



Chief Executive's Management Report – February, 2022

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



High Level Local Authority Transitional Good Practice Guidance for Continuing to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

The public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland continues to evolve in light of changing circumstances and risks. On 21st January 2022, the Government announced an easing of many of the public health restrictions. From 24th January, the requirement to work from home unless necessary to attend in person ended and a phased return to the physical workplace was allowed to commence.

On foot of the latest public health advice and to support the transition back to physical attendance in the workplace, and the continued safe operation of workplaces, a Transitional Protocol was prepared which evolved from the Work Safety Protocol. The document outlines the current advice and best practice guidance for employers and employees to maintain infection prevention and control and other measures to support a safe return and ongoing safe operating of workplaces.

As part of the phased approach to the return to physical workplaces, employers and employees are encouraged to be supportive of continued good practices built up over the past two years, which support a safe working environment for all. Continued adoption of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation in workplaces is advised.

Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including the self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or if having a positive COVID-19 test. It remains critically important that everyone continues to play their part in limiting transmission. COVID-19 continues to pose a risk to public health. The pandemic is not over and the emergence of new variants with increased levels of transmissibility, immune escape and/or virulence remains a risk both nationally and globally. In this context, business continuity of essential services should always be considered.



Members of the public should continue to pre-book appointments with relevant services either online at www.kildare.ie/county council/OnlineBookingSystem/ or by phone to 045 980 200. An appointment based approach is assisting management of attendance at the offices in a safe way.

Motor Tax transactions should continue to be made online or by post as there are a limited number of in person appointments available. Applications received by post in Aras Chill Dara are being returned (on average) within three working days.

Members of the public can continue to conduct business online at www.kildarecoco.ie or email customerservice@kildarecoco.ie or phone 045 980 200.

Meetings of the Council and Municipal Districts may take place in person or online. Notice of dates, times and location of statutory meetings continue to issue on social media.

Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing meetings@kildarecoco.ie.



News Items

St Brigid's Day

Kildare County Council was delighted to support the delivery of many events across the county to commemorate the life and legacy of St Brigid (see pages 08, 68 and 70).

Kildare Digital Strategy

Kildare County Council announced plans to develop a digital strategy for county Kildare (see pages 08 and 56).

Grant Schemes

Kildare County Council has announced details of many grant schemes and supports which are open for applications (see pages 09 and 64).

Register of Electors – Value Your Vote

The Live Electoral Register for 2022/23 came into force on 15 February 2022 and is available for inspection (see page 10).

Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Kildare Newbridge Municipal District

Kildare County Council proposes to make bye-laws under the Casual Trading Act 1995 (see page 10).

Housing for All – Cost Rental

Cluid Housing Association has received approval for the delivery of 96 Cost Rental units at The Paddocks, Newbridge (see page 13).

Conservation Update

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding in 2022 (see page 25).

Kilkea Rent Table

Update received regarding the conservation of the Kilkea Stone Table (see page 25).



Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

The EPA have set out a new scheme of National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) to cover the period 2022-2024 (see page 36).

Intranet Portal

To enhance mainstreaming of Climate Action within the body corporate the Climate Action Office has established a Climate and Energy Portal (see page 53).

Athy Distributor Road

Contractor is now on site (see page 56).

Newhall Junction Improvement

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed (see page 57).

Accessibility

Changing Places Facility completed in the Áras – formal opening in the coming weeks (see page 63).

Social Enterprise Grants

The Minister approved grants totalling €40,882 for six groups under the Social Enterprise Fund (see page 66).

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The council expect to open this centre to the public in Autumn 2022 (see page 71).

Creative and Arts Grants 2022 application window opens

Kildare Arts Service published details of 17 separate grants and award opportunities (see page 73).

Economic Support Services – Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme will be relaunched in March and will remain open for applications until May, 2022 (see page 77).



Diary/Calendar

Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Kildare Newbridge Municipal District

A copy of the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 – Kildare Newbridge Municipal District may be viewed and submissions/observations may be received until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 11 March 2022 (see page 10).

Annual Ethics Declaration

The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2022 (see page 11).

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement will be completed by 31 March 2022 (see page 13).

Housing For All

The Chief Executive and the Director of Services for Housing will attend a Housing for All Summit being held by the Minister on the 23 February (see page 14).

County Development Plan (CDP)

A Special Council Meeting to consider and make the Draft Plan has now been set for 24 February (see page 22).

County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

Open for applications from community groups and the closing date is 11 March 2022 (see page 25).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

The clinics will be held in March, June and October (see page 34).

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022 (see page 36).



Energy Management Team

It is proposed to hold these meetings every two months throughout 2022 (see page 49).

Mid-East Energy Bureau

The advertising of the 3 year contract was placed on eTenders at the end of January with bids to be returned by the 28 February 2022 (see page 49).

Athy Distributor Road

The Official Sod Turning for the Athy Distributor Road development is confirmed for 3:00 p.m. on 03 March 2021.

LCDC Community Activities Fund for 2022

The LCDC is managing this scheme and it has been advertised with a closing date of Monday 28 February (see page 64).

Grants Schemes

A Decade of Commemorations Community Grants Scheme has recently been publicised. The closing date is 23 March 2022 (see page 72).

Sallins Amenity Land

The Part 8 for Sallins Amenity Land has been advertised. Final date for submissions is by 5.00pm on Monday 14 March, 2022 (see page 74).

Kilcock Playground

The installation of the temporary playground in the Bawnogues has been rescheduled from the end of February to the end of March (see page 75).

Kildare Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The plan is due to be launched on Thursday 03 March by Minister Damien English (see page 79).



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 28 Feb 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly Meeting: Newbridge Town Hall | 1 Mar | 2 | 3 10:30 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee LTACC | 4 09:00 Clane Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting |
| 7 15:00 County JPC | 8 14:30 Naas JPC 15:30 Naas MD Meeting | 9 | 10 Childrens First training for the members; Online | 11 |
| 14 14:30 Protocol | 15 | 16 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting | 17 | 18 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting |
| 21 09:00 Athy JPC 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG | 22 11:00 Rural Water Monitoring Committee | 23 11:00 Drehid Liaison Committee | 24 11:00 Drehid Liaison committee 15:00 Strategic Development & Planning SPC | 25 15:00 Decade of Commemorations Committee 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC (pro... 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD (pro... |
| 28 15:00 Full Council Meeting | 29 09:00 KWETB | 30 10:00 Local Community Development Committee LCDC | 31 | 1 Apr 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting |



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Corporate Services

Communications



St Brigid's Day

Kildare County Council was delighted to support many events across the county commemorating the life and legacy of St Brigid and to mark Imbolc, the ancient festival of Spring.

The [Herstory](#) Light Show by Dodeca illuminated local landmarks with art of Brigid and Irish goddesses by artists Bernie Sexton, Non Waters, Courtney Davis and Jim Fitzpatrick.



Kildare County Council released a short video highlighting St Brigid's links

to Kildare and celebrating her life and legacy. The video featured Cathaoirleach, Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil and Mario Corrigan, A/County Librarian.

In addition, the Cathaoirleach also laid a wreath in the Garden of Remembrance outside Áras Chill Dara on St Brigid's Day.

Kildare County Council also welcomes the recent designation of a new, permanent, public holiday (from 2023) to mark and celebrate St Brigid's day, and the season of Imbolc. Kildare town and its immediate environs are the spiritual home of St Brigid, and Kildare County Council will plan events to commemorate her life and legacy as we approach the 1500th anniversary of her death in 2024.



Kildare Digital Strategy

Kildare County Council announced plans to develop a digital strategy for county Kildare that will help transform how we interact, innovate and do



business as well as help us to become more productive and creative as a society. The consultation was launched by a supporting communications campaign, using Kildare County Council's own channels including, website and social media along with local media engagement, to reach out to communities and encourage their participation. Kildare County Council launched a public consultation seeking engagement on the key areas of Digital Economy, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Skills, Digital Society and Digital Services. The Digital Strategy, once developed will seek to maximize the opportunities of digital transformation for the benefit of our society and economy, ensuring that Kildare is among the best places to live, work, invest and visit. The campaign is ongoing and a promotional video is being prepared, to be launched during the consultation period.



Grant Schemes

Throughout the first weeks of 2022, Kildare County Council has announced details of many grant schemes and supports which are open for applications in the respective categories, to support projects, artists, individuals, groups and communities across Kildare.

These schemes include:

Arts, Health and Wellbeing Awards and Supports:

- Arts, Health and Wellbeing Award 2022
- First Fortnight Award
- Connect and Discover

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

Community Grant Scheme:

- Community Grant 2022
- Festival Grant 2022
- Private Residents' Association Grant 2022
- Local Authority Residents' Association Grant 2022



Drehid Community Grant Scheme
Kildare County Council Arts Service
Arts Grants 2022
Creative Ireland Bursary Awards 2022
Creative Ireland Cruinniú na
nÓg Bursary Award 2022
Kildare Decade of Commemorations
Bursary Award 2022

Register of Electors
Value Your Vote

The Live Electoral Register for 2022/23 came into force on 15 February 2022 and is available for inspection at the following locations:

Online at Check the Register – www.checktheregister.ie

Your local Post Office and Garda Station, Library or Kildare County Council Offices (by appointment).

The Live Register applies for any elections or referenda held in the period up to 15 February 2023. More information on elections and voting is available on our [website](#)

Eligible persons who are omitted from the above Registers and wish to apply to be included on the Draft 2023/2024 Register, or to amend their current details, must complete and submit either an RFA (Inclusion on Draft) or RFA3 (Change of Address) form.

These forms are available in English and as Gaeilge as follows:

Online at Check the Register – www.checktheregister.ie or Kildare County Council's website www.kildare.ie/county council/Forms/RegisterofElectors/ or from the locations indicated above.

For any enquiry about the Register of Electors please contact us at register@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 201.

Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022, Kildare Newbridge Municipal District

Kildare County Council proposes to make bye-laws under the Casual Trading Act 1995, to designate casual trading areas at the locations outlined below:

| Designated Areas |
|--|
| Newbridge Linear Park |
| Newbridge Market Square - adjacent Eyre Street |
| Newbridge - Town Hall adjacent |
| Newbridge Edward Street |
| Rathangan - adjacent to junction Market Square/Chapel Street |
| Kilcullen Market Square |



| |
|--------------------------|
| Monasterevin Main Street |
|--------------------------|

| |
|----------------------------|
| Kildare Town Market Square |
|----------------------------|

A copy of the draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 – Kildare Newbridge Municipal District may be viewed or inspected during the period from Thursday, 27 January 2022 to Friday, 11 March 2022 (both dates inclusive) at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Online here <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>
- Local libraries in Kilcullen, Kildare Town, Monasterevin, Newbridge and Rathangan.
- By appointment at
 - Corporate Services Department (Level 1), Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara.
 - Athy Customer Service Point, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Appointments system:

<https://kildare.ie/county council/OnlineBookingSystem/> or call 045 980 200.

A copy of the draft bye-laws can be purchased from the Corporate Services Department for a fee of €5 or viewed on line at

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie>

Submissions or observations on the proposed bye-laws may be made:

- Online here <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> or
- in writing to the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare W91 X77F.

Please make your submission by one medium only i.e. online or in hard copy.

Closing date for receipt of submissions/observations is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 11 March 2022. Any submission received before the closing date will be considered in the making of the bye-laws.

Members Services

Annual Ethics Declaration

On 04 January 2022, the Ethics Registrar issued notices to all councillors and relevant employees via email regarding their obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to submit an annual written declaration containing particulars of their declarable interests. Copies of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and



2022 declaration forms were circulated.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors, that they understand its meaning, and give an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in the exercise of their functions.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2022.

Meetings

Meetings of Kildare County Council were held online during the month of January. Sectoral guidance has been received in relation to the return to the workplace including attendance at meetings, during the transition phase. The Protocol Committee are considering a process to inform decision-making on holding a meeting in-person or online.

Members Services are implementing the following guidance for inperson meetings. While social distancing is not now a public health requirement, the council are continuing to observe it as good practice in the council chamber during the transition period

and will be seating people apart from each other.

- Meeting room should be well ventilated during use, ideally through open windows.
- Adherence to general hygiene procedures and ensure attendees have sanitised hands before going into a meeting.
- Welfare facilities/hand sanitiser / wipes to be made available at / adjacent to the meeting room.
- Record of meeting attendees advised to be kept for contact tracing purposes.
- Ensure attendees are advised in advance that they must not attend the meeting if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or feel unwell (or suspect they have been exposed to COVID-19).
- Ensure appropriate cleaning regime in place.

Full Council

The plenary council received its first quarterly update on Climate Action initiatives, with the Housing Department as the featured department. The presentation was circulated to the members and is also



available on the Members Information Portal (MIP).

Finance and Information

Technology

Financial Reports

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2021 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2022. It will be brought to Full Council when complete.

Schedule of Uncollected Rates

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2022, the total amount collected on Rates for 2021 was €45.8m compared to €30.9m for 2020.

The closing arrears balance has decreased from €15.7m for 2020 to €11.8m for 2021.

The overall collection percentage for 2021 is 82% an increase on the 2020 collection percentage of 70%.

The total amount of rate waivers for 2021 was €15m compared to €22m rate waivers for 2020.

Rates Demands 2022

The rate demands for 2022 will issue in February to all ratepayers.

Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure versus budget reports for 2022 will be submitted to Full Council as part of the monthly management report from March onwards.

Housing

Housing for All

Cost Rental

Cluid Housing Association has received approval for the delivery of 96 Cost Rental units at The Paddocks, Newbridge. It is anticipated that the units will be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 (46 units) delivering in June 2022, Phase 2 (50 units) delivering in September 2022.

Tuath Housing Association have received approval for the delivery of Cost Rental Units in Walkers Gate, Kildare (40 units) and Belin Woods, Newbridge (50 units). Both schemes are due for delivery in 2022.



Staffing

Sanction has been received for the recruitment of 13 staff to deliver social housing targets laid down in Housing for All. The recruitment process for the additional staff resources will now commence but will take time to compete. This may impact on progress in 2022. With opportunities arising in other local authorities, retention of existing staff may also become a concern during the recruitment process. Additional staff will be required to deliver the affordable housing programme, this is under review by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

Housing Delivery Action Plan

The council submitted a Housing Delivery Action Plan to the DHLGH in December 2021. This plan is currently being reviewed by the department, queries in relation to affordable housing targets and delivery in 2022 and 2023 have been received and responded to.

Housing Summit: The Chief Executive and the Director of Services for Housing will attend a Housing for All

Summit being held by the Minister on the 23 February.

Loans

Lending Allocation for the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme 2022 for a sum of €10,810,000 has been received.

Allocations

Allocations continued in January and included allocations to Kildare County Council and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) units. Several transfers were also facilitated. All allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19. The rate of refusal of offers of suitable housing during 2021 was over 20%. This results in a delay in properties being allocated and creates longer periods of vacancy.

Traveller Community

A mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 is expected to commence shortly (awaiting DHLGH Circular).

Traveller accommodation continues to demand resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside



encampments. Demands on the council's social work service is high and the team are maintaining regular contact with Traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

The Annual Estimate of Traveller Accommodation was conducted on the 03 December 2021 (Housing Circular 38/2021). The update will be considered at the forthcoming meeting of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee (03 March 2022).

The Final Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community was published in December and contains 84 recommendations across health, education, employment and accommodation. The report has been circulated to members of the LTACC, the Traveller and Roma Interagency Group and the Housing SPC for consideration.

Vacant Homes

Town Centre First Policy was launched by the Government in February. The policy aims to create town centres that

function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations remain high with increased presentations from families.

Update from National Homeless Leads Meeting

National Leads COVID-19 meeting was held on the 25 January with most regions experiencing increase in presentations.

Exits to HAP tenancies continue to be a concern with a shortfall in HAP landlords in all areas.

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) National Homeless Leads meeting was held on the 27 January.

Tenancy Support: There are currently 50 active tenancy support cases in the county with 9 cases being supported by the Homeless HAP Placefinder to address arrears in order to sustain tenancies. A further 11 families will



require tenancy support in the short term and two cases were closed in January.

Homeless HAP (HHAP)

There continues to be a significant slowdown in the availability of properties for HAP and HHAP in the County. There were seven new HHAP tenancies for the month of January. The HAP Placefinder has joined the Sustainment Team in engaging with families in the Family Hubs and is providing guidance for the HAP and Homeless HAP process.

Kildare County Council Homeless Outreach

The Outreach Team continues to engage with rough sleepers and, through this work, have reduced the number of rough sleepers from 14 to 11. Innovative approaches to rough sleeping are always being investigated and links with SAFE, Rehabilitation and Treatment groups are being established. SAFE is a programme which provides services and treatment

for adults with addiction issues. A further two placements for Housing First have also been made in January bringing the total in tenancies to 15. Two shared accommodation units in Athy are fully operational (5 placed) 2 female 3 male adults, the units are being managed by Teach Íosa in partnership with the Homeless team.

Jigginstown House Supported Accommodation

This facility, operated by Tiglin, currently has eight individuals from Kildare's housing list placed in supported Own Front Door accommodation with a move on to more permanent housing achieved for one of its clients in January. Tiglin work closely with the Homeless Team in placing suitable single adults and in achieving exits when and where possible.

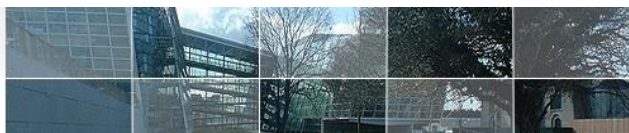


Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 January 2022

| Duration | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults | Dependents |
|-----------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 6 Months | 21 | 33 | 37 |
| 6 - 12 Months | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| 12 - 18 Months | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 18 - 24 Months | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 24 - 30 Months | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 36 Months + | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| | 45 | 65 | 70 |

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 January 2022

| Duration | No. of Households with Dependents | Adults | Dependents |
|-----------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 6 Months | 5 | 6 | 12 |
| 6 - 12 Months | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 12 - 18 Months | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 18 - 24 Months | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 - 30 Months | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| + 36 Months | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | 11 | 16 | 27 |



Capital Programme

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|---|--|---|
| Approval Stage 4 | | |
| Athgarvan Village | 18 units | Engagement ongoing with DHLGH with regard to retendering of this project, possibly in Q1 2022. |
| 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. | Stage 2 Submitted 15/10/21. Awaiting Department approval. It is anticipated that Stage 2 approval will issue shortly. |
| Coill Dubh | 10 units | Stage 3 approval received July 2021 with conditions. Response to conditions issued to Department on 1 October 2021 for approval before tender will be approved for advertising. |
| Ardclough Road, Celbridge | 39 units | Stage 2 submitted for approval; awaiting response from the DHLGH. Expected Part 8 / Planning launch Q1 2022. |
| Dispensary Site Carbury | 5 units | Stage 1 approval received. Consultant's tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8. Design Team Tender to progress Q1 2022. |
| Oldtown Mill, Celbridge | 57 units | Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation. |
| St Evin's Park Monasterevin | 16 units | Stage 2 application for approval for submission being prepared. Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations underway. |
| Approval Stage 1 | | |
| Old Greenfield, Maynooth | Volumetric Framework 64 units | Stage 2 application for approval for submission to DHLGH being prepared. If approved Part 8 to follow. |
| Ambassador Site, Kill | 33 units | Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Preparation of Part 8 documents progressing; awaiting AA screening and EIA determination. Expected Part 8 launch Q1 2022. |
| Caragh Road, Naas | 73 units | Development of 73 units [to include 15 affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. |
| Andrew, Athy | 8 units | Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Review of approval ongoing. |



Infill Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Newtown House, Leixlip | 4 units | Part 8 to launch Q2 2022. |
| Glandore, Athy | 4 units | Part 8 to launch Q1 2022 |
| Patrician Ave, Naas | 2 new + 1 refurb | Awaiting AA screening and EIA determination. Expected Part 8 launch Q1 2022. |
| Shamrock Stores, Athy | 2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units | Application for stage 1 and 2 approval for new unit being prepared for submission to DHLGH. |

PPP Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Nancy's Lane, Clane | 77 units | Scheme completed, allocations ongoing |
| Ardrew, Athy | 73 Housing units + Community unit. | Part 8 for 73 social housing units at Ardrew, Athy readvertised on 1 st February 2022. Submissions due by 15 th March 2022. |

Approved Housing Body Schemes

| Location | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy | 35 units | Expected completion mid-June 2022. |
| Tuath HA Castlifen, Sallins | 28 units | Completion programmed for March 2022. |
| Cluid, ESB site Leixlip | 27 units | Architect lead Design Team Tender to be appointed Q1 2022. Discussions regarding relocation of mast to recommence. |
| Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas | 70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department) | Meeting held with the DHLGH November 2021. Current calculations of abnormal costs risk the viability of the project. Increasing density to be explored. |



Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

| Approved Housing Body | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|--|--------------|--|
| KARE Craddockstown | 3 units | Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by Kildare County Council. |
| Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan | 27 units | Meeting held with Sophia at end of August. Proposed unit numbers reduced to 27. |
| Cluid Dominican Lands Athy | 34 units | CAS2 application submitted to the Department October 2021. Requests from the Department to increase density to improve viability of scheme. Increased density agreed in principle with Planning. Road and carparking layout to reflect public realm objectives for this area. Cluid are progressing updates to drawings and cost plan for a submission to the DHLGH Q1 2022. |
| The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins | 4 units | Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed. |

Acquisitions

| | Completed Units 2019 | Completed units 2020 | Completed 2021 | Completed 2022 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Housing Acquisitions | 231 | 39 | 13 | 2 |
| Housing Turnkeys | 81 | 107 | 27 | |
| Part V Acquisitions | 67 | 41 | 70 | |
| Total complete | 379 | 187 | 110 | 2 |

| Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District | | | | | |
|--|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|
| | Athy | Celbridge- Leixlip | Clane- Maynooth | Kildare- Newbridge | Naas |
| Acquisitions in 2022 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

| | 2020 | 2021 to date | 2022 to date |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Total Approved | €7,924,618 (includes 2019 applications) | €11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications) | €3,190,945 |
| Total Drawn Down | €2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals) | €4,284,754 (€3,232,795 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €1,051,956 from 2021 approvals) | €864,100 (€406,000 from 2021 approvals, €458,100 from 2020 approvals) |

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

| 2022 | Approval No. | Approval Amount | Approval Drawdown No (2021 apps) | Approval Drawdown Amount (2021 apps) | Expired No (2021 approvals) | Expired Amount (2021 approvals) |
|------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan | 9 | €2,029,945 | 2 | €406,000 | 2 | €576,000 |
| Feb | 5 | €1,161,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Year to date no loans approved under the Local Authority Home Loan scheme or the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

| Location | Programme | No. of Units | Updated Status |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--|
| Beechgrove, Rathangan | MEERP | 14 | Phase 1 Beechgrove: Works ongoing, 4 units substantially complete, 3 further units commenced |
| Ashgrove, Derrinturn | MEERP | 21 | Works progressing well, circa. 16 of 18 houses substantially complete, final snag to be carried out before sign-off. |
| Bishopsland, Kildare | MEERP | 38 | Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/ Dunmurry: Letter of acceptance ready to issue, start date to be confirmed prior to issue of LoA. Expect to commence Q1 2022. |
| St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin | MEERP | 15 | Phase 4 St Evins' Park: 4 number units substantially complete, works progressing on a further 6 units |
| Cill Corban, Naas | EERP | 10 | First 5 units completed; and works to remaining 5 units has commenced |
| Clonmullion, Athy | EERP | 14 | Letter of acceptance ready to issue, start date to be confirmed prior to issue of LoA. Expect to commence Q1 2022. |
| Loughnamona, Leixlip | EERP | 39 | Letter of acceptance issued; Works commenced 24/1/22. 3 Units Substantially complete. |
| Vacants | MEERP/EERP | 24 | Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing |



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan (CDP)

The Proposed Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was submitted to the Elected Members on the 17 December 2021. The Proposed Draft Development Plan consists of three main parts Volume 1 (Written Statement), Volume 2 (Settlement Plans) and the Appendices, of which there are 11. These appendices include the following;

- Housing Need and Demand Assessment and Housing Strategy
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy [OSS] (prepared in collaboration with Parks and Recreation Dept)
- Wind Energy Strategy [WES]
- Rural House Design Guide
- Rural Housing Report (prepared in collaboration with AIRO)
- Core Strategy Methodology (including a Kildare Housing Completion report)

- Single rural Dwelling Density Toolkit

The Members had until 4:00 p.m. on Friday 11 February to submit their motions with respect to the CDP.

In order to assist the elected members with writing their motions and to address any questions the elected members may have at this stage of the Plan making process, a series of clinics were facilitated by the Forward Planning Team. These clinics were provided to each of the political parties at separate sessions with an invite having also been extended to each of the independent elected members.

A Special Council Meeting to consider and make the Draft Plan has now been set for 24 February (with an additional date of 25 February should this be required).

The Forward Planning Team have now hosted a series of six workshops covering a range of themes to assist the Elected Members in their consideration of the Draft CDP as set out below;



| No. | Workshop Theme | Date | Time |
|-----|---|------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Core and Settlement Strategy and Housing (general) | 17 January 2022 | 2 - 4pm |
| 2 | Economic Development and Town Centres (inc. Rural) | 19 January 2022 | 2 - 4pm |
| 3 | Heritage, Biodiversity and Open Spaces | 21 January 2022 | 2 - 4pm |
| 4 | Energy Generation, Data Centres (inc. Wind) and Transportation | 25 January 2022 | 2 - 4pm |
| 5 | Community and Creative Places | 27 January 2022 | 10am – 12pm |
| 6 | County Kildares Small Towns and Villages Strategy and Rural Housing | 01 February 2022 | 10am – 1pm |

Work is ongoing to prepare for the public consultation for the Draft Development Plan scheduled for mid-March (subject to the completion of mandatory environmental assessments).

The Forward Planning Team is preparing a Public Consultation Strategy to include the following;

- A Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 ‘Virtual Consultation Room’
- Kildare County Development Plan Podcast Series
- A series of online webinars/drop in meetings*
- Recorded presentations and FAQs
- Social Media and Website Consultation Strategy

- Consultation Portal
- Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

*The drop in meetings/clinics will be scheduled subject to such gatherings being permissible under the public health restrictions in place at the time of publication of the Draft Plan. All other platforms are online so as to ensure, insofar as possible, a continuous and uninterrupted consultation.

CA. 700 motions were received from the members on the proposed draft.

Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Maynooth

Background work for the Maynooth LAP is currently underway with various



assessments, including a Transport Strategy, being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

Kildare Town

Background work for the Kildare Town LAP is currently underway with various environmental and infrastructural assessments being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

| Planning applications received: | Residential Units Granted | Applications decided: |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January | No. | January 2022 |
| 2019: 87 | 57 | Total Granted: 66 |
| 2020: 73 | 269 | Retention: 14 |
| 2021: 99 | 30 | Extension of Duration: 0 |
| 2022: 95 | 130 | Total Refused: 20 |

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

| SHD Applications | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ref No. | Stage | Date Lodged | Developer | Location | No of Units | ABP Decision Due |
| 20/2107 | 2 | 16/11/2021 | Kieran Curtin | Lands at Ballyouster, Celbridge | 343 | KCC Opinion issued 22/12/2021 |
| 20/2108 | 2 | 26/11/2021 | Cairn Homes | Mariavilla, Maynooth | 414 | KCC Opinion issued 21/12/2021 |
| 20/2109 | 2 | 12/12/2021 | Garyaron Homes | Glencarrig, Leixlip | 138 | Invalid |

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning

authority will be required to hold an LRD meeting (within four weeks) and issue an LRD opinion within eight weeks of the receipt of documentation from the applicant. Further strategic housing development applications may



still be received as a number complete the process.

A briefing session for relevant service departments was held on 31 January 2022.

Conservation Update

It has been announced that Kildare County Council will receive €124,000 in Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) funding in 2022, an increase of €30,000 from the 2021 allocation.

County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

Open for applications from community groups. Closing date March 11 2022.

Kilkea Rent Table

Update received from Sven Habberman, Conservationist regarding the conservation of the Kilkea Stone Table. The conservation work on the table is completed and they are now working on the steel support structure. It is expected the restored table with supports will be returned to the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) in Swords while awaiting completion of the Shackelton Museum, Athy.

Subject to confirmation with the NMI, the Rent Table will be wrapped, packed and in storage within the next three weeks, until it is ultimately installed in Athy.

The Heritage Officer has written to Sir Adrian Fitzgerald seeking interim payments (two-thirds of full payment) for the work as agreed. Final payment will be due on installation in the Athy Museum.

Community Monuments Fund 2022

Applications are now been accepted for the CMF 2022. Details are available on Kildare County Council website with closing date 15 February 2022.

The CMF aims to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Part of this funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments and the provision of any required measures to ensure safe access during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The core aims of this fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. It will:

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change;
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation.

The Department encourages projects to incorporate a traditional skills training element.

The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

1. Stream 1 will offer grants up to €85,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.
2. Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of

Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed specification of works that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.

3. Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

Heritage Funding 2022

Funding application has been made to Heritage Council under Heritage Plan Fund for four projects.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund

Applications sought from Local Authorities. The Heritage Office is in the process of making applications in line with Kildare Biodiversity Plan. Closing date 25 February.



Public Realm

Public Realm Funding Applications and other items

Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to Covid 19) Round 3

Works are complete on the following projects:

| Location | Total estimated project cost | Amount of T&V grant funding requested for this project |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Leixlip Town Centre | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Celbridge Town Centre | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Main Street, Naas and environs | €60,000 | €40,000 |
| Main Street, Maynooth and environs | €45,000 | €40,000 |
| Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council | €11,000 | €10,000 |

The following projects which were successful under the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 are being progressed:

| Location | Proposal | Total Project Cost | Funding Requested | Comments |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Ardclough | Heritage Centre Phase 2 | €97,000 | €87,300 | Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding |
| Clane | Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre | €250,000 | €200,000 | Clane Maynooth LPT match funding |
| Athy | Enterprise Centre improvements | €99,000 | €89,100 | Enterprise Centre to provide match funding |



| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| Sallins | Healthcheck & Town Renewal Plan | €70,000 | €63,000 | Naas LPT match funding |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|

The following public realm applications to Call 2 of the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund were successful and funding terms and conditions have been accepted:

| Location | Proposal | Total Project Cost | Funding Awarded | Comments |
|----------|--|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Naas | Town centre Masterplan & Cultural Quarter. | €4,662,000 | €3,490,000 | Consultant to be procured. |
| Maynooth | Town Centre Masterplan to include Main Street and adjoining laneways, Carton Avenue, Courthouse Square, Harbourfield and environs. | €2,545,000 | €1,900,000 | Consultant to be procured. |

SPECIAL PROJECTS & PUBLIC REALM TEAM
Updates in **BLUE**

| |
|---|
| Concept |
| Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP . |
| Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged. |
| Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan & Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. |
| Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Design has commenced on NTA funded interim traffic management measures which will be rolled out in November 2021. Tender for consultant to work on healthcheck with Public Realm team being published early 2022. |



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| Part 8 |
| Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08.02.2022, on public display from 09.02.2022 – 09.03.2022. Public consultation open until 23.03.2022. |
| Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure. |
| Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021. Detailed design will now progress. |
| Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 5 th October 2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 will go before Clane Maynooth MD for approval at Feb meeting. |
| Tender Consultants and Design |
| Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 20km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023. |
| Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation to commence January 2022 after Athy MD Members briefing. |
| Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced. |
| Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022. |
| Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27 th September 2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP. |
| Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the |



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| <p>consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. . Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools. Additional consultation to be launched Q1 2022.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Q1 2022.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p> |
| <p>Tender Consultants</p> |
| <p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. 2nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation.</p> |



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| <p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q1 2022 and will take 9 months to complete.</p> |
| <p>Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p> |
| <p>Tender Works</p> |
| <p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Q1 2022.</p> |
| <p>Design</p> |
| <p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Consultation on draft Masterplan complete and submissions being incorporated into draft Masterplan.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p> |
| <p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p> |
| <p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 published 5th October 2021. Included in successful URDF application.</p> |



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| Detailed Design |
| Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application. |
| Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 8 th June 2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre. |
| On Hold |
| Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021. |
| Construction |
| Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open. |
| Naas – MERITS – Works complete. Final fit out nearing completion. |
| Complete |
| Athy - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed. |
| Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed. |
| Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete. |
| Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 4 th Dec. |

Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

These works were completed and commissioned in 2020. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations by the end of Quarter 1

2022 pending all operational outstanding issues and Health, Safety, Quality, Environment (HSQE) issues being addressed.

The pumping stations are being operated by the contractor for a 12-month proving period. These are due to be handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations in early 2022.



Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works carried out in Clane and Newbridge are substantially complete. The remaining pipeline works in Sallins on the main street began in early January under a road closure and it is anticipated these works will be completed in Quarter 1 2022. The last section of pipeline to be installed in Naas close to the lake at Lakelands started in late January also. Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins pumping stations.

Osberstown Sludge Treatment Facility - Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract Variation

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Operate (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020.

Thermal hydrolysis process is operational and managed by Veolia on behalf of Irish Water.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and detailed design stage.

Irish Water and its representatives are currently negotiating with affected landowners and Irish Water published a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for this scheme in late September 2021 as option agreements had not been reached with all landowners. There was one objection to this project and an Oral Hearing was planned to take place on the 24 of January. The objection was withdrawn on the morning of the Oral Hearing and Irish Water are now preparing the Confirmation Order documents and notices.

Capital Projects

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and will have the project passed



across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 1 2022 for execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control 3 and Revenue Control 4 periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Irish Water confirmed that the green light has been given for the upgrade of Timolin Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme. This will unlock growth and development by ensuring the treatment infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of the community. There is no timeline available at this stage. This follows the announcement of the upgrade of Derrinturn Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The 2022 schedule of clinics is as follows

- Monday 28 March
- Monday 27 June
- Monday 24 October

Irish Water will be in contact with members in advance of clinics.

Environment

Pre-Draft Notice of Preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy”

The three Regional Waste Management Planning Offices have given notice of intention to commence preparation of the “National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy” to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans. The current plans are available on www.mywaste.ie

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre. The public awareness campaign is asking households and commercial premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste. By doing so they will make an important contribution to meeting the climate challenge as well as improving the quantity and quality of recyclable



material collected and help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and incineration.



Along with local authorities across the country Kildare County Council have adopted bye-laws to ensure a consistent approach to managing waste – Segregation, Storage and Presentation.

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

- Dry Recyclables
- Food and Compostable Waste
- Residual Waste

Food waste and other compostable waste must be disposed of by either composting, using civic amenity sites or via a brown bin service provided by your authorised waste collection service.

Authorised Waste Collection Services are obliged by law to provide separate bin service for food/compostable waste in agglomerations of 500 or more people.

Mr Joe Boland, Director of Services Kildare County Council said; “The intent of this campaign is to improve general public awareness of their legal obligations with respect to the proper segregation of waste streams within the homes and businesses of the county. The purpose of the bye-laws is to ensure every household and commercial premises segregate and dispose of their waste in an authorised manner.

If people live in an urban area with a population of greater than 500 people, their authorised waste collector is obliged to provide them with a compostable bin collection service. These simple actions will greatly improve the quality of recyclables collected and significantly minimise the volume of residual wastes that are disposed of at landfill. In addition, there will be significant community benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

Kildare County Council are actively carrying out inspections to help ensure compliance with the bye-laws and failure to comply with the requirements of the bye-laws may result in a fine or legal prosecution.



Further information is available from:

mywaste.ie or
kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Environment/Waste/

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continues to stabilise from previous years. In January 2021, 559 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2022, this has reduced to 499 tonnes, in line with previous years.

Green Schools

An increase in queries from Green Schools was noted during January and it is hoped there will be an overall increase in activity with the schools this spring.

Civic Amenity Facilities

The two civic amenity sites continue to operate as normal at Silliot Hill, Kilcullen and at Gallowshill, Athy.

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for

protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

The EPA have set out a new scheme of National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) to cover the period 2022-2024, as follows:

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,
 - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
 - Household and commercial waste,
 - Producer Responsibility Initiative's and local priorities
- Water Priorities
 - Pressures from agric storage,
 - Pressures from agric spreading,
 - DWWTS's,
 - Disch licenses,
 - Water quality monitoring.
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring prog,



- Noise directive,
- Air/noise control, and
- Ongoing air/noise enforcement.

In terms of the 2021 NEP's; Kildare County Council has met its 2021 targets. These will be outlined in the end-of-year Recommended Minimum Criteria Environment Inspections (RMCEI) report to the EPA.

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. For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: www.nwcpo.ie

National Tidy Towns

The National Tidy Towns competition proceeded this year, with the adjudication being done remotely. The Environment Department supported the entrants by providing grants to facilitate works, as well as offering

advice on the wide range of areas covered by the competition.

There are 41 groups in county Kildare and 32 of them entered the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition.

Grants were processed and paid out to all applicants.

The results where County Kildare were mentioned are:

- Endeavour Award – Kildare Town
- County Awards – In first place was Kill, in second place was Straffan and in third place Naas
- Medal Winners –
 - Bronze Medal Winners – Clane and Rathangan
 - Silver Medal Winners – Ballymore Eustace, Celbridge and Newbridge
 - Gold Medal Winners – Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Straffan

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards

Naas has been awarded the top spot in the 2021 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League's cleanest towns. Leixlip was ranked fourth out of 40 towns and cities countrywide.



IBAL spokesperson Conor Horgan commented that Naas deserved its win saying "It's the first time Naas has taken the title and is a very worthy winner."

New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

Consultants have been appointed to progress this project to the next stage which will involve seeking expressions of interest from the market.

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and

Killeenmore commencing. Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.morellfms.ie/>

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The Kildare County Council and OPW Steering Group has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme and documentation to advance this is currently being drafted. The scheme will be assessed under the CEEQUAL sustainability scheme, giving an independent verification of the design and constructions sustainability performance.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. The review of hydrology is almost complete, with initial runs of the hydraulic model underway. The combined hydrology and hydraulics report will be published once completed.



Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

Kerdiffstown

Wills Bros Ltd was appointed in October 2020 for the remediation of the landfill and the construction of the park.

It is great to see the external render on the changing rooms, as can be seen in the photo below



The capping of zones is continuing at pace as the contractor is working well in Zone 3, as can be seen in the photo below



Internal fencing around the leachate compound has started which can be seen in the photo below.



This next photo shows us how the overflow carpark is progressing.



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

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark>

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental



Protection Agency (EPA) Licence.

This will continue through the works.

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

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownPark/Visualisation/>

Historic Landfill Programme

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Section 22 Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. 100% funding is provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice on these sites. This must be carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites. The status of these are as follows:

Carigeen, Clane

CoA issued by EPA. Previous tender had to be withdrawn due to technical issues. Proposed to retender in Quarter 1 2022.

Digby Bridge, Sallins

Application for CoA submitted to the EPA. A draft CoA received in November 2021, but challenged by Kildare County Council. Once granted, design for remediation works to commence.

Pollardstown, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which are currently underway and expected to be completed by Quarter 1 2022.

Knocknagarm, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works as required were completed in January 2022.

Greenhills, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Prusselstown, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

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.

Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

Works to include:

- Resurfacing,
- Drainage improvement,
- Lighting,
- New boundaries, and
- Pedestrian crossing.

have been delayed due to major road improvement works planned to facilitate new development in the area. Envisaged that works will be delivered during Quarter 2 2022.

Newbridge Cemetery Road and Path Resurfacing

Tenders advertised for footpath and roadway improvement works.

Contractor appointed and works scheduled in Quarter 1 2022.

St. Michael's (New) Cemetery, Athy Road and Path Resurfacing

Works have been completed in January 2022.

Allen Cemetery

Plans for Phase 4 expansion currently being developed. Part 8 documents to

be prepared with a view to proceed to Part 8 publication in Quarter 1/Quarter 2 of 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Cemetery Maintenance Grants, to assist local groups with the maintenance of cemeteries, have been processed for 2021.

Risk Management

The 2022 risk cycle is now commencing and a meeting of the departmental gatekeepers took place on the 10 February, its purpose being to provide additional guidance from the Audit Committee on the preparation of the departmental risk registers.



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support its constituent local authorities to drive climate action projects in their counties, with particular focus on implementing actions contained within climate adaptation strategies. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at www.caro.ie



CAP 2021

Following the publication of the National Climate Action Plan 2021, the Annex of Actions, to support the delivery

of the plan has now been approved and published. It is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223-e-climate-action-plan-2021/>.

The CARO has undertaken an examination of the CAP and Annex of Actions, to provide local authorities with details of the sections relevant to the sector.

Community Climate Action Programme



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



The Community Climate Action Programme, funded by the Climate Action Fund, will see €60 million invested in community climate action projects, initiatives, and capacity building, over the next three years.

Details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/de5d3-climate-action-fund/>

It will be rolled in two phases with €30 million allocated for the first phase.

The first phase is comprised of two strands:

Strand 1 - Action: Building Low Carbon Communities - €24 million is being provided to local authorities to support communities, large and small, rural and urban, to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way. Further details on the roll out will be available in due course.

Strand 2 - Education: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing - A total of €6 million is being provided to build community capacity in relation to climate action. There are two elements to this strand:



A - Open Call for Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing Projects:

€5 million will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications (DECC).



Applications opened on the 15 November 2021 and closed on 14 January 2022.



B - Creative Climate Action: €1 million which has already been allocated. This scheme is administered by Creative Ireland.



Capacity Building

The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, to implement on behalf of the local government sector, a national training programme for all elected members and local authority staff. The training programme includes six pillars and has received CPD accreditation from a number of bodies (Engineers Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, CIWEM). Over the course of 2021 and to date this year, the training programme has delivered training to 13,581 staff and elected members across all local

authorities. Currently a review of training to date is being undertaken and will help inform future training under this programme. The review will be completed in March/ April 2022.



Elected Members/Senior Staff

This programme has been delivered to 939 senior management and staff, in 26 local authorities to date. The remaining 5 local authorities will complete the programme by March 2022. For those who have been unable to attend within their local authority, a Championing Leadership Webinar will take place in April 2022.



Climate Action Teams

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI, the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, is aimed at



members of local authority Climate Action Teams. The course takes place over six half days and to date, has been delivered to CAT members in all local authorities. In 2022, under this pillar, additional support training on specific themes will be offered to CAT members via webinar.



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 11,703 staff at grades 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and equivalents participate. At present, 3,500 participants from across all local authorities are registered to complete the course by the end of February 2022.



Thematic Training

In 2021, this pillar delivered the Planning for Climate Change training and Flood Risk Management training

to almost 600 staff across all local authorities. Work is continuing to develop training under this pillar, focusing specifically on translating climate policy to particular functions of local authorities.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with delivery intended to be rolled out on a local authority by local authority basis, from this year.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are community-facing and will be delivered by the IPA and the LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. There are currently 5 in-person training sessions scheduled for 2022, targeting each of the 4 CARO regions.



CARO

Eastern & Midlands
Climate Action
Regional Office

Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Section 16 of the Climate Action and
Low Carbon Development

(Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each
local authority to develop a Climate
Action Plan, to specify the mitigation
and adaptation measures to be
adopted. The CAROs worked in
partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA
under the guidance of a project
advisory group to develop guidelines
for local authorities in support of the
development of their climate action
plans.

The draft guidelines have been
developed and were circulated through
the governance channels of both the
CCMA and EPA, before submission to
the Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications. Once
finalised, the guidelines are to be
published by the Minister of the
Environment, Climate and
Communications, who has until
December 2022 to issue direction to
local authorities to prepare their plans.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

The CARO are working with local
authorities in each of the four sub-
regions to develop regional energy
bureaus or regional energy efficiency
projects.

In the Mid-East, the three local
authorities involved (Kildare, Meath,
Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO,
have put a tender together for the
resourcing of 5 personnel for the Mid-
East Energy Bureau. The personnel
range from 1 Regional Manager, 1
Regional Community Energy Officer
and 3 Energy Officers, one of whom
will be based at each of the local
authorities.

In the Border sub-region (Cavan,
Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building
energy efficiency report for the three
local authorities went to tender, with
Codex Energy being appointed. Their
final report has been received and
identifies 18 buildings with a project
pipeline of over 100 potential projects
for each building to attain a B2 rating.



This sub-region is currently looking at forming an MOU with SEAI relating to Pathfinder Support.

In the South East (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The 4 Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the three CEA (three Counties Energy to engage with CARO and the SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being drafted at present. Tipperary Co. Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon Co. Council has recently entered an agreement to become the 5th member of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA). The MEA local authorities with the support of SEAI, will now undertake a gap to target assessment and intends to engage with SEAI to progress an MOU for Pathfinder support for capital projects in their subregion.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet:

The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. Stage 1 of the Project was the completion of a Fleet Survey and Fleet Manager Survey. Surveys were returned between December and January. The survey results are currently being extrapolated and an early wins document is being developed. These have been identified from the early findings of the survey and include the following:

- Eco Driver Training
- Fleet Manager Training
- Fuel Management and Accounting Techniques
- Electrification Opportunities
- Alternative Fuel Opportunities
- Union agreement / GPS Protocol



GAA/CCMA Green Club

Partnership:

The programme is starting to build back momentum after the latest series of COVID restrictions. The pilot phase has been extended to provide additional time for clubs to implement and pilot projects, as well as for Green Club Toolkits to be fully developed.

In 2021, the Green Club group applied to the DECC for funding to help towards implementing the SDGs, using the Green Club as a vehicle to achieve this. At the end of 2021, the DECC announced they would provide €100k towards completion of the pilot phase and committed to further funding over the following 2 years for Phase 2 and 3 of the programme.



CARO/Mid-East EAOs TY Project and GAA Future Leaders Programme:

Phase 1 of the Green Club Programme (GCP) is underway, with 5 thematic areas for participants to

undertake projects – Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity, Travel and Transport, with a sub-group to support development of resources for each. An Education sub-group has also been set up, to provide linkage between these themes and the GAA's youth education and leadership programmes, in particular the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme.

A working group between the Environmental Awareness Officers (EAOs) in the Mid-East Sub Region and the CARO, has been steadily working to develop content for transition year lessons, under climate and sustainability themes. With their agreement, the expertise of educational contributors who assist the GAA with their Future Leaders programme has been leveraged, which will see this content rolled out under the new Sustainability Module of the GAA's Future Leaders TY Programme.

9 of 10 sustainability module lessons have been developed, ready for launch shortly. For the initial pilot of the in 2022, the CARO will be focusing on engaging participating clubs in the Green Clubs Programme and schools in their locality, as well as the EAOs



network and other LA networks. The feedback from the pilot should assist in the development of future content.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)/Climate Action Plan (CAP)

It is a requirement under the Covenant of Mayors and Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act that Kildare County Council prepares a five-year Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan/Climate Action Plan (SECAP/CAP). RPS Group, contracted consultants, have delivered an estimation of emissions for the county as a baseline. Work is continuing on finalizing the data. Risk

analysis has commenced to bring work on the plan as far as possible while awaiting the guidelines to be issued by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee



The Climate Action Office, while awaiting the guidelines from the Department, is progressing the likely needs of the challenge ahead to decarbonize by 51% by 2030. To this end the team is aligning collaborations within and outside the council, is progressing funding opportunities for the local community and council, developing linkages to create a steering group and subgroups with stakeholders, seeking business opportunities, policies and projects established or in development, developing methods of citizen engagement and researching findings from other initiatives. It is envisaged this background work through the lens



of climate action will inform the implementation plan and potential actions to create a proactive and achievable approach. The Climate Action SPC is being made aware of progress.

Energy Management Team

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team met monthly throughout 2021 and moving forward into 2022 it has been agreed to align both the climate action team and energy management team meetings, this is seen as a more streamlined option which will reduce meetings for some members of the teams and will cross pollinate actions. It is proposed to hold the meetings every two months throughout 2022. Key areas are being targeted for the Team in early 2022; the recognized energy management standard of ISO 50001 is being considered by the Team and to decide Kildare County Council's next steps. The Energy Management Team through its register of opportunities is identifying suitable projects to move to action phase for 2022, these will be a mix of initiatives and projects to reduce our energy usage. Analysis of top

energy users across our council remains a standalone agenda item and it is hoped to bring analysis of these top energy users to senior managers attention intermittently through 2022.

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

Our provisional scorecard for energy usage in 2020 shows a 33.3% energy reduction against its baseline year of 2009, which is significant progress from the 2019 figure of 24%. Although this is a provisional figure from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) it shows continued progress on energy efficiencies and also meets the national target of 33% reduction by 2020.

The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is due to change during 2022 in that it will capture more energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel and others.

Mid-East Energy Bureau

Kildare County Council is engaged in a process with other local authorities to form an Energy Bureau to drive energy efficiencies at a regional level. It is



proposed to establish the Bureau with the assistance of SEAI's pathfinder program which will assist with funding towards energy related projects across the region and also funding for the Bureau establishment and staffing needs over a fixed period of time. Currently Kildare, Wicklow and Meath Local Authorities are partnered to deliver this initiative, with support from CARO. Kildare's Energy Efficiency Officer is also assisting with a sub-group of the Bureau Establishment Team to develop tender documentation to procure a suitable consultant to drive this project. The advertising of the 3 year contract was placed on eTenders at the end of January with bids to be returned by the 28 February 2022.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. There are currently 25 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare, with four of these nearing the end of their energy master plan stage which will allow them to move to the action phase. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan(EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA. Ballymore Eustace and Naas SEC's have lodged applications with Kildare County Council for funding assistance to deliver their energy master plans. It



is hoped to have agreements in place in early 2022.

The Climate Action Office is working with CODEMA to streamline the administration of the system for all parties involved.

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for LA's as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in our fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District Offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging.

As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater

awareness of EV's it will also be key to facilitate specific EV driving training for all drivers of fleet vehicles to ensure potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

The Climate Action Office is also examining the potential to introduce a compressed natural gas HGV vehicle into Kildare County Council's fleet, while smaller vans have suitable options such as electrification; the larger trucks are an issue. One solution to this is a compressed natural gas vehicle.

Climate Action



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

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

The Climate Action Office in conjunction with Age Friendly, Roads and the Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association successfully applied for funding for Ballymore Eustace Disability, Age and Climate Friendly River Walk. Carmel Cashin is working with all concerned to undertake the funded works. Phase 1 is to make the river walk accessible for



all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.

Initiatives

The Climate Action Office is delighted to be working with various functional areas to enhance their work through a Climate Action lens.

We are researching the viability of partnering with others to enable the use of the newly announced Community Climate Action Fund Strand 2 funding under the Governments Climate Action Fund and other funding strands. Under strand 2 and application for 'The People's Patch' project has been made by the Neighbourhood Network, The Useless Project, and Longford, Laois and Kildare County Councils.

The Climate Action Office continues to work with the Age Friendly section with a county wide 'Wool in Schools' programme to be distributed through older person care homes as an intergenerational piece. This work is framed under Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 program. €75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an

application, led by Carlow Co Co, with Kildare and Meath Co Co as partners where artists and environmentalists will explore bogs in West Kildare (Kildare artist is Monica De Bath) Girley Bog, Meath and Drummond Bog, Carlow.

Workshops are being undertaken with teenagers with access needs, potential An Gaisce Awards work and intergenerational works with requests from primary and secondary school children for guidance and information on Climate Action being received.

Community activation workshops on the topic of 'How to tackle Climate Action' are being undertaken with the National Learning Network.

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county.



Paul Woods

Paul graduated from LSAD with a BA Honours Degree in fine art painting. He paints about personal, collective and universal histories. He focuses on details, minute elements and intricate patterns.



He builds up layers of paint meticulously in order to achieve his desired effect. In recent years, his focus has been on the theme of evolution and the environmental impact of humanity on nature. The scale of his work is very important as he wants the viewer to be immersed in the painting and overwhelmed by its colours and patterns.

Mural finalized in early October on Council's Machinery Yard Wall, Newbridge.

We are working closely with Creative Ireland team to inform and increase mitigation, adaptation and resilience within our communities.

Forestry

The finalised document 'Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme' was released on 28 May 2021.

The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer has five potential sites chosen to be assessed provisionally.

The templates for tendering have been finalised and are available to utilize.

Communications and Mainstreaming

Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The December edition was published with a sleeker look. Further enhancements to make the ezine easy to read will be examined. Topics are informed by external and internal influences with media links being used to increase accessibility. Ideas and topic of interest are sought from council staff. A sample of staff led mainstreaming is highlighted by Architects. Mary Morrissey and colleagues have developed their own internal model of communication to assist with understanding to enable mainstreaming of actions under the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in their functional area.

The next edition is being compiled and will be published towards the end of February/start of March.

Intranet Portal

To enhance mainstreaming of Climate Action within the body corporate the Climate Action Office has established



a Climate and Energy Portal on the Intranet [here](#).

SharePoint



Climate & Energy

The content will be further refined to reflect the combining of the Climate Action Team and the Energy Management Team. This will reduce duplication of information and further embed climate action and energy efficiency as two sides of the one coin into all aspects of our lives. The portal is sub-divided into Projects and Initiatives, Meetings, Meet the Team, Communication, Resources Policy and Useful links. The portal is also being used to give secure and stable access to work files associated with the members of the CAT/EMT only. We look forward to organizing our external webpage in the future.

Just Transition

The municipal districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to develop and prepare a 'Local Just Transition Plan

for West Kildare'. As circulation of the draft document increased, further consultation requests were received. Remaining consultations are being scheduled for mid-February to inform the final report.

Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office. It is envisaged that indigenous produced bio-gas could be a solution for heavy plant and machinery over time. GNI will be presenting to the February Climate Action/Energy Management Team meeting on their strategic outlook for Ireland.





Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project


The Parks/Climate Action Office's project including scientific research together with practical assessment in the field (Kildare County Council Parks Department and National University of Ireland, Maynooth) is designed to produce a practical maintenance guide for public open spaces.

Cork City, Galway City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon Fingal, Offaly, Tipperary and South Dublin Councils have confirmed their partnership together with Waterways Ireland.

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr. James Carolan MU, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have finalised the experiments and follow up research items designed in December to inform the scientific and practical process during 2022. Teagasc have made lands available for controlled experiments and practical experiment sites have commenced within Kildare County.

Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The January update shows practical experiments to

eliminate vegetation in preparation for planting.

 **Kildare Community Stories**
January 31 at 1:09 PM

Have you noticed any unusual activity on Kildare roundabouts recently? 🤔🤔🤔
Like plastic sheeting appearing like a strange dew? Wool and cardboard too?
It's all part of the ongoing Parks Pilot Project which aims to change work practices around the management of public open spaces to make maintenance more environmentally sensitive.
T... See more



Practical experiments being undertaken on The Ball roundabout Naas.

Gas Networks Ireland have invited the Climate Action Office to consider an application for potential grant funding to assist with the circular economy model of maintenance given our results to date and the uniqueness of the project. Discussions will continue to be explored during 2022.





Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Digital Strategy for Kildare

Work has now commenced to develop a Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare. The Strategy will set out an overall vision for the county outlining a number of core objectives, priorities and actions over the short, medium and long term. In line with the National Broadband Plan deliverables, Kildare County Council is developing this digital strategy to maximise the opportunities of digital transformation for the benefit of our society and economy, ensuring that we are among the best places to live, work, invest or visit.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase

4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road

Contractor is now on site. Main works are fencing and site clearance. Project teams are in place. Progress meetings, board meetings and steering meeting ongoing.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Tender assessment is underway. It is expected to have a main contractor on site for Quarter 2 2022.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

A meeting with the LIHAF landowners took place on 10 February to provide an update on progress to date and the next step towards the commencement of the CPO process. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

It is anticipated that the second non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2,



presenting the emerging preferred route option will commence shortly.

Newhall Junction Improvement

A preliminary design for a new roundabout at Newhall has been developed. Attempts to acquire the lands by agreement on this scheme have not been successful so a CPO process has commenced. It is expected to advertise the CPO in March 2022.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Kildare County Council are currently engaging with the National Transport Authority on this project and have secured funding to bring this scheme to Part 8. Consultants (ATKINS) have been recently appointed. It is expected to proceed to Part 8 in Quarter 1 2022.

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Kildare Town Transport Strategy is complete and has been published on the Kildare County Council website.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

AECOM Consultants have been appointed to the develop of the Maynooth Transport Strategy. The baseline analysis is broadly complete and AECOM are moving onto the strategy optioneering stage.

Naas Permeability Improvement Project

The non-statutory public consultation (via a leaflet drop and online survey) commenced in December and submissions are being examined.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Four bridge projects funded by the Department of Transport for 2021 were awarded to TRUIR to be completed by Quarter 1 2022.

The Monasterevin Bridge has significant structural issues in two centre-pier cutwaters. Rehabilitation works are ongoing on-site.

Brook bridge has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2022. Caragh Bridge Update Ministerial Order has been approved and emergency works are proceeding to construction phase.



Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

The section of the Newbridge Southern Relief Road (NSRR) between the Newbridge to Naas dual carriageway (R445) and the Great Connell road is now substantially complete and the Roads Planning Section is currently engaging with the developer on the completion of snags, the transfer of lands and the submission of the taking in charge documentation.

NTA-funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Work Programme for 2022 has been agreed with the NTA.

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Service provider appointed to complete the detailed design of the Mill Street works.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth- Leixlip)

Contractor to be appointed in Quarter 1 2022 subject to signing legal agreements with Waterways Ireland.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Preliminary design ongoing and a revised Part 8 Process will follow.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Pre-Part 8 Process initiated.

Celbridge Bridge

Update from the NTA is awaited.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

Construction of the interim scheme continuing. Service provider appointed to complete the design of the permanent works.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Pre-Part 8 Process initiated.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Safe Routes to School Programme

Documents for the Part 8 Process are being prepared.



Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Detailed design phase underway with the scheme expected to start construction in Quarter 3 2022.

The Municipal District teams are concentrating at present on Patching and Maintenance works on the roads network.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Meetings being scheduled with each Municipal District Committee to discuss amendments.

Preparation will be made as required in advance of expected storms this week.

Winter Maintenance Season continues and very mild conditions are noted with minimal gritting required.

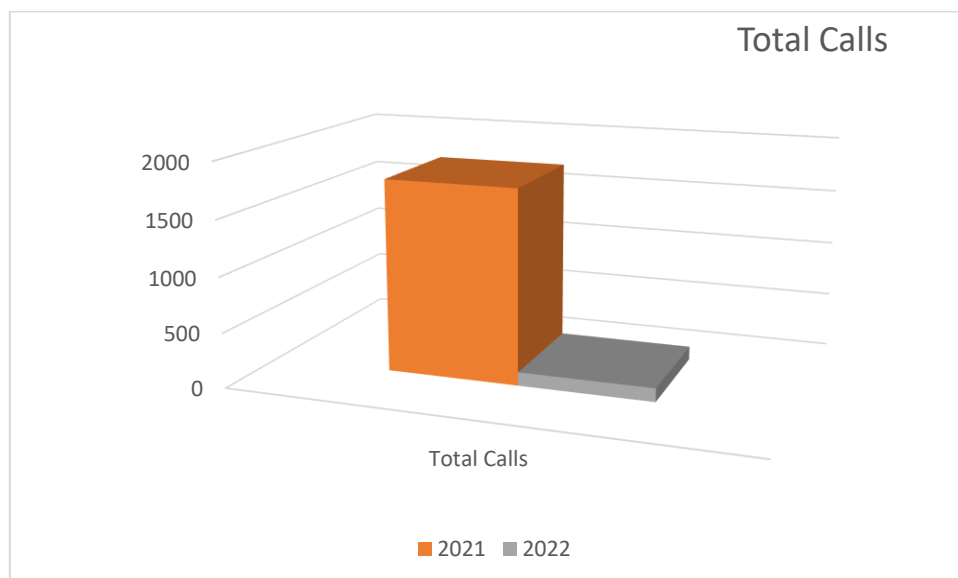
Roads Maintenance

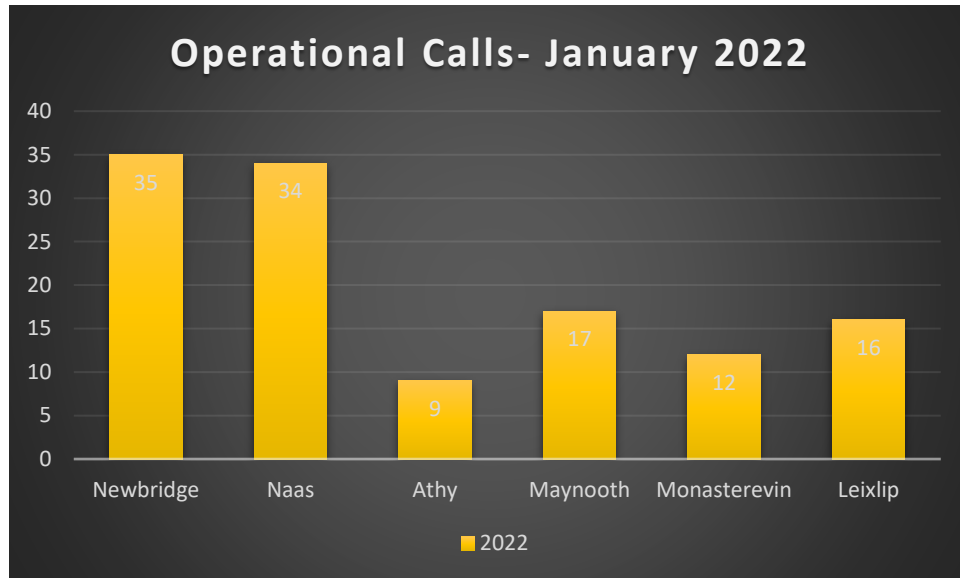
Department of Transport Road Grant Allocation was announced on 15 February.

The 2022 programmes of work in each Municipal District are also being discussed and finalised.

Overall Maintenance Grant €17.46m which represents a 6.4 % increase on 2021.

Fire Service Operations: 2021 Summary



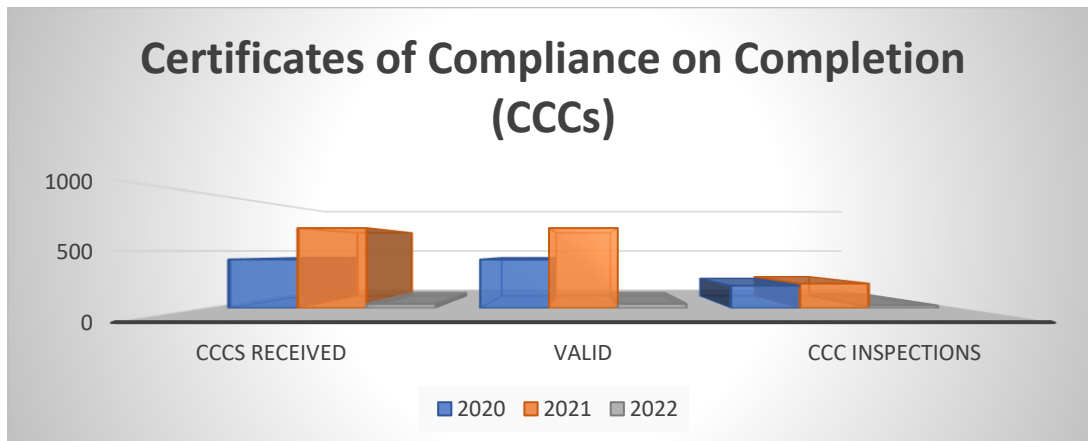
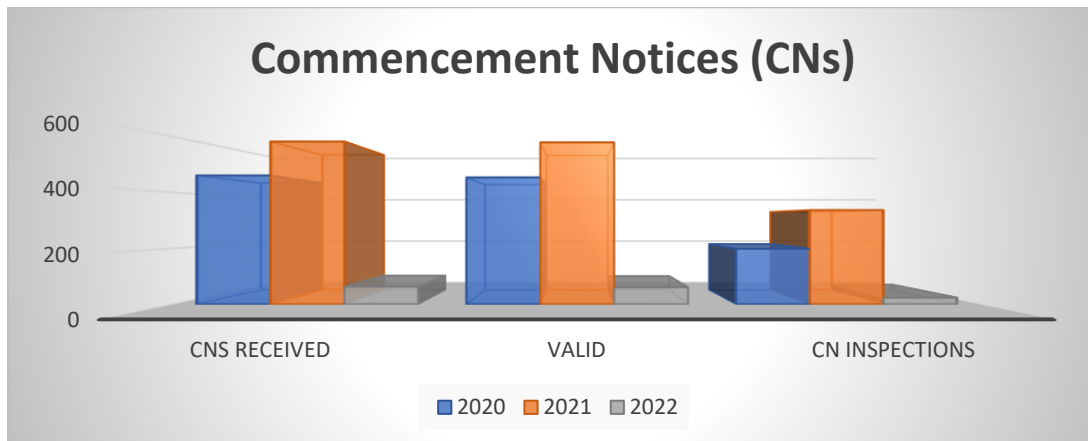


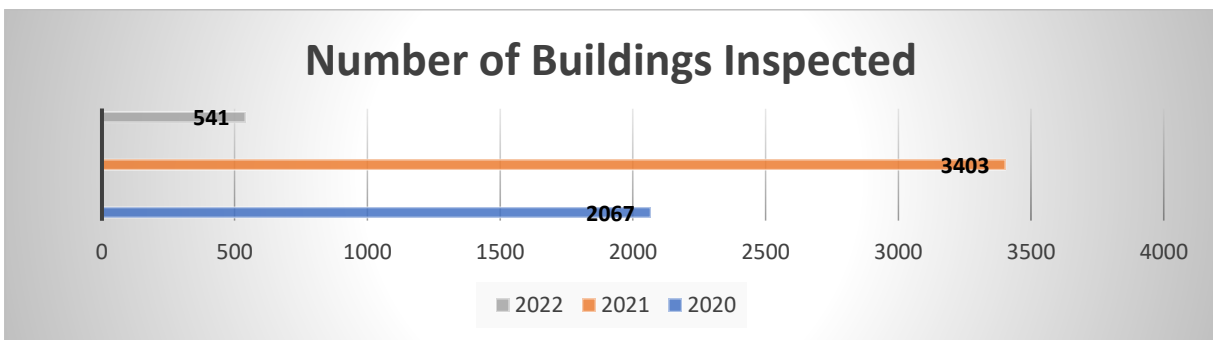
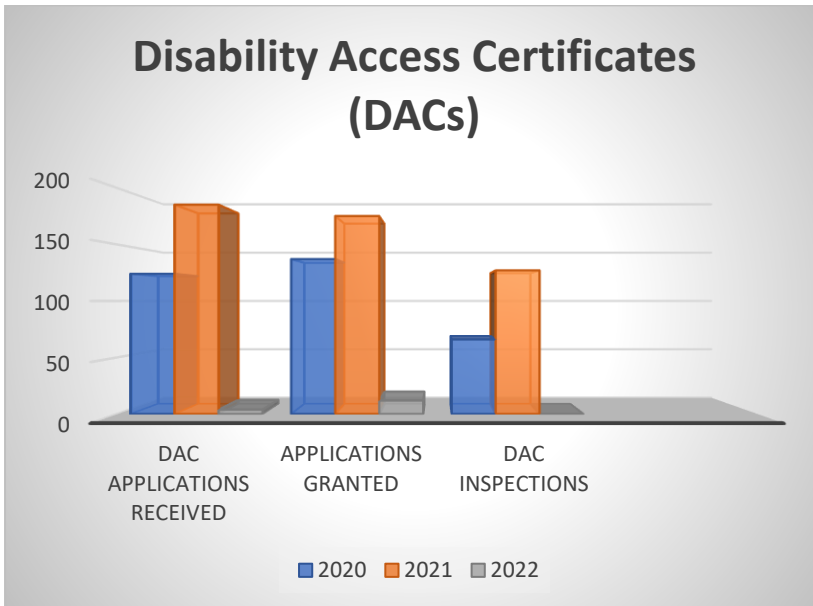


Building and Development Control

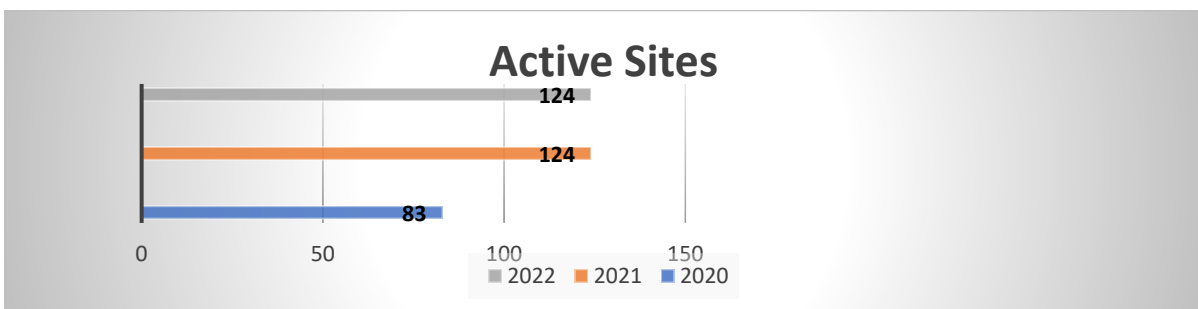
The following figures are cumulative up to end of January 2022.

BUILDING CONTROL





DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key Highlights January:

- 56 COVID-19 Compliance Inspections completed
- Five online assessments completed and one ergonomic assessment

- Meetings with Lead Worker Representatives, Seniors, Major Emergency Management Committee (MEMC), Staff App, Transportation SPC



- Business Continuity Meeting on New Covid Guidelines and Recommendations
- Presentation by People Safe on Lone Working System
- Review of Housing, Water Services, Architects and Environment Sections Risk Assessments and Method statements undertaken.
- Update on ventilation at Áras Chill Dara to management team
- Meeting with Department re: Health and Safety concerns with proposed new library in Clane.
- Meeting with LGMA Health and Safety Operational Committee (Co-Chair of Southern and Eastern LASOG for 2022)
- Accidents and Incidents:
 - Two incidents occurred resulting in a reporting requirement to HSA.
 - Two injuries recorded - Roads crew and two incidents reported by Library

staff (including an assault by a member of the public).

ACCESSIBILITY

Key Highlights January:

- Changing Places Facility completed in the Áras – formal opening in the coming weeks
- Meetings with KARE and Kildare Leader Partnership on commencement of projects under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund
- Briefing with Ability Focus on provision of Disability Awareness Training across the organization
- CKAN Meeting and Leixlip Access Group meetings held
- Willing, Able, Mentoring (WAM) Briefing session on recruiting staff with disabilities
- Commenced Social Farming Project with Kildare Leader Partnership as part of Disability Participation and Awareness Funding.
- Review of Parking Bye-Laws for Kildare/Newbridge with CKAN



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

| All Grants Awarded 2021 | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Type | No. | Amount |
| Community Grants | 134 | €236,066 |
| Festival Grants | 56 | €44,605 |
| Local Property Tax | 380 | €703,555 |
| Private Estates Res. Assoc. | 300 | €111,517 |
| Local Authority Res. Assoc. | 71 | €44,573 |
| Drehid Grants | 28 | €201,697 |
| Community Enhancement Programme | 27 | €148,013 |
| Education Bursaries | 35 | €24,750 |
| Total | 1031 | €1,514,776 |

2022 Grants schemes

Community, festival, Drehid and residents' associations grants were advertised at the end of January. Closing date for online applications all schemes is Friday 11 March.

Local property tax grants

Details of grants are awaited from Municipal District Committees

LCDC Community Activities Fund for 2022

€296,027 has been allocated to Kildare. The LCDC is managing this scheme and it has been advertised with a closing date of Monday 28 February.

Local Community Development Committee February 2022

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 26 January 2022.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

A national online briefing event took place on 09 December. Work to prepare for this plan is commencing.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative. Slaintecare meetings are continuing with the HSE/Tusla locally. Kildare County Council are finalising the recruitment of the Slaintecare Local Development Officer. The People's Park project in Athy is underway with upgrading commencing shortly.

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

Details on this funding scheme which is now open was circulated last week. Closing date: 28 February 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

<https://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/CommunityActivitiesFund/>

Healthy Ireland

Work to progress the Healthy Ireland Programme of the LCDC and CYPSC continues to take place. A Healthy Kildare Plan is currently being written and consultations are commencing. Further information on Healthy Ireland is available by contacting:

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: 086 8858508
healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

The SICAP budget allocation for Kildare increased by 15% (€164,000 increase) for 2022. This followed a national increase of 10%. The additional increase related to recognition of underfunding in Kildare.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare, presented their plan for 2022. This focuses on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities a) Traveller/Roma, b) Older People, c) Mental Health (including Youth mental health), d) Long Term Unemployed e) New Communities (particularly direct provision) in addition to young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early. The plan for 2022 was approved by the LCDC.

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



Social Enterprise Grants

The Minister approved grants totalling €40,882 for six groups under the Social Enterprise Fund. These are:

The Acre Project – €9,568

Piers Café and Coffee Shop – €4,800

Rathangan Daycare Centre – €4,710

Willow Counselling Service – €4,995

McAuley Place – €7,469

Monasterevin Community Centre – €10,000

LEADER Programme

The District Inspector from the Department of Rural and Community Development carried out an inspection of the October LEADER administration claim. Confirmation was received that all procedures are in place and that the claim is eligible.

Plans are commencing to invite Minister Humphreys to launch of the newly refurbished kitchen at the Peter McVerry facility in Kerdiffstown House. The kitchen will be used for the preparation of meals for homeless persons and to provide activation and employment opportunities for participants. This renovation received LEADER grant aid. The launch will be an opportunity to showcase LEADER and highlight the need for ongoing

funding through LEADER when this programme ends later in 2022.

Freshwater Ecosystems project was approved by the LCDC/LAG on 26 January for LEADER grant aid totalling €18,450.00.

This project consists of six training sessions on all aspects of freshwater ecosystems. This training will take place in three distinct groups -north, middle and south of the county.

Sessions will be a mix of indoor workshop-type training and outdoor hands-on training at site of relevance to the theme of water resources. Recruitment for the training will be largely publicised.

A position paper is being developed between Kildare LCDC, County Kildare LEADER Partnership and Kildare County Council to highlight the need for additional funding in any future LEADER programme. This will be used to highlight the work to date and to raise awareness of the need for increased funding for Kildare

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



LCDC Priorities

A presentation on the LCDC Priorities for 2022 was agreed at the meeting which include:

- Departmental, audit and reporting requirements
- LECP
- LEADER
- Healthy Ireland
- Youth Mental Health
- Slaintecare
- SICAP
- CEP and other grants

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for Wednesday 30 March 2022.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

In January, the easing of restrictions was welcomed by the hospitality sector as opening hours extended and events could begin to take place again.

Kildare Fáilte amended the marketing message and focus to support the reopening hospitality industry, which was much appreciated and well received.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Royal Canal Greenway Marketing Steering

Group Meeting where the marketing plans for the coming months were agreed. A short presentation on the results of a survey of Royal Canal Greenway users was shared. The key take-away was that 43% of users had travelled 10km or more to use the trail.

Following a review of signage and facilities along the Royal Canal Greenway by Tandem, their findings were shared with Kildare Fáilte, Kildare County Council, other local authorities and stakeholders.

Recommendations on how to keep users engaged and encourage repeat visitors were shared.

The Grand Canal Greenway Steering Group meeting was also attended where gaps in service provision were identified and a placemaking plan was discussed.

Fáilte Ireland invited Kildare Fáilte to attend the first briefing and information session on branding Greenways and Blueways within the county/tourism and Fáilte Ireland brand. Attendees were invited to share their experience and input feedback.



Kildare Fáilte participated in the Just Transition Plan West Kildare briefing and provided feedback and input to the plan from a tourism perspective.

Monasterevin Tidy Towns presented community awards in the Peoples Park to recognise the efforts of the community in keeping the town tidy. Kildare Fáilte was delighted to attend and support the work of the team.

Kildare Fáilte invited communities across the county, and further afield, to Light Up Kildare to connect with the flame of St Brigid on the tower on the Hill of Allen on the eve of St. Brigid's Day. Candles were distributed through Kildare Libraries as a gift from Into Kildare.

As part of the event, Kildare Fáilte also connected Cupidstown Hill with a beam of light. Kildare native, Jack Lukeman performed the Curragh of Kildare at the Hill of Allen showing support for tourism and joining the celebration of St. Brigid.



Jack Lukeman at the Hill of Allen

Kildare Fáilte connected with Kildare County Council Communications Team to ensure the St Brigid's Day message was communicated across Kildare.

President Michael D Higgins and An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD were invited to join Kildare in lighting a candle on the eve of St. Brigid's Day.



President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins, Áras an Uachtaráin



An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD,
Government Buildings

Tourism and hospitality businesses around the country as well as Áras Chill Dara, Leinster House and Twinning Groups joined together to light their candles. Households around Kildare and further afield also shared their images on social media using the hashtag #LightUpKildare. The activity gained a variety of coverage in the media including a piece on Today on RTÉ.

We were delighted to welcome St. Brigid's Primary School in Kildare town to take part again this year. The students recorded a St. Brigid's Day message from St Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower, which launched the Into Kildare TikTok account.

Site visits in the run up to St. Brigid's Day took place and Kildare Fáilte assisted in Nationwide filming throughout Kildare town which aired on 28 January to promote the upcoming Féile Bríde festival. Sites visited for filming included Solas Bhríde, St. Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower and St. Brigid's Well.



Áine Mangan, CEO Into Kildare,
Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh of Nationwide
and Sr. Rita Minehan from Solas
Bhríde

Prior to its opening, Kildare Fáilte visited the Church of Oak Distillery (Ballykelly, Monastervin) for a tour of the premises. We also discussed how Kildare Fáilte can support their tourism plans.



Church of Oak Distillery, Monasterevin

Visitor engagement across social media channels remained high as the Light Up Kildare campaign was communicated throughout the month of January including a competition inviting children to design their own St Brigid's Cloak which received a lot of engagement.



Other messages in January centred around events, winter breaks, outdoor walks and racing days for the year ahead.

Library and Arts Service

Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.

Albert Einstein

The Book of Kildare Art Exhibition

by Josephine Hardiman

Solas Bhríde and Kildare Town Library are proud to be associated with 'The Book of Kildare 2022' featuring new development of the Illuminated Pages Collection in original painting and calligraphy by Josephine Hardiman, Inspired by our Ancient Manuscripts, Heritage and Celtic Art.

St. Brigid's Day

For St. Brigid's Day 2022, and in advance of the 2024 1500 anniversary of the death of Brigid; Kildare County Council, with Kildare's Creative Ireland team and Decade of Commemorations committee collaborated with Herstory to illuminate landmark sites countywide on 01 February, after dark. This project centred around St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare Town, which is synonymous with Brigid, as well as The Wonderful Barn in Leixlip, Newbridge Town Hall and Kilkea



Castle near Athy. As part of the project, poet Laura Murphy was commissioned to create a poem, *Is Mise Bríd*, inspired by Brigid, which she recited on location.

https://youtu.be/Vt_a-O7hWeM.

The illuminations, with artistic representations, shone a light on the life and legend of this amazing woman.

As part of the ongoing celebrations for BRIGID 1500, Kildare library Services participated in a programme on Brigid for RTE Nationwide and a short video for Kildare County Council featuring the Cathaoirleach of Kildare, Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil. Kildare Libraries also distributed candles from into Kildare to encourage people to ‘light up’ their homes for Brigid’s Day.



‘Let’s talk about Parenting’ Programme

Kildare Library Service launched the Spring programme for ‘Let’s talk about Parenting’ 2022 with two well attended

talks in January. Dr Mary O’Kane presented an online talk on ‘Parenting with Patience’ with 95 attendees, followed by a talk by Dr Mary Mangan from the HSE Primary Care Psychology Service on ‘My child worries, what do I do?’ with 61 attendees.

Feedback on both events was great and spaces are already booking up fast for the rest of the February – May programme.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Duggan Lynch, main contractor for Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project are progressing well. The council expect to open this centre to the public in Autumn 2022.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

Metropolitan Workshop Architects have been appointed as the Design Team lead and are working with the Public Realm and Special Projects Team and the Library Service on the design in advance of the Part 8 Planning process. Kildare County Council inter-departmental pre-planning consultation will take place in March.



New Clane Library

The Design Team, Architects and Library Service working on drawings in preparation for Part 8 Planning process later this year.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2022

An application for funding has been made under the BHIS which is administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for works to the exterior of Ballitore Library.

Small Steps to Literacy

Kildare Library Service, Wicklow County Council Library Services and County Kildare LEADER Partnership launched Small Steps to Literacy.

Easing of Restrictions

Most restrictions have been removed from Libraries except for wearing masks and we are beginning to investigate the return of small indoor events on site. A review will take place after 28 February. The booking system has been stood down except for study spaces in Athy; Public Access PCs still available and can be booked for hour long sessions.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives

Staff in Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives continue to deal with archival, local history and genealogical queries. The county archivist is a member of the Data Governance and Records Management Steering Group and sub-groups who are working on the updating of Kildare County Council's disposal of records and records management procedures.

New Decade of Commemorations

Publication

A new publication, Wilful Murder Lt. John Hubert Wogan-Browne Kildare, 10 February 1922 by Kildare Town historian Mark D. McLoughlin was supported by the committee. Copies are available to the public through the branch library network or to view and download on the Library Service website.

Grants Schemes

A Decade of Commemorations Community Grants Scheme has recently been publicised. The closing date is 23 March 2022. It is aimed at local community groups and individuals who wish to organise activities, including publications and community events, particularly those



that relate to the 1912-23 period in County Kildare.

The maximum grant to be awarded is €2500, while specific grants available for each of the five municipal districts.

Artistic and Creative Bursary

Award 2022

Applications are also welcome from individual artists, art, and community groups from the county for artistic and creative community-led responses that relate in some way to County Kildare in the 1922–1923 period.

2022 Decade of Commemorations Plan

The county Kildare plan has been submitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. County Kildare activities will also feature in the national State Programme publication for 2022.

Kildare Arts Service

Creative and Arts Grants 2022 application window opens

Kildare Arts Service published details of 17 separate grants and award opportunities to support the development and presentation of creative and artistic projects in the county this year. Submissions are

welcomed from creative practitioners, artists, arts collectives, community groups, schools, and youth groups in County Kildare. Applications can be made through the online portal at Kildarecoco.submit.com. The deadline for receipts of applications for all awards is Monday 21 March 2022, 5:00 p.m. Arts Grants, Creative Ireland and Decade of Commemorations Bursaries and Awards available through Kildare County Council (advertised in January 2022*):

- Arts Act Grant 2022
- Arts in Education Residency Bursary Award 2022
- Artistic Entrepreneur Bursary Award 2022
- Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2022
- Decade of Commemorations Kildare Artistic and Creative Bursary Award 2022
- Dennis O’Driscoll Literary Bursary Awards 2022
- Drama League of Ireland (DLI) Summer School Bursary Award 2022
- Emerging Visual Artist Solo Exhibition Bursary Award 2022
- Executive Coaching for Creative Professionals Bursary Award 2022



- Kildare Arts Service First Fortnight Award 2022
- Kildare Short Grass Film Commission 2022 (€12,500)
- Kildare Short Grass Film Bursary Award 2022 (€1,500)
- Local Publishing Award 2022
- Platform 4 Recording Bursary Award 2022
- Research and Thinking Bursary Award 2022
- Youth Arts Bursary Award 2022

*an additional grant and supports for artists and creative projects in Arts, Health and Wellbeing was announced in February 2022. Details to be included in next month's Report.

Kildare Arts Service website redevelopment

The Arts Team has met to review the existing website and also commenced the process towards the redevelopment of the kildare.ie/artsservice/ website this year. It is hoped that the redeveloped website will be launched in Quarter 3.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

Site clearance work has been completed and work on the completion of the tender is ongoing. It is hoped to

have the tender issue by the end of March.

Sallins Amenity Land

The Part 8 for Sallins Amenity Land has been advertised. The details are as follows

Proposed Development: Sallins Amenity Lands Masterplan (Ref P82022.01)

Site Location: Osberstown, Sallins, Co Kildare

The proposal is for the development of amenity and recreational facilities on 16.8 ha (41 acres) at Osberstown, Sallins, Co Kildare. The site is divided into two parcels of land by the Sallins Link Road. 2.2 ha (5 acres) are located to the north and 14.6 ha (37 acres) to the south. The southern lands will consist of a main entrance from the Sallins link road and car parking, secondary pedestrian and cycle entrances from the canal towpath, creation of a path network within the site, 2 natural grass GAA pitches, 2 natural grass soccer pitches, an All-Weather pitch, Playground, Tennis and Basketball Courts, Teen Play area, Wetland area with associated Boardwalk and Bird Watching Tower, Community and Sports Hall building, Restoration of the old stone farm buildings. The northern portion of land



will consist of an entrance off the Sallins Link Road with associated overflow car parking area, a path network, enhancement of the existing attenuation area, enlargement of the existing wetland area, platform area with access for canoes to the river Liffey. There will also be associated planting and landscaping with the features and works proposed.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection at Aras Chill Dara from Friday 28 January 2022 until Monday 28 February 2022 and can also be viewed on Kildare County Council's consultation portal at

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/sallins-amenity-lands-p8202201>.

Final date for submissions is by 5.00pm on Monday 14th March, 2022. Submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development and dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be submitted electronically on the Consultation portal as per the link above or in writing to Simon Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent at Kildare County Council, Level 7, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co

Kildare, W91 X77F before 5:00 p.m. on Monday 14 March 2022.

Submissions should be clearly headed "Sallins Amenity Land Masterplan".

Celbridge Playground

A new wheelchair swing has been installed in Celbridge playground and is now available for use. The cost of this is €10k and was funded by LPT provided by the Celbridge Leixlip MD Members.



Outdoor Youth Facility for Celbridge

Dr Carol Barron from the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health in Dublin City University has been appointed to carry out consultation with young people in Celbridge. The outcomes of this consultation and her report on these is expected to be completed in June.

Kilcock Playground

The installation of the temporary playground in the Bawnogues has been rescheduled from the end of



February to the end of March. This is due to further delays being encountered by the contractor due to COVID-19 restrictions and Brexit. The estimated start date is now 28 March and the work will take three weeks to complete.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

February 2022

| Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January– 31 January 2022 | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| | No. Businesses | Amount Received |
| Web Development Grant | 10 | €12,223.00 |
| Feasibility Study Grant | 1 | €2,528 |
| Priming Grant | 1 | € 37,544 |
| Business Expansion Grant | 5 | €60,115 |
| Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) | 1 | €2,248 |

Innovation Partnership Programme

Stephen Nolan, Green Generation in Nurney was approved feasibility funding of €9,000 under the Innovation Partnership Programme. The research to be undertaken by TCD will

study microalgae for the valorisation of waste products from the Irish biogas industry into high-grade proteins for feed applications.

LEO Kildare trophy/award

Warren Hayes, Coolree Design in Robertstown has been selected as the winning designer of an award unique to LEO Kildare. The sustainable and modern design is inspired by attributes of an entrepreneur.

Elected members are asked to advise constituents that Kildare LEO is always open to discuss business needs or grant availability, and weekly business advice clinics are available.

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/113>

For Brexit and Export support, email afrese@kildarecoco.ie

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or call 045980838.



For continued updates please follow Kildare County Council's LEO on social media.

Entrepreneurship Support Services Spring Training Programmes 2022

LEO Kildare continue to promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes to develop the entrepreneurial capabilities of our clients. To date, 236 clients availed of these training opportunities which can be booked [here](#).

Flavours of Kildare Food Network

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food Network to ensure that food and drink heritage in the County benefits from the attention it deserves.

Food and drink businesses are invited to [apply to join the network](#).

Food Starter Programme

[Expressions of interest](#) are sought from food entrepreneurs less than two years in business. This programme, in collaboration with Bord Bia and SuperValu, aims to provide food marketing expertise to new and early-stage food businesses.

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses can avail of €1,800 in consultancy support with the goal of reducing their environmental impact. Online applications can be made [here](#).

Lean for Micro Programme

The training programme introduces Lean concepts to participating businesses to improve efficiencies and drive competitiveness.

seven client companies have started their lean journey this year and LEO welcomes [new applications](#) on an ongoing basis.

Ongoing Business Advice

Business Advice clinics continue weekly. Participants benefit from the guidance of an experienced Business Advisor. Appointments can be requested [online](#).

Economic Support Services

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme will be relaunched in March and will remain open for applications until May, 2022.

*2022 Budget Allocation

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Kildare/Newbridge | €40,000 |
| Athy | €40,000 |
| Naas | €40,000 |



| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Clane Maynooth | €40,000 |
| Celbridge Leixlip | €40,000 |

Diaspora Project

Kildare County Council are seeking to create linkages and networks that create and maintain relationships, share experiences, create opportunities and deliver on further investment and economic activity for our county. A draft of The Diaspora Strategy is expected by mid-February with a final document expected in March.

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS

Waggi – Smart Pet ID tags is the latest addition. Originally from Dublin, this business has relocated to MERITS. The MERITS team will lead two LEO-funded programmes, Genesis and TechHatch. They launched a podcast/webinar series Backstage with Tech Founders with an interview with Charlie Gleeson, CEO, Zipp Mobility this month. March’s interview will be with Geraldine Gibson of Maynooth-based FinTech sensation AQMetrics.

This month’s main event is a webinar for SMEs on “[How to Unlock EU funding](#)” – it will cover guidance on how to find partners to build a consortium, how and when to prepare a proposal and how to manage the process.

MERITS StartUp Vyra featured in the recent [Top 15 Tech StartUps to watch in 2022](#).

National Equine Innovation Centre

The programme of works at the Irish National Stud has now been completed. The NEIC is due to open in Quarter 1.

Kildare Hub Strategy Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

External clearance works will commence shortly to prepare the site for future construction. Following the announcement of a new round of RRDF funding, the project team are currently preparing an application in advance of the deadline in April.

Kildare Hub Strategy

A final version of the strategy was presented and approved at the December SPC meeting. December SPC meeting. The strategy is currently undergoing design and will be



presented to full Council for their approval in Quarter 2.

Kildare Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The ED team have worked closely with the regional stakeholders to consult and prepare the final draft of the Mid-East REP to 2024. The plan is due to be launched on Thursday 03 March by Minister Damien English.

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Kildare County Council tendered for a Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator. The successful service provider will be appointed this month and will be required to co-ordinate and drive the implementation of the Food, Beverage and Hospitality strategy on behalf of the key project stakeholders.

Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19. All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO [Website](#)

| Objective | Support |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Financial | |
| Immediate Cashflow | MFI COVID-19 Business loan – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form. |
| Grow online sales | Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to attend our next TOV seminar to learn more about this opportunity and how to make an application. |
| Advisory: | |
| Expert Strategic Mentoring | Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors |
| Managing Employees in line | Free 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and brining staff back to work |



| | |
|---|--|
| with Government Guidelines | |
| Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales | Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating |
| Communications: | |
| Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications | The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join our Newsletter. |
| Access to LEO team and specialists | The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838 |

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive