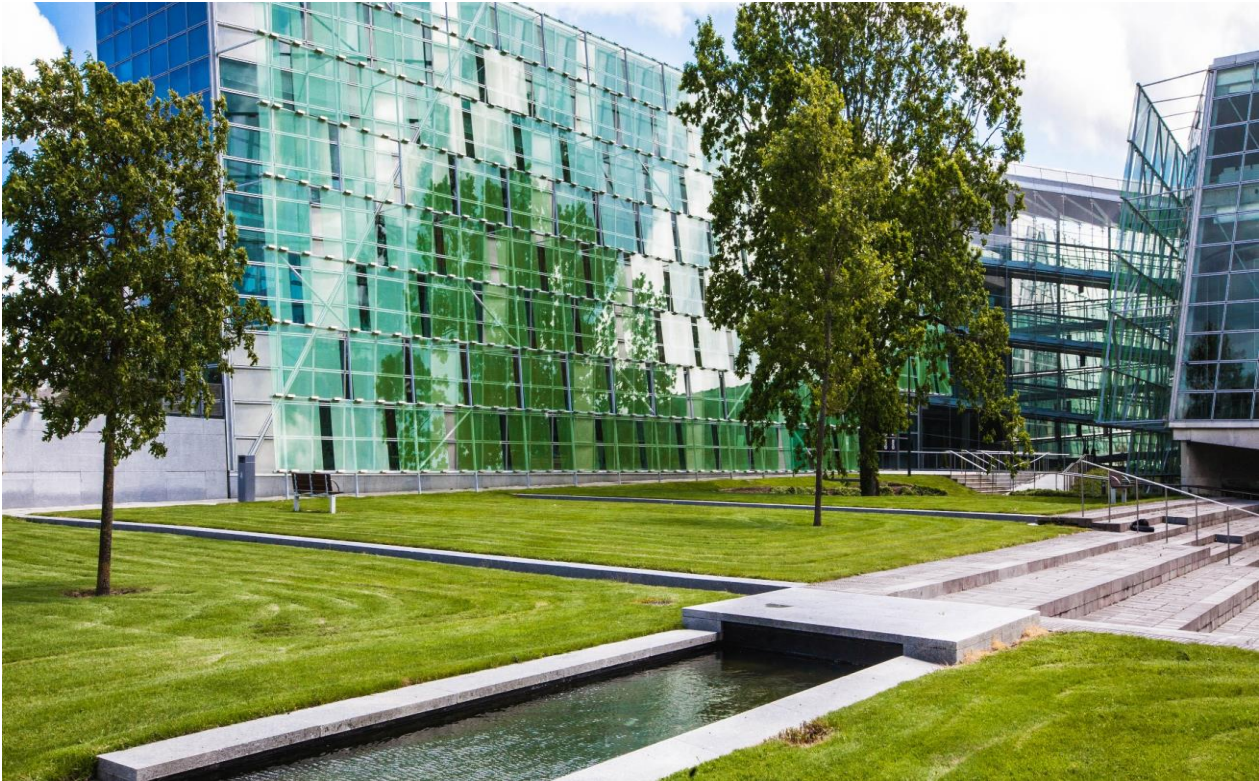




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive’s Management Report – April 2024





News Items

Kildare County Council launches 2024 Community Recognition Fund

Kildare County Council launched details of the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. Kildare has been allocated funding of €830,007 under this major initiative for suitable projects across county Kildare. (see page 9).

Local Elections 2024

The local election across the eight local electoral areas of County Kildare, to elect a total of forty Councillors, will take place on Friday 07 June 2024. (see page 10).

St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2024

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, recently invited Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, and Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive, to New York for St. Patrick's Day (see pages 16-20).

Citizen Services

The Library Service are assisting the local integration workers in their plans to support Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) residents in Kildare once they arrive at PuncHESTOWN and Newhall. (see page 21/22).

Homeless Action Plan 2024 - 2026

The Homeless Action Plan 2024 -2026 (Mid-East Region) was adopted by the Council at the March monthly meeting (see page 34).

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. Minister Ryan launched the plans on the 11 April at a climate action event in County Clare (see page 57).



Green Schools

Assessments for 23 schools in Kildare were completed in March covering a broad range of environmental themes, participation in the initiative is increasing as schools improve their waste management, (see page 67).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The draft LECP has been circulated to all elected members in Kildare. Briefings with Municipal Districts are taking place in April, with feedback for consistency with the County Development Plan and RSES. EMRA are also considering the plan for consistency (see pages 71/72).

Kildare Fáilte

In March, the tourism and hospitality sector prepared for the return of Spring which included a long weekend of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, special Mother's Day treats, Easter family events and activities along with enticing Spring breaks (see page 85).

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach Kildare County Council, and Orlaith Carmody, Principal Advisor for Age Friendly Ireland's, rolled out Kildare's Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme at the Pride of Premises Awards in March (see page 92).

Tourism

A Tourism Activator has been appointed to work with applicants and animate the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026 (see pages 92/93).



Diary/Calendar

Local Elections 2024 - Candidate Nomination dates

The candidate nomination period runs from 10.00a.m. on Saturday 11 May to 12.00p.m. Saturday 18 May (excluding Sunday 12 May), and a link to an appointment system will be sent to candidates contacting the Council, to facilitate arranging attendance for approval of nominations (see page 11).

Local Elections 2024 – Voter Registration Deadlines

Postal Votes

Applications for postal votes can be accepted up to Saturday, 11 May 2024. Applications cannot be made online and certain restrictions apply (see pages 12/13).

Other applications

All other eligible voters can register by submitting an online application at www.checkthereigster.ie or by submitting a form to Kildare County Council. Completed applications whether online or hard copy must be received by Kildare County Council on or by Monday, 20 May 2024 (see page 13).

Arts Services

The Arts Service team have been working alongside Visual Artists Ireland to plan a series of four professional development sessions for creatives across County Kildare in 2024. The first session will take place in Newbridge on the 09 May (see pages 24/24).

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 rising costs facing businesses. Guidance is to issue from the Department on this grant scheme and it is expected to roll out in March 2024. The grant is for commercially trading businesses operating from a rateable premises. The Portal will close for registrations on 01 May (see page 29).



Housing Clinics

The next clinics will be held in Newbridge Town Hall on Monday, 15 April and Maynooth Community Centre on 14 May, both clinics will be advertised on social media (see page 36).

Climate Action SPC

The next meeting is scheduled for the 08 May 2024. (see pages 60/61).

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

Dates for 2024 are as follows: Monday 26 June at 11.00a.m. and Monday 23 October at 11.00a.m. (see page 64).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 22 May 2024 (see page 71).

Into Kildare

Kildare Failte, in association with Kildare County Council, participated in planning meetings with the marketing team representing the KPMG Irish Women's Open focusing on collaborations and marketing campaigns to drive footfall to the County. This event will take place from the 29 August (see page 86).

LEO Focus on Women In Business:

Over 30 female entrepreneurs participated in a Value-based pricing workshop on 09 April. The next event, scheduled for 14 May, looks at strategies for scaling efficiently without adding costs or resources (see page 87).



May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>29 Apr</p> <p>15:00 Full Council Meeting; Members Calendar</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1 May</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Local Community & Cultural SPC</p> <p>14:00 Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC</p>	<p>3</p> <p>09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>14:30 Audit Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Climate Action SPC</p> <p>14:30 Environmental Services & Water SPC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>14:30 Housing SPC</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>13</p> <p>14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Members Calendar</p>	<p>14</p> <p>14:30 Naas JPC Meeting</p> <p>15:30 Naas MD Meeting ; Council Chamber ; Members Calendar</p>	<p>15</p> <p>09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>
<p>20</p> <p>09:00 Athy JPC Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Athy MD Meeting May; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p> <p>14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; ...</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 LCDC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>27</p> <p>15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>28</p> <p>14:30 Housing Disability Steering Group</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:30 County Twinning Committee</p>	<p>31</p>



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Official Opening of new Naas Library and Cultural Centre



Kildare County Council hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of the new Naas Library and Cultural Centre. The

official opening marks the completion of a three year conservation, renovation, and construction programme of this modern cutting-edge library. This transformative project was part funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund as part of Project Ireland 2024, with an initial €4.4million allocation contributing towards the design, construction and fit-out of the library.

Kildare County Council launches series of Renewal Master Plans



Over the last number of weeks, Kildare County Council has launched a series of renewal master plans for towns and villages throughout the county. These



include, Castledermot, Ardclough, Leixlip, Derrinturn, Straffan and Johnstownbridge. All of the plans were funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2019 Town and Village renewal Scheme and will contribute to the future sustainable development of these towns and villages, the county as a whole and for the people who live here, and visitors alike.

Our Rural Future: Kildare County Council launches 2024 Community Recognition Fund

Kildare County Council launched details of the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. Kildare has been allocated funding of €830,007 under this major initiative for suitable projects across county Kildare. The Community Recognition Fund 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Funding of enhancements to existing sports clubs, play facilities,

recreational areas, walking amenities, local transport and more are eligible under the Community Recognition Fund.

Athy Community Enterprise Company

The ownership and future operation of the Athy Community Enterprise Centre has transferred to the Council.

The centre provides office space for the Community Department outreach team and local enterprise units for small businesses in the area (managed by the MERITS Team).



Pictured are Directors of the company at their recent Annual General Meeting held on the 08 March last – Councillor Brian Dooley, Karl Duffy, Jacqui McNabb, Annette Aspell (Chairperson), Glenn Dunne and Brian O’Gorman.



National Tourism Conference.

The National Tourism Conference is taking place in Killashee Hotel 18 and 19 April 2024.

Gerard Manly Hopkins Society - Annual International Literary Festival

Kildare County Council will host a reception for approximately 35 visitors to the Council Chamber which will include a short talk on the building and the McKenna piece on Tuesday afternoon the 23 July 2024.

Visit of Carmel Mangan from Kildare Association

The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Carmel Mangan, President of the New York Kildare Association at their plenary meeting held on Monday 25 March 2024.

Little Book of Kildare Launch

Launch on the 13 April 2024 in The Old Hardware in Narraghmore.

Public Sector Duty

Meetings with stakeholders have been completed and a presentation will be given at CPG.

Local Elections 2024



The local election across the eight local electoral areas of County Kildare, to elect a total of forty Councillors, will take place on Friday 07 June 2024, between 7.00a.m. to 10.00p.m.

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

The Count will take place at Punchestown Racecourse, beginning on Saturday 08 June 2024.

The Local Election Returning Officer is Eoghan Ryan.

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



Candidate Nominations

Local Election 2024 [webpages are now live](#) and prominently displayed on the Council's homepage, and contain



important information for candidates, including:

- Nomination Papers
- Kildare County Council Information Booklet on Canvassing and Voter Registration (candidates are strongly urged to read this).
- Information on Local Election Posters
- Candidate Guide to Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure, Spending Limits and Political Donation Accounts
- Guide for Agents, Designated Persons, Third Parties to Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure, Spending Limits and Political Donation Accounts
- Links to websites with resources supporting female candidacy.
- Guides on:
 - How members of local authorities are elected.
- Immigrant Council Toolkit for candidates from a migrant background



Candidate Nomination dates

The candidate nomination period runs from 10.00a.m. on Saturday 11 May to 12.00p.m. Saturday 18 May (excluding Sunday 12 May), and a link to an appointment system will be sent to candidates contacting the Council, to facilitate arranging attendance for approval of nominations.

Notice of Election adverts related to the candidate nomination period, have appeared in local newspapers, the Council's website, and Council social media accounts.



Voter Registration

checktheregister.ie

Radio adverts have been running since April on KFM regarding voter registration and this will continue.

Local newspaper adverts and social media activities have begun and will continue in the weeks leading to the local elections.

Digital posters/leaflets about voter registration have been uploaded to the TEAMS folder for Full Council for existing Councillors, should they wish to download them. They are available in 15 languages.

Candidates who are not existing Councillors can request these by emailing

localelections2024@kildarecoco.ie

Kildare County Council has developed an [Information Booklet on Canvassing and Voter Registration](#).

Candidates are strongly urged to read this, as it contains many of the questions/responses around voter registration that you may encounter when canvassing, as well as useful candidate information on a range of issues.

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

There are limited scenarios where hard copy forms must be used by applicants, and these are set out in the Canvassing Guidance.

Hard copy forms are available at Kildare County Council, Arás Chill Dara, Naas and Council libraries or can be downloaded and printed from www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms

Postal Vote - Persons with a Disability

If a person is unable to vote in person on polling day due to an illness or disability and is resident in a hospital, nursing home, mental health facility or similar institution, and they are not on the Postal Voters List or Special Voters List, they can apply up to Saturday, 11 May 2024 for inclusion in those lists.

This is only possible in hard copy as the form must be certified by a Medical Practitioner.

The relevant form is PV2, which can be accessed here:

www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms



Applicants should apply as soon as possible, given that third parties must certify their applications.

Postal Vote - Work/Study

Applications for a postal vote due to work or study reasons are possible, where this prevents attendance to vote in person. These applications must be in hard copy as the form must be certified by the employer or educational institution.

The relevant form is PV4, which can be accessed here:

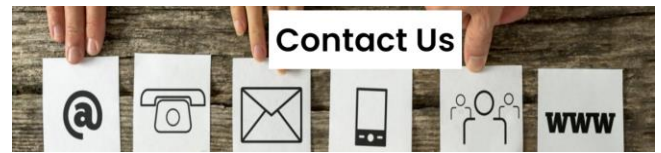
www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/forms

These applications are also subject to the deadline of Saturday 11 May 2024. Candidates should encourage any person they believe may be entitled to this form of vote to apply as early as possible.

All other eligible voters who are not on the register, can register by submitting an online application at www.checktheregister.ie or by submitting a form to Kildare County Council. Completed applications whether online or hard copy must be received by Kildare County Council on or by Monday, 20 May 2024.

If not applying online, please note that all completed forms must be returned by either email register@kildarecoco.ie or by Free Post, Register of Electors, Kildare County Council, Arás Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Voter Registration Enquiries



For enquires please

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

Opening Hours

9:00a.m. – 17:00p.m. Monday – Friday inclusive
(Closed bank holidays and Good Friday)

Extension of opening hours May 2024 – Register of Electors

Despite the fact that this is the first time there has been an online voter registration facility at local elections, meaning registration is possible 24 hours a day prior to deadlines for the vast majority of applicants, the Council will be opening additional days at weekends during May.



Please note that the Register of Electors Section at Arás Chill Dara, Naas will be open from 9.30a.m. – 4.30p.m. on Saturday 11 May 2024 and Saturday 18 May 2024 to receive voter registration forms.

Accessible Voting



There are several options in place for people who are unable to vote in person at a polling station. These options are in place for various reasons including those related to disability, varying ability of reading and writing skills, or illness.

Please note information earlier related to postal voting.

Please note that when the Notice of Poll regarding candidates standing for election is advertised in May 2024, that Kildare County Council will also publicise a freephone facility for vision-impaired voters, with a recorded message outlining the candidates

standing for election in the local electoral areas.

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

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

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

www.electoralcommission.ie/referendums/accessible-voting/



Key Dates

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

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

Keep updated!



Candidates and the public are advised to monitor the Council's website www.kildarecoco.ie, local newspapers and social media accounts for future updates.



Members services

Municipal Districts

At the Municipal District Committee meetings held in March, each committee agreed their Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024.



St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2024

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, recently invited Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, and Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive, to New York for St. Patrick's Day. Meetings were arranged with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Consulate General. There were also a number of official engagements with the Kildare Association. It was wonderful to re-engage and strengthen linkages between Kildare and New York.

Kildare's unique relationship with St. Brigid was highlighted during our trip. We wore St. Brigid's crosses and brought "Brigid" themed gifts. It was heartening to see how well known this symbol is and how receptive every agency was to future Brigid 1500 events.



Pictured above – the Cathaoirleach presenting a piece from Kildare company, Clover Woodcraft, to the Deputy Consul General, Gareth Hargadon.

At the meeting with IDA Ireland, the council outlined Kildare County



Council's Economic Development Strategy and updated the IDA about the network of hubs being created in County Kildare. We advised the IDA of our existing strong relationship with the IDA Regional Manager; Conor Simpson and the continuation of this relationship was very much encouraged. We had a good discussion about the needs of companies looking for a base and the importance of Maynooth University for Research and Development.

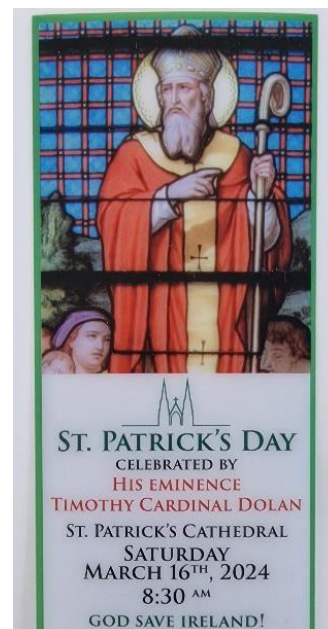
work together to promote and encourage Kildare businesses who are interested in exporting to the United States.



Pictured with the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive is Damien O'Brien, Vice President, and Brian Conroy, Executive Vice President and Director North America, IDA

Pictured with the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive is Rory Power, Vice President, Enterprise Ireland

Kildare County Council had a really positive meeting with Enterprise Ireland (EI) where we discussed industry, enterprise, and the skilled workforce in Kildare. As EI's focus is on export capability and job creation we concentrated on how we could





Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral

This service is a truly unique experience, and it is impressive to see the impact that the Irish community has had on New York. With a seating capacity of 2,400, all counties are well represented at the service. This year there was a special musical guest as Dana sang Amhrán na bhFiann.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

It was a privilege and a pleasure to march with the County Kildare Association of New York in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade starts at 11.00a.m. and is truly a spectacle as 200,000 people march: many behind their Home Counties banner!





Consul General Helena Nolan and, Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul. Governor Hochul is the first female holder of the office and her family are originally from Kerry.

Kildare Association of New York Meet and Greet

The Kildare Association of New York hosted a dinner in Yonkers, New York. The dinner was an opportunity for the Committee and members of the Association to meet to meet the deputation from Kildare. Each of the Committee officers were presented with a selection of “Kildare” and Brigid 1500 gifts.



Consulate General of Ireland, New York

Kildare County Council had a very engaging meeting with the Deputy Consul General, Gareth Hargadon, regarding the Irish Community in New York and the economic and cultural benefits of maintaining links. He was particularly interested in Brigid 1500 and the events and programmes that Kildare County Council had led out on. We also attended an event in the Consulate where attendees were addressed by Minister Helen McEntee,



Photos from Kildare Association of New York Meet and Greet





FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2024
Freedom of Information Requests	47
Freedom of information appeals	0
Information Commissioner Appeals	0
Data Access Requests	5
Ombudsman	5

Newhall. Library staff have attended meetings in the local centres and will co-ordinate library outreach activities as part of overall support.

Library team members took part in a national scoping exercise to deliver a nationwide Skills for Life programme via Libraries Ireland. The programme will cover digital literacy, health literacy, financial literacy, and climate literacy.

Kildare Seed Library 2024 has been launched in all seven main libraries in Kildare. Each library has a collection of open pollinated seeds to grow your own vegetables and edible flowers.

Each library hosted a talk on seed saving and will host seasonal educational workshops on growing and seed saving.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“Libraries were full of ideas—perhaps the most dangerous and powerful of all weapons.” — Sarah J. Maas, Throne of Glass

Citizen Services

The Library Service are assisting the local integration workers in their plans to support Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) residents in Kildare once they arrive at Punchestown and

Snippets of library events from around the county

Newbridge Library

Held lots of events during March, such as Botley Robotics, Arts and Crafts, Coding and much more. We launched our Lego Club, which had great participation. We also hosted the



launch of Beyond the Bookshelves by our Writing group Ink Tank.

Athy Library

During the month of March, if you wanted to get active, Athy Library was the place to be with the continuation of our popular chair yoga groups: Healthy Ireland's 'Siel Bleu' and Aontas' 'Yogra Yoga'. Staff too were very active with their crafting skills during March presenting a Junk Modelling session and an Easter-themed craft afternoon. And as always, our monthly 'Once Upon a Tune' music sessions continue to be a big hit with patrons and always gather strength in numbers.

Maynooth Library

Celebrated World Poetry Day with the launch of Basil McBride's new book of poetry, Word of the Week, and a poetry writing workshop for children with Yvonne Cullen.

As part of Engineer's Week, we welcomed students from Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, who learned all about forces by testing the strength of sweets with Anyone4Science.

Our exhibition this month was called Portraits, which consisted of a

collection of beautiful paintings by Louise O'Keeffe, organised with Stewarts Care Centre.

The Maynooth University English department continued their "MU English in the Community" series of events with a talk from Professor Pat Palmer and a writing workshop with Dr. Hilary White.

To celebrate World Book Day, we were joined by author and illustrator Jennifer Farley, who read from her latest book and facilitated an illustration workshop for children.

Anyone4Science returned to Maynooth for Seachtain na Gaeilge, where they delivered a kite making workshop as Gaeilge.

Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg Bursaries

All applications for the Kildare Creative Ireland Award and Cruinniú na nÓg Commission Award 2024 were assessed by an independent panel on 11 March. All applicants have been contacted regarding the results of the competition. A total of 12 applications were awarded funding, to a combined total of €86,079 in grants.



Cruinniú na nÓg programme planning

A consultation process with children ages 0-12 was completed in March, with surveys delivered by Kildare library branches to over 100 participants. The results will inform programming decisions for the Cruinniú na nÓg festival on 15 June. A new 'Teen Night' is being planned to take place in Naas Library, with a lineup of local youth bands and creative booths, creating a festival atmosphere informed by our youth consultation process.

Libraries Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre Official opening took place Monday 15 April.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

While services are closed for in-person appointments, emails and calls are being dealt with. Access to digitised material is provided. Access to Kildare County Archives and Local Studies will soon be available by prior appointment.

A Data Sharing agreement has been signed with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme which opened on 20 March.

The archivist facilitated the second of four Life Writing workshops with the County. Kildare Writer-in-Residence, Dr. Francesca Bratton, in Ballitore Library on 20 March, focusing on the Quaker material in the County Archives.

Two deposits of archival material have been made. Bill Hughes, producer, and broadcaster, originally from Athy, has donated material relating to his work. Mary Ryan, author, Newbridge, has donated records relating to Irish Ropes, having made a previous donation in 2019.

Planning of the John Devoy Seminar, Naas, 13-14 September is ongoing, and efforts are in progress with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (TCAGSM) to bring John Devoy's chair from the USA.



1899-2019 First Election and First Meeting Kildare County Council is the latest Decade of Commemorations publication now available via the Kildare Library Service website and BorrowBox app. A talk by Liam Kenny in conjunction with the County Kildare Archaeological Society, took place in Naas Library and Cultural Centre on 13 April, marking 125 years since the first elections to Kildare County Council.

Dates For the Diary:

10-11 May – 8th Irish Military Seminar Riverbank, Arts Centre. Programme at on <https://www.kildare.ie/ehistory/>

13 April - 25 May – Bullet Points: Who, What, How We Commemorate, McKenna Gallery, Riverbank. A retrospective art exhibition of works funded under the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme 2013-2023.

Arts Grants Bursaries and Awards Update

We are currently presenting awards for approval at each of the Municipal District meetings. Applicants will be informed of outcomes by the end of April.

Exciting Professional Development Programme Announced for Creatives across the County

The Arts Service team have been working alongside Visual Artists Ireland to plan a series of four professional development sessions for creatives across County Kildare in 2024. These sessions aim to help Kildare artists analyse and speak about their own practice, bringing awareness to where it sits within the artistic landscape nationally, also identifying suitable streams of funding and writing effective funding applications. Six esteemed visual art curators from around the country will meet to share their knowledge and experience with Kildare creatives during these sessions. The first session will take place in Newbridge on the 09 May. Other events will be online, in Celbridge and Athy. Brigid Sings is a collaborative project between Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland. Five female singer-songwriters from County Kildare have been commissioned to compose a new song to celebrate the life of Brigid - Sive, Sal, Megan O'Neill, Lea Heart and Inni-K. Each song focuses on



different elements of Brigid's life and story, bringing her accomplishments and work to life. This is a county-wide project, rolled out across all five Municipal Districts and offered to every primary school child in county Kildare. The songs will be shared digitally with every primary school across Kildare, as a means to engage the primary school sector through music and singing in the classroom. Each school will receive a digital resource pack of sheet music, lyrics, videos of the songs, backing tracks, colouring pages, and musicianship learning activities. Brigid Sings will also feature local school concert performances in each Municipal District as well as a gala performance for invited guests in Kildare Cathedral on Saturday 08 June.

Thread, a 12-week sewing, patchwork and textile programme in Athy Creative Places Athy in collaboration with Churchtown and Castlemitchell Community Development Association are pleased to announce a new textile programme. This initiative is being delivered under the theme of: Connecting People and Place. It is led by artists; Tomomi McElwee and Celine McDonnell.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

15 inspections completed in the following areas:

- Athy WWTP with UE
- Housing maintenance- Curragh
- Environment (three)-Article 27, Septic tank inspection, Graveyard capital works
- Roads (four) – Emptying and cleaning of street bins, Footpath reinstatement, Street Cleaning Leixlip, Footpath maintenance.
- Slaintecare, Athy
- Housing - tenant inductions, Kill
- Transportation- Hedderman's Yard, Naas
- Environment section- planning related.
- Housing (two)- Clerk of works

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:

Four assessments completed in the following areas:

- Motor tax
- Housing (two)
- HR

3. (Two) Health and Safety Inductions completed for new starts (seven attendees)

4. Health Talk:



Breast Cancer Awareness Talk from Breast Cancer Ireland: Aras Chill Dara – 08 March – International Women’s Day- 55 attendees.

5. Health and Safety Roadshow (included Men’s Health Talk by Irish Cancer Society) completed for:
Athy Municipal District- 28 March – 16 attendees.
6. Update of Accident Database.
7. Meeting with IPB forensic engineer re accident claim and preparation of accident file.
8. Proworks App:
Meeting with Machinery Yard on the possibility of using Proworks for all vehicle inspections etc.
9. Meeting with Occupational Physician re: Vaccination Program

Accessibility:

1. First Advisory Group Meeting Local Authority UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Implementation- Disability Federation of Ireland
2. Section completed for Accessibility as part of Annual report.
3. Meeting with Creative Places Athy on expansion of Athy Billboard Project and additional project for

raising awareness of disability and accessibility through the arts.

4. Meeting re: Disability Works in Leixlip Library following Accessibility Audit – automated doors etc.
5. Prepared presentation for County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) for full council presentation.
6. Presentation by CKAN to full council.
7. Meeting with Narraghmore Development Group re Sensory Garden and funding through Disability Participation and Awareness Fund.
8. Meeting with Climate Action re: funding through disability budget and Disability Participation and Awareness Fund towards making Energy Refit Demo House Accessible.
9. Populating CKAN Website:
New website created – populating with content before going live.
10. Meetings:
 - Newbridge Disability Access Group
 - Athy Disability Access Group



Finance and Information Technology

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2023 has been prepared and presented to Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group and is listed on the agenda for the Council meeting in April. The Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023 shows a surplus for the year of €9,547 and was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and

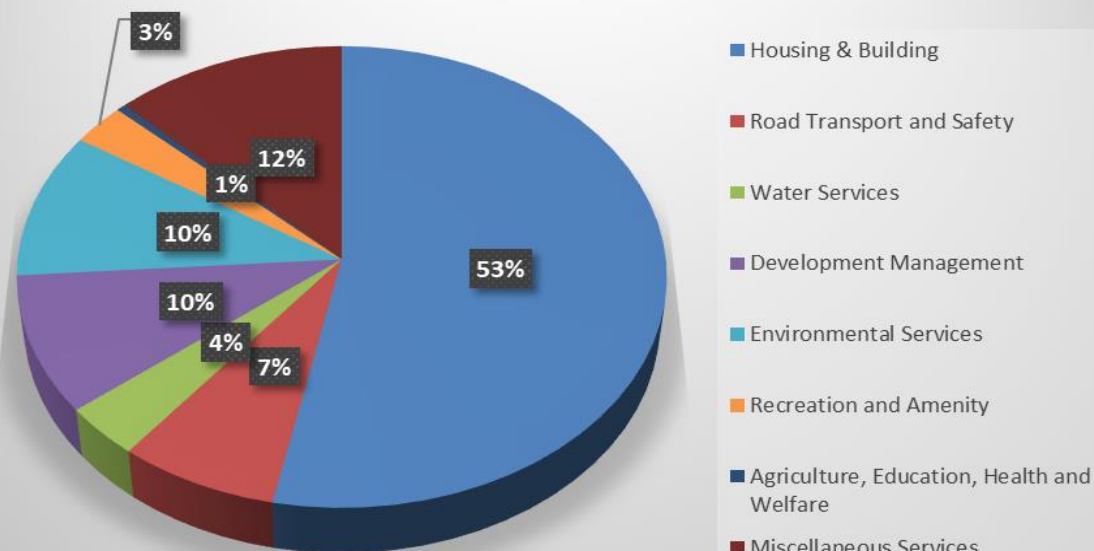
Heritage by 31 March 2024 in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Financial Statement for 2023 is now subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor.

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council				
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2024				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	30,772	88,215	35%	57,443
Road Transport and Safety	4,300	44,078	10%	39,778
Water Services	2,109	9,767	22%	7,658
Development Management	5,582	29,330	19%	23,748
Environmental Services	5,911	24,474	24%	18,563
Recreation and Amenity	1,683	17,635	10%	15,952
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	287	1,305	22%	1,018
Miscellaneous Services	7,226	21,941	33%	14,715
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	57,870	236,745	24%	178,875



Expenditure Year to Date



Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2024

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	25,359	78,925	32%	53,566
Road Transport and Safety	2,113	22,391	9%	20,278
Water Services	1,063	9,685	11%	8,622
Development Management	2,833	11,182	25%	8,349
Environmental Services	38	7,886	0%	7,848
Recreation and Amenity	945	2,187	43%	1,242
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	46	308	15%	262
Miscellaneous Services	1,248	10,043	12%	8,795
Local Property Tax Allocation	5,365	21,460	25%	16,095
Rates	18,064	71,995	25%	53,931
	57,075	236,062	24%	178,987



Cashflow / Overdraft

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

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant

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

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

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

A letter outlining the details of the ICOB grant was included with rates demands issued to customers in February.

- Press release issued on 12 March to publicise the scheme and information was posted to Kildare County Council website.
- Adverts were placed in local papers week ending 16 March.
- Letters issued on 18 March to each customer with a PIN for use when registering.
- The registration portal opened 18 March 2024.
- As of 15 April 2024 there are 1263 registrations on the portal.
- Kildare County Council will start processing applications on April 17 and payments will commence from 22 April.
- The portal will close for registrations on 01 May.

Integration Team

General:

David Creighton was appointed A/Director of Services for Integration in January 2024. He will lead the Integration Team in Kildare County Council comprising the Local Authority



Integration Team (LAIT) and an Accommodation Team. He will also chair the Community Response Forum – renamed the Community Integration Forum.

Recent Developments

From 14 March, there is a time limit on the State supported accommodation offer to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's). All new BOTP's arriving in Ireland since that date can choose to avail of free emergency short-term accommodation, food, and support services for a maximum of 90 days in a designated accommodation centre (DAC) only. Before or at the end of the 90 days, BOTP's must move out of that accommodation and source independent accommodation. State funded accommodation will no longer be available to them but is unclear what will happen afterwards. BOTP's cannot access social housing or homeless service.

Under the revised policy an allowance will be paid to BOTP's while accommodated in fully serviced DAC's (weekly payment of €38.80 per adult and €29.80 per child). This payment will be made by the Department of

Social Protection on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), and is in lieu of social welfare payments. BOTP's have access to Child Benefit and Additional Needs Payments, if they meet relevant eligibility criteria. BOTP's opting to make independent arrangements on arrival (e.g. friends, private rental, "pledge"/Offer a Home) will be entitled to apply for social welfare equivalent to Irish citizens, subject to the same conditions. BOTP's who are already in the State will not be subject to the new policy and will retain their existing entitlements. While in a DAC, BOTP's will be provided with information and assistance to help them find out what state income support is available to them, and how to source their own accommodation. BOTP's are entitled to work, and they may be eligible for rent supplement and other income supports. Details of this are given to BOTP's at the accommodation centre.

More information at:
www.gov.ie/ukraine



Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT):

Recruitment of staff for the LAIT is complete and the team is now in place. A key function of the LAIT is to signpost services and integration supports available locally to beneficiaries of temporary protection (BOTP's), international protection applicants (IPA's), those with refugee, subsidiary protection, or permission to remain status, as well as programme refugees resettling in county Kildare. The LAIT does not intend to replace existing service provision but to facilitate and support accessing services appropriate to needs. The LAIT will assess the level of services and integration supports available and identify duplication or gaps in service provision.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection:

The LAIT has held several clinics with new arrivals in the recently opened Punchestown Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) and has held a meeting at the Newhall DAC with service providers and the operator of that centre in advance of its opening.

The LAIT is not responsible for providing or arranging temporary accommodation, but the team continues to regularly receive requests for housing from BOTP's. The LAIT continues to raise awareness among BOTP and mainstream services on the accommodation choices available.

International Protection Applicants

The LAIT continue to arrange outreach visits and clinics in accommodation centres for IPAs to signpost services available locally based on individual and family needs. Two outreach visits and 1 outreach clinic have been completed in Athy and Leixlip.

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

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



The LAIT has prepared and submitted a funding application to International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) for funding of the Implementing Partner to provide integration and intercultural support services to assist with the refugee resettlement programme.

The LAIT has issued a request for tenders for the services of that Implementing Partner and expect to be in a position to award that contract in early June.

Accommodation Team:

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

The Accommodation Team also receive proposals from the LGMA and the Ukraine Accommodation Procurement team in Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) in connection with the Refurbishment Programme, offers of Commercial

Modular Accommodation and the establishment of new Designated Accommodation Centres.

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

Updated BOTP and IPA Statistics

Overall number of BOTP nationally:
106,300

Overall number of BOTP in Kildare:
2,145

Overall number of IPA's nationally:
28,478

Overall number of IPA's in Kildare: 724

Offer a Home Scheme

(05 March 2024)

Properties occupied	51
Properties in progress	15
Properties withdrawn	<u>26</u>
Total properties offered to date	92

**Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge,
Newbridge**

(16 April 2024)



Number accommodated 37

Refurbishment Projects and Commercial Modular Housing

The Integration is currently assessing applications for Refurbishment Projects and offers of commercial modular housing referred to Kildare County Council by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) through the LGMA and has established a Technical Working Group to assess any applications received.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing for All

Part 8 Exemption

We have been advised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that it is proposed to extend the Part 8 planning exemption for a further period up to the 31 December 2025. This exemption relates to housing development by local authorities and approved housing bodies on council own land. The current exemption extends to developments commencing up to 31

December 2024. The further exemption requires a bill, and an amendment has been included in the committee stage of the Planning and Development Bill 2023, which is expected to be passed before the Dáil summer recess.

Ready to Build Serviced Sites

Site clearance and preparation works are ongoing in Clogherinkoe. We are awaiting approval for Uisce Eireann Sewer upgrade. The cost price per site is being finalised and, once agreed, the sites will be advertised for sale. The members will be updated on progress.

McCauley Court, Athy

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has issued a Stage 1-3 Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) approval for the refurbishment of ten units at McCauley Court, Athy. Kildare County Council continues to work with the HSE and Tinteán Housing Association to progress this scheme. The approval allows Tinteán Housing Association to proceed to design and tender.



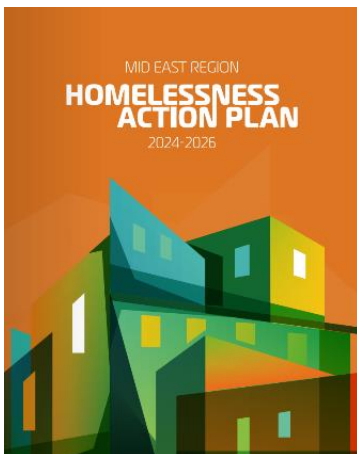
Housing Allocations

There have been 286 allocations to 31 March 2024, of which 169 were council properties and 117 were nominated to AHBs. Throughout March there were 10 refusals of an allocation and, to date, there have been 58 refusals overall. A total of 82 properties were allocated through the Choice Based Lettings system.

Homelessness

Homeless Action Plan 2024 - 2026

The Homeless Action Plan 2024 -2026 (Mid-East Region) was adopted by the Council at the March monthly meeting. As this is a regional plan, it was also considered and adopted by the members of Meath County Council in March and Wicklow County Council in April. The Action Plan is currently at final design stage and a copy will be provided to members when completed.



Street Work / Outreach Clinics

Kildare County Council
Homelessness CLINICS

Looking for advice on homeless supports?
Visit one of our drop-in clinics to learn about the supports available.

8th April Blaymore Library W23 P2-H6 2pm - 4pm	
15th April Athy Family Resource Centre R11 NNE7 2pm - 4pm	
19th April Newbridge Family Resource Centre W13 P1-25 2.30pm - 4pm	

For further information contact:
Homeless Services: (045) 880228
Housing Department: (045) 880298
www.kildarecoco.ie

In March, the Outreach Team covered all Municipal Districts on a regular basis to identify rough sleepers. The areas covered were; Leixlip, Celbridge, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Sallins, Clane, Kill, Athy, Monasterevin and Kildare Town.

The Outreach team offered homeless advice clinics during the month to clients who were unable to attend the council offices in person. These clinics were offered in Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Curragh Family Resource Centre, Maynooth Library, Teach Dara Kildare Town, Maynooth Library, Respond Community Centre in Celbridge, Athy family Resource Centre and Cuan Mhuire Treatment Facility Athy. The team also conducted assessments with hospital and prison discharges.



Visits to Service Providers

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

Exits from Emergency Accommodation

There were 12 move-ons in the month of March; facilitated through HAP, social housing allocations and some clients returning to family.

Tenancy Sustainment

At present there are 43 active tenancy sustainment cases receiving support from the Tenancy Sustainment Officer team (17 closed in March). The team has ongoing engagement with clients referred to the service and through the two housing monthly clinics (Family Hubs in Prosperous and Athy).

Homeless HAP

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

property. 24 applications received in Quarter 1 (2024) are being processed, of which seven were sourced via the HAP Place Finder service. A total of 247 Homeless HAP active tenancies are now in place.

Traveller Accommodation



Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

The public consultation for the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025–2029 concluded on 28 March. The Housing Department is progressing engagement with relevant social housing applicants as part of the assessment of existing and projected Traveller accommodation needs.





Dormant Accounts Funding

Funding of €18,700 has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for Traveller accommodation supports (five projects). Halting site enhancement works and community engagement projects will be progressed over the coming months. This will include training for the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and Housing Department staff (facilitated by Kildare Traveller Action).

Tenant Support Scheme 2024

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

Application forms and further details can now be requested from:

Kildare County Council Customer Services 045-980 200

Housing Section 045-980 998 or

Email: tenantsupportscheme@kildarecoco.ie and are also available on

www.kildarecoco.ie.

Customer Service

As detailed in the March Chief Executive's report, a housing clinic was held in Leixlip Library on 25 March. Customers attended with queries relating to Assessments, Allocations, HAP, Loans, Grants, the Tenant Purchase Scheme and the Tenant in Situ Scheme. A clinic was held in Newbridge Town Hall on Monday, 15 April and will take place in Maynooth Community Centre on 14 May. Clinics are advertised on social media. Venues and dates in Athy and Naas will be announced later in the year.

Two new items have been added to the Housing Section of the council's website, a video outlining the social housing assessment process and a detailed Frequently Asked Questions section, designed to provide accessible information to customers



accessing housing services. Both are the result of work carried out jointly by the Innovation and Housing Teams, and were undertaken as part of a Lean Six Sigma project.

Private Grant Programme – Housing Aid for Older People Grant

In the January Chief Executive report the Members were provided with an update on the private grants programme, which advised that it had been agreed with the Housing Strategic Policy Committee that 60% of grant funding would be ringfenced for Housing Adaptation Grants, with the balance being made available for Housing Aid Grants. The Grants Team recently corresponded with the members by e-mail, advising that the

40% funding threshold for Housing Aid Grant programme has been reached and that we have suspended approval of applications. Emergency Housing Aid applications will be accepted relating to failed heating systems, emergency structural repairs and emergency electrical works.

The council are awaiting confirmation from DHLGH on the 2024 funding programme, so this decision is based on last year’s funding amount.

Members will be updated on this issue as the year progresses.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing well on site. Expect substantial completion September 2024.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Completed March 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing on site in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Letter of Acceptance issued; acknowledgment received.



Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender uploaded to eTenders on 22.03.2024.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 launch - April 2024.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Approval Stage 1		
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Stage 2 approval received on 28.03.2024.
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Framework Agreement being prepared.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Tender for Civil & Structural engineer ongoing - deadline 10.04.2024
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Section 179A proposed to launch Q3 2024.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender evaluation complete; result letter issued. Letter of Acceptance to follow.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.
Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road,	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single



Naas		stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works ongoing.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to the DHLGH.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application approved. Construction Tender to be launched w/c 15.04.2024.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work commenced on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site; substantial completion expected Q3 2024.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 launched 03.04.2024.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: tender dialogue stage ongoing, tender deadline end of May
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 launched 20.03.2024.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Finalising design documents for Part 8 Target Part 8 launch May 2024
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team kickoff meeting held on 09.04.2024.
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team kickoff meeting held on 09.04.2024.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - CALF

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



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

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

Acquisitions

	Completed 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022	Completed 2023	Completed 2024
Housing Acquisitions	39	13	41	96	13
Housing Turnkeys	107	27	82	42	2
Part V Acquisitions	41	70	86	109	26
Total complete	187	110	209	247	41

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	5	1	7	14	14
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	0



Regeneration

Year	Total No. CPOs	CPOs with ABP	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

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	
Q1, 2024	50	39	32	19	11

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

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2024 EERP	86	25 units out of 35 completed to date on KCC Clane-Maynooth MD 2023 EERP. Survey work for 55 Units identified in Naas/Calverstown/ Ballymore Eustace and Lakelands, Newbridge is ongoing. Works expected to commence in Q2. 7 No Traveller Units in Blacklion were identified by the Traveller Accommodation Unit for Retrofit Works. Work commenced Tuesday, 09 April. These units are in the Maynooth Decarbonisation Zone.



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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	20	31	38
6 - 12 Months	8	15	16
12 - 18 Months	4	7	7
18 - 24 Months	2	3	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	1	2	1
	35	58	64

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	2	4	1
6 - 12 Months	3	7	6
12 - 18 Months	2	3	5
18 - 24 Months	2	3	5
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	0	0	0
	9	17	17



Homeless Presentations

2023	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1910	616	1294
2024	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	500	163	337

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2023	Adults	Dependents
Total	708	452
2024	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	204	124

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

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	19	€918,400	5	€999,000	9	€1,489,300

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers
2023	53	4	25
Q1 2024	16	2	6



Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2023	397	16	414
Q1 2024	97	9	96

Social Housing Assessments - Quarterly

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
2023	323	26	1, 049	16	329
Q1 2024	46	56	263	3	64

Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA Hap Review
2023	2, 205	458	413
Q1 2024	576	112	111

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,711,698 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €8,858,455 (incl add funding requested)	Construction	Contractor continues to work at Herberton Bridge; M7 underpass and Rathangan. Discussions ongoing with Irish Rail regarding works at the Railway Bridge in Monasterevin. Additional funding request with DRCD (RRDF Call 5)



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					decision expected in May.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Prelim Design	Topographical surveys progressing. Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 1 & 2 Tie In (Sallins)			Part 8	This element will tie in Phase 1 and 2 of the Grand Canal Greenway, providing safe access for users of the Greenway to join Phase 2. The project aims to provide safer crossings for the residents in Sallins. Public consultation piece has closed, and the CE report will issue to Members shortly, with the proposal coming before the Naas MD at their meeting in May.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Constructive engagement with Waterways Ireland ongoing. Ground investigation works continue. Project is currently at Phase 4: Statutory Processes. New Part 8 (May) consent is required for a structure proposed for Lowtown to facilitate taking Greenway users off the public road and coming into Robertstown on the town side. Bridge proposed on the



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					eastern side of existing Bonyngue Bridge, providing access to the southern side of the canal and proposed Greenway, without users crossing over the existing bridge. Tender process will take place subject to Part 8 and TII approval.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Failte Ireland drawdown deadline extended to May 2024. Interim works are nearing completion. Outstanding items include tree lighting, signing and lining, removal of concrete around trees, painting of lamp standards. 2 x belly bins ready for installation. Part 8 published on 17 th January, submissions have closed with 48 submissions and 45 surveys received. The proposal will come before the Kildare-Newbridge



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					MD meeting in May for decision.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references. Final outstanding issues to be discussed with Department of Defence.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. The MD office is planning to commence a small element of the works to improve the footpath. An application for funding has been submitted to RRDF Call 5 with an announcement expected in May 2024.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Research underway. Base maps completed; document formatting has commenced. This Plan will be researched, prepared and delivered in-house by the SPPR team, drawing on external resources where specialized skills are not available within the Council.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding has been submitted to RRDF Call 5 with an announcement expected in May 2024
	Athgarvan Health Check/ Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals. The Project Team will align with the ABTA team to deliver a joint, in person, public consultation piece in Newbridge.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Final edits are underway in preparation for publication of the document.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Tender documents have been received. A funding request has been submitted to the Failte Ireland Just Transition Fund and a decision is awaited.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Contractor commenced on site, no issues to report, project is progressing as planned. PIN published for Exhibition Tender.
	Dominican Lands Masterplan	€100,000	€80,000 RRDF €20,000 (LPT)	Masterplan	RPS appointed to deliver SSFRA (Site specific flood risk assessment). RPS are also delivering the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Athy. Work is now underway to complete the assessment which will then feed into completing the Masterplan.
	Edmund Rice Square	TBC	€500,000 KCC Capital Prog €50,000 LPT	On Hold	On hold pending the Emily Square project being delivered.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Castledermot Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre Part 8	Advance works continue at the site. HSF funding of €100,000 was recently confirmed. Project team working with Transport, Open Spaces/Parks to finalise the Part 8 proposal.
	The Acre Project	€13,500	€13,350 LPT	Feasibility Study	Published and will be available on Kildare County Council website.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Preparing for publication.
	Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplan	€60,974	€60,974 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Ardclough Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
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	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Approved to proceed to tender for the preparation of the TRMP, subject to addressing several points raised by the DHLGH.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>		<p>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. SPPR will liaise with CARO to investigate further.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>projects. Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development.</p> <p>Draft tender documents are prepared; one tender will be developed to secure the design team for the Maynooth and Naas TRMPs. Tender will publish shortly.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway. Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently detailed design and secure all necessary permissions/ consent. Part 8 approved. Additional funding will be required to bring the project through the construction stages. Draft tender documents are completed, a meeting with Waterways Ireland is required prior to issue of</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					tender. Initial CFT on eTenders has commenced; this will be finalised and invitations issued.
	Derrinturn Health Check /Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Johnstown Bridge Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Straffan Health Check/Urban Analysis	€30,500	€20,000 T&V €10,500 LPT	Village Renewal Plan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Final edits underway in advance of circulation to Management Team. A briefing on the final document can be presented to Clane-Maynooth MD in advance of publication if requested.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	<p>€3,500,000 URDF</p> <p>€1,165,000 LPT/KCC</p> <p>Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case</p>	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. KCC to submit clarification to the DHLGH regarding the impact of the sale of St Davids Castle on the proposal. The</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>DHLGH notes that St Davids Castle and grounds has been privately purchased since Call 2 was submitted. KCC to confirm the impact the acquisition will have on the Feasibility Study for the Castle Quarter, Conservation Management Plan and Archaeological Survey for S. Davids Castle and Grounds which were planned under sub project B.</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. Draft tender</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					documents are prepared; one tender will be developed to secure the design team for the Maynooth and Naas TRMPs. Tender will publish shortly.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are being finalised.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

Community Grants

Funding applications for Community Groups under Community, Festival, Residents Associations and Drehid Grant Schemes closed on 15 March. There has been an increase in funding applications with applications for Community Grants increasing by 10% on 2023 levels, Festival grants increasing by 25% on 2023 levels and Drehid grants increasing by 38% on 2023 levels.

These applications have been assessed and funding allocations are being presented to the Members for consideration at the Municipal District meetings in April. Once approved, notifications will be issued to successful and unsuccessful applicants.



Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The training programme 2020-2023 was completed at the end of March 2024.

Through six unique training pillars the programme has to date, provided some 27,000 training places to c.23,000 participants.

A high-level steering group Chaired by a representative of the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy, and Networks (CATCEN) committee has progressed to oversee the

development of a training plan guiding future training needs and priorities in local authority climate action.

Quantitative and qualitative data is currently being explored to help inform the training plan with an anticipated timeframe for completion in April 2024

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. Minister Ryan launched the plans on the 11 April at a climate action event in County Clare.

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



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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



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

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

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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonization. A fleet manager network meeting took place on 27 March 2024 in LGMA offices. This event worked in support of fleet managers in their role on

exploring decarbonisation interventions to achieve 2030 targets of 51% emission reductions.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2023 is nearing completion with a report due in June to CATCEN.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



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



Participating clubs are working to implement actions and projects detailed within the toolkits towards supporting the pursuit of climate action initiatives at club and community level. Kildare County Council's continued support of Green Clubs will help to achieve climate actions and targets set out in the Council's new Climate Action Plan.

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

Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

together with the Senior Management Team.

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

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

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

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

The Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)

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

1. The installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton



Mills. This contract has been awarded and an application for the generation connection has been made to ESB networks and we await a reply.

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

3. The appraisal of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings' heating systems is at an early stage and is being undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema.

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

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

District Heating

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

A more in-depth discussion into the sustainable sources of the supplied heat for this DH scheme will be required. There may also be scope to undertake a similar DH study for Maynooth later in 2024/early 2025, this to be funded directly by our planning dept.

Display Energy Certs/ BER

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

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

ISO 50001 Energy Management System

Kildare County Council hopes to apply for ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) certification in Q4 of 2024, for the organisation as a whole. Our Energy Officer and the SEE of Property Management are attending the SEAI Ten day ISO50001 accelerator training programme as part of this process.



Energy Audit/Analysis/BER of Aras:

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

Swimming Pools:

CODEMA undertook site visits to inform decarbonisation appraisal reports at Athy and Naas pools.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

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

Staff use EV GoCar

A six-month trial of a staff use GoCar Electric Vehicle (EV) has been under way since the start of the year. Approx 50 staff have signed up to the scheme and 45 work-related trips have been undertaken.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

The scheduled meeting on 07 February 2024 took place in the Chamber of the newly refurbished Naas Library and was previously the home of the Naas Town Council. All Councillors and members of the six SPC's were invited to attend.

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

Victoria Kavanagh (Community Climate Action Officer) presenting on the Community Climate Action Programme Fund,

Paddy Lynch (Energy Efficiency Officer) presenting on the Kildare County Council's Energy Efficiency Plan to reach the National Objective of 50% increase in energy efficiency within the council and his experience in the field,

Mary Morrissey (Climate Action Officer) presented on her work and expertise in built environment,

Paula O'Rourke (Climate Action Coordinator) presented on the monitoring and reporting of CA SPC's work plan together with Kildare's Climate Strategy 2019-2024, CARO, the Climate Action Plan and Decarbonising Zone.



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

The next meeting is scheduled for the 08 May 2024.

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Funding Aids and Projects:



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

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

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

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



Kildare, Longford and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have been awarded by Pobal €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The name of the project has changed to 'Our Shared Plate Project' to reflect the community cohesion through the celebration of food. Sites in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy have been chosen for the project and community contacts identified. A trip to community gardens in Dublin demonstrate the potential of the project over time.



Creative Climate Action Fund II – Agents for Change projects announced



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

Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:

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

Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University. To advance understanding of the 19 Ignite projects Creative Ireland held a four day workshop for project teams in Borris House from 30 January to 02 February.

The new Principal Investigator has been assigned and is Dr. Amy Fahy, School of Business, Maynooth University. Amy is coordinating aspects of the work with other third level institutes to increase awareness.

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

As of the closing date 06 March, 44 applications were received with 19 remaining in draft format. Kildare at county level has been awarded €897,000 grant funding and the total applications received are estimated at over €2 million.

The work of provisionally assessing the applications has commenced.

‘HacktheClimate’ and Open data Engagement Fund:

The HacktheClimate Hackathon in collaboration with the innovation Team and MERITS held on 23 February was a resounding success. Ten very exciting solutions were presented on the day and the winning team led Ben Foran explains the idea ‘Proactive Paths’ utilises AI to revolutionise route planning. Work is continuing to advance projects pitched on the day where possible.





Research

Gas Innovation Fund and Public Service Innovation Fund:

This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g., grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with the potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nationwide. An agreement has been formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence and the work is progressing at a pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Q2/3 of 2024.

Stakeholders are arranging to meet in Maynooth University in April to advance aspects.

Alternatives to Herbicides Project



Kildare County Council's research project - alternatives for pesticides - continues with the help of our collaborating partners, Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin,

National Biodiversity Data Centre and Teagasc. The finalised data report and practical guide for the maintenance of open spaces have been disseminated to all partners. Analysis of soil biomes continues with additional experiments being undertaken to finalise maintenance aspects. Sophia Couchman has commenced her PhD, and it is expected she will have the work completed late summer 2025. It is with thanks to partners the findings will inform the National Biodiversity Data Centre latest brochures.

The guidance for depot staff was published and disseminated to depots and partners in March. Talks on the guidance being given in depots during April and May.

IRESI - International Renewables and Energy Systems Integration

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



Smart Energy Solutions for Sustainable Futures S3SF



Insightful discussions were had at the Smart Energy Solutions for a Sustainable Future S3SF workshop in Thurles in February on the importance of further education and training for both industry and civil society on the topic of retrofitting homes.

The Climate Action Office was joined by the leads from IRESI and the Science Foundation Ireland RENEW challenge project at the School of Business Maynooth University to look at possible collaboration efforts and acceleration change in energy utilisation.

Grass to Gas

The project is advancing with Terrain Ai of Maynooth University including the compiling of satellite, Lidar, Drone and ground plate data to inform the dashboard from three sites in Kildare with a variety of characteristics. A demonstration of the prototype dashboard is to be made in April with more data to be gathered.

There is the potential to collaborate with Gas Networks Ireland, Teagasc and other stakeholders to bring the projects capabilities to other audiences to advance for example agricultural pursuits and a meeting in April is being organised to consider this aspect

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

Dates for 2024 are as follows:

Monday 26 June at 11.00 a.m.

Monday 23 October at 11.00 a.m.

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

Uisce Éireann Regional

Communications team provide regular



updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at <https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

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

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

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

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

Environment

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires each local authority to make a Waste Management Plan. The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, have co-ordinated the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030." The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030,

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

National Deposit Return Scheme

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) has been launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. The scheme went live on 01 February 2024.

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



Re-turn foresees more than 2,000 return points being ready to accept returns and refund deposits at launch date. Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

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

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

Water Framework Directive

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

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

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

Enforcement Priorities 2024

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 were recently reviewed by the National Steering Group and a number of changes were

made to reflect these discussions. The following remain as high-level priorities in the area of waste enforcement:

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

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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



Green Schools

Assessments for 23 schools in Kildare were completed in March covering a broad range of environmental themes, participation in the initiative is increasing as schools improve their waste management, the rollout of the brown bin food waste infrastructure has been a catalyst for this. The schools will be awarded their coveted Green Flags at an awards ceremony 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 proceeding.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence.

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing,



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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



engagement and collaboration workshops.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

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



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

The local community is being kept informed of progress through the Community Liaison Group (CLG)

meetings and the wider public have access to updates on the council website:

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

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Cemetery committees have been invited to apply for the maintenance grants scheme 2024. Applications may be submitted through the Submit portal for the first time thus streamlining the process.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries.

It is proposed to install further Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. Tenders have been advertised, with a closing date set for 24 April. All going well, works due to commence onsite in



early June, with expected completion by end of August 2024.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

Landscape improvement works have commenced and are expected to continue until early summer in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery.

Boycetown, Kilcock

Works have commenced in Boycetown cemetery to help alleviate the ongoing drainage problems. Works expected to be completed by early summer.

Local Community

Development Committee

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

SICAP - Social Inclusion Programme

Kildare LCDC has appointed County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP)

to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 following an open procurement process.

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450

LEADER Programme

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

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

www.countykildarelp.ie , or telephone 045-895450

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is progressing very positively in Athy to roll out a range of evidence-



based health programmes in addition to local supports to engage people in healthy activities.

A range of programmes are available in Athy through Slaintecare. The four themes of Department of Health Funded Projects of €75,000 in 2023/2024 are (1) Food Insecurity (2) Traveller Wellbeing (3) Supporting vulnerable children and young people (4) Woodstock Artist in Residency, and these projects are ongoing. Work has commenced to agree the themes and priorities for programmes under new seed funding for 2024.

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

Healthy Ireland

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

For further information contact Claire Morrissey, Healthy Ireland Co-

ordinator: phone 086-8858505 or email cmorrissey@kildarecoco.ie

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The draft LECP has been circulated to all elected members in Kildare. Briefings with Municipal Districts are taking place in April, with feedback for consistency with the County Development Plan and RSES. EMRA are also considering the plan for consistency. It is tabled for their meeting on Friday 12 April 2024. The LECP is scheduled for approval at the full Council meeting in April.



Work continues to complete the implementation plan. AIRO have completed demographic, economic development/commuting and housing 2022 analysis. The final reports on education and health are expected over the coming weeks.

For further information contact: Susan Bookle, LECP Co-ordinator phone 087 6687808 or email

sbookle@kildarecoco.ie

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

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

Local Enhancement Funding

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

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

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

Athy Distributor Road (ADR)

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

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Project is 99% complete. Project has largely transferred from Capital Project to Implementation phase. The implementation team are currently awaiting a Certification of compliance on completion and will then begin the move process.



The construction phase of the project is due to be completed by Mid-April 2024. The IT department have commenced the delivery of IT to the facility, with commencement of staff moving to the new offices in April (subject to compliance cert.). Insurances (IPB) are in place, furniture has been delivered and arrangements being made for security. A tender process has been completed for consultancy services for traffic management and operational plans for the site. A draft plan has been completed and is under review. It is expected that the machinery yard operatives will commence moving into the new facility in May 2024.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

The DHLGH (administrators of the LIHAF element of the scheme) have been informed accordingly. The first few LIHAF landowners were met in February to appraise them of the status of the project.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

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

Murtagh's Corner/ Corban's Lane

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

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The ABTA is in the final stages of being published.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

AECOM have started modelling and option development for Newbridge. Phase 2 consultation will be scheduled for later this year. Preliminary Draft will be in place in April 2024

Junction Programme

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



Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

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

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

An allocation of €1,500,000 has been received from the NTA to start construction of this scheme in 2024.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

An allocation of €2,750,000 has been received from the NTA to restart construction of this scheme in 2024. The scheme has been tendered and a preferred contractor is being appointed shortly.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

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

Naas to Sallins Greenway

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

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

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

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €75,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. The Phase 2 Option Selection/Rapid Build Report was discussed with and re-submitted to the NTA in Feb 2024. A tender process to appoint a consultant to progress the Preliminary Design to public consultation will commence when approval is received from the NTA.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Works progressing and due to finish in Q2 2024.



Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Site investigations and detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works are continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €10,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Preliminary design awaiting an evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €150,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Preliminary design awaiting evaluation of rapid build options for the scheme, as requested by the NTA.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€140,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

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

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

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



Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

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

Speed Limit Review

No update from the Department of Transport at present.

Municipal District Works

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

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

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

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

Safety Improvement schemes completed at 10 sites countywide to value € 260,000.

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

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

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

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

Public Lighting

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



Open Spaces (Parks)

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

Remaining snagging is being completed and a lease for the site. It is hoped that all works will be completed by mid-April. Additional work to connect the car park in the main Allenwood Community Development Association (ACDAL) Centre to the playground are due to start by the end of April.

DeBurghs Woodland Garden

The remaining tree works to make the site safe are due to be completed by mid- April. Tenders for the resurfacing of the paths have been advertised and this work will be awarded in mid-April. A timeframe for the works will be agreed with the successful tenderer. Similarly tenders for fencing works on the site are in the process of being awarded. Seasonal staff have been recruited for management of entrance to the park and a welfare unit for them has been procured. Work on ticketing is also ongoing.

Leixlip Playground

The award for the relocation of the existing playground to The Wonderful Barn has been completed. It is

planned this will take place over the Summer.

Kilcock Playground

The tender documents for the playground are currently being completed. The tender will be advertised in the mid to late April. The installation of outdoor gym equipment is also in progress. The gym equipment will be installed along the perimeter walkway. This will be installed over the Summer.

St Catherines Park Sensory Garden

A revised design for the sensory garden is currently being completed. It is planned to finalise this by the end of April.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2024, including: An



update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework; Car Parking Standards; new S28 GPA on Sustainable Residential development and Compact Settlements; Kilcullen Town Plan; Landscape Character Assessment; and Strategic Employment Locations Study.

Kildare County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines and Kildare County Council Permeability Guidelines went to Strategic Policy Committee on Thursday 28 March 2024 and will be published following April Full Council meeting.

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

- Annual Monitoring Report for 2023.
- Allotments Strategy.
- Strategic Employment Locations Study
- County Kildare Urban and Regional Parks Strategy; and
- Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study.
- Corbally Canal / River Liffey enhancement (Kilcullen to Newbridge) Feasibility Study.

- Active Recreational Infrastructure Study.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

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

Collinstown Masterplan, Leixlip:

Landowner consultation completed. Masterplan being finalised for publication.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

The Draft LAP and environmental assessments are being finalised. It is envisaged that the draft will be published in June 2024.

Newbridge LAP

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

Monasterevin LAP

The Pre-Draft Consultation Stage commenced on the 09 April 2024. Submissions are invited up to 22 May 2024 at 4.00p.m.



Drop in Event arranged for Thursday 16 May 2024 from 4.00p.m. to 8.00p.m. in the Monasterevin Council Hall.

Sallins LAP

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

Leixlip LAP

Proposed Alteration No.1 (Confey Masterplan) to Leixlip LAP adopted by Council on 25 March 2024. Proposed Alteration comes into legal effect on 06 May 2024, subject to SEA and AA Determination.

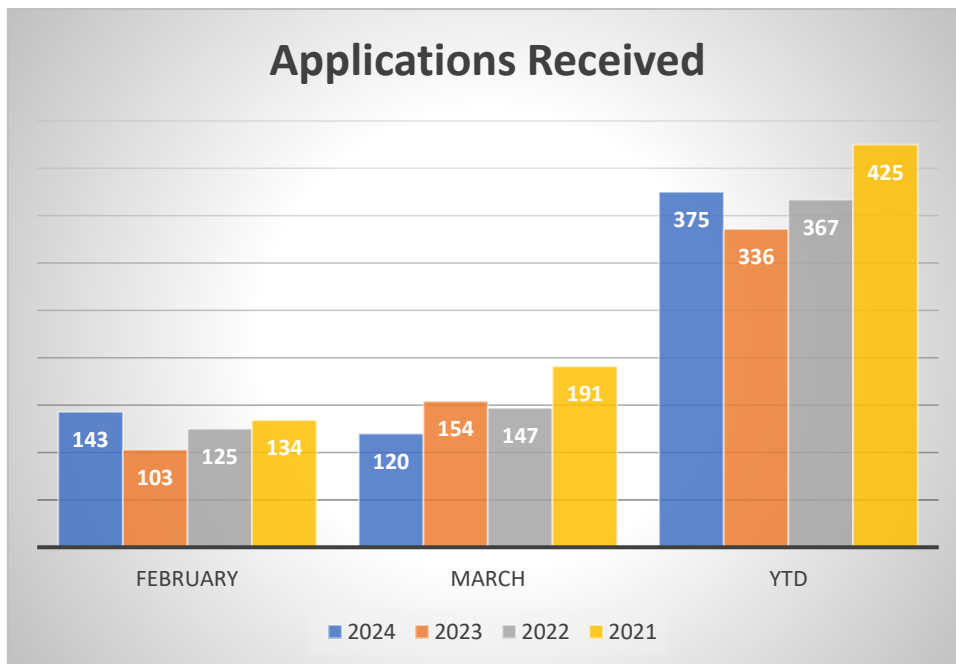
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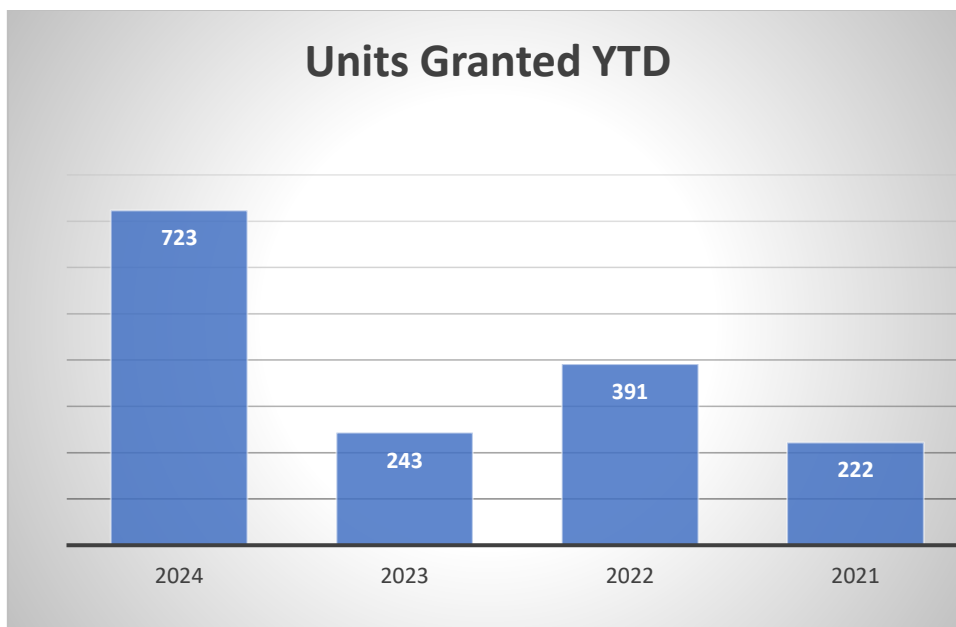
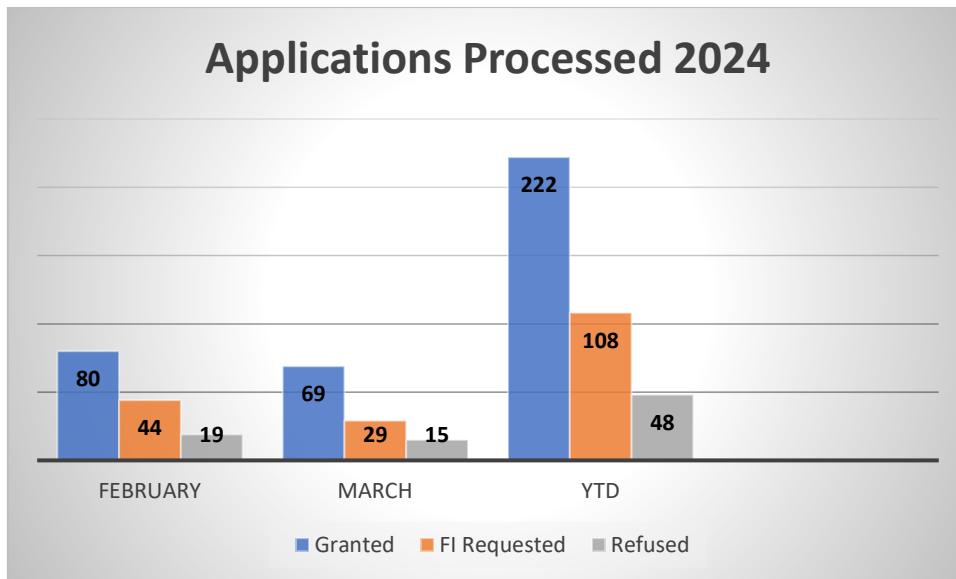
ePlanning went live in Kildare on 27 June 2023, enabling applications and submissions/reqs to be submitted via the online planning portal.

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

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

In 2024 to date, 72.08% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.





Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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



LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed: 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	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	Granted 05/04/2024



Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Heritage - Progress Updates

Planning files in March 2024: 32
Input into Kildare, Kilcullen and Maynooth LAP.

Heritage Plan Funding:

Heritage Council €37,500)

Urban Archaeological Survey
Heritage Week 2024
Military Heritage Publication
Ballinderry House Archive

B. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Heritage Council Biodiversity

Action Plan:

€16,753 granted 2024

Assessment of status and state of biodiversity in Kildare
Consultation sessions w/ key stakeholder groups
Assessment of ecological GIS layers
Production of white paper on 'Biodiversity in Kildare'

NPWS Local Biodiversity Action

Fund:

€ 100,001 granted 2024

All 10 projects successfully granted funding.

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. St. David’s Castle, Naas

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

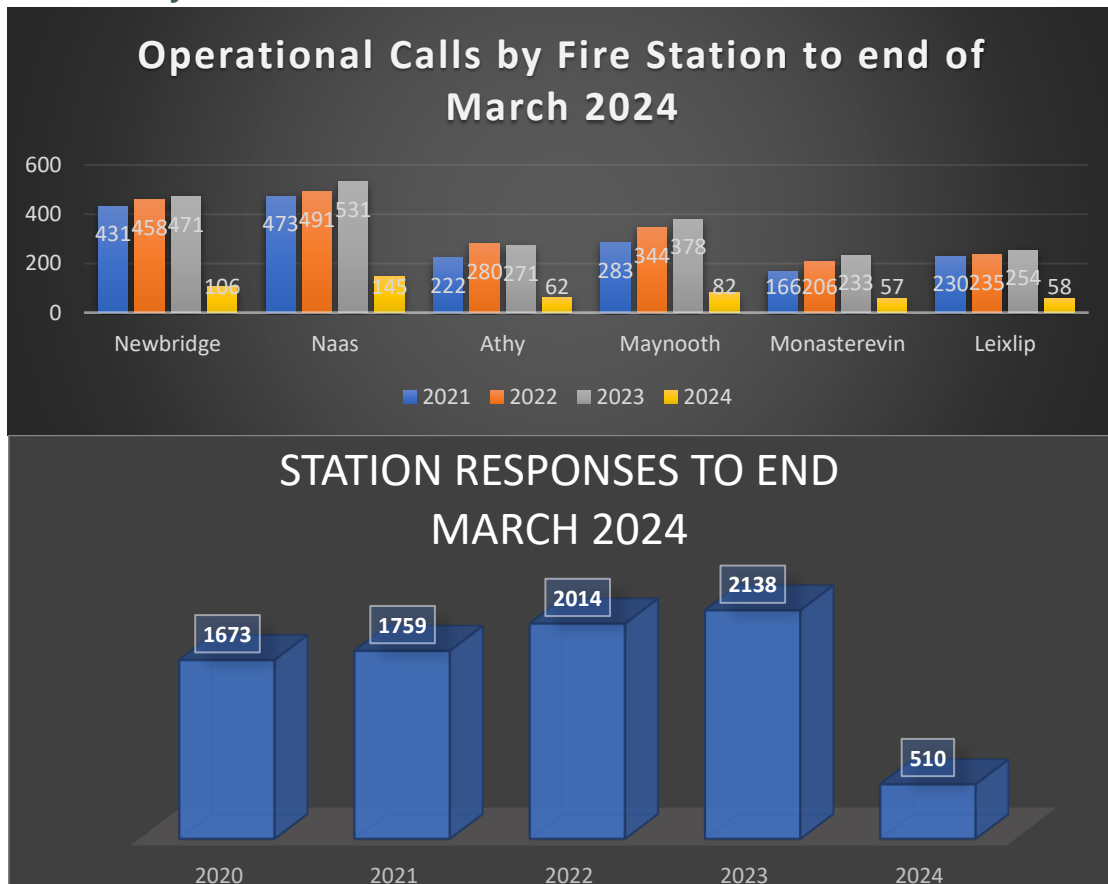
2. Cassidy’s Distillery, Monasterevin

The Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy’s site has now been finalised (on time) and was submitted to the DHLGH. It is timely that the review of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan has now commenced which will provide the ‘statutory’ link for the CMP.



Fire Service Operations:

2024 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

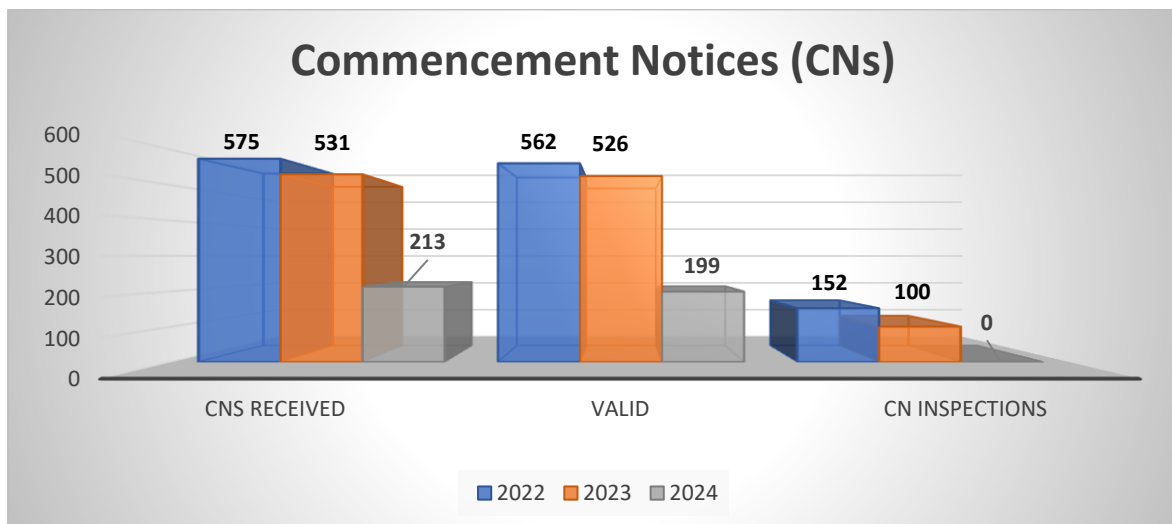
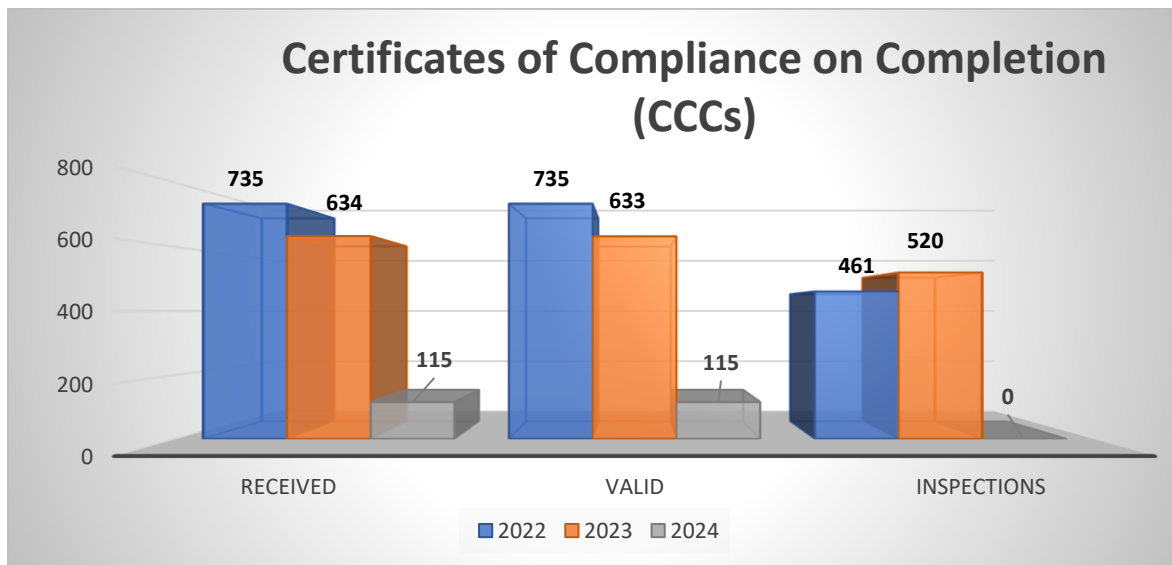
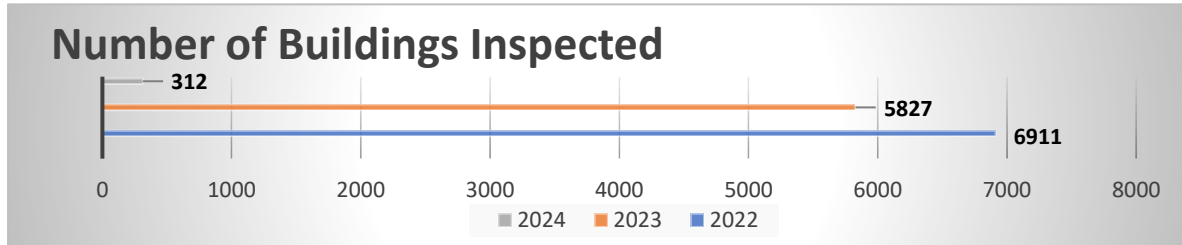


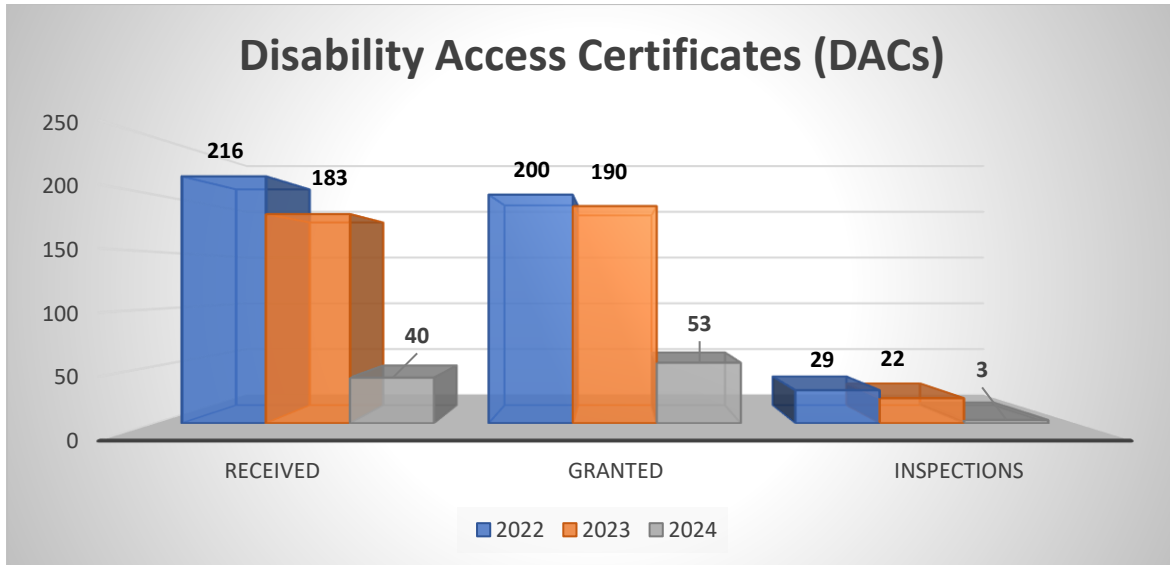


Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of March 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

In March, the tourism and hospitality sector prepared for the return of Spring which included a long weekend of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, special Mother's Day treats, Easter family events and activities along with enticing Spring breaks.

Kildare Fáilte collaborated with community organisations and its members to promote these events and activities across the County. A suite of enticing itineraries was curated to encourage visitors to spend the long weekend in Kildare. These were strategically promoted across various Into Kildare social channels and our

website generating high interest in the events taking place.



The first tourism networking event of the year was hosted by Kildare Failte in the Springfield Hotel. Over thirty members of the Kildare tourism and hospitality sector network attended including Failte Ireland.



Chief Executive Áine Mangan outlined key activities ahead and opportunities for the industry to cluster and collaborate to drive tourism growth in the county. Also promoted was the Local Expert training programme with Failte Ireland in April.

The primary objective of the sales mission was to showcase County Kildare as a prime destination for the MICE market (Meeting Incentive Conference and Events). One-to-one meetings took place with over 50 qualified key buyers.



Into Kildare with members of Kildare Network and President of Restaurants Association of Ireland.



UK Sales Trip London / Manchester

Kildare Failte board meeting took place in the Silken Thomas in Kildare Town earlier this month.

A key activity in March was a Sales Mission promoting County Kildare in London and Manchester.

Discussions took place with Dublin Convention Bureau regarding a potential familiarisation trip in September for UK MICE buyers coinciding with Taste of Kildare.

Planning and organisation will take place in the coming months.

At the launch of flat season at the Curragh Racecourse Kildare Failte met with visiting Bad Lippspringe twinning committee and the German Ambassador to Ireland.

Also attended was the launch of “Flat Season” at the Curragh Racecourse.





Bad Lipspringe Twinning Group at the Curragh

Kildare Failte, in association with Kildare County Council, participated in planning meetings with the marketing team representing the KPMG Irish Women's Open focusing on collaborations and marketing campaigns to drive footfall to the County. This event will take place from the 29 August.



KPMG Irish Women's Open

The Rose of Tralee will visit Kildare on 18-19 August. A planning meeting with Barberstown Castle took place to

discuss the itinerary and opportunities to showcase the county.

Weekly meetings for the Taste of Kildare are underway, dates confirmed as 20-22 September at Naas Racecourse.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Total LEO Financial Supports direct to Clients at 09.4.2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	22	€48,199
Business Expansion Grant	1	€26,580
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€14,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	6	€14,361
IP Start grant	1	€2,160
Total	31	€106,253



Micro finance Ireland (MFI):

One loan application approved year to date with six loan applications in progress with

Local Enterprise Office Mentors provide support to clients prior to submission of loan request to MFI.

Grant support online Briefing:

Our monthly online briefing was on 11 April from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

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

Entrepreneurship Support

ACHIEVEMENT OF KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	613
SYOB	160	101
MDP	72	-
Mentoring	468	166
Digital	7	3
Lean	20	22
Green	20	35

Focus On Start-Ups:

Our Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for

start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#).

Focus On Entrepreneurship:

To date over 600 clients have completed business-specific training programmes/workshops with LEO.

Over 100 individuals have completed Start-Your-Own-Business or Entrepreneurship 101.

All upcoming training opportunities are available to book [HERE](#).

Focus On Women In Business:

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



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

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

Focus On Export:

The Positive Economist, Susan Hayes, will lead an export workshop in MERITS on 30 April.



Focus On Lean:

Through our Lean for Business consultancy support and our Advanced Lean Program we are keen to support Kildare based companies on the same journey.

To avail of our fully funded Lean for Business support, applications can be made online [HERE](#).

Companies can also join our Advanced Lean Program which includes Yellow Belt certification for two members of the team. Applications are open [HERE](#). Places are extremely limited for this program, therefore booking is required.

Focus On Sustainability:

World renowned Natural History and Environmental broadcaster, Liz Bonnin addressed hundreds of businesses in the Riverbank Theatre in Newbridge and via national live stream on Thursday 07 March.



Moving towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy is a journey which presents both a challenge and an opportunity for Irish businesses. Businesses now need to develop a sustainability plan, covering everything from resource efficiency to supply chain, to adapt to this ambition to transition to a low-carbon, circular economy. The Local Enterprise can assist on this journey with fully funded sustainability consultancy support - [Energy Efficiency Assessment](#) which identifies suitable upgrades as part of the [Energy Efficiency Grant](#).

Focus On Digital Transformation:

LEO Kildare, as the Europe Enterprise Network Hub for the region, are leading a trip to the Smart Manufacturing and Engineering week in Birmingham in June.

We want to ensure that our clients in manufacturing and engineering keep their fingers on the pulse of the latest developments, enhance their existing operations and become more efficient, sustainable, and profitable.

Expressions of Interest can be made online [HERE](#).



Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	1	€72
CBLX	1	€1,416
CLMN	2	€5,280
KDNB	10	€2,158
NAAS	2	€400

The General Shopfront Improvement Scheme Grant and Retail Window Merchandising Grant for 2024 have opened. The Brigid 1500window grant concluded at end-February with 13 approved projects. The Economic Development team continues to visit retailers across the county providing them with information on all the supports available.

Skills Audit

Kildare County Council's (KCC) Economic Development conducted its kick-off meeting with KPMG which is undertaking the skills audit of County Kildare.

The audit will comprise a detailed analysis of the existing talent and skills within the county and the skills requirements across the county over the medium term. It is anticipated the

audit will be completed by May/ June 2024 when, at this point, it will inform Kildare County Council's strategic employment/ industrial land study (currently being undertaken by Kildare County Council's Forward Planning Department) and the tenderer will then work to deliver a comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by July 2024.

Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy

Kildare County Council will publish its second Diaspora newsletter in April and will comprise topical stories of interest to Kildare's global population. A call to the global Kildare network will also be published by Irish Central, the US's leading Irish diaspora publication.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

The evaluation of the tender documents for the construction of the Hub has been completed by Kildare County Council's consultants and the process and outcome have been approved by the funding body: Department of Rural and Community Development.

Once all tenderers have been notified of the outcome and the predetermined



standstill period has lapsed, Kildare County Council will formally announce the successful tenderer (April 2024). It is proposed that the project will be completed in 16 months upon commencement.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare

A feasibility study for the proposed development of the building was completed in H2, 2023. The Economic Development Unit will seek funding opportunities for the site and anticipate procuring a detailed design for the Courthouse in Q2, 2024.

Kildare County Council has reached a lease agreement for the deployment of a pilot on a smaller footprint in two retail units in Kildare Town's Market Square.

Kildare County Council has procured a consultant to undertake a strategic review of the 'Gather' popup shop that operated in Kildare Village (Q4 2023).

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

A feasibility study for the proposed development of the building was completed in H2, 2023 and we have secured capital funding from Kildare County Council for its development;

subject to the appropriate planning and development regulations for the proposed development being in place. It is anticipated that we will procure an architect-led detailed design on the building in Q2, 2024.

Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

On foot of the feasibility study to examine the use of lands at Duncreevan Townland, Kilcock, (as completed by a consultancy firm in H2 2023) Kildare County Council

submitted an application to the EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, as managed by Pobal.

The application seeks to commission a master plan and technical support to achieve full planning, procurement, and a strategic business plan for the proposed development of the site as a 'Sustainable Growth Business Park'. Kildare County Council submitted the application on 23 January seeking funding of €815,000; Pobal anticipates its notification of decisions to occur in April.

Progression will be very much subject to the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order.



Athy Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

On foot of the feasibility study to examine the appropriate lands in Athy, (as completed by a consultancy firm in H2 2023) Kildare County Council submitted an application to the EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, as managed by Pobal. The application seeks to commission a technical team to finalise site selection, an initial site design and a business plan including financial modeling. Kildare County Council submitted the application on 23 January seeking funding of €85,000; Pobal anticipates its notification of decisions to occur in April. Progression will be very much subject to the appropriate planning and development regulations be in order.

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach Kildare County Council, and Orlaith Carmody, Principal Advisor for Age Friendly Ireland's, rolled out Kildare's Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme at the Pride of Premises Awards in March.

As part of its Shopfront, Universal Accessibility and Age-Friendly Grant, Kildare County Council's Economic Development Unit will deliver a series of supports and guidelines to businesses to assist in the enhancement of AF county-wide. Businesses will receive training and the attainment of AF accreditation in partnership with AFI in the coming months.

Kildare County Council Industrial Estate Enhancement

A project manager and contractor has been procured to deliver enhancement works on four industrial estates owned by Kildare County Council in Newbridge, Kilcullen, Rathangan and Celbridge; the works have commenced and will enhance the exteriors and signage of the respective estates.

Tourism

A Tourism Activator has been appointed to work with applicants and animate the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026. The fund has been widely publicized, and members have been invited to local information meetings.



18 applicants have been supported and nine have had their Expressions of Interest approved by Fáilte Ireland to date. One information session was held as a joint initiative with County Offaly in Edenderry on 20 March.

K-Hub Activity:

MERITS in Naas hosted several training and capability-development programmes in March including a “Tech Sales Workshop” and an Artificial Intelligence Watch and Learn event.

MERITS continues to facilitate a pilot Coder-Dojo to encourage young people in the Kildare community to develop their knowledge and expertise around technology and software development.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive