Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Tuarascáil Mhíosúil Bhainistíochta an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh -Márta 2026

Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – March 2026





News Items

Council wins at the LAMA Community and Council Awards 2026 and IBDA Awards 2026

The Shackleton Experience Athy, has been awarded the Reimagining Public Places Award at the twentieth LAMA Community and Council Awards 2026 and has also been awarded the Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year and the Heritage, Conservation Project of the year at the IBDA Awards 2026 (see page 7).

Brigid 2026 Spirit of Kildare Festival

The five-day festival welcomed tens of thousands of participants, delivering cultural, community and tourism benefits across the county (see pages 8-9).

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 Celebrated Countywide

Over 60 Irish-language, bilingual and multilingual events took place across all municipal districts, supported by libraries, community groups and Creative Ireland, reinforcing the Council's commitment to the Irish language and cultural inclusion (see pages 9-11).

Kildare Reads Podcast – Series Two Launched

The Library Service successfully launched Series Two of the Kildare Reads podcast, expanding digital engagement and promoting reading and literary culture across the -county (see page 13).

Accessibility and Inclusion

Preparations are underway for the Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2026, alongside ongoing work with disability access groups, schools and partner agencies to improve accessibility and inclusion across services (see page 16).



Lean Six Sigma

The council is currently in the third cycle of Lean Six Sigma in the organisation. A further 17 staff undertook training in this continuous improvement methodology and are working on six improvement projects (see page 19).

NOAC Good Practice Recognition

Two Kildare County Council projects were showcased at the national NOAC Good Practice in Local Government Event, highlighting innovation in onboarding and climate action (see page 20).

Town Centre and Public Realm Investment Advancing

Strategic regeneration projects, including town renewal plans, greenways and public realm upgrades, are progressing countywide under URDF, RRDF and Town Centre First initiatives (see pages 31-39).

Kildare Fáilte - Into Kildare

February was strongly focused on delivering high-impact destination promotion surrounding St. Brigid's Day, Valentine's Day and the early build-up to St. Patrick's Day (see pages 68-70).

Equine and Food Innovation Showcased Nationally

Kildare hosted major equine and agri-food events, reinforcing the county's reputation as a leader in innovation, skills development and enterprise collaboration (see pages 73-74).



Diary/Calendar

Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2026

The event this year takes place on Sunday,10 May in the Curragh Racecourse.(see page 51).

Community Climate Action Program Fund Round 2

The application process for Round 2 of funding closed on the 22 December. The applications were forwarded to the Department for appraisal on 27 February. The outcome is expected in April 2026 (see page 47).

Local Community Development Committee

The next meeting of LCDC is scheduled for Wednesday, 25 March 2026 (see page 51).

Community Grants

Community Grants closed on Friday, 13 March 2026 and are currently under assessment. It is envisaged that the Community Grants Awards will be presented for approval at the Municipal District meetings in April (see page 53).

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund - Call 1

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Funding Call 1 of the recently launched Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund. All applications are currently being assessed for eligibility, and all eligible applications will be assessed based on the criteria set out in the Scheme Outline. Correspondence will issue to all successful and unsuccessful applicants when this process has been completed estimated April / May 2026 (see pages 65-66).



April Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 Mar 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	31	**1 Apr**	2	3
6	7	8	9	10 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
13 14:30 Protocol Committee; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	14 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	15 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	16	17 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
20 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:30 CPG April 2026 Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	21	22	23	24
27 11:00 Sp Planning Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	28	29	30	**1 May** 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar



INDEX

News Items **2**
Diary/Calendar **4**
Corporate, Library and Emergency Services **7**
Corporate Services 7
Gaeilge, Teangacha Oifigiúla/ Irish Language, Official Languages 9
Library and Arts Service 12
Health and Safety 16
Fire Service Operations: 17
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance **18**
Finance 18
Innovation 19
Housing and Regeneration **21**
Strategic Projects and Public Realm 21
Integration **38**
Climate, Community, Environment and Water **43**
Climate 43
Community 48
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) 50
Water Services 53
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces **53**
Transport 53
National Roads Office 55
Open Spaces 59
Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development **59**
Planning 59
Kildare Land Activation Office 64
Building and Development Control 66
Kildare Fáilte - Into Kildare 67
Enterprise and Economic Development 70
Economic Development 72



Corporate, Library and Emergency Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Council wins at the LAMA Community and Council Awards 2026 and IBDA Awards 2026



The Shackleton Experience Athy, has been awarded the Reimagining Public Places Award at the twentieth LAMA Community and Council Awards 2026 and has also been awarded the Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year and the Heritage, Conservation Project of the year at the IBDA Awards 2026.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 - Céad Míle Fáilte Roimh Chách - One hundred thousand welcomes to all

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 was celebrated across County Kildare from Sunday, 01 March to Tuesday, 17 March featuring 17 days of Irish language, bilingual and multilingual events. Many of the events were supported by Kildare County Council through the Creative Ireland programme, Kildare Library and Arts Service and Kildare County Council's Irish Language committee 'Coiste Gaeilge'.

Series Two of "Kildare Reads" Podcast - Launching Saturday 28 February



The Council's Library Service announced the launch of the second series of Kildare Reads - the podcast where books spark ideas, ideas spark conversation, and stories bring us together!

Series Two of the podcast launched on 28 February with Tanya Sweeney in conversation with Emer McLysaght about her debut novel, 'Esther Is Now Following You'!



Equine Summit at Curragh Racecourse



Spotlighting Career Pathways, Innovation and Skills for the Future of Ireland's Equine Industry - On Thursday, 05 March 2026, the renowned Curragh Racecourse welcomed the Equine Summit, an event proudly hosted by Kildare County Council. The Summit brought together leading figures from the equine, education, and enterprise industries to highlight the exciting career opportunities, innovation and skills development available for the next generation.

Sightings of the Common Frog across County Kildare - Are there any Frogs in County Kildare?



Following only 17 reported sightings of the common frog in Kildare last year, Kildare County Council, in partnership with the Irish Peatlands Conservation Council (IPCC), sought the public's help to paint a clearer picture of how they are faring across the county. Members of the public were asked to record any sightings of the various stages of the common frog's lifecycle, including frog spawn, tadpoles, froglets, or adult frogs, in their own gardens or the wider local community.

Brigid 2026 Spirit of Kildare Festival Welcomed 50,000 Participants Across Five Days of Celebration



Sold out performances, family events and large-scale spectacles mark another landmark February Bank Holiday weekend for Kildare - The Brigid 2026 Spirit of Kildare Festival concluded following a hugely successful five-day programme that welcomed thousands of people to events across Kildare.



Symposium on Unlocking Land, Housing and Infrastructure Potential



The Council successfully hosted its inaugural “Unlocking Potential: Strategies for Land, Housing and Infrastructure Activation” symposium, bringing together senior leaders from Local and National Government, utilities, housing agencies and the development sector for a focused half-day of collaboration and solution building.

EPA National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) in 2026

The Council has advised all farmers in County Kildare that farmyard and farmland inspections are being carried out by Kildare County Council throughout 2026, in accordance with the EPA National Agricultural Inspection Programme.

Gaeilge, Teangacha Oifigiúla/ Irish Language, Official Languages



Gaeilge – Seachtain na Gaeilge

Rinne pobail áitiúla i gContae Chill Dara ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2026 ón Domhnach, 01 Márta go dtí an Mháirt, 17 Márta agus bhí breis agus 60 imeacht ar siúl ar fud na gceantar bardasach uile.

Mhol Cathaoirleach Chontae Chill Dara, an Comhairleoir Carmel Kelly, do mhuintir Chill Dara páirt a ghlacadh san fhéile agus léirigh sé buíochas as an obair chrua ar fad a dhéantar ag leibhéal an phobail áitiúil: “Bímse ag súil go mór le Seachtain na Gaeilge gach bliain. Is deis iontach é seo chun ár dteanga, ár gcultúr agus ár n-oidhreacht dhúchasach a cheiliúradh, agus is mór agam an obair chrua atá déanta ag grúpaí pobail, eagraíochtaí, leabharlanna agus oifigigh ar fud an chontae chun an clár bríomhar agus éagsúil seo do Sheachtain na Gaeilge



a chur ar fáil do mhuintir Chill Dara. Is í an Ghaeilge ár dteanga náisiúnta. Is í teanga uathúil ár n-oileáin féin í, agus tá sí ar cheann de na teangacha is sine agus is áille ar domhan. Is teanga bheo bhríomhar phobail í freisin - tá sé tugtha le fios ag níos mó ná 42% de dhaonra Chontae Chill Dara go bhfuil Gaeilge acu agus tá grúpaí pobail Gaeilge ag obair chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus imeachtaí a eagrú i ngach ceantar bardasach."

Thacaigh Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chill Dara le Seachtain na Gaeilge agus bhí an Ghaeilge go mór chun tosaigh in imeachtaí agus ceardlanna lán spraoi i leabharlanna fud fad an chontae.

Trí chlár Pobail Chruthaitheacha Éire Ildánach Chill Dara, thacaigh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara go bródúil le Féile Sráide Nás na Ríogh arna eagrú ag Cill Dara le Gaeilge, mar a raibh sráideanna an Náis beo beathach le Gaeilge, ceol, damhsa agus cultúr ar bhealach a bhí inrochtana do gach duine agus muid ag ceiliúradh Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Thionóil Coiste Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara cruinniú le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus iad ag pleanáil a gcuairteanna chun na Fáinní a bhronnadh sna scoileanna atá ag glacadh páirte i Scéim na bhFáinní, tionscnamh nua Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara chun tacú le húsáid mhéadaithe na Gaeilge i rang a sé.

Irish Language – Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 was celebrated by local communities in County Kildare from Sunday, 1 March to Tuesday, 17 March with over 60 events taking place across all municipal districts.

Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Councillor Carmel Kelly, encouraged the people of Kildare to take part in the festival and expressed appreciation of all the hard work that is done at local community level: I look forward to Seachtain na Gaeilge every year. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our native language, culture and heritage, and I am so appreciative of the hard work that has been done by community groups, organisations, libraries and officers across the county to provide this vibrant and varied Seachtain na Gaeilge program me for the people of Kildare.

Gaeilge is our national language. It is unique to our island and is one of the oldest and most beautiful languages in



the world. It is also a vibrant living community language, with over 42% of Kildare's population reporting that they can speak Irish, and with Irish language community groups 'Grúpaí Pobail' working to promote Gaeilge and organise events in all municipal districts…"

Kildare Library Service supported Seachtain na Gaeilge festivities, bringing the Irish language to the fore of fun-filled events and workshops in libraries across the county.

Through Kildare's Creative Ireland Creative Communities programme, Kildare County Council proudly supported Féile Sráide Nás na Ríogh which saw the streets of Naas filled with Irish language, music, dance and culture in a way that was accessible to everyone as we celebrated St. Patrick's Day.

Coiste Gaeilge, Kildare County Council's Irish language committee held a meeting during Seachtain na Gaeilge as they plan their visits to present 'Fáinní' in schools partaking in Scéim na bhFáinní, Kildare County Council's initiative to support the increased use of Gaeilge in sixth class.

Teangacha Oifigiúla – Deiseanna Labhartha agus Foghlama

Comhairle Contae ...	*... County Council*
an Cathaoirleach	*the Chairperson*
A Chathaoirligh	*Chairperson / Mr Chairperson (when addressing the person)*
Leaschathaoirleach	*Deputy Chairperson*
Comhairleoir	*Councillor*
An Príomhfheidhmeannach	*The Chief Executive*
An Rúnaí	*The Secretary*
aire / an tAire ...	*(a) minister / the Minister for ...*
rialtas áitiúil	*local government*
an coiste	*the committee*
an clár / an clár oibre	*the agenda*
an tuarascáil bhliantúil	*the annual report*

Cuireadh go leor deiseanna foghlama agus labhartha ar fáil d'fhostaithe agus do bhaill thofa le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge, ó bhlas-sheisiúin oiliúna ag leibhéal A1 (bonn) go dtí an Teastas Gairmiúil sa Ghaeilge ag leibhéal C1 (níos airde).

Rinne Seirbhísí Corparáideacha cuspóir na comhairle le húsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú ag cruinnithe na comhairle a chur chun cinn, agus chun na críche sin d'fhorbair Gaelchultúr seisiún oiliúna Gaeilge saincheaptha dúinn. Rinneadh an seisiún a sheachadadh le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus cuireadh an bhéim is mó ar mhuinín a fhorbairt. Fuair na rannpháirtithe lámhleabhar saincheaptha chun tacú leis an úsáid a bhaintear as an nGaeilge i gcruinnithe agus i gcumarsáid.



Official Languages - Speaking and Learning Opportunities

Many learning and speaking opportunities were provided to employees and elected members during Seachtain na Gaeilge, with offerings ranging from bitesize taster training sessions at A1 level (beginner) to the Professional Certificate in Irish at C1 level (advanced).

Progressing the council's objective to increase the use of Gaeilge at council meetings, Corporate Services engaged the expertise of Gaelchultúr to develop a bespoke Irish language training session. The session was delivered during Seachtain na Gaeilge and the main emphasis was placed on increasing language confidence. All particpants received a bespoke handbook to support their use of Irish in meetings and communications.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

"Having fun isn't hard when you've got a library card." – Marc Brown

Ireland Reads 2026

Kildare Library Service was proud to join libraries across Ireland in celebrating Ireland Reads, a national campaign to get the whole country reading during February, culminating with Ireland Reads Day on Saturday, February 28.

The theme for 2026 was 'Get Lost in a Good Book', and Kildare Library Service invited everyone to take part. Events that took place included book clubs, storytimes, open mic events, author visits with Gerry Daly, Tarsila Kruse and Jennifer Farley, the launch of John MacKenna's new book 'The Lockkeeper's Wife', crafts and story sessions, zine making workshops and much more.

Over 40 events took place for Ireland Reads across Kildare Libraries with an attendance of over 800.

Kildare Reads Podcast: Series 2

Kildare Library Service launched the second series of its Kildare Reads podcast in February with Tanya Sweeney in conversation with Emer McLysaght about her debut novel, 'Esther Is Now Following You'!

Kildare Reads invites you to sit back and enjoy lively conversations with authors as they share insights into their work, their inspirations, and the stories behind their books.



Kildare Reads is available now on Spotify. Search for "Kildare Reads" on the Spotify App or visit Kildare Reads | Podcast on Spotify

Athy Library

Athy Library celebrated Ireland Reads with a launch of John McKenna's new book The Lock Keepers Wife. Over 200 people joined Lilliput Press to celebrate the launch.



Other Ireland Reads events included a historical talk on Quakers Women's Botanical Engagement in nineteenth Century Ireland, a Sip and Flip reading event and an Open Mic Morning where children took to the stage to read a page of their favourite book.



Kilcullen Library

A new library staff member has started in Kilcullen on 24 February. Ita Casey has taken over from Julie O'Donoghue in Kilcullen Library. The library will be extending its hours by an additional 13 hours and 15 minutes beginning from Wednesday, 18 March.

Outreach to Primary Schools

Newbridge Library has completed a membership drive with the Junior and Senior Infant classes in all the schools in the town.

Staff visited three classes in Scoil Mhuire Junior School to do story time as Gaeilge for Seachtain na Gaeilge this week.



Leixlip Library

Leixlip Library hosted the theatre show Up in Clouds in partnership with Riverbank Arts Centre, the show was for individuals with significant needs. Leixlip Library also held a Sensory Storytime during the month which was part of Toys Technology and Training Spring Programme 2026.

Maynooth Library

In February, Maynooth Community Library collaborated with the KCC Community Grants Department to host a Community Grants Information Clinic to assist community groups in applying for grant schemes such as the Community Grant, the Festival Grant and Residents Association Grant.

Dads Fest and Parenting Support

Kildare Library Service was recently invited to present at the 'Young Ballymun Engaging Dads' Seminar in Ballymun on 04 March on the success of the inter-agency 'Dad's Fest' which is in its fourth year in Kildare. Dads Fest is an initiative of the Kildare and West Wicklow Parenting Forum, with the aim of providing a fun family day out for Dads to connect with other Dads while showcasing and engaging Dads with all our services.

Representatives from Kildare Library Service and Kildare CYPSC also recently co-chaired a 'Review and future direction' meeting of the Kildare and West Wicklow Parenting Forum in Aras Chill Dara on the 25 February. The Parenting Forum supports the work of the 'Let's talk about parenting' programme in Kildare Libraries by providing an opportunity for information sharing and networking. The Forum work aligns with our own service aims, to provide parenting support for parents and professionals, to identify gaps and improve service provision in Kildare libraries.

County Archives and Local Studies

A submission for funding has been sent to the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for a programme of commemorations in 2026.
The webpages of Kildare County Archives and Local Studies have been updated.



Archives

The March 2026 issue of the Irish Society for Archives newsletter featured an article by the county archivist about the service.
Appraisal, archiving and disposal of files.
A Physical File Management and Retention Procedures Manual has been produced.
Roll out of the Kildare County Council-Files app continues, with further updates and enhancements being made on an ongoing basis.

Local Studies

Planning of the annual tenth annual Irish Military Seminar is at an advanced stage. It will take place in Naas Library and Cultural Centre from 06 to 09 May.

Presentation to Balyna Active Retired Group, Johnstownbridge; Visit to Local Studies by Piper's Hill TY class.

The Arts Service

The Arts Service launched the open call for the Naas Public Art Commission on Thursday 12 March. This Public Arts Commission celebrates Naas Town's achievement as overall winners of the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Ireland's Best Kept Town competition for three consecutive years.

The Arts Service in partnership with the Visual Artists Ireland ran a talk Undertaking Major Public Art Commissions to encourage artists of all career levels from Kildare and further afield to apply for this opportunity. The talk was led by artist Ruth E. Lyons and curator Dr. Marianne O'Kane Boal. The competition is now open for proposals for an imaginative, contemporary work with two potential locations identified including the public realm area outside the Courthouse on the Main Street, and the public realm area at the junction of Kilcullen Road and the public realm area at the junction of Kilcullen Road and Ballymore Road near the entrance to Fairgreen both in Naas Town Centre. The total commission budget is €33,000. The selection process will take the form of a two-stage competition and the deadline for Stage 1 expressions of interest is Thursday, 23 April 2026 through Submit.com which, can be accessed from Kildare Arts Services' website.



Riverbank Arts Centre

Riverbank Arts Centre has had a very active schools' engagement programme in the first couple of months of 2026. In addition to presenting productions, screenings and workshops in the venue, several offsite collaborations took place including Anna Newell's Up in The Clouds, a sensory show for children with profound and complex additional needs, at Saplings (Kill), St Anne's (the Curragh) and Leixlip Library; Paul Curley's week-long interactive installation Elephant in the Room at St Brigid's (Kildare Town) and Gaelscoil Chill Dara (the Curragh); and Antarctic Journey led by Martina McDonald, a brand new collaboration the Shackleton Experience (Athy) which offers bespoke class tours and in-school art workshops to schools throughout Kildare.

Health and Safety

Accessibility:

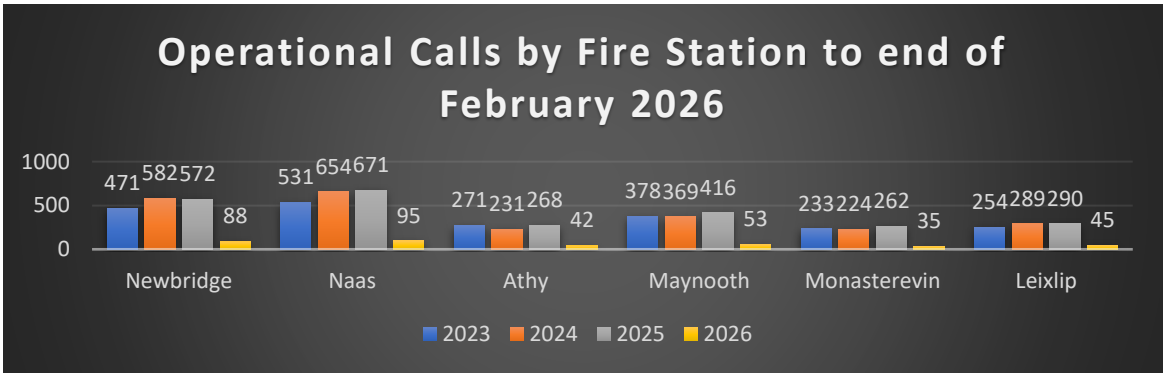
1. Access Group Meetings:
    - Maynooth Disability Access Group
    - Athy Disability Access Group
    - Newbridge Disability Access Group Meeting
2. CKAN (County Kildare Access Network) meeting held
3. Preparations for Kildare Inclusivity Festival:
    - Meeting with KARE on managing of Inclusive Sports Section
    - Meeting with Alan Costello – Music Generation re their involvement and possibility of a second stage.
    - Meeting with Aisling Murphy – Run of the Mill – confirmation they will perform at festival
    - All Inflatables booked
    - All carnival events booked
    - Access aloo is booked
    - Bike Week Event as part of Festival
4. Proposal completed for Maynooth University Student Internship
    - MU student who may have a disability and would be interested in a placement or internship gaining experience working with CKAN in Kildare County Council.
5. Meeting with Emotion Media on branding and marketing of CKAN and Inclusivity Festival.
6. Review of Disability at Work eLearning training.

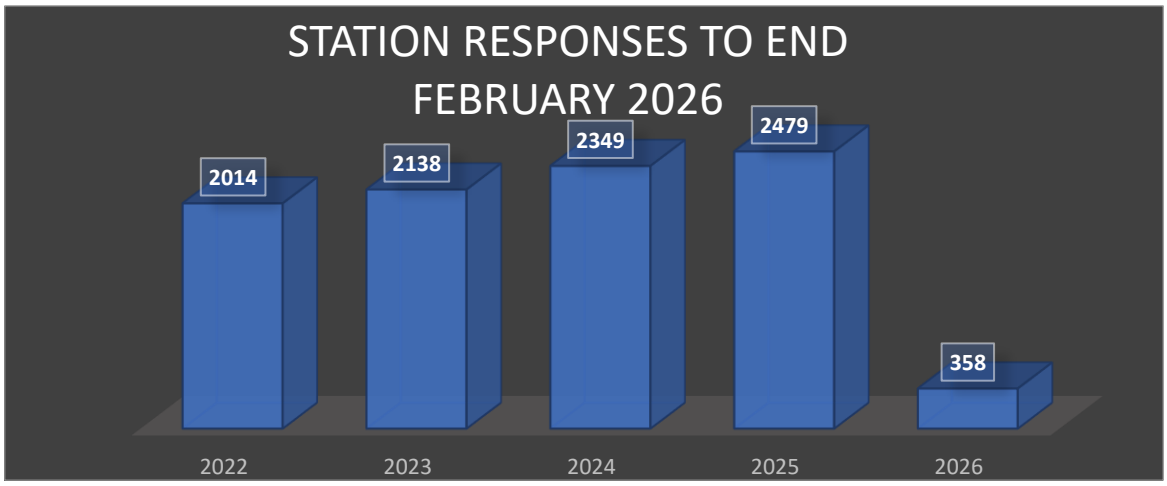


7. Presentation to Celbridge Library of sensory toys from Celbridge Disability Access Group.
8. Meeting with DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency) re rolling out the Kildare Inclusion Schools Project in four schools in 2026.
    - This project seeks to support County Kildare post primary schools to become positive to
    - disability. Disability equality awareness in schools is extremely important because it educates students so they may become better citizens.
    - Elements of the project include the delivery of information and training workshops to Transition Year (TY) students incorporating school and community access audits and the development of a KISP course manual for TY participants.
    - The project builds on work completed since 2021. To date 82 Transition Year students from four secondary schools in County Kildare have engaged in KISP. These schools are Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge College and St. Conleth's Community College in Newbridge and the Salesian College, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.
    - This is a partnership initiative between DESSA, CKAN and Kildare County Council.

Fire Service Operations:

2026 Summary: (Note: Figures for previous years indicate full year statistics)





Fire Safety Certificates

Applications received to the end of February 2026 compared with the totals received in previous years.



Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

Finance

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2025 has been prepared and presented to Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group and is listed on the agenda for the Council meeting for March. The Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2025 shows a surplus for the year of €14,240 and will be submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 31 March 2026 in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Financial Statement for 2025 is now subject to



audit by the Local Government Auditor.

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility in January or February 2026.

Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2026 will be submitted to Council as part of the monthly management report from April onwards.

Risk Management

A review of the corporate risk register took place in mid-March 2026. The Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Governance is working with the Sections to complete and document the actions from the review.

Innovation

Lean Six Sigma

The council is currently in the third cycle of Lean Six Sigma in the organisation. A further 17 staff undertook training in this continuous improvement methodology and are working on six improvement projects in areas including:

- Transport - Review of CRM Processes in Naas Municipal District
- Housing – Succession of Tenancy
- Housing – Land Mapping
- Finance – Agresso Support
- People/HR – Long Term Sick Leave
- Corporate – Monthly Chief Executive Report

National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Good Practice Event:

Second Consecutive Year of Recognition for Kildare.

The eight annual NOAC Good Practice in Local Government Event delivered in collaboration with the County and City Management Association (CCMA), with support from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) took place in Kilkenny Castle on Tuesday, 10 March and featured two projects from Kildare County Council.

Featured projects are selected after a highly competitive shortlisting process. Attended by chief executives, senior officials, elected representatives and regional assemblies, the event



highlights that Ireland's local authorities are leading practical innovations that improve processes, strengthen public services and improve outcomes for communities. Staff from HR and IT presented the Onboarding App, highlighting the innovative and collaborative work behind this new solution.
The Climate Team's Demo House was also selected as one of a small number of additional projects to be featured in the official event programme



Kildare County Council staff Ann Marie Gough, HR and John Murnane, IT with other event presenters.
Pictured with Councillor Patsy Glennan, Miriam McDonald and Michael Mc Carthy (NOAC), Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, John Cummins T.D

Innovation Spotlight:

The Council have launched a new Innovation Spotlight initiative, which aims to highlight and celebrate some of the great work taking place across the organisation. This initiative has three key objectives:

- Sharing ideas and good practice happening within our organisation
- Increased recognition of Innovation contributions
- Opportunities for collaboration

As part of this initiative, it is planned to design a series of posters that will showcase individual projects, outline their purpose, introduce the staff members involved, and provide key impact statistics along with a brief status update.
The poster will be displayed outside the Innovation Office and Canteen with each project being featured for one month at a time. This will give staff an opportunity to learn about innovative work happening across the organisation and recognise the teams driving these efforts.



Housing and Regeneration

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Council Wins at the 2026 LAMA Awards



Kildare County Council celebrated national recognition at the twentieth LAMA Community and Council Awards 2026, where the Shackleton Experience in Athy received the Reimagining Public Places Award. The project, co-funded through the RRDF and Kildare County Council, has quickly become a cornerstone of Athy's town centre regeneration. The transformed heritage building now strengthens connections with the rejuvenated public realm, the Barrow Blueway, and the town's growing cultural and visitor offering — underscoring the impact of thoughtful investment in place-making.

Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2

Momentum continues to build on the Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2, with progress evident across all sections of the scheme. The Sallins Link has reached a key milestone, with tender assessment now complete and a final clarification awaited before the recommendation is submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for approval. Alongside this, work is advancing on the Waterways Ireland section, where the consultant is preparing the documentation required to formalise the delivery agreement. Design for the remaining towpath



sections has been finalised, and discussions are underway to establish the Memorandum that will enable Waterways Ireland to undertake these works. Together, these coordinated steps signal a strong trajectory for the next phase of delivery on this strategic greenway.

Information Event

The Affordable Housing Team will host an information evening for the public in Athy library on Thursday, 19 March, from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Information on affordable housing will be provided at the event. There is an online booking system available for attendance, however although booking is not essential, it helps to manage the numbers planning to attend.

Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Services Team continues to facilitate monthly community-based homelessness outreach clinics across the county, providing advice and information on homelessness supports.

During March 2026, drop-in clinics are scheduled to take place across the county in The Curragh, Athy, Newbridge, Maynooth, Celbridge and Kildare Town (see below for locations and times). These clinics offer information on available housing and homelessness supports and provide an opportunity for early engagement with households at risk of homelessness.

Details of clinic locations and dates are publicised through local media and the Council's social media channels, and the Homeless Services Team remains available for follow-up support during office hours.







Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval - Stage 4		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Delivery expected March 2026.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Substantial Completion Cert issued 19 December 2025 for 64 of the 65 Units. Last unit delivered mid-February.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
Approval – Stage 3		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 to be submitted to the DHLGH for approval during March 2026.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 to be submitted to the DHLGH for approval during March 2026.
Ardrew, Athy	73 units + community building	Stage 3 approval received from DHLGH on 18.11.2025. D&B Tender advertised in December 2025 and currently at Pre-Qual Assessment Stage. Subject to completion of procurement procedures, a contract award is targeted for Q3 2026.



Approval - Stage 2		
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Design & Build construction tender issued and tenders due back late March 2026.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Tender for construction works being prepared and scheduled to be launched in Q1 2026.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Part 8 was considered and amended at the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting in May. Site clearance and knotweed disposal to be included in main tender. Tree Clearance Works completed and Investigation & Clearance Works at tender stage. Final Design/Tender documents being prepared.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Design & Build construction tender issued and tenders due back March 2026.

Approval **Stage 1**		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design team preparing design options for the site. Potential increase in number of units to around 80 with childcare facility. Being progressed to Part 8
Sarto Road, Naas. BIM Pilot	7 units	Single stage application approved by the DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design finalised and agreed with planning.

Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	6 apartments.	New Single Stage Application being prepared. Refurbishment of existing dwelling not feasible. Revised proposal finalised and issued to internal departments for comments
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q1 2026.



Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 accepted at February meeting of Kildare -Newbridge MD. Due to significant increase in cost, alternative approach to works to be explored. 3 options drafted: preferred option to be identified and issued to consultants for comments

Pre-Approval		
Liffey Lodge	TBC	Preliminary design options being progressed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report progressing. Preparation of Stage 1 application to the DHLGH is ongoing.
Kilcock Courthouse	5 units	Revised single stage funding application approved by DHLGH. Tenders for consultants underway to proceed to Part 8.
Canalside, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report issued to Planning. Structural survey received. Single stage funding application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	Consultants appointed: tender to be prepared. Tender to be issued Q1 2026.
Blacklion HS, Maynooth	2 day houses	Single Stage Application proposal submitted to DHLGH for comments: Consultants appointed. Comments received from DHLGH: Revised single stage application to be submitted Q1 2026. Traveller unit have requested sketch design for community building to be included: sketch design to be drafted.
Bothar Bui, Athy	8 units	Feasibility underway. Site investigations are being procured. DHLGH reviewing sketch feasibility.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and structural survey complete. Survey drawings complete. Feasibility report issued to the Planning Section for comment.
Former Fire Station Site, Maynooth	TBC	Feasibility and design ongoing. Consultation with SPPR and Community Section commenced.
Blacklion, Maynooth	80 TBC	Feasibility underway.



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 4 approval received from DHLGH on 27.11.2025: review of costs being completed.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site. 5 new dwellings and Glandore House expected to reach practical completion by end March 2026.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18.03.2025.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. PPP delivery model under review by DHLGH.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. PPP delivery model under review by DHLGH.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work paused subject to PPP review and report. PPP delivery model under review by DHLGH.
Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work paused subject to PPP review and report. PPP delivery model under review by DHLGH.

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Part 8 approved December 2025. Cluid to proceed with amendments to proposal required under conditions of Part 8 approval



CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 4 approval submitted to DHLGH November 2025. Contractor appointment by AHB to follow. Triparty agreement is being put in place with Sofia, KCC and Contractor prior to commencement on site.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Stage 4 approval received. Work ongoing to transfer the site to Cluid. Development. License agreement being put in place to progress works.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort, (adj McAuley Place), Naas	44	Part 8 application being finalised. Stage 4 approval application submitted to DHLGH.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10 units & communal building	CAS funding approved. Terms of Heads of Agreement have been signed. Legal process for transfer of units to KCC has commenced. Deed of Assurance and pre-Contracts have been received and reviewed
CAS	Homeless Care	Jigginstown Phase 2, Naas	10	Stage 2 approval application to be submitted to DHLGH during March 2026.

Acquisitions

	2024	**2025**	**2026**
Housing Acquisitions	68	23	0
Housing Turnkeys	89	22	0
Part V Acquisitions	106	158	1
Total	263	203	1

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	**Athy**	**Celbridge-Leixlip**	**Clane-Maynooth**	**Kildare-Newbridge**	**Naas**
Acquisitions in 2025	41	21	63	50	28
MTR Delivery 2026 (via CALF and leasing)	0	0	1	0	0
CALF delivery 2026	0	0	0	0	0



Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number expiring 2026	Number Expiring 2027
79 (+5)	24	55	0

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2024	380	40	376
2025	338	9	338
2026	13	0	13

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 28 February 2026

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	40	61	76
6 - 12 Months	22	33	53
12 - 18 Months	7	11	16
18 - 24 Months	6	9	11
24 - 30 Months	1	2	4
30 – 36 Months	1	3	2
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	77 (+2)	119 (+5)	162 (+7)

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 28 February 2026

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	5	13
6 - 12 Months	1	1	0
12 - 18 Months	2	3	6
18 - 24 Months	3	8	9
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
30 – 36 Months	1	5	1



+ 36 Months	2	3	5
Total	13	26	34

Regeneration

Year	CPOs Commenced	CPOs Awaiting Confirmation	CPOs Confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn/ On Hold	Acquired by Agreement
2024	19	6	10	3	0
2025	11	5	3	2	0
2026	2	5	0	0	2

Year	Vacant Property Grant Applications Received	Vacant Property Grant Approved	Vacant Property Grant Paid
2024	142	119	70
2025	117	94	100
2026	22	9	7

Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties Requiring Further Investigation	Property Owners Engaged With	Pre-CPO Notices Erected
2024	141	104	101	41
2025	164	113	146	29
2026	11	11	5	1

Year	Derelict Site Inspections	Section 8 (2) Notices Issued	Sites Added to the Register
2024	40	26	14
2025	46	31	10
2026	9	4	1

URDF

URDF Call 3	Six URDF Call 3 approved properties have been acquired by CPO. Two properties have been acquired by agreement. CPO is in process on two properties. Derisking/enabling works are complete on three properties, and they are being prepared for forward sale subject to approval of the elected members.



Town Centre First

TVRS	Funding Applications	Town and Village Renewal funded projects for Clane and Kilcullen, as follows: **Clane** - remedial and upgrade works to the town centre playground recreational space. This project was identified as a priority in the TCF Plan. Early desktop analysis and survey have commenced in-house. **Kilcullen** – a project comprising a number of elements including research, design and mapping of amenity, heritage and cultural walking and wheeling trails linking and identifying assets and opportunities. Design drawings were completed by the team and will be reviewed with the Town Team in the coming weeks.
Phase 2, Measure 2 TCF Suite of Supports	Castledermot Town Centre First Plan	Preparation of the Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot in collaboration with the Town Team is now complete. Launch and publication of final draft in Q1 2026.
Phase 2, Measure 3 PDM - TCF Suite of Supports	Project Development Measure	GPR and topographical surveys completed. Design drawings completed in-house and ready for review with the Town Team for final edits. Tender preparation is underway for a Habitats and Green Infrastructure survey to be completed.



Public Realm

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	Rathangan Bridge: Good progress continues, with only landscaping, railing installation, grouting, and final antiskid surfacing remaining. Spencer Bridge: Traffic lights are fully commissioned, and the final account for the road-crossing element has been agreed with JCL. Barrow Blueway: The SLA review is progressing, with further meetings scheduled with Laois County Council and the Steering Group.



	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Planning Preparation	Consultant documentation has been received and is under review. Environmental documents have been issued to the Planner and KCC Ecologist for screening and approval. Part 8 publication is scheduled for March 2926.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€25,621,000	DoT/TII and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Sallins Link: Notice letters have issued and we are currently in the standstill period of the procurement process. Waterways Ireland Section: Consultant to issue documentation shortly to put an agreement in place for delivery of this section



					with Waterways Ireland Other Towpath Sections: Design work is complete, and discussions are underway to finalise a Memorandum enabling Waterways Ireland to undertake the remaining towpath works.
Kildare-Newbridge	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	Tender: Tender response period closed and tenders are being assessed. Liffey Lodge: Snagging underway and library staff have started to move library stock in. Basin Street: Project fully completed, and the library staff move has been successfully finalised.



					Archive Building: Additional fit-out works approved and completed to accommodate the Arts Team.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Draft Plan: Work is progressing well, with the final stages underway. Next Step: Input from the Urban Planner is required to close out the Draft Plan.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Draft Masterplan finalised and is currently under review by the SPPR team.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3)	Preliminary Design	Surveys & Funding: Required surveys are complete and will inform the pre-Part 8 design. RRDF funding has been secured, with the Letter of Offer and



					Funding Agreement awaited. Funding Verification: The verification form for RF0256 has been submitted to DRCD. Clarifications have been requested regarding the removal of the Arts allocation and a detailed breakdown of professional fees. Next Steps: A refined feasibility study/masterplan is to be developed, and a consultant designer will need to be appointed to progress this work.
	Riverbank	TBC	TBC	Pre-Part 8	Design Review: The design is being issued to



					Departments for final review.
Athy	Athy Sports Hub Ardrew			Preliminary Design	Contractor Appointment: A preferred contractor has been selected and the appointment report has been approved.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€23.8m (most recent cost for entire project)		Planning Preparation	Historic Structures Fund: An application has been submitted and is currently under review. Expected Outcome: A decision on the application is anticipated in April 2026.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved.	Town Centre Masterplan	Final Draft & Supporting Reports: The Final Draft Plan from BDP is expected in the coming week, and the Codema District Heating Report is due for



					completion in the weeks ahead.
	Clane Library	€3,760,000	TBC with Library Department	Tender Action, Evaluation, Award Stage	Department Approval: Approval has been received from the Department, enabling the project to progress to the appointment stage.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final	TBC	Draft Masterplan completed and is to be issued to Senior Management Team for review.



			Business Case		
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Amendments are underway to align this document and the Sallins Settlement Plan.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF	Pre-draft Masterplan	Transport and Infrastructure Assessment is being carried out by our consultant and will inform the Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan.

Integration

LAIT
Foireann Údaráis Áitiúil um Imeascadh
Local Authority Integration Team

General

Numbers of New Arrivals

Numbers of new arrivals seeking Temporary Protection in Ireland remain low with no indication of a return to pre-Christmas levels. The percentage of new arrivals seeking State accommodation remains around 30%. The numbers in DAC's have reduced to 104 as reported on 02 March. Change to 30-day accommodation offer means throughput of people is quicker.

Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

Indications are that the ARP, will be extended to March 2027 in line with Temporary Protection. It is still unclear if there will be any change to the current €600 monthly payment.



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

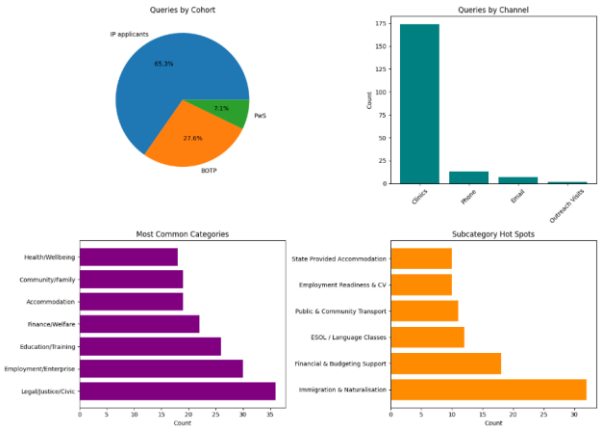
Kildare County Council will mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 20 March. Staff are invited to wear red as part of the Immigrant Council of Ireland anti-racism campaign, Wear Red Day.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) supports persons who have applied for international protection, persons with status, temporary protection, and programme refugees living in county Kildare. The LAIT connect them with local services and helping them to navigate new civic systems to them. The LAIT supports those in State-contracted accommodation through information clinics. From the beginning of the year up to the 11 March 2026 the LAIT delivered:

31 one-to-one information clinics and nine group clinics around specific topics or addressing common needs in accommodation centres.

Received 208 and resolved 201 queries. Most queries were received from international protection applicants (66%), followed by beneficiaries of temporary protection (26%) and refugees or persons with status (8%). Most queries were received through clinics (87.9%), phone (7.2%), email (3.9%) and visits to accommodation centres (1%). Most common queries categories were Legal/Justice/Civic (particularly immigration queries); Employment and Enterprise; Education and Training (language classes and employment readiness supports in the community); Finance; Accommodation; Community and Family; and Health and Wellbeing.



LAIT activities:

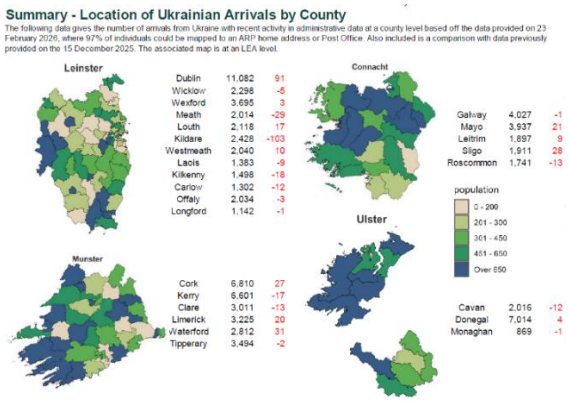
The Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship training programme ended on the 11 February 2026 with the graduation of 21 international protection applicants and refugees living in North Kildare, who completed



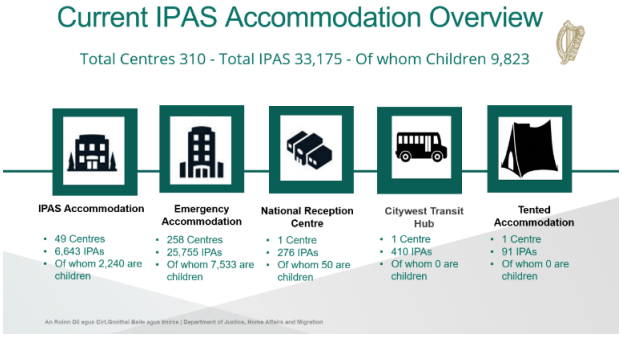
a four week programme. The programme was delivered by DotoBa. Information session on the international protection system and family reunification organised in partnership with the Irish Refugee Council on the 18 February 2026 in Sallins with 20 participants keen on understanding the process. Queries raised were related access to legal aid, travel documents, and how to address long waiting periods.

Twenty women registered and attended the first session of Move and Groove Dance and Movement Programme that will run for four weeks in Newbridge delivered through Kildare Sports Partnership.

According to the Data source Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration (09 March 2026) there are 155 persons with Temporary Protection (Ukraine)130 adults/ 25 children in State-contracted accommodation in County Kildare.



According to the Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration (09 March 2026) there are 530 persons who have applied for international protection, 439 adults/ 105 children in State-contracted accommodation in County Kildare.



Kildare Refugee Resettlement Programme

The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) is a national programme established by the Government on 10 September 2015 as part of Ireland's humanitarian response to the migration crisis in Europe. Its purpose is to provide safe and legal pathways for refugees



(primarily those identified by the UNHCR) to resettle in Ireland.

The IRPP is working with Local Authorities engaged in resettling refugees, following the County and City Management Association's (CCMA) model for distribution for IRPP II, CCMA HBLU IRPP II Model for Distribution. Through this model, Kildare County Council was allocated a quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. Kildare County Council was involved in this programme as far back as 2010.

As of the end of January 2026, Kildare County Council has resettled 50 refugees who have been supported to integrate by a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Worker. The remaining families are due to resettle in March – April 2026. The integration supports have been extended until 16 July 2026. The programme is supported by an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by the LAIT Coordinator, and at national level by the LGMA through a Working Group with all the local authorities participating in the IRPP.

Further information is available at: gov.ie - Irish Refugee Protection Programme

Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme

The Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The supply of offers for OAH and Pledged accommodation continues to decline. Fortunately, the majority of persons with temporary protection arriving under the new 30-day accommodation protocol have managed to source their own accommodation with very few returning to Citywest to date. A total of 25 people returned to Citywest from all the six Designated Accommodation Centres across the country in January 2026.

Offered to date: 108 (59 apartments + 49 houses).
Occupied: 64
In Progress: 3
Withdrawn: 41



The Ukraine Services and accommodation team is currently matching properties in rural locations offered by other Local Authority's. Indications from the Minister is that the ARP payment will extend beyond March 2026.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Designated Accommodation Centres were established to accommodate persons with temporary protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. The change to a 30-day accommodation offer has impacted on the delivery of services to the three DAC's in County Kildare. The Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team continue to deliver Day-14 clinics on a roughly two week basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation.

Capacity at the Punchestown and Newhall DAC's contracted by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has been reduced. The temporary contract for Newhall has been extended for a further three months. Kill will cease to be a 30-day DAC on the 20 March and will return to be a Full Board DAC accommodating persons with temporary protection who arrived before March 2024. Newhall 30-day DAC will close on the 14 April 2026 and will return to its original use as farmland.

The Community Integration Forum

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. Membership includes Kildare County Council (LAIT, Accommodation Team, Community Services/Sport Kildare Partnership, Library Services/Creative Communities); Citizens Information Centre; An Garda Siochana; County Kildare Leader Partnership; Irish Red Cross; Kildare County Childcare Committee; Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC); In Sync; Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB); the Regional Education and Learning Team Coordinator (REALT – KWETB); INTREO/Department of Social Welfare; Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS); the HSE Social Inclusion Team; and TFI Local Link.



The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies.

The Community Integration Forum (CIF) meets every two months. A meeting was held on Wednesday 04 February.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

01 June 2024 marked the start of second phase climate training for the sector. 2026 training programme has planned training under six training pillars with a target of 9,450 over the



year. Focus for the year ahead includes:

Online training on climate science, policy and responses to all staff.

- Green Public Procurement
- Nature–based solutions
- Fire services training
- Other training targeting specific groups will be planned for delivery also.

Permanency of staff business case has commenced with a project board convened. As per the terms of the Project Initiation Document the business case is progressing to maintain, strengthen and secure climate action as a recognised function within the local government sector by: Addressing the permanency of dedicated resources on climate action within the sector i.e. 17 resources within the CAROs, and three resources within each of the 31 LA (Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer). The proposal as a minimum is seeking to regularise 110 staff positions.

Define the governance and working arrangements for the CAROs and three local authority climate resources.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is available on CARO website Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) - CARO.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

- Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, and Louth), delivering projects and accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.
- Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford,



Roscommon), have developed their project pipeline and sourced funding to match Pathfinder support and are progressing with projects.

- Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI and design team to progress projects.
- South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City and County) continue to progress through design stage towards delivery.

Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The EM CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonisation and is now working to finalise recommendations for the CCMA on support for fleet decarbonisation into the future.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on Climate Action



The report on 2024 data was published in September 2025. This is the third such report of the Climate Action KPI working group and explores a range of data to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. Report now available at: Climate Action Key Performance Indicators

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase three of the Programme sees c.400 clubs working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.
Work is ongoing to renew the MOU between the CCMA and the GAA to continue and strengthen the partnership.



Climate Action Office

Kildare Climate Action Office
Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

Re-turn Bottle/Can Bin:

Launched in the Canteen and Level 0. Money from the scheme given to groups and other entities represented by staff monthly.
The council are sharing information on the initiative with Wicklow, whom are considering adopting the project.

Community Based Projects:

Community Climate Action Program Fund Round 2:

The application process for Round 2 of funding closed on the 22 December with 38 applications submitted. The 28 applications were forwarded to the Department for appraisal on 27 February. The outcome is expected in April 2026.

Under Round 1, the 24 projects approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant are completed substantially with five projects nearing completion. This Round 1 fund will close in May 2026.

Climate Book Club:

The book club is going from strength-to-strength with the program being extended to the main libraries.

+55 Climate Workshop:

Hosted in Naas Library and facilitated by Jacinta Barrins Session four on 19 March will capture carbon Footprint and presentaion by SEAI Mentor - the sessions will run until May.

Climate Action SPC:

The March SPC was held on 11 March. The program of works for the year was discussed and agreed. Focus is on policy need to support the



LACAP and information building to support the SPC members.
The next meeting is scheduled for 13 May.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024-2029 Implementation Plan Report:

2025 CAP Implementation Report presented at Full Council meeting on 26 January. It is now available on the Local Authority CAP Progress SharePoint page on the Intranet Kildare Climate Action Plan - Progress Dashboard as well as on a Kildare County Council CAP Implementation Report page on the main website Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 Implementation Progress - Kildare County Council.

JTF START:

An allocation of €30 million is available for the eight counties party to EU JT Territory. Kildare has many EOI's being forwarded for consideration under the application stage. The process requires a quick turnaround with projects due to start October 2026 and be fully completed March 2028.

Maynooth DZ:

Climate Champions:

The program for Maynooth is being advanced for 2026, we are looking forward to having more persons and groups involved.

Community Garden:

The lease agreement with Maynooth Tidy Towns for a community garden at Harbour Field following the Section 183 approval at Full Council in November 2025 is being progressed and lease is due in February.

Demo House:

The section is undertaking a full report on the DemoHouse to analysis the concepts worth.

Energy Updates:

Energy Performance Contract

Letter of intent issued to preferred tenderer, Lawler's Sustainability. Contract being finalised by Byrne Wallace Shields LLP. Meath County Council is aligning their works with our contract draft. Window Actuators and ventilation are currently being investigated and priced. Pathfinder funding of 50% of the 75% funding has been received.



District Heating (DH)

Maynooth District Heating feasibility study in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF. The document is complete.

DISCO project continues with peer-to-peer meeting held in December in the Netherlands attended by a team representative and the next meeting is scheduled for Dublin during April/May 2026.

EV Charging for KCC Fleet:

The Energy Team is preparing tender for Kildare County Council Fleet EV charging to assist with decarbonising operations.

Solar Popup Events:

The event on the 07 March in Naas Library was a success and very well attended. The next one is on 21 March, Athy Library at 11.30am to 2.30pm supported People First Credit Union. Kildare SEC Mentor and solar PV suppliers available for advice.

Community

Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival

A five-day programme of almost 50 events was delivered across Kildare by the Council, community groups, and partners, drawing strong public attendance. The Spirit of Kildare Sessions concert series was a major highlight, featuring top artists and a sold-out Picture This homecoming show. Acts such as Jack L, Altan, Celine Byrne and others performed across unique venues. The new Spirit of Kildare Awards were highly successful, attracting strong nominations and celebrating outstanding volunteers, artists, and leaders. A review of the 2026 festival is underway which will inform the planning for the Brigid 2027 festival, and will expand in Q2 2026 to a SWOT exercise with relevant stakeholders.

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

All members of Kildare LCSP have been formally appointed by the Minister of Justice. The induction meeting took place on 13 February with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, 12 March. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership will be formally elected at the first meeting. The National Office for Community Safety survey closed on 27 February. Findings from this survey are awaited.



Local Sports Plan



Following approval at the Community, Culture and Integration Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on 12 February, the Sports Plan will be presented to Corporate Policy Group on 23 March and is listed for consideration by Full Council at the March monthly meeting.

Kildare Sports Partnership

Women in Sport Week

As part of 2026 Women in Sport Week KSP delivered over twenty-five activities for women of all ages, and all abilities. These were county wide events/programmes which focused on physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social development. It is estimated that over 600 people were involved in these activities.

Volunteer in Sport Awards – Federation of Irish Sport

KSP attended the Federation of Irish Sport, Volunteer in Sport Awards. A volunteer from each county is recognised for their outstanding contribution to sports clubs and activities. Annelies Goyarts, from the all-inclusive North Kildare Eagles Basketball club, was the 2026 Kildare recipient. Moreover, this year's awards ceremony saw the introduction of a new award for outstanding contributions by a club from each province. Naas Pythons Special Olympics club were the inaugural winners of the Leinster award.

Stay Active For Life Walking Programme

'Stay Active for Life' was a February walking challenge offered to older adults who participate in the KSP Seated Exercise groups in the county. Participants had to walk for over twenty minutes a day, for twenty-one of the twenty-eight days in February, as part of the challenge. Over 140 people, aged between 60 and 90, completed the challenge, and received a medal for doing so.



FUNdamental Moves and All-Inclusive Resistance Training Exercise Groups

- A new physical literacy programme for children with additional needs in Kildare Town has proved to be extremely successful, with 15 participants each week.
- Resistance training groups for youths and adults are being delivered weekly between Athy and Prosperous. These assist up to 40 people with additional needs to engage in physical activity in a gym setting.

Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2026

KSP once again are playing a key role in the planning and delivery of the Kildare Inclusivity Festival alongside the Council, The Curragh Racecourse, and CKAN. The event this year takes place 10 May in the Curragh Racecourse.

Dormant Account Funding Opportunity

KSP are currently in the process of applying for the Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Fund, which is due at the end of March. Funding opportunities are available in the categories of;

a) The Local Sports Hubs
b) Sports Inclusion Disability Capital
c) Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
d) Urban Outdoor Initiatives
e) Her Moves – Women in Sport

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The meeting of the LCDC and LAG (to oversee LEADER) took place on 10 February 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for 25 March 2026.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP subgroup met on 10 March to prepare for LCDC meeting.
The LCDC approved both the End of Year Report 2025 and Annual Plan 2026, and the work is progressing positively based on the plan agreed for the year. SICAP works with the most vulnerable groups and communities across Kildare. For further information contact: Linda Walsh, Manager,



County Kildare LEADER Partnership
linda@countykildarelp.ie

LEADER Partnership
maeve@countykildarelp.ie

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

The plan for 2026 was recently submitted to DRCDG. This is based on supporting designated communities in Athy. The vacant support worker post is currently being filled.

LEADER

The LEADER subgroup is scheduled to take place on 12 March 2026 to prepare for the LAG meeting. There are two projects anticipated for LAG approval for grant aid funding at the upcoming meeting.

The Smart Villages Training project is progressing positively with communities in Northwest Kildare. This project aims to build the skills and capacity of rural communities to avail of funding towards identified projects. Turningthesod.ie remains a key website for updates and information. LEADER funding remains available for allocation.

For further information contact: Maeve Howe, Manager, County Kildare

Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2026

An allocation of €244,335 has been received from the Department of Rural andCommunity Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) for small capital grants for community and voluntary groups. The focus of LEP 2026 is prioritising Community Centres, Family Resource Centres and Youth Facilities, located in or targeting the most excluded in Kildare. Applications are now closed and the evaluation committee will meet in the coming weeks to assess applications.

Child Poverty Action Plan

Kildare is one of four counties that secured funding nationally based on a collaborative application between Children and Young Peoples Services Committee and LCDC. Work continues to provide support to neurodiverse children and families in the Family Resource Centres. A recent meeting with the other three successful applicants nationally and the University of Limerick discussed progress and the upcoming evaluation process.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is progressing across a broad portfolio of collaborative initiatives in Athy. Priority areas include: enhancing children's play and recreation facilities in Castlepark and Ballyroe; advancing countywide Trauma-Informed practices and knowledge; strengthening community-based neurodiversity and inclusion supports in partnership with Athy FRC, CYPSC and the FRC network; improving Age Friendly wellbeing and accessibility through initiatives such as the Age Friendly Mile; enhanced community information via the Athy Interactive Wellbeing Hub; supporting Traveller participation and education.

Healthy Ireland

The recruitment process for the permanent Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post has concluded and Emma Meates has been appointed.

Annual Reporting and 2026 Planning

Reporting for 2025 has been completed and submitted to Pobal, along with the proposed 2026 Healthy County Work Plan. The 2026 plan is aligned with the two priority outcome areas of the Healthy Kildare Plan:

- Physical Health
- Mental Health and Well-Being

Collaboration remains central to delivering these outcomes. Ongoing partnerships with Kildare Sports Partnership and Kildare Traveller Action will continue, alongside several new initiatives now in development, including:

- Kildare's first Trauma-Informed Conference
- Place Standard Assessments to support community-led planning and engagement.

Community Support Centres (CSCs)

Engagement is ongoing with a number of community groups to explore their potential designation as Community Support Centres, with the aim of achieving maximum countywide coverage. Once all Community Support Centre designations are fully confirmed, the Council's website will be updated to include information on the facilities available at each location, including kitchen amenities, shower provision, and toilet facilities. Once all locations are listed, an application for funding electrical works to connect the



facility to the mobile generators will be progressed.

Community Grants

Community Grants closed on Friday, 13 March 2026 and are currently under assessment. It is envisaged that the Community Grants Awards will be presented for approval at the Municipal District meetings in April.

Community Development

The Kildare Age friendly programme completed the walkability audit of Woodlands housing Estate in Naas with the community, elected members and Age Friendly Ireland. We are confident following the four stage process that the estate will become Age Friendly.

All Municipal District's took part in International Women's Day events. The National Hygiene hub has requested that Kildare be a case study of best practice in terms of community education and how this has expanded the work of the hygiene hub.

Water Services

Service to Elected Members -

Elected members queries will continue to be dealt with via the Local Representative Support Desk (LRSD) as follows:
By Phone: 0818 178 178
By Email: localrepsupport@water.ie
By Post: Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork.
Notices of Motion and Councillors Questions: councilmeetings@water.ie
Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

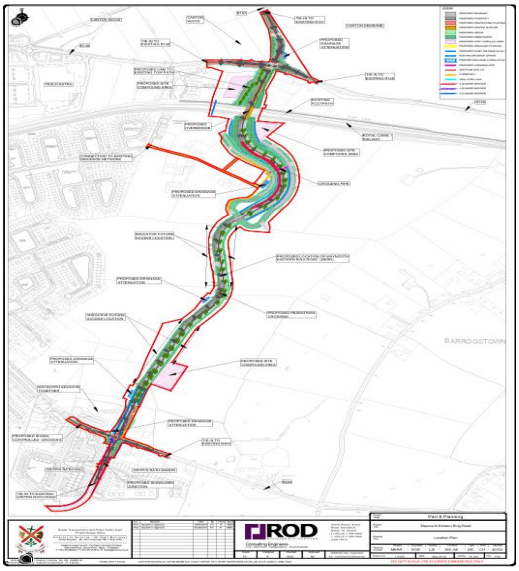
Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR)

The contractor is progressing well now that weather conditions are more favourable.
The following activities will take place over the coming month:

- Topsoil strip.
- Excavate and fill for side roads.
- Drainage works.



- Attenuation tank installation.
- Reinforced concrete noise barriers.
- Piling platform construction.
- Offline diversion works.



Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

A decision is awaited from ACP. The Project Team will commence work shortly on the tender documents to appoint a consultant to complete the detailed design, construction and handover phases of the project.

Newbridge Southern Ring Road

An allocation of €200,000 has been received from the DoT to progress this project. Draft tender documents are currently being prepared ahead of the commencement of the tender process.

Celbridge Area Based Transport Assessment

The tender period has now closed and the evaluation is nearing completion. A tender recommendation report will be available shortly with the appointment of the consultant and a project kick off meeting to follow in due course.

Confey Barnhill Road

The tender period has now closed and the evaluation is ongoing. A tender recommendation report will be available shortly with the appointment of the consultant and a project kick off meeting to follow in due course.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Road Safety Audit report has been received and the additional work required following the audit is currently being scoped.

Junction Programme

The Section 38 consultation period for Allenwood and Blackwood Cross (Dag Weld's) closed on the 09 March 2026. One response has been received, and this is being considered at present.



National Roads Office

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Scheme

Construction ongoing, outstanding tasks are the completion of the ITS system and installation of noise barriers. Changes to legislation are required to allow Bus to run on the hard shoulder and the draft amendment to the legislation are with the department for approval by the minister.

M9 Park and Share sites:

Works progresses on the M9 Park and Share sites at Junctions 3,4 and 5. Junctions 3 and 4 are in Kildare and the NRO are preparing the feasibility and options report and are currently identifying possible locations where land can be acquired by agreement.

N7 Bus Priority Measure (Feasibility Study)

TII have been requested by the NTA to undertake a feasibility study on the suitability of a Bus Priority Measure Scheme for the N7. TII have engaged the MMaRC to undertake this study looking at the extents from Junction 7 to Junction 2 – inbound only.

TII Grant Allocations 2026:

TII Grant Allocations for 2026 yet to be announced.

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

The Council has commenced the process for the introduction of special speed limit by laws for built up areas in accordance with the updated mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document, published by the Department of Transport.
A comprehensive public consultation process is expected to occur during Q3 2026.

Operations

Department of Transport allocations announced in February. Kildare County Council received a total of €20,014,300 for 2026.
Municipal District engineers have prepared their schedule of works for Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes for 2026. The total RI allocation is €11,334,000 and RM is €2,678,500, which is in line with the allocation for 2025.



Close out of the 2025 works on the Pavement Management System is now complete. We have been working with the Road Management Office, ensuring that all 2025 work is mapped correctly and that details including specification and cost are recorded. The final report has been issued to the Department of Transport as required.

General Maintenance

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 3,300 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

Public Lighting

Kilaree Lighting Services are the public lighting maintenance contractor. Public lighting faults should be logged on the following website:
www.deadsureapp.com

Winter Maintenance

Salting runs covering the ten Winter Maintenance Routes were carried out throughout January, February and March. The crews did a total of 40 runs on 26 nights to date this year.

Regional Salt Barn

The Regional Salt Barn is in operation with a busy few weeks with salt loaded and dispatched to Laois, Carlow, South Dublin and Dublin City with ongoing orders in place for the coming weeks. A further 5,000 tonnes of salt have been delivered to the Regional Salt barn in February, a total of 171 articulated truck deliveries were managed over a period of two weeks.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

Applications are now being accepted for the above schemes for the improvement of non-public roads (LIS) and public roads (CIS).

Sustainable Transport

Details of the 2026 Active Travel and Bus Stop Enhancement Funding Allocations from the National Transport Authority are included in the table within this report.



Updates

Royal Canal Greenway Scheme

2026 Allocation: €600,000

Permanent works on Louisa Bridge at Railway Station to be completed in 2026. Final Account agreed with contractor.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €870,000

Tender for construction delayed due to complex drainage requirements to provide a scheme consistent with Sustainable Drainage System. A decision on the timescale for tendering of the project will be made and communicated before the end of Q1 2026.

Naas to Sallins Greenway (Section 2 Naas Harbour – Sallins Village)

2026 Allocation: €50,000

Meeting to be held with Waterways Ireland to discuss the scope of works and requirements between Osberstown Bridge and Sallins Village.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €100,000

Completion of the draft preliminary design delayed due to requirement to include new active travel bridge to the west of the existing traffic bridge in Sallins Village. A decision to proceed with the scheme in phases will be made and communicated before the end of Q1 2026.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,000,000

The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026. A further briefing session with elected members will be organised in advance of the public consultation process.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €800,000

The designers of the scheme are being appointed to examine the independent post opening safety review of the scheme and a briefing with elected members is planned following this initial review.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

2026 Allocation: €50,000

Land transfer discussions to continue for land required to build the bridge.



Monread Road Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €25,000

Approaches to Sallins Road Roundabout to be examined to prepare an alternative to the zebra crossing across the two-lane width approaches.

Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,000,000

Construction documents are due to be ready for Phase 1 of the works in Q1 2026. A tender process will then commence.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €50,000

Preparations to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026 are underway and a briefing was held with elected members on this project.

Newbridge Main Street

2026 Allocation: €200,000

Site meeting arranged with elected members on this project and feedback to be discussed with the National Transport Authority.

SRTS Round 2 - Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's, Newbridge

2026 Allocation: €150,000

Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.

SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phádraig, Clane

2026 Allocation: €150,000

Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.

Mill Street Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,700,000

Scheme pending declaration of its substantial completion. Final Account being discussed with contractor.

SRTS (R3) - Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous

2026 Allocation: €350,000

Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.

Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €525,000

Appointment of consultants to proceed with the detailed design of the scheme has been completed.



Dublin Road Connector Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €525,000

Site meetings to be held to agree the scope of works. Appointment of consultants to proceed with the design of the scheme will follow.

SRTS (R4) Ardscoil Rath Iomghain, Rathangan

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Maynooth Educate Together NS

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Scoil Eoin Phoil, Green Lane, Leixlip

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Scoil Íde Naofa, Kilmead, Athy

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Work has commenced on the provision of bus stop infrastructure at Local Link Routes across the county.

The Council is expecting the delivery of new bus shelters from the National Transport Authority during 2026.

Open Spaces

Maynooth Tree Works Programme

Work is due to commence on a programme of pruning and tree removals in the next month.

Kilcullen Playground

A tender has issued for the upgrade of Kilcullen Playground. This will include a new accessible roundabout, seesaw, water play unit and sensory play panels.

Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

Several variations to the development plan were brought forward in 2025, including:



The PMAs in respect of Proposed Variation No. 2 (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) were published on 06 January 2026.
The CE Report for proposed Variation No. 3 (Revised NPF) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) was issued to the Elected Members on 19 December 2025 with a Special Could Meeting scheduled for 23 January 2026.
Settlement Plans are also being prepared for Monasterevin, Sallins, and Kilcock in 2025. These will all form Variations to the Kildare County Development Plan*.

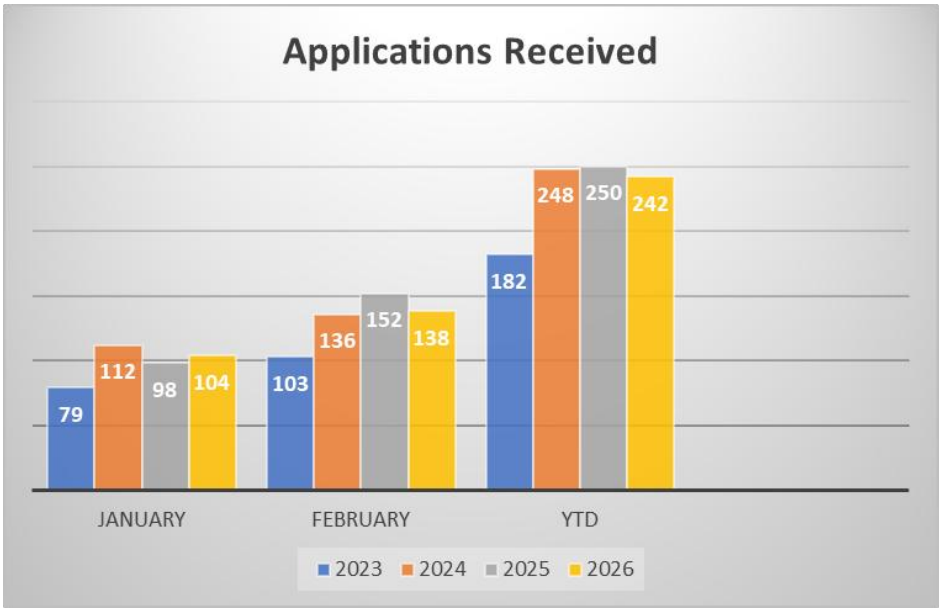
County Development Plan Actions

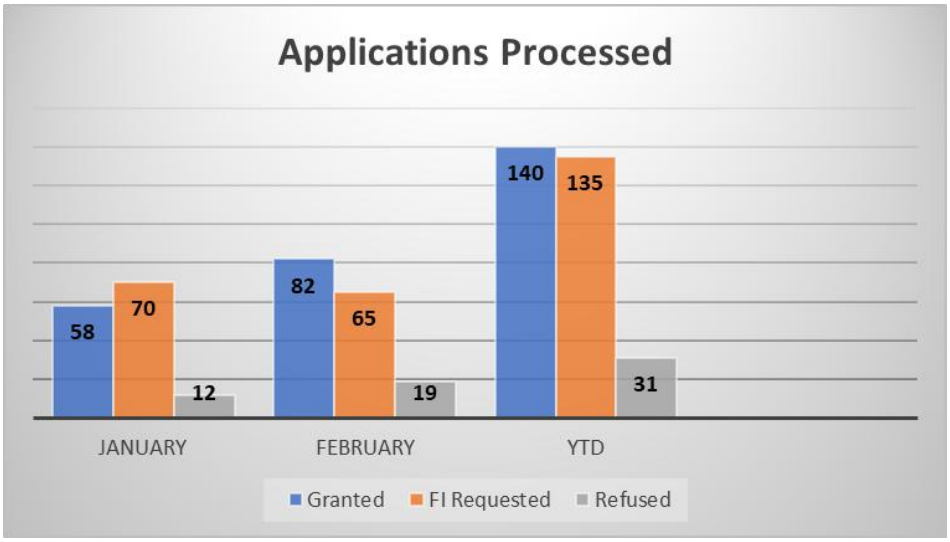
A range of projects are being progressed, including Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Employment Locations Study; Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; and Landscape Character Assessment.

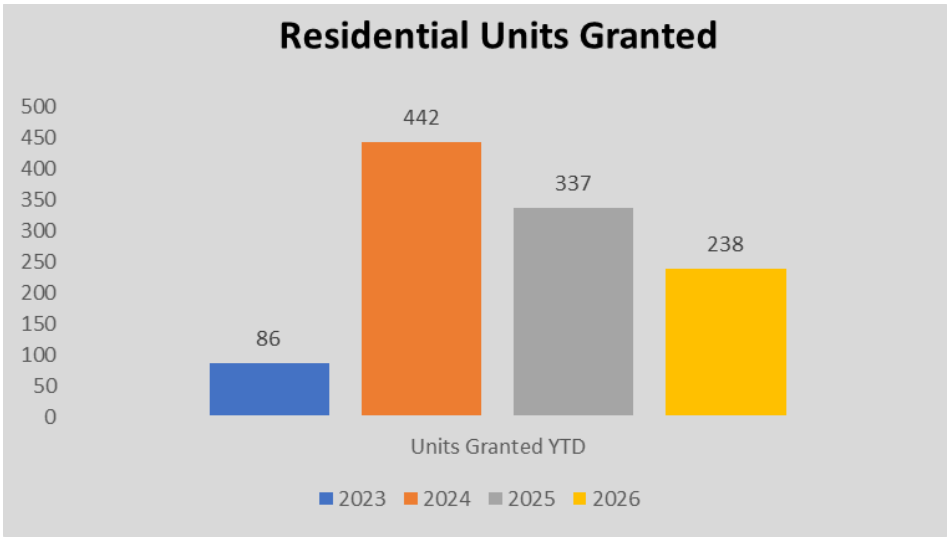
Development Management

ePlanning

In 2025, 89% of all applications received were via the online planning portal, an increase of 11% on 2024. 98% of submissions/observations continue to be submitted via online ePlanning







Pre-Planning

23 new Pre-Planning requests were submitted in February, 39 applications received year to date.

Section 5s

Eight new Section 5 Declarations requests received in February, 14 applications received year to date.



Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications					
Ref No.	**Date Received**	**Applicant**	**Development Address**	**Proposed**	**Decision**
2561119	02/10/2025	Cozone Ventures Ltd	Railpark, Maynooth	581 Residential Units & Neighbourhood Centre	FI Requested 25/11/2025
2561468	19/12/2025	Maynooth Montane Ltd	Railpark West, Maynooth	139 Residential Units & Creche	FI Requested 19/02/2026

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála (SHD)

An Coimisiún Pleanála issued a decision to refuse a Strategic Housing Development application on 02 January 2026. The application was for a development of 344 residential units at Ballyoulster, Celbridge, application number 22313825.

Two Strategic Housing Development Applications, lodged between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála (SID)

Uisce Éireann Water Supply Project

Eastern and Midlands Region. Special Council meeting on 25 March. Chief Executive Report due with An Coimisiún Pleanála by 30 March.

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Nine wind turbines, onsite 110kV substation, turbine delivery route and a grid connection route in townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea (Monasterevin) in Co. Kildare. Special Council meeting on 14 April. Chief Executive Report due with An Coimisiún Pleanála by 16 April.

Heritage and Nature

A. Biodiversity / Ecology

Biodiversity Action Plan – SPC 10 March. Due for approval at Full Council on 30 March 2026.

- The KCC Biodiversity Office, in conjunction with its counterparts across the midlands, is supporting the delivery of the following event "From Policy to Practice: Building Better for People and Biodiversity", 14 April 9.00am-4.00pm in The Midlands Park Hotel Portlaoise.



- Ballynafagh SAC Baseline Ecological and Hydrological Surveys – Tender published on etenders.
- An Ecological Capacity Building Programme for Planning and wider Kildare County Council underway. Commencing Week four of March 2026.
- Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy - Ecologist is preparing to publish tender.

NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund, 2026, applications incoming (€115,621.41).

B. Heritage and Conservation

- Heritage Plan – SPC on 10 March due for approval at Full Council on 30 March.
- Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Lands - Planting, habitat and biodiversity plan received on 04 February 2026. Planting due to commence March.
- Community Heritage Grants – 32 applications received. Offers will be



issued in the week commencing 09 March.

- Community Monuments Fund - Moone Abbey Tower, St. Brigid's Cathedral, Carbury Castle, Dunmanogue Church Ruin, St. David's Church. Three public and two private sites approved.
- ACO published Multi Party Framework Tender one on 19/02 for small scale Conservation Architectural and Engineering Services.
- Multi Party Framework Tender two ACO preparing for publication for large-scale Conservation Architectural and Engineering Services to support ACO role and to support larger projects e.g. Thrive, Moore Abbey etc.
- Built Historic Investment Scheme - 23 applications approved (total €230,804.00 + €13,334.00).
- Historic Structures Fund – Applications submitted for The Wonderful Barn, Lodge Park Straffan, St. David's Church Tower Naas, Healy's Old Post Office Prosperous.
- Heritage Stewardship Fund- Application submitted for Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Monasterevin.

Kildare Land Activation Office



Kildare County Council's inaugural "Unlocking Potential: Strategies for Land, Housing and Infrastructure Activation" symposium held on 12 February in the Osprey Hotel was very well received and heralded more than 85/90+ invited attendees ranging from industry experts, developers, AHB's, Estate Agents, Semi-State Bodies, Utilities, Elected Reps. Financial Institutions etc.

Four expert-led panel sessions each addressed a critical dimension of land and housing activation, highlighting the alignment of this process with the recently launched Government Housing Action Plan 2025- 2030.

It was a very engaging morning with lots of networking opportunities. Some very positive feedback was received.



Many of those present expressed an interest in becoming involved in any other gatherings in the future and would be willing to work closely with Kildare County Council with all their forward planning and housing delivery objectives.

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIFF) - Call 1

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funding call 1 of the recently launched Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund closed at noon on 27 February 2026. Applications were invited from LAs and the LDA to support the delivery of infrastructure projects that can commence construction in 2026 or 2027 and that can be substantially complete by 2028. Applications needed to be able to demonstrate a clear, direct, and early housing activation outcome. Kildare County Council via the Land Activation Office submitted a total of x6 applications. All applications are currently being assessed for eligibility, and all eligible applications will be assessed based on the criteria set out in the Scheme Outline. Correspondence will issue to all successful and unsuccessful applicants when this process has been completed (estimated April / May 2026).

The land activation team continues to meet with all stakeholders, including developers, utilities, state/semi state bodies agencies with the aim of coordinating programmes of work, so that any blockages can be addressed and eliminated going forward.

Masterplans:

Naas North-West Quadrant Framework Masterplan

The Delivery Strategy for the project is under preparation, including phasing, infrastructure, delivery, costings, viability, funding and finance strategy. The target is to finalise the Framework Masterplan by April 2026 for incorporation into the statutory planning framework in 2026. The completion of the Delivery Strategy will be twin tracked with the statutory plan-making process.

Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan

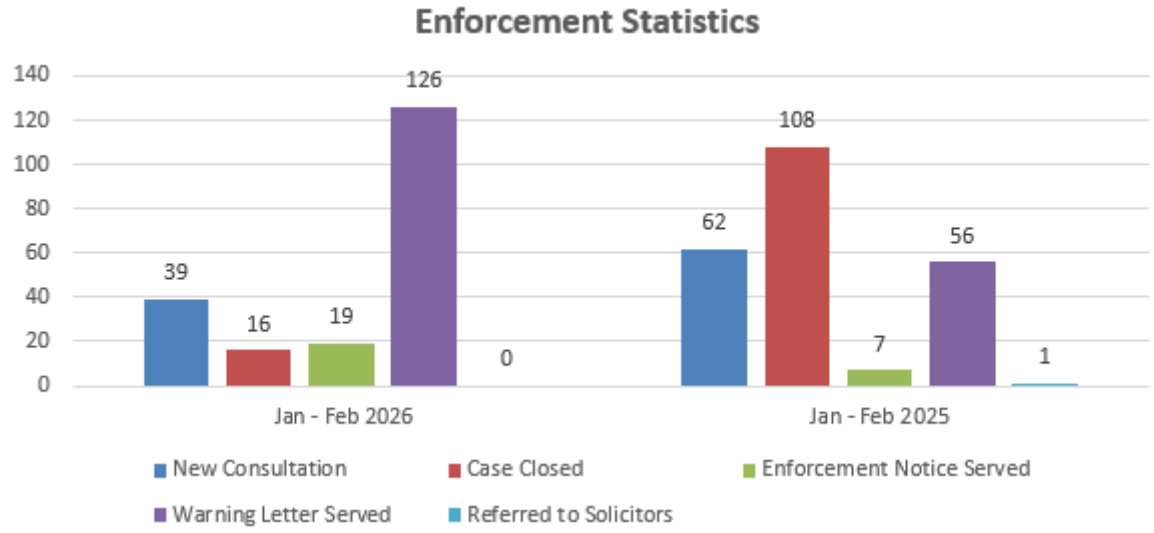
The Masterplan and its Programme Business Case are being updated following Kildare County Council Direction agreed by SMT in November.



Planning Enforcement

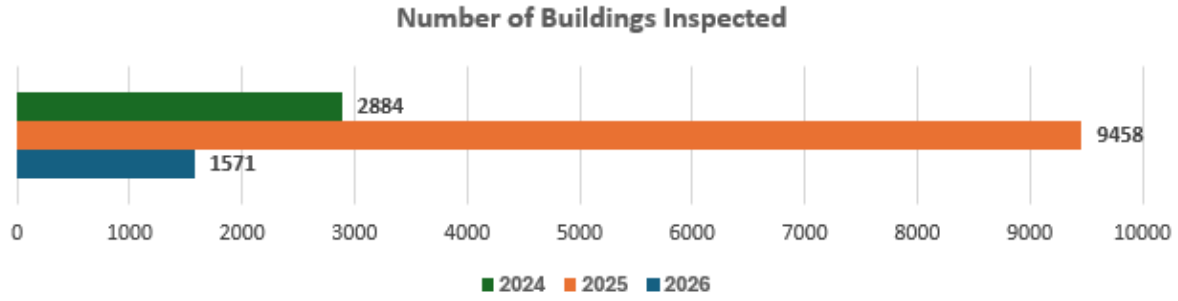
Summary for February 2026

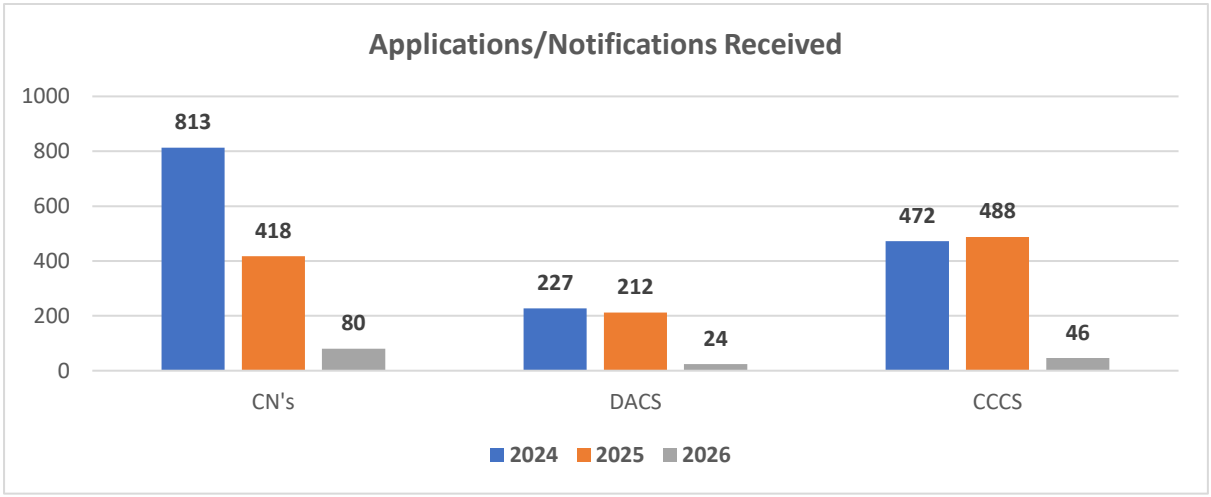
14	New Consultations
4	Cases Closed
8	Enforcement Notices Served
47	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors



Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of February 2026 set against full year figures for 2024 and 2025.





Kildare Fáilte - Into Kildare

February was strongly focused on delivering high-impact destination promotion surrounding St. Brigid's Day, Valentine's Day and the early build-up to St. Patrick's Day. The month also prioritised the progression of strategic festival planning and the strengthening of stakeholder collaboration to ensure coordinated delivery across upcoming seasonal campaigns and major events.

As part of the Light Up Kildare campaign, Into Kildare successfully secured national media coverage, including on-site reporting by RTÉ News, with Into Kildare Board Member Ted Robinson taking part in an interview. The campaign also generated strong social media reach and community engagement, further reinforcing its status as a key event in the county calendar.



Into Kildare coordinated the filming of the Taoiseach's annual St. Brigid's Day message, supporting and promoting the 'Pause for Peace' initiative.





Into Kildare attended a ceremony at Solas Bhríde Centre and Hermitages, where a Pause for Peace was observed at 12.00 noon in honor of St. Brigid. Participation in this event reinforced Into Kildare's continued support of the Pause for Peace movement.



Into Kildare was present at the Good Food Ireland event at Barberstown Castle, which celebrated excellence in Irish food, hospitality, and innovation. The event brought together leading voices across the sector, with an industry panel discussion.
Attendance at this event supported continued alignment with national food tourism strategy and reinforced County Kildare's positioning as a high-quality culinary destination.



Into Kildare facilitated the first Taste of Kildare planning meeting with members of the board to confirm both date and location for the 2026 festival, as well as sponsorship meetings, securing sponsorship for this year's event.





Into Kildare Joined a meeting with representatives of the Women's Irish Open to explore opportunities for collaboration and cross-promotion.

Into Kildare participated in a Tourism Ireland webinar examining overseas visitor motivations and emerging travel trends influencing destination choice. The session provided valuable data-driven insights into the factors compelling international travelers to choose the island of Ireland, including cultural heritage, authenticity, sustainability, and experiential tourism.

Into Kildare attended the Chinese New Year celebrations at Kildare Village, marking the Year of the Horse and highlighting Kildare's reputation global as Horse Country.





Enterprise and Economic Development

2026 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 10.03.2026	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Grow Digital Voucher	6	€12,425
Business Expansion Grant	0	€0
Priming Grant	0	€0
Feasibility Study Grant	0	€0
Market Explorer Grant	3	€13,113
Gradstart	0	€0
IP Start Grant	1	€2,160
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	€22,489
TOTAL	**13**	**€50,187**

Entrepreneurship Support

Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made: https://leokildare.submit.com Throughout Q1 over 200 individuals availed of a business advice and mentoring appointment. In addition, over 80 individuals completed a Start Your Own Business programme and 15 completed a Tax and Bookkeeping workshop with another workshop scheduled for 31 March 2026. https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/

Local Enterprise Week

(02 March to 06 March)
During Local Enterprise Week, the Local Enterprise Office at Kildare County Council delivered a full schedule of daily business clinics. These sessions offered tailored guidance on supports such as the Market Explorer Grant, Grow Digital Vouchers, and Energy Efficiency Grants, as well as providing one-to-one general business advisory appointments for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Focus On Tech

Kildare Local Enterprise Office brought 22 client companies to AI Works for Ireland; a National Development



Summit held at Google Ireland during Local Enterprise Week. The event brought SMEs together with industry experts and entrepreneurs to explore how artificial intelligence can support business growth, with practical insights, real-world case studies and live demonstrations of AI tools





Focus On Craft

The use of the workshop space at the Gather Craft Retail unit in Kildare Town has seen increased activity and will be refreshed internally and externally to promote upcoming workshops. In addition, GATHER members saw a 39% increase in sales in the month of January. The Gather Shop space will also be refreshed by a visual merchandiser.

The workshops are drawing in visitors from surrounding counties with many workshops selling out.

Focus On Food

Kildare County Council, through the Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub and LEO Kildare, is also supporting the Regional Food and Drink Producer Showcase 2026, a major trade-only event taking place on 30 April 2026 in Emerald Park, County Meath. Organised in partnership with Boyne Valley Flavours and the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, the showcase will bring together commercially ready food and drink producers from six counties - Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Cavan, and Monaghan. This is the first time the wider region will unite its producers in a single platform, creating an invaluable opportunity for them to engage directly with retail buyers, chefs, distributors, and food-service operators actively sourcing new



products.

Kildare's participation ensures strong visibility for our producers while reinforcing the county's reputation for excellence and innovation in food and drink. The event is designed to generate meaningful commercial connections, open new routes to market, and highlight the collective strength of the region's food ecosystem. This aligns directly with Kildare County Councils ongoing commitment to supporting enterprise growth, job creation, and regional collaboration that benefits our business community and local economy.

Economic Development

Retail Supports

A series of Roadshows and Municipal District visits was completed with the final session in Naas on 03 March.

In total, 143 people registered to attend across all events. These sessions provided significant value by directly highlighting the full range of Local Enterprise Office and Kildare County Council supports available to local business owners and members of the public, including mentoring, training, advisory services, and grant supports.

As a result, work is now underway to follow up on individual selection support enquiries and grant applications

Visual merchandising services have been procured, and a series of local workshops is being developed to support retailers to develop a sustainable and vibrant shop window with additional one to one expertise as well as a grant scheme.

Tourism

Kildare County Council's tourism activator referred Kildare tourism businesses and EU JTF grantees into Failte Ireland's Horse Country Sales Internalisation programme. Kildare tourism businesses have been offered free listings on the Horse Country website.

EU JTF grantee Lullymore Heritage Park is now working with Failte Ireland to create a new experience for Horse Country called, "Harnessing Heritage – The Story of the Working Horses of the Bog of Allen"



EU JTF grantee Zipit Forest Adventures have commenced construction at Donadea Forest.

European Funded Project

Young Equine Innovators Erasmus+ Project



This project is in its finals stages with a three-day summit hosted by Kildare County Council from 04 to 06 March. The summit included a project team workshop and tour at the Irish National Stud, an Equine Summit Conference at the Curragh Racecourse with over 300 attendees and a final wrap up meeting and visit to Goffs. The Equine Summit Conference was officially opened by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon. The highlight of the event was the launch of the Equine Careers Guidebook by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless. The guidebook is being distributed to educational institutions nationally by Kildare County Council's Economic Development Team.

Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub, Athy



The Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub continues to strengthen Kildare's profile as a leading county for food entrepreneurship, skills development, and enterprise support.
Kildare Local Enterprise Office is supporting the upcoming Irish Foods Trade Connect Forum, taking place on 26 March in Killashee Hotel, from 9.00am to 4.30pm. As part of this initiative, LEO Kildare has secured 10 exhibition stands to showcase



high-quality Kildare-based food and drink producers. Following an open call, ten excellent local producers have been selected, representing a strong cross-section of the county's growing food and drinks sector.

This provides a significant visibility opportunity for Kildare businesses, enabling them to engage directly with buyers, distributors, retailers, and industry partners at a national level. The initiative demonstrates Kildare County Council's ongoing commitment to supporting local job creation, entrepreneurship, and the promotion of Kildare-made products.

In addition to industry promotion, the Hub continues to expand its training and workforce development offer. A five-day bread-baking programme, delivered by KWETB, is scheduled for the end of March, providing hands-on training for participants wishing to upskill in artisan baking and commercial production methods. This will be followed in early April by a Barista Skills Training Course, also delivered by KWETB, supporting both employability and hospitality-sector workforce development within the county.

These initiatives collectively highlight how Kildare County Council is investing in enterprise, skills, and innovation—delivering tangible benefits for local businesses, supporting job creation, and strengthening the county's reputation as a high-value location for food and drink entrepreneurship.

Circular Economy Hub

Asbestos removal works tender completed and successful contractor awarded contract to commence week starting 09 March. Internal and External Structural Works tender completed and successful contractor on site. CBR testing and reporting completed for lift shaft. Construction of new internal openings for doors and windows commenced. Structural beams currently under fabrication and emergency exit doors specifications completed. Suite of Mechanical and Electrical tender documents completed and programmed to be published in mid-March. The site is fully secure with 24-hour security surveillance with all prohibited access points removed.



Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Demolition and internal alterations nearing completion. New build substructure has commenced. Formation of new window opening, excavation of foundations, and construction of rising walls ongoing. All submittals on schedule with passenger lift shaft ordered and steel staircase in fabrication.

Expressions of Interest have been received from potential workshop facilitators, and a programme of skills-based workshops will be developed.



Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive



