federation of County Kildare Local History Groups seminar in Kilcullen. 22 October – ‘Fake News and Irish Freedom’ history talk by Dr Ian Kenneally, Leixlip Library at 7.00pm. 29 October – ‘President to President – The President’s Letters’ with author Flor McCarthy in Celbridge Library at 7.00pm. (see page 18).

Budget 2025

The Statutory 2025 Budget meeting will take place on – 18 November 2024, at 3.00pm with a briefing on Monday 11 November at 3.00pm (see page 23).

Design Sprint

The Innovation Team have organised a Design Sprint event on 22 October as part of Public Sector Transformation Week. (see pages 23-24).

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme

The period of public consultation for the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029 will close on Thursday, 24 October 2024 at 12.00pm (see page 24).



Climate Fortnight

The Climate Action Office are redesigning climate day into Climate Fortnight where four lunch time sessions will be held in October. Panel discussions on Biodiversity and transport will be undertaken the week of the 14 October (see pages 52-53).

De Burgh Woodland Gardens

The gardens remain open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am-5.30pm until 03 November. Access is by ticket only (see page 68).

Local Area Plans- Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031

The Chief Executives Report was submitted to the Elected Members on the 10 September. A special meeting with the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District is scheduled for the 21 October (see page 71).

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

An urgent call for nominations from all Departments has been made to attend a half day facilitated workshop on Monday 07 October at Solas Bhríde (Kildare Town) (see page 74).

Just Transition Tourism Activation

The Fáilte Ireland Learning Network programme has opened again. Tourism businesses supported by the Activator have been invited to participate, and applications are being accepted up to 12:00 noon on 17 October 2024 (see page 87).



November Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 Oct	29	30	31	1 Nov 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
4 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Members Calendar	5	6	7	8
11 Budget Briefing; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	12 15:30 Naas MD Meeting ; Council Chamber ; Members Calendar	13	14 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee	15 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
18 10:00 Athy MD Meeting November ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:00 Budget Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Members Calendar 14:30 Audit Committee	20 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	21	22
25 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	26	27 10:00 LCDC	28 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee	29



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Advance Notice of Works to Celbridge Bridge

Kildare County Council wish to give advance notice that traffic on the R403 over the River Liffey bridge in Celbridge will be reduced to a single lane from 9:30am on Tuesday 29 October until 5:00pm on Friday 01 November 2024 inclusive to facilitate emergency bridge repair works. Traffic management will include local diversions for the following roads near the bridge: L1016 (Newtown Road) and R405 (Hazelhatch Road).

- Traffic travelling on the L1016 (Newtown Road) towards the bridge will be diverted through the L6057 (Simmonstown Manor) on to the Hazelhatch road.
- Traffic traveling on the R405 (Hazelhatch Road) towards the bridge will be diverted through the L1027 (Shinkeen Road) onto the R403 Dublin Road.

- Vehicles exiting Saint Patricks park, will only be able to exit via church road/Tea lane (L5065).

The emergency works are necessary to ensure the safety and structural integrity of the bridge. These works will be carried out by Triur Constrution Limited on behalf of Kildare County Council. Single lane traffic will be maintained over the bridge at all times, however delays will be unavoidable. Traffic lights will be in place at the junctions on either side of the bridge however long queuing is to be expected.

Alternative routes will be signposted. Kildare County Council would encourage motorists to use these diversion routes, allow extra time for travel and minimise the journeys over the bridge where possible.

Kildare County Council's Paint Amnesty Event A 'Huge Success'



Kildare County Council in partnership with the Regional Waste Enforcement



Office and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, held a free domestic waste paint recycling event on Saturday 28 September 2024 at Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas.

The event aimed to assist and encourage households in recycling and to reduce dumping.

Kildare County Council were delighted with the unprecedented response over the five hours of the event, approximately 870 cars visited the site, equating to one car every 21 seconds. A total of 37.3 tonnes of waste paint was collected on the day.

Funding for the event, which was in collaboration with Enva, was awarded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Kildare County Council announces new Artist in Residence opportunity with Naas General Hospital



Kildare County Council Library and Arts Service in partnership with Naas General Hospital seek expressions of interest for a new Artist in Residence programme from November 2024 to December 2025.

The Did I Ever Tell You Kildare Artist in Residence Programme seeks to support the health and wellbeing of patients and staff in Naas General Hospital by providing weekly creative engagement with a professional artist and/or arts collective. Through bedside visits and a person-centred delivery, patients with life-limiting conditions can gain a unique outlet for self-expression, helping to process emotions and connect with family and staff through creativity. This residency also supports professional artist(s) to develop their practice within acute healthcare settings, through a bursary award of €30,000, bespoke training and additional supports.

This Artist in Residence programme is funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme and sits within the tri-county creative health project Did I Ever Tell You, delivered in partnership between Kildare County Council,



Offaly County Council and Westmeath County Council. Through this project, artists in each county deliver programmes in select HSE care settings, with the goal of supporting positive mental health, improving wellbeing, and promoting positive ageing. Selected stories, reflections, and/or creative content from each county will be published via the Did I Ever Tell You book.

Kildare County Council Active and Passive Recreation Needs Survey 2024



Kildare County Council is undertaking a survey of sporting organisations and recreational groups in County Kildare that participate in active and passive recreational activities, including those that host activities (e.g. schools, leisure centres, community centres and gyms), to inform us about themselves, their membership, where they undertake their activities, the level of activity and what they need in place to ensure that they can operate

effectively. The closing date for survey completion is Friday 25 October 2024.

Pride in Your Place Awards Ceremony 2024



Kildare County Council hosted Community groups from across the county at the Osprey Hotel in Naas to celebrate their achievements and receive their awards at the annual Pride in Your Place Awards Ceremony. Now in its twenty-ninth year the awards seek to recognise the tireless efforts of residents' associations, community groups and young people in Local Authority and Approved Housing Body estates in Kildare.

Over thirty estates from all corners of the county entered the competition with almost half of those coming away with top prizes in their categories.



Kildare County Council announces fifteenth annual Kildare Readers Festival 2024



Kildare County Council is delighted to confirm that Kildare Readers Festival will return to venues across the county from 09 October to 16 October 2024. Kildare Readers Festival in association with the Irish Writers Centre, is a celebration of the written word and a chance to connect with readers and writers alike.

Fógraíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara an 15ú Féile Bhlíantúil Léitheoirí Chill Dara 2024



Tá lúcháir ar Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a dheimhniú go bhfillfidh Féile Léitheoirí Chill Dara ar ionaid éagsúla fud fad an chontae ón 9 Deireadh

Fómhair go dtí an 16 Deireadh Fómhair 2024.

Ceiliúradh ar an bhfocal scríofa is ea Léitheoirí Chill Dara a réachtálar i gcomhar le hÁras Scríbhneoirí na hÉireann agus, trí mheán na féile seo, tugtar deis don phobal nascadh le léitheoirí agus le scríbhneoirí araon.

ACRE Artist in Residence 2024/25 announced



The ACRE Project and Kildare County Council Arts Service are delighted to announce Krystal Sweedman as the recipient of the ACRE Artist in Residence 2024/25.

The residency programme supports a professional artist to develop their practice and/or develop a specific artistic project, alongside a programme of public-facing workshops to engage communities from the local area.



Kildare County Council issues reminder on Landspreading ‘Closed Season’



Kildare County Council would like to remind farmers and agricultural contractors that the spreading of organic fertilisers is prohibited in County Kildare from 01 October until 12 January.

In addition, farmyard manure is prohibited from being landspread or stored on lands from 01 November until 12 January.

Kildare County Council awards contract for the M4/N4 westbound bus priority measures project



Kildare County Council in partnership with South Dublin County Council are delighted to announce the appointment

of Arup as technical advisor on the M4/N4 westbound hard shoulder bus priority measures project.

The objective of this project is to deliver bus priority measures in the westbound direction of the M4/N4 between Maynooth and Leixlip/Lucan. Arup have now been appointed to complete Phase three, Design and Environmental Evaluation, and Phase four, Statutory Process, on the project. This will take the project through the planning phase subject to planning approval.

Kildare County Council sign works contract for the construction of 65 residential units at Old Greenfields/Fitzgerald Close, Maynooth



Kildare County Council has signed a contract with Cunningham Contracts Group for the construction of 65 new social housing units and associated siteworks at Old Greenfields/Fitzgerald Close, Maynooth, Co Kildare.



Scheduled for completion in Q4 of 2025, this new development comprises of the construction of 26 Houses, 28 Apartments and 11 Duplex Apartment Units, including all civil, site development and landscaping works. Cunningham Contracts Group and their design team have been appointed to deliver this design and build scheme on site. van Dijk architects, along with Hayes Higgins Partnership and McGahon Surveyors will act as the Technical Advisory Design Team to Kildare County Council whilst on site.

Maynooth University Hosts Historic Conference on St. Brigid's Legacy



Maynooth University and Kildare County Council successfully hosted the 'Brigid's Worlds' conference on 13 and 14 September, marking a significant milestone in the celebration of St. Brigid's legacy. The conference, which welcomed both scholars and enthusiasts, commemorated the

1500th anniversary of St. Brigid's passing by exploring the rich heritage of one of Ireland's most significant patron saints

Across the two days, attendees heard from a diverse lineup of speakers who examined St. Brigid's life and her Church of Kildare from the fifth to the ninth centuries. Notable speakers included Professor Catherine McKenna from Harvard University and Dr. Niamh Wycherley and Professor David Stifter from Maynooth University. Each session explored various aspects of St. Brigid's legacy, covering early mediaeval religious practices and her cultural impact.

Maynooth University in partnership with Kildare County Council invite applications for an Irish language Writer in Residence for the 2024 – 25 academic year

Maynooth University in partnership with Kildare County Council are inviting applications from writers who have published a range of Irish language works and who would be suitable for the role of writer in residence. The residency period is from October 2024 until October 2025.



The role as writer in residence was developed to give students and the general public the opportunity to engage with esteemed Irish language writers, and also to provide an opportunity for Irish language writers to advance their own projects. This position will be suitable for Irish language writers who write poetry or creative prose in the Irish language.

Iarrann Ollscoil Mhá Nuad i gcomhar le Comhairle Contae Chill Dara iarratais le haghaidh Scríbhneoir Cónaithe Gaeilge don bhliain acadúil 2024 – 25

Tá Ollscoil Mhá Nuad i gcomhar le Comhairle Contae Chill Dara ag lorg iarratas ó scríbhneoirí a bhfuil réimse saothar Gaeilge foilsithe acu agus a bheadh oiriúnach don ról mar scríbhneoir cónaithe. Mairfidh an tréimhse chónaitheachta ó Dheireadh Fómhair 2024 go dtí Deireadh Fómhair 2025.

Dearadh an ról mar scríbhneoir cónaithe chun deis a thabhairt do mhic léinn agus don phobal i gcoitinne a bheith ag plé le scríbhneoirí Gaeilge aitheanta, agus, chomh maith leis sin, chun deis a thabhairt do na scríbhneoirí a dtionscadail féin a chur

chun cinn. Oirfidh an post seo do scríbhneoirí Gaeilge a bhíonn ag plé leis an bhfilíocht nó leis an bprós cruthaitheach.

Kildare County Council Launches Biodiversity Conference 2024



Kildare County Council are delighted to announce the return of our 'Kildare Biodiversity Conference' for 2024. The inaugural conference took place last October; a first of its kind sold-out event organised by Kildare Wildlife Rescue in partnership with Kildare County Council.

The 2024 Kildare Biodiversity Conference will take place on Saturday 19 October, in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. This event is funded by the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, which is operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Kildare County Council signs contract for delivery of new Fire Station in Maynooth



Kildare County Council has appointed M. L. Quinn Ltd as main contractor for the delivery of a new fire station at Maynooth in County Kildare, with the signing of contracts taking place on Friday 06 September 2024. The site for the new fire station is located at Mullin Park, Maynooth and has been designed by a multi-disciplined team led by Vincent Hannon and Associates Architects.

Budget 2025

The Draft Budget Book 2025 is being compiled.

Risk Registers

Review of Corporate Risk Register is almost complete. Directors are liaising with IPB for final adjustments.

Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is being reviewed for final draft.

Freedom of Information Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2024	Total received Quarter 2, 2024	Total received Quarter 3, 2024	Total
Freedom of Information Requests	41	33	32	106
Freedom of information appeals	0	1	2	3
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	4	6	6	16
Ombudsman	5	6	12	23

Register of Electors

Arising from the report of the Electoral Commission, for the next General Election, Kildare North constituency will become a five seat constituency. To give effect to this the Oireachtas passed the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2023.

The effect of this is that electors within four Electoral Districts will transfer from Kildare South to the Kildare North



Dáil constituency: Killashee, Ladytown, Caragh, and Donore Electoral Districts.

Kildare County Council is required to make these changes to the Register of Electors, and this has begun. Letters will be issued to the approximately 2,800 electors involved.

In addition, electors can consult Checktheregister.ie to see their new polling place and station.

When a General Election is called, polling cards will be issued, which will also inform electors of their polling station and room number.

Members Services

Uisce Eireann and the NTA met with the elected members on the 30 September to update them and answer their queries. The Chief Executive also arranged for a Capital Programme Briefing to be given to the elected members in early September.

In addition to the normal monthly Municipal District and Council meetings in October, Clane Maynooth and Naas Municipal Districts will hold special meeting to discuss their Draft Budget Plans

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one. Neil Gaiman

Eco Lines

The library service hosted Eco Lines, its first climate readers' day on 28 September. The day brought together climate writers, readers and change makers for panel discussion, creative writing and repair workshops.

National Public Library Open Day

took place nationally on Saturday 28 September. The public were encouraged to Take a Closer Look at all their library has on offer. Libraries in Kildare welcomed new and existing customers with family friendly events and registration stands.

Kildare Social Inclusion Week

Naas Library and Cultural Centre hosted the "More Than That Festival" on Friday 27 September.

A series of talks and workshops featured from 9.00am – 9.00pm. Wellbeing Warrior Workshops began with yoga, followed by Pilates,



mindfulness, journalling and breathwork.

In the courtyard, Keith Walsh chatted to people in recovery throughout the day.

The day ended with “An Evening of Kindness and Inspiration” -

Celtic Kindness: the inspirational story of Ireland’s own ‘Mozart’, Turlough O’Carolan, a mixture of kindness and tragedy. And Dr Brian Pennie closed with a masterclass in finding your true potential.

Three ‘Mind yourself’ Adult literacy workshops were hosted by County Kildare Leader Partnership for Social Inclusion week in three libraries in Kildare – Kildare Town, Celbridge and Athy. The events were Conversation Cafés to facilitate discussion in an informal way around financial, numerical and health literacy with the relevant support agencies present.

Creative Communities Evaluation 2024

Creative Ireland have begun their evaluation of Creative Communities across all 31 local authorities. The evaluation will identify and demonstrate to stakeholders including

central government and local government, the impact and value of Creative Communities and the strategic value of the Culture and Creativity Teams in local authorities and how this model can contribute to the Government’s Action Plan for Designing Better Public Services. This September, the Culture and Creativity Team completed phase one: an evaluation survey regarding our 2023 programme of events and the functionality of our Culture and Creativity Team.

Culture and Creativity Team – Seeking New Members

The Culture and Creativity Team seeks to expand membership, with the goal to improve strategic delivery and raise awareness amongst the Senior Executive Team of the Creative Ireland programme within Kildare and the opportunities it can present to departments which are not yet involved, such as the Local Enterprise Office, Integration, Community Development, Innovation, Ecology, and Irish Officer. Presentations to Senior Management are being planned, with a ‘think in’ event to be scheduled for November.



Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

Accessioning, listing and processing archival collections, including records stored in Kefron continues.

The Local Studies team are currently working on the extensive Local Studies photographic and postcard collections to facilitate increased access and planned digitisation projects.

The Brigid's Worlds conference in Maynooth University took place on 13 and 14 September, supported by commemorations funding received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media.

Transportation of the John Devoy chair from the United States, is awaited.

This is being arranged by the Consulate in New York.

Support was given to a performance of They Also Serve, a play about John Devoy, in Kill, by Down at Heel Productions in partnership with the Federation of County Kildare Local History Groups on Culture Night.

Forthcoming events

19 October – Federation of County Kildare Local History Groups seminar in Kilcullen.

22 October – 'Fake News and Irish Freedom' history talk by Dr Ian Kenneally, Leixlip Library at 7.00pm.

29 October – 'President to President – The President's Letters' with author Flor McCarthy in Celbridge Library at 7.00pm. Both talks supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; with RTÉ History Show presenter Myles Dungan also participating in an online event for primary schools as part of Children's Book Festival.

Kildare Arts Services

New VECTOR Digital Arts Residency

Led by Kildare Arts Service in collaboration with MERITS Innovation Thinkspace our new [VECTOR Digital Arts Residency](#) seeks to foster innovation and collaboration in the digital arts sector. Deadline for applications 31 October.



The VECTOR Digital Arts Residency will provide:

A Bursary Award of €5,000

Access to desk space at MERITS (in kind value €1800).

20+ hours content LAB use at MERITS (in kind value €500)

Bespoke mentoring with Jo Mangan, Artistic Director of The Performance Corporation (three mentoring sessions €1050)

A place on the international SPACE programme in Paris in summer 2025 (value €5000)

Culture Night 2024

Culture Night took place on Friday, 20 September from 4.00pm with over 70 free events available to the public across the county including a number of Kildare Arts Service commissioned projects. [Full listings here](#)

Creative Places Athy Learning and Sharing Event

Creative Places Athy hosted an event on 12 September to celebrate and showcase the impacts of this programme of socially engaged creative projects. At this event, key learnings from the evaluation of years 2021 – 2024 were presented alongside recommendations for a Roadmap for

Arts and Culture in Athy to support Phase II of Creative Places Athy.

Elizabeth Hilliard MU Musician in Residence begins programme of Community Engagement Events

Elizabeth began a series of public workshops in September that will run until December 2024, including Support Salons a monthly meet up for Kildare-based professional musicians and a new intergenerational singing group at Newbridge Town Hall.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Nine inspections completed in:

- Roads -Athy roads crew
- Roads Department-Level four
- Confey graveyard
- Roads crew Kilcock
- Environment – Castledermot Waste
- Environment- Athy Irish lamps
- Housing-Tenant liaison officer
- Roads- Patching-Kilcullen
- Roads-Tar refill of patcher at machinery yard

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:



Six assessments completed in the following areas:

- Housing - three
- Finance - one
- Community - one
- Planning - one

Accessibility:

1. Meetings of Local Access Groups:
 - Newbridge, Naas, Celbridge
Leixlip Disability Access Groups were met.

Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

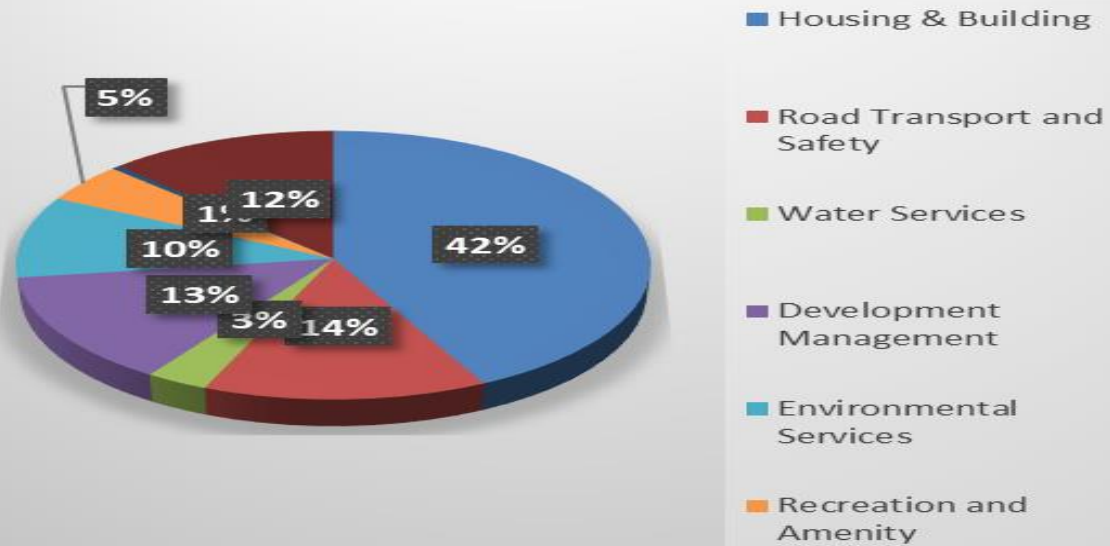
Revenue Account

Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Sept 2024

Division	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	82,169	88,215	93%	6,046
Road Transport and Safety	26,790	44,078	61%	17,288
Water Services	5,866	9,767	60%	3,901
Development Management	25,877	29,330	88%	3,453
Environmental Services	18,986	24,474	78%	5,488
Recreation and Amenity	9,001	17,635	51%	8,634
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	951	1,305	73%	354
Miscellaneous Services	23,749	21,941	108% -	1,808
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	193,390	236,745	82%	43,355



Expenditure Year to Date



Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility between 01 January to 30 September 2024.

Risk Management

Quarter two review of departmental risk registers is completed and a review of the Corporate Risk Register is scheduled for October.

Local Government Audit

Eamon Daly, Local Government Auditor has commenced his audit of the Financial Statements of Kildare

County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 and expects to issue his audit report in late October.

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.

Kildare County Council has approx 4,100 eligible businesses. 3,186 submissions received; 48 applications refused.



Both ICOB schemes are now fully dealt with. Total ICOB issued €9,937,345

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions for residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of build 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-Sep-24
Total number of residential units		1513
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	1076	€7,967,065
Apartments	443	€1,511,744
Special Roads		€150,000
Car parking		€75,000
Total	1519	€9,703,809

Digital Services

New Printers

All new A3 printers have been rolled out to larger locations throughout the county, the next phase will commence during October with rollout of A4 printers to smaller locations. This will result in one standard type printer in use across all main offices.

Program and Project Management solution:

Kildare County Council are working with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. This joint team will focus on putting together a tender document, publishing a tender and selecting a PPM solution.



Budget 2025

The Statutory 2025 Budget meeting will take place on – 18 November 2024, at 3.00pm with a briefing on Monday 11 November at 3.00pm. Municipal District draft budgetary meetings:

- Athy - Monday 21 October – coincides with monthly Municipal District meeting
- Kildare Newbridge -Wednesday 16 October – coincides with monthly Municipal District meeting
- Celbridge/Leixlip - Friday 18 October am – coincides with monthly Municipal District meeting
- Naas - Tuesday 22 October at 3.30pm.
- Clane/Maynooth - Friday 18 October at 2.00pm.

At the Council meeting on 23 September the council agreed to continue (same as 2023 and 2024) a +10% variation the Local Property Adjustment factor for 2025.

Public consultation period for Rates Abatement scheme for vacant properties closed 04 September, no submissions were received.

Innovation

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024 for the following projects:

Ballymore Eustace as an Age Friendly Climate Friendly Village in Age Friendly Initiative.

Leinster Women’s Shed Fest in Municipal District Initiative.

A key goal of the Innovation Team is to deliver learning and development opportunities that build on innovation skills in the organisation and a number of these initiatives are detailed below.

Lean Six Sigma 2024

A further Lean cycle is in progress with eight diverse teams working on improvements to existing systems/processes/services. Projects in progress include an etranslation tool, a tool to map capital projects, a library data dashboard and improvements to our staff induction programme.

Design Sprint

The Innovation Team have organised a Design Sprint event on 22 October



as part of Public Sector Transformation Week. This event will explore how we can use Design Thinking tools and methodologies, to ensure a user-centered and creative problem-solving approach to challenges relevant to Kildare County Council.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme



The period of public consultation for the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 -2029 closes on Thursday, 24 October 2024 (12.00pm). The consultation can be accessed on the Council's Consultation Portal <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/draft-traveller-accommodation-programme-2025-%E2%80%932029>

Additional copies of the Programme can be provided by the Traveller Accommodation Unit, Housing Department – Tel: 045 980 991. It is expected that the Draft Programme will be presented to the Council at the November Monthly Meeting for consideration.

Homeless Outreach Clinics



The Housing Department is continuing monthly homeless outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Homeless Section can be contacted at 045 980 230.

Mid-East Region Homelessness Statutory Management Group(SMG) and Homelessness Forum Meetings

The Mid-East Region Homelessness SMG and Forum meetings took place on 03 October 2024. The Mid-East Region Homelessness Plan 2024-2026 sets out actions that reflect



prioritised objectives of key Housing/Homeless policies. The Region will focus on one of the objectives and key added value actions each quarter, the first of which is 'Prevention of Homelessness'. The first three associated key added value actions are:

- Extension of tenancy sustainment services
- Specific preventative initiatives
- Continue to support and encourage increased engagement on the Homeless Action Team.

Input from all stakeholders was discussed.

Serviced Sites in Clogherinkoe

The council is selling seven serviced sites in Clogherinkoe under the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme 2023. A joint information clinic with Housing and Planning Teams will be held in Clogherinkoe Library from 4.00pm to 6.00pm on Wednesday, 16 October. An e-mail providing further details was circulated to the members on 04 October.

Approved Housing Bodies

Oaklee Housing Association have been awarded funding of €20,000 from

the Housing Finance Agency Social Housing Fund to deliver intensive community development projects in The Harbour Apartments, Athy. The funding will allow for community events, a local research project, capacity building workshops and the development of a community group.

Grants for Private Householders

In September the Government published the Report on the Review of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme.

The planned proposed changes are detailed in the Review Report available on the Department's website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/ef265-ministers-obrien-and-dillon-announce-reforms-following-review-of-the-housing-adaptation-grants/>

The Review recommends an increase in grant limits in excess of 30% and an increase in income thresholds of 25%.

The Review also recommends adjusting the burden sharing for local authorities by reducing the local



authority funding contribution to 15% (from the existing 20%) together with amendments to the means test.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage now plan to proceed with implementation of the review recommendations through bringing a statutory instrument, as urgently as possible, for the Minister’s consideration and signature.

This will require the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform with the aim of introducing a revised scheme in Quarter 1 of 2025. We will keep the members updated on this matter.

Customer Service

Housing Clinics have commenced and are scheduled up to December 2024. The clinics are advertised across the council’s social media platforms and the Members are notified in advance of the clinic taking place.

The table below provides details of the meetings held to date and the date and location of future clinics.

Location	Date	No. Attended
Leixlip Library	25 March	6
Newbridge	15 April	4
Maynooth Community Centre	14 May	8
Naas Library	12 June	2
Athy Library	16 July	3
Celbridge Library	14 August	12
Kilcullen Community Centre	18 September	6
Clane Library	15 October	-
Naas Library	13 November	-
Athy Library	10 December	-



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing. Expect substantial completion November 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
Approval Stage 3		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender assessment complete. Stage 4 application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Approval Stage 2		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanala on 22 nd August. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 launched 31 July 2024. Observation period ended: 12 th September.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Stage 2 approval received with conditions. Revised plans forwarded to DHLGH for approval having regard to conditions of approval.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved. Site Clearance ongoing to allow completion of Site Investigation and finalisation of civils design.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 presented and approved subject to amendments: change to vehicular access requires further Part 8 consultation. Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8.



Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement being assessed.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Civil & Structural Engineer appointed. Design works for planning application ongoing.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed. Design of existing units to be finalised
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing. Tender for Conservation Architect advertised.

Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Tender for Structural Condition Surveys complete.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing. Civils design to be finalised subject to agreement on Arborist's Report with Parks Department.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application approved. Project retendered and tender assessment complete. Stage 4 approval received 1 st October. Finalising contractors insurance details before issuing letter of offer.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site broadly in line with programme..



25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Substantial completion expected in October.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Stage 3 application being prepared to submit to DHLGH in October

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Arcrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: 3 tenders received. Tender Assessment complete. Preferred Bidder to be approved by Project Board in early October. Commence works March/April 2025
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement has started.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at September MD Meeting. Fire Cert and DAC applications being prepared. Procurement has started.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	82 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

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

*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme *CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility



Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	49
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	18
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	46
Total	209	247	113

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	20	23	14	33	23
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	3	0	4

Regeneration

Year	Total No. CPOs	CPOs with ABP/at Intention Stage	CPOs confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved	Vacant Property Grant payments
2023	22	1	16	4	1	144	106	24
Q1 2024	2	1	1	0	0	35	27	16
Q2 2024	8	3	0	0	0	37	34	11
Q3 2024	5	4	6	0	0	35	27	7
Total	15	8	7	0	0	107	88	34



Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners Engaged with	Pre-CPO Notices Erected	Section 8(2) Derelict Sites Notices Issued
2023	1,006	301	128	47	0
Q1 2024	50	39	32	19	11
Q2 2024	38	35	26	11	3
Q3 2024	37	36	25	4	10
Total	125	110	83	34	24

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2023	127	19	11,136	8,876
Q1 2024	25	0	3,249	919
Q2 2024	35	0	2,491	1,164
Q3 2024	37	1	2,756	1,557
Total	97	1	8,496	3,640

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86	61 units completed (incl. vacant units) on the 2023 EERP 55 Units identified in Naas/Calverstown/ Ballymore Eustace, Newbridge for 2023/2024 EERP. Tender returned for 26 units in Lakeside Prak, Newbridge.
2024 EERP	69	

Homeless Services

Families in PEA including Supporting Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 September 2024

Duration	No of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	20	29	42
6 - 12 Months	14	20	27
12 - 18 Months	3	5	7
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0



24 - 30 Months	2	3	2
36 Months +	1	2	1
Total	40	59	79

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 September 2024

Duration	No of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	2	4
6 - 12 Months	3	5	5
12 - 18 Months	2	4	5
18 - 24 Months	3	6	4
24 - 30 Months	1	4	2
36 Months +	3	5	7
Total	13	26	27

Homeless Presentations with Unique Presentations Breakdown

2023	Cases	Unique Households	Of which Unique Adults	Of which Unique Dependents	Repeats Households
2023	1,910	616	708	452	1,294
2024	Total Cases	Unique	Adults	Dependents	Repeats
Quarter 1	500	163	204	124	337
Quarter 2	511	149	178	121	362
Quarter 3	483	146	163	112	337
Total 2024	1494	458	545	357	1036

Homeless Exits from Emergency Accommodation

2024	Total No Household Exits from EA	Local Authority Lettings	AHB Letting	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
Quarter 1	23	5	13	5
Quarter 2	10	3	4	3
Quarter 3	12	3	4	5
Total 2024	45	11	21	13



Homelessness Preventions

	Total No Households Homelessness Prevention	Local Authority Lettings	LA – Tenant in Situ (TiS)	AHB Lettings	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
Quarter 1	68	19	23	26	0
Quarter 2	48	17	18	3	10
Quarter 3	37	12	7	3	15
Total 2024	153	48	48	32	25

Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2023	320	208	15	15	436	272
Q1 2024	58	52	3	6	112	135
Q2 2024	115	47	9	5	52	67
Q3 2024	83	42	4	7	64	57
Total 2024	256	141	16	18	228	259

Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2023	41	€8,327,127	19	€2,679,766	19	€3,754,714
Q1 2024	3	€633,400	5	€999,000	6	€1,181,700
Q2 2024	7	€1,449,200	2	€347,600	2	€305,150
Q3 2024	3	€347,600	1	€285,000	8	€1,631,870
Total 2024	13	€2,430,200	8	€1,631,600	16	€3,118,720



Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers	Properties Sold
2023	53	4	25	5
Q1 2024	16	2	6	1
Q2 2024	9	3	3	0
Q3 2024	15	0	19	4
Total 2024	40	5	28	5

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2023	397	16	414
Q1 2024	97	9	96
Q2 2024	97	25	96
Q3 2024	72	14	72
Total 2024	266	48	264

Social Housing Assessments - Quarterly

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals	No. of Households added to Housing List
2023	323	26	1,049	16	329	1,006
Q1 2024	46	56	263	3	64	243
Q2 2024	42	86	403	0	88	222
Q3 2024	29	37	360	15	103	207
Total 2024	117	179	1,026	18	255	672

Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA Hap Review
2023	2,205	458	413
Q1 2024	576	112	111
Q2 2024	408	117	86
Q3 2024	443	91	139
Total	4,427	320	336



Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Part 8 – Wonderful Barn

The Part 8 will be coming before the elected representatives at the October meeting of the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District.

Part 8 – Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2

The Part 8 is specific to the inclusion of two additional bridges on the Scheme. The public consultation closed on 25 September.

Barrow Blueway

The tender assessment for the delivery of the Pedestrian Bridge has been completed. The next stage of the process will see a contractor appointed.

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	<p>Unbound Surface: This portion of canalside works is complete with all unbound surface areas from Lowton to Athy open to the public.</p> <p>Road Crossings & Bound Surfaces: This portion of works is nearing practical completion with the contractor addressing line markings, signage and final landscaping at present. Licence in situ with Irish Rail for works around the Railway Bridge in Rathangan.</p> <p>Pedestrian Bridge: This is located at Rathangan. Tender complete and contracts to issue. Expected 12-month delivery programme once contract is awarded.</p> <p>Access Jetties: Works by Waterways Ireland continues on these pieces of infrastructure</p>



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



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Waterways Ireland (sensitive area) 2025 and 2026 Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 - 2027 Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027
Kildare-Newbridge	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	SPPR and Department of Defence continue to engage to develop a Final Draft Plan.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Surveys are being carried out; information extracted from the Surveys will be incorporated into the Draft Plan.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3))	Pre-Part 8	SPPR have successfully received funding under T&V (TCF Measure 3) to assist with bringing a project identified in the Monasterevin Masterplan through planning consent stages. The project identified is Market Square. The project will progress as resources become available.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Construction commenced with clash detection being carried out on site with excavation of slit trenches included. ESB works have also commenced and works will be required at Meeting Lane. New trading locations



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					have been identified for the market traders.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Shard Extension: steel extension will arrive in October and will take 3 weeks to erect. A 2-week installation programme for glazing will follow.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	<p>Part 8 is due before the members for decision at the October Celbridge-Leixlip MD meeting.</p> <p>Oldstone Conservation, specialist conservation team, have been appointed. They commenced on site in early September to deliver the conservation works for this project through the enabling works contract. All works will be completed by year end.</p>
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub	Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.</p> <p>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Tender submissions are currently at assessment stage.</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 liaising with CARO to investigate further.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			projects A, B, C and F.		<p>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</p> <p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth	€181,794		Detailed Design & Works	<p>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</p> <p>Tender has been awarded to bring the project through detailed design and prepare a tender package. The consultant is currently engaging with internal departments. An additional funding source is required to bring this project to the next stage and beyond.</p>
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan –</p> <p>Tender submissions are currently at assessment stage.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case		<p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David’s Castle is now complete. Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St. David’s Castle and grounds.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p> <p>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh’s Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.</p>
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are finalised. Revised draft is under review.

Integration

General

Changes in Newhall DAC

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) are progressing a pilot programme at the Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) where Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

(BoTP’s) will be temporarily accommodated when moving from accommodation centres that are closing under the accommodation consolidation process or where existing contracts are coming to an end. A briefing note was issued to all Councillors on 03 October 2024.



Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

On 25 June 2024, the European Council further extended the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for the protection of individuals fleeing the Ukraine crisis until 04 March 2026 (yet to be signed into law in Ireland). With this in mind, and following consultations across depts, the expectation is that the ARP will continue as is, with minor adjustments possible. This is expected to be discussed and agreed at the next Migration Cabinet Committee meeting.

Play Day Volunteers

Several International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection were volunteers at Play Day in Kildare County Council on 14 September.



Recent Developments

Consolidation of Accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) continue to consolidate its existing accommodation portfolio for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 as numbers decline and existing BoTP's source their own accommodation.

Change to Social Welfare Entitlements for BOTPs in Full Board Accommodation

The [new Government policy on changes to social welfare payments for BOTPs](#) in full board accommodation came into take effect on 09 September 2024. The first tranche of individuals affected have received a letter from the Department of Social Protection outlining these changes. Existing full board accommodation centres in the first tranche have been redesignated as Designated Accommodation Centres to allow the change to be implemented. Further centres will follow. It is expected in time that



changes to entitlements will extend to existing self-serviced accommodation.

Day-75 Clinics in Designated Accommodation Centres

Kildare County Council integration staff are holding day-75 clinics in the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's to assist and advise residents who are coming close to the end of their 90-day State-provided accommodation and have not sourced accommodation by that date. To date most BoTP's have sourced alternative accommodation either through Offer a Home, Pledges or by private arrangement.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) - Local Authority Integration Teams | Local Government Ireland

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities to facilitate coordination of the kinds of support available for people who applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can

help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally, appropriate to needs.

Kildare LAIT organised an Information Session on the International Protection Process in Ireland in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Ireland. This took place on 24 September in Kildare Town as part of the Social Inclusion week. 38 persons from voluntary and community organisations attended, including staff from the local development company, counselling services, community gardai, managers and staff from IPAS accommodation centres and designated



accommodation centres, and library services among others.

Kildare LAIT in collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland organised an Intercultural Awareness and Inclusion workshop in Naas on 12 September for 15 Kildare County Council staff from the Integration department, Library Services, Community department, and Customer Services.

Kildare LAIT participated in the fifth National Migrant Integration Conference hosted by the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Leave No One Behind: towards effective migrant integration on 25 September 2024.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP):

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare:
982 (746 adults/ 236 children)
Data source DECDIY – 16 September 2024

During September 2024, Kildare LAIT arranged four clinics with 24

beneficiaries of temporary protection.

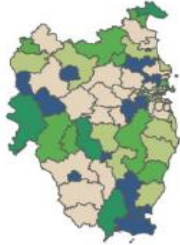
Most queries were related to access to children's education, accommodation, supplementary welfare, housing, health, and adult education/training and children education.

The process of consolidation and rationalisation of the State's portfolio of accommodation for BoTP's is continuing. 1,306 BoTP's are due to relocate nationally during October under this process. The current distribution of BoTP's nationally is as follows (06 September): (see next page)



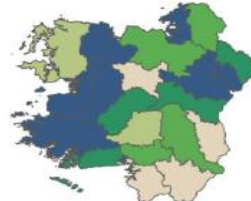
National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

Leinster



Dublin	14,779	63
Wicklow	3,064	42
Wexford	4,243	0
Meath	2,803	-52
Louth	2,554	16
Kildare	2,797	85
Westmeath	2,906	23
Laois	1,558	2
Kilkenny	1,783	3
Carlow	1,620	4
Offaly	1,886	2
Longford	1,108	27

Connacht



Galway	5,667	73
Mayo	4,782	10
Leitrim	2,174	27
Sligo	2,524	-4
Roscommon	1,715	13

Munster



Cork	9,727	1
Kerry	9,686	-33
Clare	5,330	-88
Limerick	4,142	35
Waterford	3,012	38
Tipperary	3,494	0

Ulster

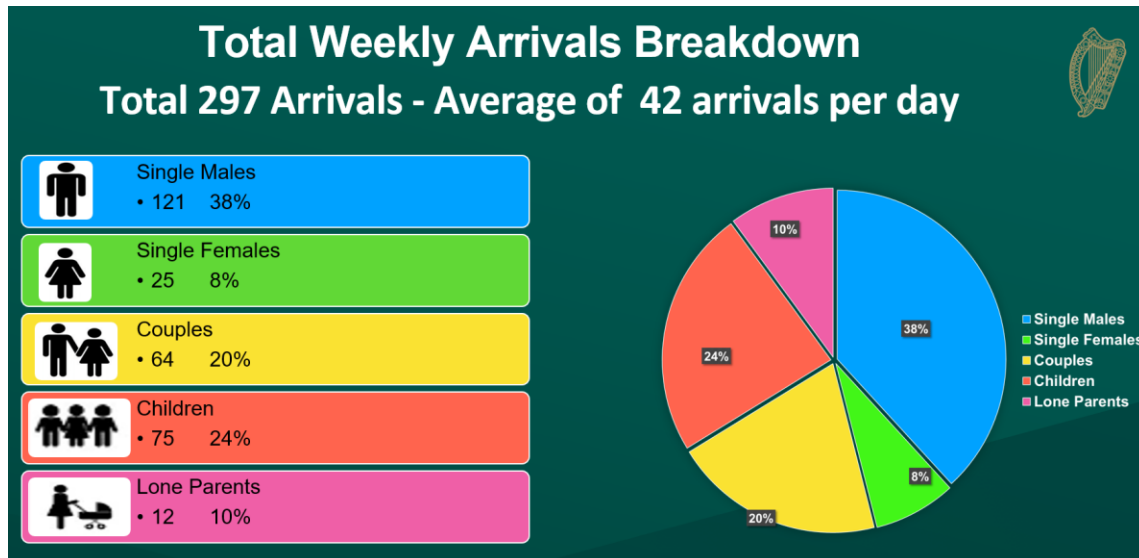


Cavan	2,131	9
Donegal	7,917	22
Monaghan	945	18

International Protection Applicants:

IP applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 677 (572 adults/105 children) - Source DECDIY 29 September 2024

The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week of 02 October is as follows:



During September Kildare LAIT arranged nine clinics with 62 international protection applicants and

persons with status. Most queries were related to health, education, employment, accommodation, English



classes, immigration, local services, community, PPS and daily expenses payments.

From 08 March 2024 to 08 October 2024, the LAIT has received 1,093 queries regarding accessing local services, overcoming barriers related to access and/or solving queries.

The LAIT has resolved 1,077, out of these 548 were raised by persons with temporary protection, 434 by applicants of international protection and 101 by persons with status.

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of AHB and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches 2024, and the second quarter of 2025. The first resettlement of three families took place at the beginning of October.

Integration supports are in place with EU funds through the IRPP/DECDIY with a view to achieving the best outcome for each individual and family.

County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council as an implementing partner through a tender process for provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).

The Resettlement Programme will be overseen by a recently established Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired/facilitated by the LAIT.

The IAWG first meeting took place on 01 July. Terms of reference have been reviewed and accepted, and members agreed on key preparatory actions.

National ISC and ISW Networks

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

Accommodation Team

Offer a Home Scheme

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county



Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC).

(update 01 October 2024)

Properties occupied	59
Properties in progress	11
Properties withdrawn	32
Total properties offered to date	102

Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge

The Accommodation Team manage the SLA agreed with The Peter McVerry Trust for the management of the Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge.

(update 22 September 2024)

Number accommodated	14
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Refurbishment Programme

The Refurbishment Programme is now closed for new applications.

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 155 people (03 October 2024).

Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 402 people (03 October 2024).

Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

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

The Community Integration Forum

Meetings are taking place on the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Service. The Community Integration Forum has met five times on 01 May, 05 June, 03 July, 04 September and 02 October 2024.

No meeting was held in August



although regular communication with the CIF members continued. The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 Kildare County Council-LAIT). Links with the Kildare Integration Strategy Working Group need to be defined. The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies. Participation in the CIF includes Kildare County Council (LAIT

and Accommodation Team, Community Services, Library Services) Citizens Information Centre, An Garda Siochána Community Policing, County Kildare Leader Partnership, The Irish Red Cross, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare CYPSC/Tusla, Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board, INTREO, HSE Social Inclusion coordinator, Local Link, Regional Education and Learning Teams Coordinator.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

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

All Grants 2024		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	175	€208,220
Festival Grants	84	€78,360
Private Residents' Associations Grants	252	€225,759
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	61	€52,482
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	114	€653,727
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	59	€149,210
LCDC Schemes	64	€182,501



Twinning Grants	5	€13,270
Education Bursaries	30	€26,250
Brigid 1500	57	€191,214
Drehid Grants	40	€142,208
Total	941	€1,923,201

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 local government. For more information on the work of the CARO, see www.caro.ie

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



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



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

Elected member training webinar on Energy Efficiency and emission reduction targets to be delivered in October (TBC) through AILG with SEAI.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is published and identifies:

- 3935 climate actions adopted across the sector
- 637 actions related to DZ areas.
- 38% of all actions are mitigation, 13% adaptation and 49% combined mitigation and adaptation.

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

- 25 September in Kilkenny based on theme of Built Environment (complete)
- 01 October in Mullingar based on theme of Community Activation (complete)

- 09 October in Roscommon town based on natural environment.
- 16 October in Tipperary based on Bioeconomy (in conjunction with DECC/DAFM through EIT climate KIC)

The workshops enable local authority staff, responsible for the implementation of the DZs, to meet to explore opportunities, identify challenges, make decisions and develop solutions to progress their DZ.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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



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

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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2023 is complete with a report published and available at: [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf \(lgma.ie\)](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf)

This is the second such report of the Climate Action KPI working group and explores a range of data to highlight sectoral performance of local authorities on climate action.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme sees c.200 clubs 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.

Webinar was held on 18 September to support points of contact in engaging with clubs in their area.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

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

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

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

Communications piece is now being examined further from the visitor's viewpoint.

Augmented Reality Image

Maynooth:

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

Recruitment

A panel for both the Assist and executive Energy Efficiency Officers positions have been formed post interviews conducted on the 04 October. It is hoped the positions are



filled as speedily as possible to advance the energy elements below.

The position of Decarbonising Climate Officer is due to be advertised on the 08 October.

Energy Audit/Analysis/BER:

- **Áras Chill Dara:** A final draft of the energy review of Aras is being reviewed.
- **Libraries:** Reviews are underway for Athy and Leixlip libraries.
- **Swimming Pools:** A meeting is convened to discuss the implementation of the works based on the framework presently being finalised.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

Second deadline of the year was the end of June, fleet fuel and thermal fuel verified. Next window commences 29 July covering travel, building stock, projects, vehicles and travel with a closing date of 15 November. Data collection has commenced.

Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles)

GoCar

Go Car provided a morning of car driving trials and in person registration for car usage. The trial has proven effective, and a tender is to issue by

the transport section in the near future. Approx 75-80 staff have signed up to the scheme. A designated charging point is to be installed shortly for the Go Car and electric vehicles operated by various sections based in Áras Chill Dara.

Stats to date include

221 trips complete

7723km done

34.95km per trip average

Climate Fortnight:

The Climate Action Office are redesigning climate day into Climate Fortnight where four lunch time sessions will be held in October. See the week's activities below. Panel discussions on Biodiversity and transport will be undertaken the week



of the 14 October.

create community gardens. The 18 month programme will see the planting of trees this winter and vegetables in the spring.

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

The twenty-fourth project has received final approval from the Department. The projects are due to commence shortly. It is hoped learnings from the first round will inform the second round of funding.

Climate Innovation Fund 2024:

Naas Municipal District has approved an extension locally to application given the lack of uptake in the Municipal District. The funding is being advertised locally.

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



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to

Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance:

A meeting in Maynooth University is being held on the 11 October to review progress and discuss the next steps. The consultation on the Biodiversity Plan at County level will consider the research into alternative maintenance.



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

Uisce Éireann is formulating responses to any outstanding queries via the Local representative Support Desk.

Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

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

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

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, 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 01 March.



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

National Deposit Return Scheme

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in February 2024. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans.

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

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

An interim report details that 6,004,496 containers have been accepted in

Kildare. There are 103 Reverse Vending Machines in the county and 70 stores are accepting containers. From 01 June, all stock not branded with the Re-turn logo has been phased out of shops and consumers are now only able to buy drinks for which a deposit is payable.

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

Ban XL Bully Type dogs

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

Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) survey June 2024

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



Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities

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

Anti-Dumping Initiative projects

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

A paint amnesty was held at Áras Chill Dara on 28 September. 37.3 tonnes of waste paint was collected for disposal. The participation in both amnesties was unprecedented and will help eliminate dumping of these waste materials.

Water Framework Directive

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

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

Enforcement Priorities 2024

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

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

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



Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

Green Schools

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

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 continuing.

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 27 February in Athy Library. This was the first of a series of community engagement and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the Naas FRS. Details of the scheme can be found at:
<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of

consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

The construction of Kerdiffstown Park is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the park will be operational in 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

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

Contracts have been awarded for the provision of new Columbarium Walls in

Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works.

Works on all three walls will be substantially complete by early December.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

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

Boycetown Kilcock

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

Ballybracken

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.



Local Community Development Committee

October 2024

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

SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare. The SICAP sub group met on 12 September.

The SICAP Manager post is currently vacant. The programme is on track to meet the agreed targets. A case study on social farming is being prepared for submission to Pobal in line with requirements. An audit of the programme is underway. The LCDC formally approved additional funding €24,390 allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to respond to new arrivals. 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

The LEADER Rural Development subgroup met on 10 September. Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare to implement the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027. This is implemented by County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP), over the lifetime of the Programme. The first two projects were approved for LEADER grant aid:

Promoter Name	Project Description	LEADER Grant Award
Cnoicin Park Ltd (Kildare Maze)	Upgrade to site and purchase of equipment	€42,819.91
James O'Dwyer	Kildare Agri Tourism Glamping and Cycling	€200,000.00

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

The Health and Wellbeing subgroup met on 17 September.

Work is continuing to progress positively in Athy under the Healthy Communities programme with a range of needs led and evidence-based Health and Wellbeing initiatives being rolled out.

Progress is being made on the Athy Health and Wellbeing Kiosk with a planned completion date of December 2024.

An application is being prepared for Dormant Accounts funding to progress work with Travellers in Slaintecare areas.

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 Healthy

Ireland Co-ordinator post is current vacant with recruitment to fill the position underway.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

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

For further information contact: Terrie Devlin, Administrative Officer Community tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie phone: 087 1919765

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

Kildare LCDC submitted an application to fund training and supports to DRCD



following a call for applications in October. This application build on work funded in 2023 and 2024.

Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan

Kildare was successful as one of four areas nationally, to secure funding under this initiative. A joint Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)/LCDC application was made to develop and build on work to support neurodiverse children and their families. €100,000 was secured over a two-year period to develop this work.

Home Visiting Programme

A Tusla application with LCDC support submitted in August was successful for new Home Visiting Programme in Kildare. This results in two home visiting posts for the Athy area with funding of €40,000 for 2024. Subject to funds being available, we anticipate the full year funding requested in the application will be made available to Kildare in 2025.

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

Capital Projects

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Notices to Treat letters have issued to affected landowners and engagement to agree accommodation works is ongoing.

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

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

A joint application to An Bord Pleanála for compulsory purchase of land and planning consent will be submitted in late 2024.

Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane

The detailed design for the traffic signals is awaited with a consultant to be appointed thereafter to finalise the design for the short section of road.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

Phase two consultation ongoing.

Closing date for submission: 15

September. The final ABTA report will



be finalised following consideration of the submissions.

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. The Transportation Department have been in contact with Department of Transport in relation to a funding application.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Project Team are working with the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to progress this project.

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

Public consultation process for the Supplementary Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads closed on 20 September and a report to be prepared for Full Council in October. The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph awaiting confirmation from the Minister.

Subsequent phases (i.e. urban speed limit of 30kmph and national secondary speed limit default of 80kph) are scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

Junction Improvement Programme

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

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

Safety Improvement Schemes

Allocation: €320,000

Works ongoing or tendered at 12 locations under municipal district offices.

Safe Routes to School Round one Schemes (NTA funded)

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



St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town (€200,000): Construction proposals are being prepared.
Holy Child School Ballycane (€150,000): Construction completed.

Safe Routes to School Round two Schemes (NTA funded)

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge (€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.
Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phadraig, Clane (€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.
Scoil Mochua, Celbridge (€20,000): Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.

Operations

Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €10,174,500
Supplementary: €1,007,000
This funding is facilitating the delivery of 72 road improvement projects covering approximately 64 km of regional and local roads. 70% completed to date.

Restoration Maintenance

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

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

Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads

Grants as follows:

CCAR - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with completion expected by the end of October 2024.

National Roads

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

Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes

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



General Maintenance

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

Street Sweeping

Kildare County Council operates a street sweeping and bin emptying service to the urban centres throughout the county. This is a labour-intensive operation with significant costs associated with its delivery. Kildare continues to perform well both with IBAL (Naas and Maynooth) and Tidy Towns competitions (Seven Gold medals 2023) through Kildare County Councils continued collaboration with Tidy Towns, residents' associations and voluntary groups.

Public Lighting

Kilaree Lighting Services are the new public lighting maintenance contractor with effect from 15 July 2024. Public lighting faults should be logged on the

following website:

www.deadsureapp.com

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

Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn



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

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



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

Winter Maintenance

The Machinery Yard team are preparing for winter maintenance operations for the 2024/2025 season, including fleet maintenance. 8,000 tonnes of salt will be delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024.

Sustainable Transport (National Transport Authority Funded) Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Allocation: €1,500,000

Tenders have been evaluated and appointment process expected to be completed in November 2024.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Allocation: €2,750,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by Summer 2025.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €1,200,000

Tenders have been evaluated and appointment process expected to be completed in November 2024.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Allocation: €225,000

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

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Appointment of consultant for Preliminary Design made and work continuing.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Work on this scheme is complete.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

Allocation: €225,000



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

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €10,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA. Safety concerns raised about the current layout of the Sallins Road Roundabout and this is to be examined.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Appointment of consultant for Preliminary Design made and work continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €150,000

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

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

Allocation: €50,000

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

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Allocation: €500,000

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

National Roads Office(NRO)

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Westbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M9 Park and Share Scheme

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

Junctions 3, 4, 5 are to be investigated further at this time (the remaining



junctions may follow in the future). Kildare NRO examining suitable sites in conjunction with Carlow regarding Junction 5 and Kilkenny regarding Junction 9. Preparing feasibility and options report for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Upcoming National Road Temporary Road Closure:
None

Road Works Speed Limit Orders in place on the National Roads:
M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 02/12/2024

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

TII Active Travel Severance Seed Funding
Application made to TII for funding for four active travel measures crossing the M7 (one) and the M4 (three),

however there have been hundreds of applications from local authorities around the country and only a small number of projects will receive funding. No response yet.

Open Spaces

De Burgh Woodland Gardens



The gardens remain open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am- 5.30pm until 03 November. Access is by ticket only. These are free and are available to book from: <https://buytickets.at/kildarecountycouncilparkssection/1215519>.

It has proven to be very popular and due to demand the number of available tickets has been increased.

Leixlip Playground

Works on the car park are due to be completed in October. The appointment of a contractor for the installation of the new playground is ongoing and will be complete by the end of October also. A date for



commencement of works on the playground will be confirmed once a contractor is in place.

The old playground has been reconditioned and relocated to the Wonderful barn.



Bawnogues

A new outdoor gym has been installed in the Bawnogues. The gym features a variety of exercise stations and calisthenic units which involve users using their own body weight to exercise.

Play Day 2024



Organised by the Parks Department in

conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the Council once again threw open its doors for National Play Day 2024. Now in its thirteenth year, the event was held at Áras Chill Dara on Saturday 14 September between 11.00am and 5.00pm. As usual, the event attracted a large crowd of about 4,000 people.



Council staff, Kildare Volunteer Centre volunteers from a variety of countries such as Ukraine and Somalia, workshop facilitators, entertainers, and emergency services delivered a fun-filled day with over 30 indoor and outdoor activities comprising of attractions for all age groups including live stage acts, arts and crafts, reptile zoo, pet farm, sports activities, and music workshops. The event also offered accessible features such as a



quiet entry, wheelchair-friendly access, a sensory suite, and accessible toilets.

The day involved over four months of planning with set up on Friday 13 September and clean up afterwards on Saturday evening.

The following is a quote from a very happy parent which sums up a great day 'I would like to write to congratulate you on a fantastic day out, had by my autistic daughter and I. She had an amazing day, enjoying skipping the crowds with her fast pass, doing clay, and wall hangings, jumping on the bouncy castles, and looking at your horse statues. All the volunteers and people we dealt with were patient, kind, friendly, and smiley! I was so surprised to see the amount of activities on that day, we could have done with spending the day there until close! Thank you to all concerned. It truly was a great and memorable day out'.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect in January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward, including:

- Kilcullen Town Plan – draft Variation due to be published in October 2024.
- An update to the *Core Strategy* in response to an update to the National Planning Framework.
- Car Parking Standards.
- new s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.
- Landscape Character Assessment; and
- Strategic Employment Locations Study.

CDP Actions

A range of projects are being progressed, including: Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; CK



Urban Neighbourhood Parks Strategy; CK Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy; and Planning Data System.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant

masterplan:

Baseline Data and Evaluation is under preparation. Key Stakeholder Workshop due to be held in November 2024.

Canal Quarter masterplan:

Project at Baseline Stage. Online survey completed with 900 responses received. Key Stakeholder Workshop held 05 September 2024 at Naas Library and Cultural Centre with c. 35 attendees.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031

The Chief Executives Report was submitted to the Elected Members on the 10 September. A special meeting with the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District is scheduled for the 21 October.

Newbridge LAP

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

Monasterevin LAP

An informal briefing to the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District was held on the 24 September and the Report on Predraft Consultation was circulated the day after the meeting. Work is on-going in preparing the evidence-based reports to support the Draft Plan.

Sallins LAP

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

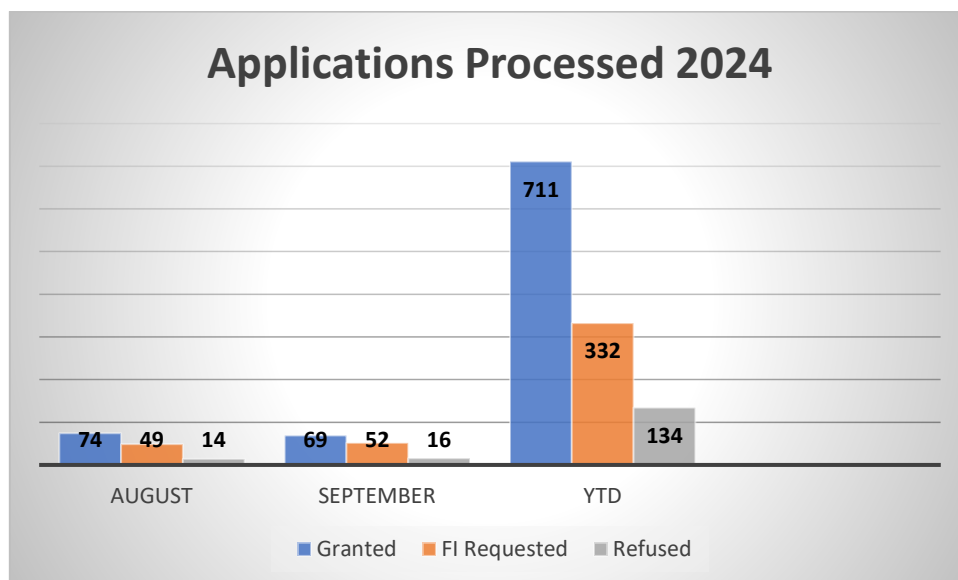
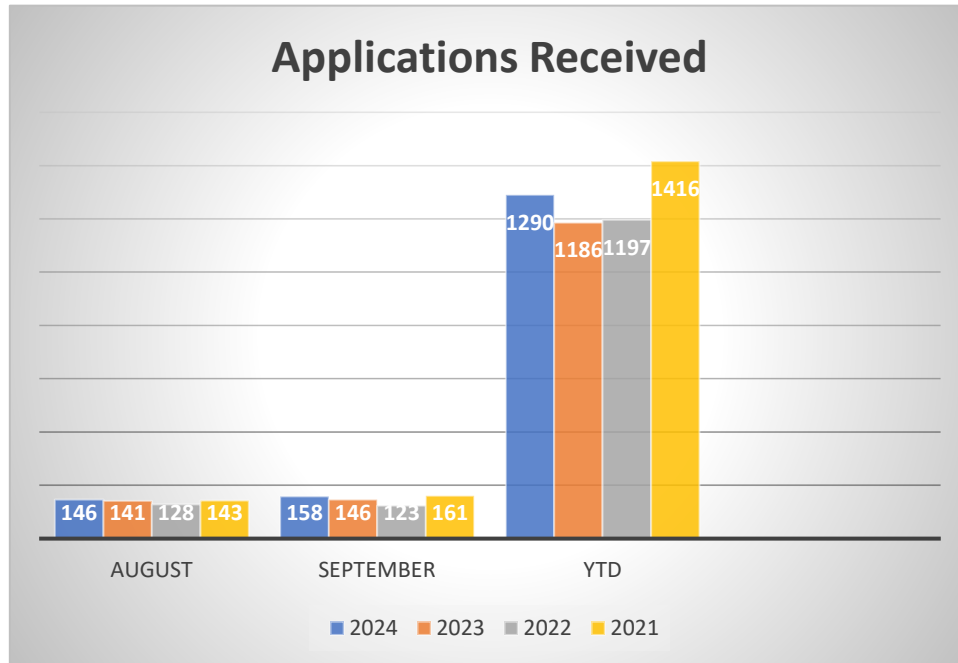


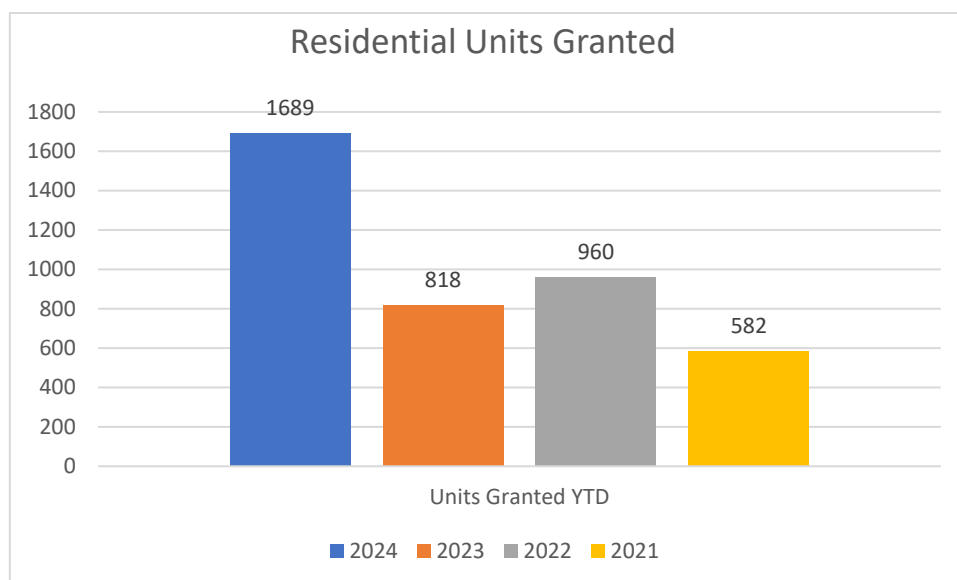
Development Management

ePlanning

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

In 2024 to date, 75.6% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.





Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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: Appeal withdrawn 29/05/2024. 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
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Granted 22/07/2024
24/245	26/07/2024	Debussy Properties Ltd	Crockaun Commons, Clane	Amendments to 23/972	Granted 11/09/2024
24/60774	08/08/2024	Ladas Property Company Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	Amendments to 23/494	Granted 01/10/2024
24/60962	27/09/2024	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate	Amendments to 23/60485	Decision Due 21/11/2024

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

An urgent call for nominations from all Departments has been made to attend a half day facilitated workshop on Monday 07 October at Solas Bhride (Kildare Town). (Facilitation is being funded by the Heritage Council). All Directors are being requested to nominate up to five persons from each Department to attend the morning session. Tea/coffee/light lunch will be provided. Early engagement in the preparation of the Kildare County

Council Biodiversity Action Plan is an important early step in the process. Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer is working towards 15 November deadline for recouplements for Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Council projects.

B. Heritage - Progress Updates

No further updates.

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. Built Heritage Investment Scheme conservation grant

Progress reports on all projects are currently being prepared and will be



forwarded to the Department when completed. The BHIS 2025 has been advertised; closing date was 27 September 2024.

2. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) conservation grant

Progress reports for the four HSF projects have now been completed and forwarded to the Department.

Heritage Training Series

The Heritage Training Series continues in October (email circulated to all staff on 20 September). A session on ‘Archaeology’ will take place from 1.00pm-2.00pm on Friday 11 October. Archaeological

Management Solutions will be hosting the event which will be recorded and uploaded to the Heritage intranet page post the event. The three heritage training events to date have now been uploaded to the intranet.

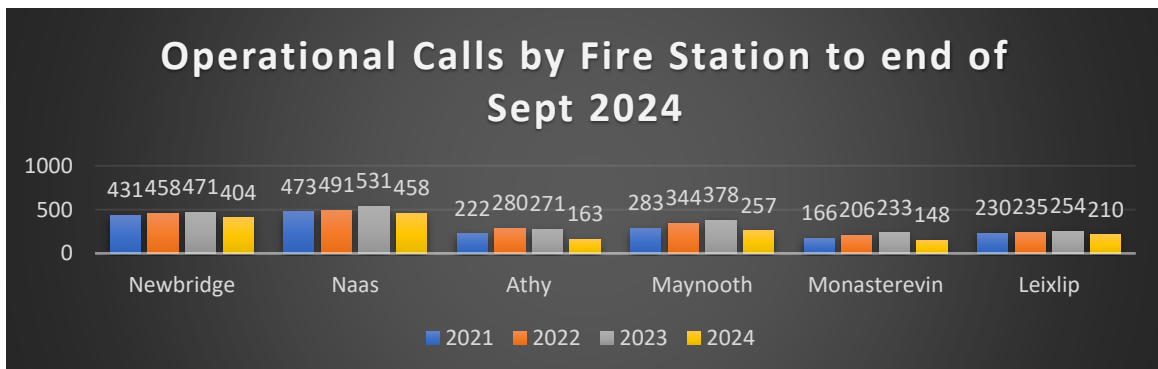
Staffing

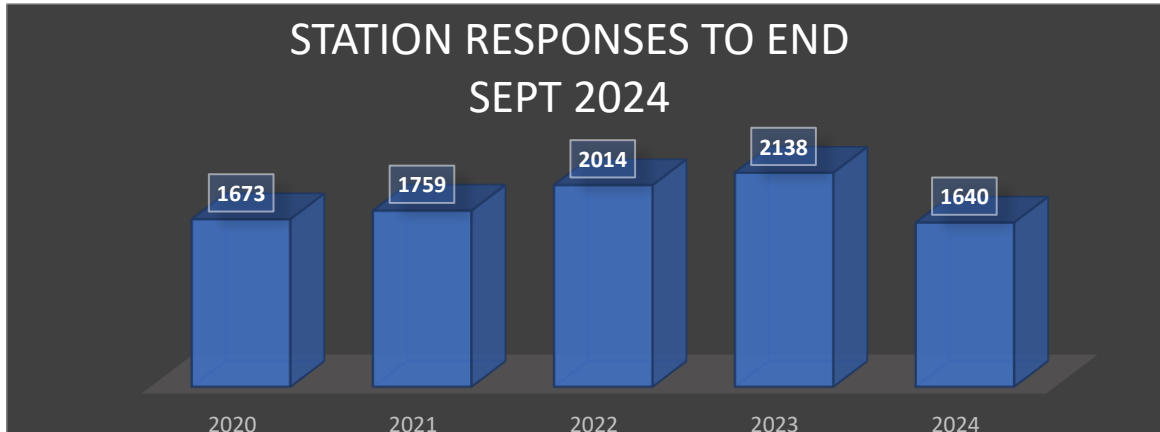
Interviews for an Ecologist have now taken place and an offer has been made. Interviews for both the Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer will take place on 03 October.

The Heritage Team manager will be leaving Kildare County Council at a date to be decided c. mid October.

Fire Service Operations

2024 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

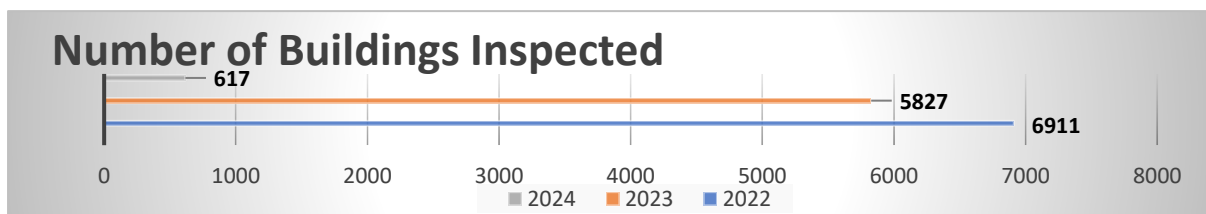
Applications received to the end of September 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

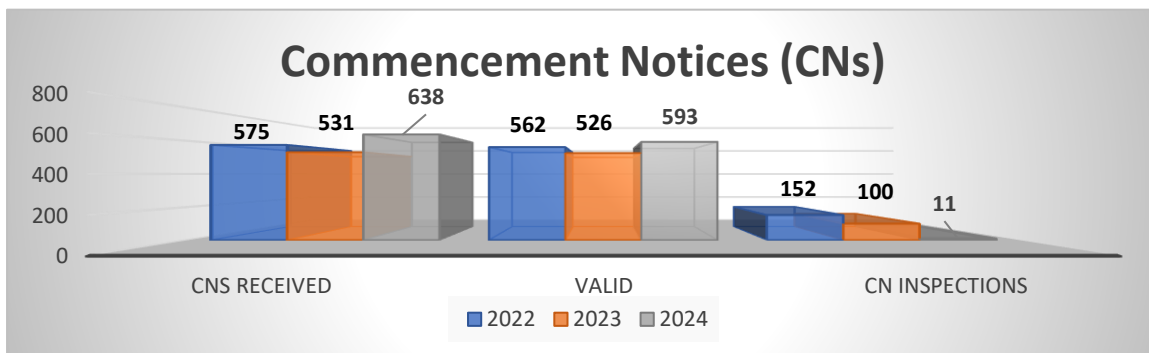
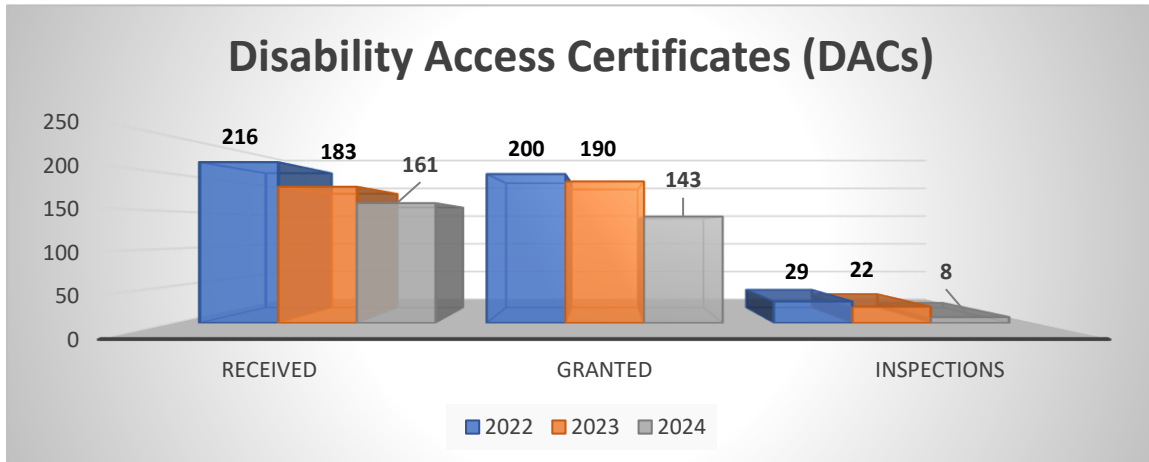


Building and Development Control

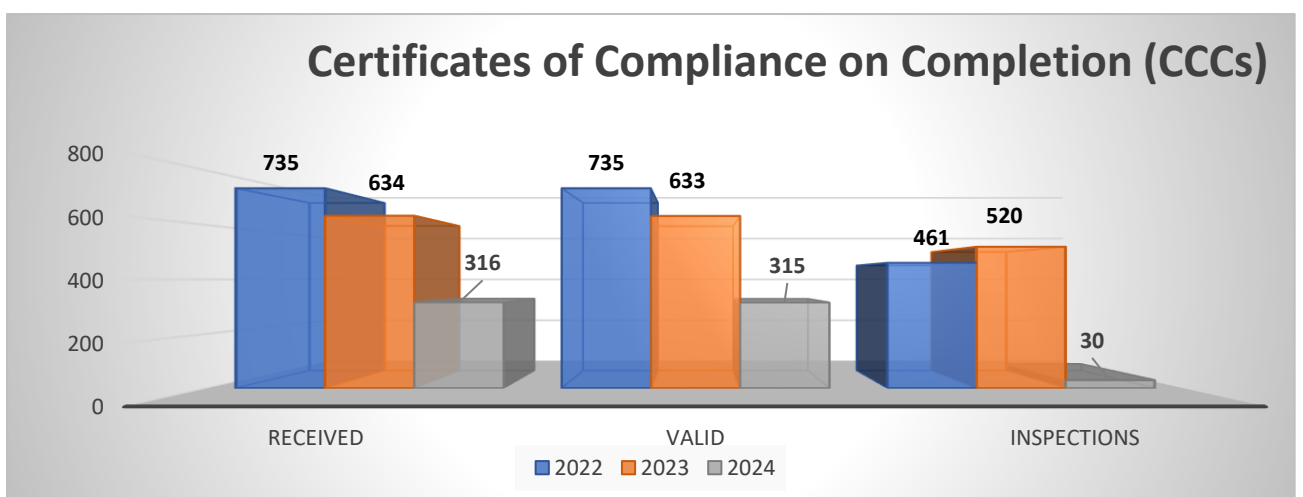
The following figures are cumulative up to end of August 2024 set against full year figures for 2022 and 2023.

Building Control





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





Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Key September highlights included the closing event of the KPMG Women's Irish Open at Carton House, the organisation of meetings and hosting of key incentive buyers from the UK to Kildare, and the Taste of Kildare Food Festival at Naas Racecourse.



Kildare Rose, Catherine Cunningham promoting Taste of Kildare

Into Kildare facilitated a familiarisation trip to County Kildare, welcoming a group of influential UK meetings and incentive buyers, whom the team met during a sales mission in the UK. These buyers stayed three nights in Kildare at The Springfield Hotel, Killashee Hotel and Barberstown Castle.

They started their trip at the Harvest Dining event during the Taste of Kildare festival, experiencing some of the county's culinary delights. The

group also explored Kildare's top visitor attractions, including the Curragh Racecourse, the Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens, The K Club, Carton House, a barge trip in Sallins, and a visit to Lawlor's Hotel. Impressed by the festival and the county's hospitality, the buyers left with a deep appreciation for Kildare's offerings, marking the event as a key showcase for the county's tourism potential.



UK MICE Buyers at Taste of Kildare with Aine Mangan

The key activity for September was the Taste of Kildare, which took place at Naas Racecourse from 20 to 22 September. The purpose of this event was to promote Kildare as a food destination and highlight the wide variety of food producers, suppliers, restaurants, and chefs. We were delighted to collaborate with Kildare Local Enterprise Office and the



Flavours of Kildare network for this event. The headline sponsor for Taste of Kildare 2024 was Ballymore, and other key sponsors included Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office.



Kildare County Council Local Enterprise Office - a sponsor Taste of Kildare



Aine Mangan, Ballymore representatives- Headline Sponsor

The event began on Friday, 20 September, with the Harvest Dining experience. Over 150 businesses and media attended this exclusive event. The Harvest Dining menu featured a six-course ultimate tasting experience,

with each course inspired by a different Kildare chef or restaurant from the Kildare Tourism network. In addition to showcasing food producers and suppliers, Taste of Kildare celebrated local talent with cooking demonstrations by guest chef Rachel Allen, as well as Kildare chefs and hospitality businesses. Visitors had the opportunity to experience events such as Afternoon Tea with Newbridge Silverware, and the Cupcake Bloke, as well as the Italian Quarter BBQ Terrace and Bingo Loco along side sampling a wide range of local products in the Tote Hall. The Tote Hall also hosted interactive activities by Tribe Art Studio for all ages and provided information on attractions in County Kildare. Eir, one of the event's sponsors, introduced a "Best in Business" award, which was presented to Tribe Art Studio. The communication strategy for the event was multi-faceted. A dedicated website and social media channels were developed to build momentum for this year's Taste of Kildare and future events, promoting ticket sales. Promotional materials were distributed at participating venues, and outdoor advertising was placed at key visitor



locations throughout the county. Hotels and attractions in Kildare played a video in lobbies and main receptions, promoting Taste of Kildare with a strong call to action to purchase tickets.



Guest Chef Rachel Allen delivering a baking demonstration



Eir representative and Rose from Tribe art studio

On 23 September, Into Kildare Chief Executive Officer, Áine Mangan presented to the full council at Kildare County Council. Chairperson David Mongey, Hon. Secretary Anne O’Keefe, Assistant Treasurer Brian

Flanagan, and other Directors of the



Board were present. The meeting outlined plans for the coming year and activities that had taken place since the last council presentation, in alignment with the County Kildare Tourism Strategy and as the tourism function for the Council.

On 30 September, Into Kildare attended an in-person event in Athlone for the Just Transition program. This event included training on social media, sales pipelines, and key aspects of growing a tourism platform. The Just Transition project marks the beginning of Into Kildare's efforts to optimise its website and social channels according to new guidelines.

Additionally, Fáilte Ireland hosted a Golf Convention and Workshop at Druids Glen Hotel and Golf Resort, which Áine Mangan attended. During



this event, there was an opportunity to connect with tour operators, guests, and members of the National Tourism Network.



Into Kildare and industry representatives

The Into Kildare team also participated in Fáilte Ireland’s Hotel Programme. Ireland’s Ancient East team presented this expert-led modular program, which aims to elevate business profiles, grow sales and revenue, and enhance staff expertise. your business’s profile, grow your sales and revenue, and enhance staff expertise.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	55	€119,341
Business Expansion Grant	8	€225,633
Priming Grant	2	€43,035
Feasibility Study Grant	3	€36,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	15	€28,765
RD&I and IP	6	€150,773
GradStart	2	€60,000
Energy Efficiency Grant	6	€33,428
TOTAL	97	€697,928

Business Expansion Grants approved in September:

Premier Timber Frame Homes Limited (Clane/Maynooth Municipal District) approved €47,439 to support the



recruitment of one new employee and capital expenditure for new machinery. The business designs and manufactures timber roof trusses and timber frame homes.

Research, Development and Innovation Grant approved in September:

DreamDev Technologies Limited, founded by Naas-based Eoin Barry has been approved Research Development and Innovation funding totaling €139,973.



This ambitious Research and Development project, which will be delivered through a combination of in-house development and outsourced technical consultancy, seeks to leverage state-of-the-art generative AI technologies.

Entrepreneurship Support

Achievement Of KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	1400
SYOB	160	181
MDP	72	72
Mentoring	468	466
Digital	7	8
Lean	20	35
Green	20	67

Focus On Start-Ups:

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

Grow Digital:

The Grow Digital Voucher will offer small and medium businesses financial support to embrace digital technology.

With consultancy support and a grant of up to €5,000 to invest in software and training/IT configuration, the objective is to boost efficiency, streamline operations and enhance productivity with new digital tools.

Local Enterprise Office Kildare is hosting an online briefing to introduce our business clients to this new



funding opportunity, outline the scope of the grant and the application process.

All Businesses across Kildare with up to 50 full-time employees, or equivalent are encouraged to book a place [HERE](#)

Focus On Food:

In collaboration with Into Kildare, LEO hosted 20 food businesses in a dedicated food producer hall at Taste of Kildare



The event was officially launched by the Cathaoirleach Joe Neville.



Not only did these clients achieve impressive sales, new stockists, online

orders and distributors have been secured in the hours and days after the festival.



Killadoon Milk of Celbridge won the Eir Sustainability Award. Naas-based Baek was named best artisan brand at the festival.



Focus On Craft And Creative:





Gather at Taste of Kildare hosted 18 exhibitors on Saturday 21 September at Naas Racecourse.

National Ploughing Championships



Local Enterprise Office Kildare was proud to support Equine Products Ireland Limited from Narraghmore who exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village.

“Just to thank you for the position at the LEO tent this year. What surprised me was the potential leads that we got in Japan, France and the U.S.A. It was a very beneficial exercise for our business and we learned that our social media activity is also creating brand awareness. We will continue to engage with the EEN with LEO Kildare’s support to maximise these opportunities.

Thank you all for your continued advice and support which is really appreciated. I am off to the BETA trade fair tomorrow night. I have meetings with people from the UAE and Libya set up before the Trade Fair commences.”

Focus On Lean:

Local Enterprise Office hosted the Midlands Lean Network in MERITS with speakers from An Post and Dawn Foods. Six companies are now progressing to our Advanced Lean programme.

Focus On Sustainability:

Kildare County Council has launched a new campaign to help small businesses take those first steps in becoming more sustainable, while also showing them how to access grant funding and make long term cost savings.

The “Going Green, It’s All in A Day’s Work” campaign will show how easy it is for a business to make small changes that can make a significant impact. There are two specific supports available to all small businesses (up to 50 employees) in any sector that can set them on their



green journey, the Green for Business efficiency assessment and the Energy Efficiency Grant.

Get up to €10,000 for your business with the Energy Efficiency Grant

David Carey
Nutracopack
Celbridge
County Kildare
www.nutraco-pack.com

Save time, money and energy by going green with Local Enterprise Office Kildare

10 YEARS Local Enterprise Office

Many of the supports in place to help start and grow small businesses in County Kildare have been expanded through a new SME Package.

This includes key supports around sustainability and digitising your business.

These supports are open to all small businesses up to 50 employees, in every sector and they can have a significant impact on helping you to reduce costs and create a more sustainable business.

It's great news for small businesses like yours!

The new expanded support for SMEs includes resources to save money, boost efficiency, and become more sustainable.

Here's how LEO Kildare can help:

- Free Green for Business Audit: Identify areas to reduce energy waste and cut costs. Our experts will create a personalized plan for your business.
- Up to €10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant: Implement your green plan with a generous grant covering 75% of eligible costs. You can also qualify if you completed GreenStart or SEAI audits.
- Fast & Easy Application: Take just 2 minutes to get started at www.AllInADaysWork.ie/Green.

Stuck for time?

Don't worry, Local Enterprise Office Kildare will guide you through the whole process and we can work with you and the consultant to find times and a schedule that works.

Take two minutes to fill out the form and you can make a big impact to the future sustainability and costs of your business.

www.allinadayswork.ie/green
localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie
045 980838

Kildare County Council
Local Enterprise Office Kildare

Businesses are encouraged to take two minutes to register on <https://allinadayswork.ie/green#green-supports> and their Local Enterprise Office will take it from there.

Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	7	€9,208
CBLX	4	€6,166
CLMN	6	€12,290

KDNB	22	€38,419
NAAS	17	€36,439

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024

remain open for applications for Athy, CBLX and CLMN. Budget for Naas and Kildare/Newbridge has been fully allocated.

Retail Engagement Focus on Retail

The Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development Team hosted a town walk in Kilcullen from 3.00pm-6.00pm on 23 September 2024 visiting as many businesses as possible that had registered for the Retail Series. The Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development Team hosted an interactive discussion in Fallon's of Kilcullen at 7.00pm with a focus on commercial tips and prompts to improve business performance in Q4. This event was open to all retail, hospitality and service businesses across Kildare. It was a successful event with 14 attendees, including one elected representative. Feedback was positive, and we will be engaging with



all clients who expressed interest in our grants and services.

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

The Economic Development team recently held Business Roadshows in the following locations:

Newbridge Business Centre; 10
September 2024

Westgrove Hotel, Clane; 17
September 2024

Celbridge, Springfield Hotel; 25
September 2024

These Roadshows were very successful in showcasing Local Enterprise Office's grants and services to local businesses. We will be engaging with all participants who expressed interest in availing of our services.

A retail window merchandising workshop was held in GATHER at Southwells on 10 September to encourage uptake of the Retail Window Merchandising Grant.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Architectural lead procured to carry out the following work stages: Initial Design and Feasibility; Development Design (incl. Part 8); Scheme Design (to planning/FSC/DAC); and Production and Tender (e-Tender). Draft works stage one (Initial Design and Feasibility) has been provided by the Architect Lead Team and approved. AA and EIA Screening reports currently being completed. Preparation of all relevant Part 8 requirements/procedures as necessitated by the Part 8 planning process has commenced. Pre-planning meetings with relevant internal Kildare County Council departments scheduled. Launch of Part 8 statutory process programmed for mid-Q4 2024.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works have entered the nineteenth week of the programme. 22.5% of construction programme complete. Reinforced metal deck and concrete structural slab on ground floor level 100%. New boundary wall reconstruction 70% complete. Forming new openings and stitching repairs to



internal cracks 70% complete.
Demolition of all outbuildings 100% complete. Programme for the removal of sash windows for refurbishment has commenced. Padstone installation for steel beams first floor commenced.



Tourism

Just Transition Tourism Activation

26 Expression of Interests have been approved for 20 applicants to date.

Five Expression of Interests are awaiting approval from Fáilte Ireland.

The first capital funding application has been lodged by an enterprise with support from the activator and LEO mentor.

The Fáilte Ireland Learning Network programme has opened again.

Tourism businesses supported by the Activator have been invited to participate, and applications are being accepted up to 12:00 noon on 17 October 2024.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive