



Chief Executive's Management Report – May 2022

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



Good Practice Guidance for Continuing to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

As part of the approach to the return to physical workplaces, employers and employees are encouraged to be supportive of continued good practices built up over the past two years, which support a safe working environment for all. Continued adoption of good infection prevention and control measures such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ventilation in workplaces is advised. While not mandatory the continued wearing of facemasks in offices and public areas is encouraged.

Critical components of the collective response in relation to COVID-19 continue to apply including self-isolation if symptomatic (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or on having a positive COVID-19 test. It remains critically important that everyone continues to play their part in limiting transmission. COVID-19 continues to pose a risk to public health.

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

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

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

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

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



News Items

Kildare County Council launches Information Portal for Ukrainian Citizens

Kildare County Council launched a new online information portal for Ukrainian citizens arriving to Kildare (see page 7).

Kildare County Council Podcast Series ‘Understanding Kildare’s County Development Plan’

In April, Kildare County Council launched a communications campaign titled ‘Understanding Kildare’s County Development Plan’ aimed at providing a better understanding of the County Development Plan (see page 7).

Kildare County Council launches Climate Innovation Fund 2022

Following the success of the inaugural Climate Innovation Fund in 2021, Kildare County Council’s Climate Action Office was pleased to announce the launch of the Climate Innovation Fund 2022 (see page 8).

Kildare County Council provides update on the Athy Distributor Road Project

Kildare County Council issued an update on progress on the project in April (see page 9).

Approved Housing Bodies

An Taoiseach Micheal Martin launched Tuath’s scheme in Castlefen on Friday 13 May (see page 13).

Response to the Ukrainian Conflict – Rest Centre

The rest centre in Liffey Lodge remains in operation (see page 14).

Energy Retrofit Programme 2022

The council was recently notified of its funding allocation for the Energy Retrofit Programme 2022 (see page 14).



Conservation Grant Schemes

15 grants have been awarded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) (see page 23).

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Consultants have been appointed and meeting and sites visits will commence in June (see page 25).

Contract 2B (Network)

Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) will be managing this project from the 1 June 2022 (see page 32).

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Irish Water confirmed that the green light has been given for the upgrade of Timolin Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (see page 32).

Green Schools

Twenty-one schools were assessed for their Green Flag by the end of April (see page 35).

Climate Innovation Fund

The Climate Innovation Fund was piloted in 2021 with the support of LPT funding from Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District (see page 51).

National Cycle Network (NCN)

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is inviting the public and anyone that is interested to make their views heard on the development of a new National Cycle Network (NCN) (see page 55).

Digital Strategy for Kildare

The Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare is now at report stage following a successful public consultation process (see page 55).



Community Grants 2022

The 2022 Community, Festival and Residents' Associations grants were approved at municipal district meetings in April (see page 66).

Kildare Fáilte

Kildare Fáilte organised and hosted education trips in April. Tourism officers from around Ireland were invited to Kildare for a networking and education event (see page 68).

Royal Canal Greenway

The Royal Canal Greenway has received Best Tourism Initiative 2021 (see page 70).

Athy Garda Plaque Unveiling

A large-scale plaque was unveiled in Athy on Saturday 16 May, to highlight the industrial heritage of Athy (see page 74).

Sallins Amenity Land Part 8

The Naas Municipal District members approved the Part 8 for Sallins Amenity Land (see page 75).

Competitive Start Fund (CSF)

Two LEO Kildare start-ups have been successful in the CSF competition (see page 78).

Retail Window Merchandising Grant

Over 35 businesses recently attended a Visual Merchandising workshop with Kildare LEO (see page 80).

Economic Development – Capital Projects – MERITS

MERITS' next cohort of Tech founders completed their demo day on 17 May (see page 81).

Kildare Hub Strategy

The Strategy will be officially launched in Quarter 2 of 2022 (see page 82).



Diary/Calendar

Kildare County Council launches Climate Innovation Fund 2022

Closing date for applications is Sunday 29 May 2022 (see page 08).

Cost Rental Delivery

The Housing SPC will receive a presentation from Cluid on the operation of Cost Rental Schemes at its upcoming meeting on 19 May 2022 (see page 13).

Traveller Accommodation

The next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) will take place on 02 June (see page 16).

IPA Housing Forum Training

Council members have been invited to participate in an IPA Housing Forum training event (online) taking place on Thursday 19 May (see page 16).

County Development Plan

The Draft Plan has now been published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March up to 4:00 p.m. on 24 May (see page 22).

Historic Towns Initiative

Conservation Architect has been appointed, and works are to be tendered by 20 May 2022. (see page 24).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Schedule of upcoming clinics in 2022 (see page 33).

The Irish Military Seminar

The Irish Military Seminar is taking place from 4 to 11 June 2022 (see page 74).

Economic Support Services – Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and will remain open for applications until Tuesday 31 May (see page 80).



June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 May 15:00 Full Council Monthly Meeting; NUI Maynooth	31	1 Jun 10:00 Drehid Liaison Committee	2 10:30 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee LTACC	3 09:00 Clane-Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting
6	7	8	9	10
13 15:00 County JPC	14 14:30 Naas JPC 15:30 Naas MD Meeting	15 09:00 Kildare-Newbridge JPC 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge M... 15:00 Coiste Gaeilge Committee	16	17 09:00 Celbridge-Leixlip JPC 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting
20 09:00 Athy JPC 10:00 Athy MD Meeting 14:00 CPG	21	22	23 15:00 Strategic Development & Planning SPC	24 15:00 Full Council Annual Meeting
27 11:00 Irish Water Clinic	28	29	30 11:30 County Twinning Committee	1 Jul 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



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Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare County Council Podcast Series 'Understanding Kildare's County Development Plan'



In April, Kildare County Council launched a communications campaign titled 'understanding Kildare's County Development Plan' aimed at providing a better understanding of the County Development Plan (CDP) and the process involved in its development, and why citizens and businesses should engage with it.

As the council entered the important phase of public consultation, when citizens, communities and business are encouraged to have their say on this important future development of the county, the Communications team worked in collaboration with the Forward Planning team to undertake a coordinated communications

campaign which included a podcast series as well as media engagement, social media strategy, stakeholder engagement and internal communications.



The campaign was aimed at exploring the many aspects of the CDP, what it is, what it is not, how it will inform the future development of the county and how the citizens of Kildare can have their say. The full podcast series of six episodes are now available to listen to on all podcast platforms. They can be accessed [here](#).





Kildare County Council launches Information Portal for Ukrainian Citizens



Kildare County Council launched a new online information portal for Ukrainian citizens arriving to Kildare. This portal provides a singular point of access to information on essential services at local and national level as well as useful links and contacts to help citizens navigate services available to them.

Information on housing, transport, education, and health, amongst other services are available on the new portal to assist and support Ukrainian citizens to integrate into life here in County Kildare.

The information portal can be accessed at <https://kildarecoco.ie/SupportsforUkrainiansinKildare/>

Kildare County Council is working with organisations and agencies locally and nationally to support the response to the ongoing emergency situation.

Kildare County Council launches Climate Innovation Fund 2022



Following the success of the inaugural Climate Innovation Fund in 2021, Kildare County Council's Climate Action Office was pleased to announce the launch of the Climate Innovation Fund 2022.

The aim of this fund is to foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. Specifically, the fund is aimed at community groups, SMEs, entrepreneurs, tradespeople, early-career researchers, education institutions and individual citizens active in Kildare. A total fund of €25,000 is available per municipal district to support climate innovation projects. The minimum funding request will be €5,000 and the maximum request will be €25,000.

Local Property Tax has been allocated by all five municipal districts to support this fund. A special thanks to the



councillors from each municipal district who made this fund possible.

Closing date for applications is Sunday 29 May 2022 on [Kildare's Consultation Portal](#).

Kildare County Council provides update on the Athy Distributor Road Project

Following the commencement of works late last year and the official sod turning ceremony with Minister of State Hildegard Naughton on site in March this year, works on the Athy Distributor Road Project have been progressing well. Kildare County Council issued an update on progress on the project in April to advise that site establishment, site clearance and site fencing works are now substantially complete. The following works are due to commence shortly:

- Road construction works including excavation of topsoil along the length of the scheme
- Construction of the River Barrow bridge including piling works
- Construction of the new bridge over the Dublin – Waterford

railway line including piling works

- Works on the public road at the following locations:
 - N78 Kilkenny Road
 - R417 Carlow Road
 - R418 Castledermot Road

Temporary traffic management will be in place at each of these locations to facilitate the safe construction of the new junctions. This temporary traffic management will be in place for the next number of months.

Freedom of Information Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2022
Freedom of Information requests	40
Freedom of Information appeals	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	0
Data Access Requests	14
Ombudsman requests	7



Members Services

Meetings

Full Council

The April meeting of Full Council was held in Newbridge Town Hall. The members noted the Roads Programme for 2022 and agreed to hold the May plenary council meeting in Maynooth University.

A delegation from Kildare County Council including Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Carmel Kelly, Head of ICT Rory Hopkins, Facilities Manager Barry Griffith and Christine O’Grady and Karen Keane from the Corporate Services Department visited Cork County Council to view their council chamber following its upgrade, and to meet with our counterparts in Cork County Council to gather information and learn from their experience. It was a very beneficial exercise and an update will be provided to the members on Kildares Council Chamber upgrade via the May Progress Report.

Our colleagues in Cork County Council and Councillor Kevin Murphy were so welcoming to Kildare County Councils

delegation, rounded off by Councillor Kevin Murphy presenting Leas-Cathaoirleach Carmel Kelly with a gift to mark the visit to the “Real Capital”.



Municipal Districts

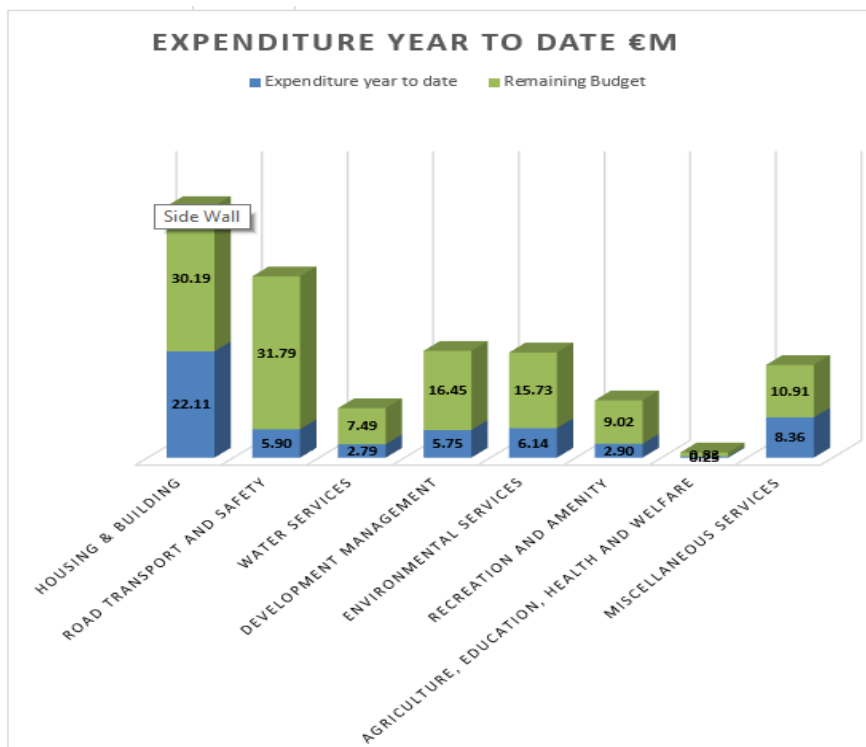
Municipal District Committee meetings continued to be held on-line and in-person in April. The Members Services team work to support any elected member or staff member in attending meetings virtually when necessary. The members continued to agree and approve remaining 2022 LPT allocations for their municipal district’s and as agreed by council last year, the Capital Programme 2022-2024 is being listed on all Municipal District agendas in May.



Finance and Information Technology

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2022				
Division	Expenditure			
	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	22,110	52,300	42%	30,190
Road Transport and Safety	5,898	37,692	16%	31,794
Water Services	2,793	10,281	27%	7,488
Development Management	5,747	22,196	26%	16,449
Environmental Services	6,142	21,869	28%	15,727
Recreation and Amenity	2,897	11,916	24%	9,019
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	246	1,081	23%	835
Miscellaneous Services	8,359	19,267	43%	10,908
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	54,191	176,602	31%	122,411





Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2022

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	22,871	44,828	51%	21,957
Road Transport and Safety	1,211	19,290	6%	18,079
Water Services	2,219	10,082	22%	7,863
Development Management	4,066	7,758	52%	3,692
Environmental Services	2,354	7,062	33%	4,708
Recreation and Amenity	997	1,079	92%	82
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	79	348	23%	269
Miscellaneous Services	1,690	6,026	28%	4,336
Local Property Tax Allocation	6,096	18,289	33%	12,193
Rates	20,424	61,837	33%	41,413
	62,009	176,599	35%	114,590

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council

Summary of Major Collections to 30 April 2022

	Arrears 01/01/2022	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/04/2022
Commercial Rates	11,785,323	61,624,390	326,652	1,418,279	71,664,782	12,753,181	58,911,601
Rents & Annuities	1,230,925	5,281,323	11,753	-	6,500,495	4,932,204	1,568,291
Housing Loans	2,023,590	985,437	-	-	3,009,027	1,234,541	1,774,486

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 30 April 2022.

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, the council accept and continue to process



postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045 980920.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting www.motortax.ie. Alternatively customers can email motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

Housing

Housing for All

Update on Affordable and Social Housing Advertisement

In the April Chief Executive report, the members were provided with information on Call for Expression of Interest for turnkey units. To date, one response has been received.

Cost Rental Delivery

Cluid Housing Association recently advertised Cost Rent units in Kilbelin, Newbridge. They received 791 applications as follows:

- One bed, 315 applications, rent €1,000 per month
- Two bed, 313 applications, €1,240 per month

- Three bed, 163 applications, €1,350 per month

The Housing SPC will receive a presentation from Cluid on the operation of Cost Rental Schemes at its upcoming meeting on the 19 May 2022.

Affordable Housing

The affordable housing regulations have been published and are currently being examined. The council await confirmation of the staff sanction to operate this programme.

Approved Housing Bodies

An Taoiseach Mícheal Martin launched Tuath's scheme in Castlifen on Friday 13 May. This scheme of 29 units is a result of collaboration and co-operation between Kildare County Council and Tuath Housing Association. Tuath availed of Capital Advance and Leasing Facility Funding to deliver the units. Once completed the units will be allocated from the social housing list. An Taoiseach also visited the Castlifen Community Centre.



Response to the Ukrainian Conflict Rest Centre

The rest centre in Liffey Lodge, Newbridge remains in operation. The Homeless Team are examining the list of pledged Red Cross properties to identify suitable alternative accommodation for individual/families who are residing in the centre.

Identification of Sites Suitable for Residential Development

The Housing and Planning Departments have examined sites/property which may be suitable for immediate development of temporary or permanent housing. A short list of locations has been produced and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A response is awaited.

Energy Retrofit Programme 2022

The council was recently notified that its funding allocation for the Energy Retrofit Programme 2022 is €2,463,766 with a target of a minimum of 69 properties. The average amount available per property is €35,707 which includes an allowance for

project management costs. Properties are required to be brought up to a minimum BER rating of B2. The elected members are provided with a monthly update on the progress of this scheme.

Homeless Services

Family homeless presentations remain high with increased pressure on accommodation due to lack of available move-ons through HAP and Homeless HAP.

Update from National/Regional Homeless Leads Meeting

The National Leads meeting was held on the 12 May with regions experiencing continued family presentations, for the most part resulting from Notices to Quit and lack of available HAP and Homeless HAP properties. This is consistent with the situation in Kildare.

Homeless Outreach

Work in the Homeless Outreach area in April involved outreach work in four municipal district areas (Athy, Kildare-Newbridge, Naas and Clane-Maynooth



- A further two Housing First Tenancies were created, increasing the total active tenancies to 19.
- The Rough Sleeper Count has increased by two up to 11.
- Monthly Clinic in Newbridge - Two new engagements.
- Jigginstown Manor facility is now at full capacity and the outreach team are working with Tiglin regarding progressions.
- Two clients moved to Treatment from Supported Temporary Accommodation (STA) placements.
- Street work resumed in the county with one session completed in April (Newbridge).

Tenancy Support

The focus on homeless prevention in the form of tenancy support continues with an active caseload of 56 clients at present. 12 clients have been closed since January where it is considered support is no longer required and families are sustaining their tenancies. In addition to this, the Support Officers also manage the support being provided to families in the Family Hubs in Prosperous and Athy with a view to achieving progressions to HAP,

Homeless HAP and local authority/AHB properties.

The recruitment process for an additional support officer has been completed and it is expected they will take up this position in the immediate future which will allow for further supports to be provided in this area.

Homeless HAP

There are 18 Homeless HAP tenancies completed for 2022 and the Placefinder continues to work with Landlords to seek suitable properties, and works with the Homeless Team to match properties with families who are suitable for independent living. Four new applications were processed in April.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

A total of 113 new tenancies have been set up in 2022. 2,194 active tenancies are now in place. The number of live tenancies has reduced by 142 since the start of the year. The limited supply of units and high rents being sought are impacting on housing applicants securing private rented accommodation.



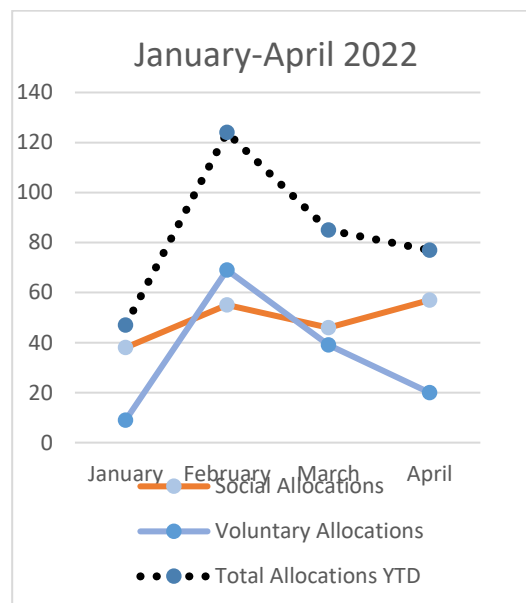
Traveller Accommodation

Traveller accommodation continues to require resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the council’s social work service is high and the team are maintaining regular contact with traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

The next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) will take place on the 02 June. Council members have been invited to participate in an IPA Housing Forum training event (online) taking place on Thursday 19 May which will look at the role of the LTACC and Traveller Accommodation.

Number of Allocations

57 social housing units and 20 AHB units were allocated in April 2022. To date, in 2022, there were 196 social and 137 voluntary units allocated.



Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 April 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	27	46	42
6 - 12 Months	8	11	12
12 - 18 Months	3	5	6
18 - 24 Months	5	6	5
24 - 30 Months	2	2	2



36 Months +	4	8	7
	49	78	74

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2022

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	5	8
6 - 12 Months	2	2	4
12 - 18 Months	2	3	5
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	1	2	0
	9	12	17

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Tender return date = 31 May 2021.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 2 approval received. Design Team re-engaged and preparing Part 8 documents. Briefing to Kildare/Newbridge MD members and issue of update proposal to residents to follow before Part 8 is launched; expected by end of June.
Coill Dubh	10 units	Tender return date = 20 May 2022.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Stage 2 approval received on 21 February 2022. Preparation of planning application to progress during Q2 2022.



Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Design Team Tender published; tender return = 26 June 2022.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Application submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022 for inclusion in Social Housing PPP Programme.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 application for approval being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Redesign incorporating acoustic consultant recommendations issued to DHLGH for comment.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Expected Part 8 launch Quarter 2 2022.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 approval received 09 March 2022. Value engineering underway with completed redesign.
Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 affordable units]. Stage 1 approval received October 2021 with approval for 73 units with option to include affordable units at Stage 2. Architect lead design team tender preparation underway.
Ardrew, Athy	8 units	Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Redesigned proposals have been resubmitted to DHLGH for comment prior to presentation to residents.
Pre-Approval		
Station Road, Kildare	12-14 units	Site submitted for inclusion in Town Centre Competition on 28 March 2022 and notice of shortlisting received 11 May 2022.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 2 2022.
Glandore, Athy	4 units	Part 8 to launch Quarter 2 2022.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Part 8 launched. Submissions by 25 May 2022
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for Stage 1 and 2 approval for new unit being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
25 Corbans Place	1 major refurbishment and extemsiion	Part 8 on display from 18 May to 1 July 2022.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Scheme completed; allocations ongoing.
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 for 73 social housing units at Andrew, Athy readvertised on 1 February 2022. Part 8 agreed by Athy MD on 16 th May.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Application for inclusion in Social Housing PPP programme submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	80 units	Application for inclusion of C1 lands in Social Housing PPP programme and masterplanning of C2 lands submitted to DHLGH on 9 February 2022.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/40affordable units	Application for inclusion in Social Housing PPP programme for social and affordable scheme submitted to DHLGH on 17 February 2022.

Approved Housing Body Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Respond HA Flinter's Field, Athy	35 units	Completion date extended due to requirement to re-route and re-lay services. Kildare County Council in discussion with Respond regarding phased delivery.
Tuath HA Castlefen, Sallins	28 units	Completion now programmed for late May.
Cluid, ESB site Leixlip	27 units	Architect lead Design Team to be appointed Q 2022. Discussions regarding relocation of mast to recommence.
Cluid Rathasker Road, Naas	70-100 units (depending on final agreement with AHB and Planning Department)	Meeting held with the DHLGH November 2021. Current calculations of abnormal costs risk the viability of the project. Increasing density to be explored.

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 09 March 2021. CAS Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by the council.



Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia Housing on 8th March to review comments from DHLGH on Stage 2 application. Proposed amendments being reviewed by design team for revised Stage 2 submission.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Revised CAS2 application approved by DHLGH.
The Peter McVerry Trust, Sallins	4 units	Combined stage 1 and 2 CAS application has been submitted and is being assessed by Kildare County Council.

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021	Completed 2022
Housing Acquisitions	231	39	13	6
Housing Turnkeys	81	107	27	
Part V Acquisitions	67	41	70	
Total complete	379	187	110	6

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge- Leixlip	Clane- Maynooth	Kildare- Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2022	3		1	1	1
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	6	1	1	3	2

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021	2022 to date
Total Approved	€10,340,718 (incl. 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)	€4,122,045 (from 2021 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€2,951,978 (incl. 2019 approvals)	€4,284,751 (2019 – 2021 approvals)	€1,697,500 (incl. 2020 and 2021 approvals)



Local Authority Home Loan (Launched 2022)

2022	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	3	€625,590	0	0	0	0
Apr	4	€798,393	0	0	0	0

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and

National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove: Substantially complete; to agree final account.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	Phase 2 Ashbrook: Final account agreed.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurray View: Progressing well; circa 30 houses complete.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	Phase 4 St Evin's Park: All units substantially complete.
Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed; works to remaining 5 units has commenced.
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Clonmullion: On completion of Bishopsland, contractor will commence Clonmullion; expect to commence before end of May.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Loughnamona: Contractors supply issues resolved; circa 22 houses complete.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing.



Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

A Special Meeting of Full Council was held on Thursday 24 February in Newbridge Town Hall to consider and make the Draft Kildare County Development Plan. The Draft Plan was made with amendments and has now been published for public consultation for a period of 10 weeks from 14 March to 4:00 p.m. on 24 May.

The Draft Plan comprises Volume 1 (17 chapters), Volume 2 (Environs, Small Towns, Villages and Rural Settlements) and 12 Appendices. In addition, a Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment all accompany the Draft Plan.

The Forward Planning Team has prepared a Public Consultation Strategy which includes the following:

- A Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 'Virtual Consultation Room'

- Kildare County Development Plan Podcast Series (links to all six podcasts are now available from the Virtual Consultation room)
- Three independently facilitated webinar information sessions with the final session took place at 2pm on Wednesday 11 May
- Recorded presentations
- Social Media and Website Consultation Strategy
- Consultation Portal
- Targeted Stakeholder Consultation

Local Area Plans

Kildare Town

Background work for the Kildare Town LAP is currently underway with various environmental and infrastructural assessments, including a Surface Water Study as a precursor to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.

Maynooth

Background work for the Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP is currently underway with various assessments, including a Transport Strategy, being prepared to inform that Draft LAP.



Planning applications received		Residential Units Granted	Applications	
April	Year	No.	April	
2020:	138	337	1,433	Total Granted: 76
2021:	191	424	321	Further information requested: 48
2022:	147	364	423	Total Refused: 20

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
22/312704	11/02/22	Briargate	Ballymany, Newbridge	280	02/06/22
22/312861	24/02/22	Alchemy Homes	Riverside, Kilcullen	125	15/06/22

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

This legislation was enacted from 17 December 2021. Accordingly, in addition to the requirement for a Section 247 pre-planning consultation, the planning authority will be required to hold an LRD meeting (within four weeks) and issue an LRD opinion within eight weeks of the receipt of documentation from the applicant. Further strategic housing development applications may still be received as a number complete the process.

The commencement notice also brought into effect mandatory timelines for the processing of compliance

submissions received from 17 December 2021. The Planning Authority has eight weeks to determine compliance submissions or they are deemed agreed by default.

Conservation Officer

Conservation Grant Schemes

15 grants have been awarded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2022 totaling €126,400. The structures receiving funding are;

- Harristown House, Brannockstown
- The Firs, Naas
- Thatch Cottage, Nurney
- St. Johns Church, Kill



- Naas Town Hall (clock)
- Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town
- Outbuilding at Taghadoe House
- Gothic Hall, Thomastown
- Glebe House, Leixlip
- Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Brigid, Kilcullen
- Confey Abbey, Dunboyne Road, Leixlip
- Thatch Cottage, Stickens
- Burtown House, Burtown
- Thatch House, Thomastown
- Presentation Convent, Kildare Town

Two Historic Structures Fund (HSF) grants have been awarded for Abbeylands House, Clane and St David's Castle, Naas.

Historic Towns Initiative

Kildare County Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. A Part 8 application will be developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team in coming months. Site clearance is currently underway. A Conservation Architect has been

appointed and works are to be tendered by 20 May 2022. A progress report issued to the Heritage Council on 06 May 2022.

Heritage Stewardship Scheme

An application for the Heritage Council, Heritage Stewardship Scheme submitted on the 15 March 2022 was successful. Kildare County Council was awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse – was successful and proposes to update the RPS and to include a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure.

The project programme is in progress. Invitation to tender to be issued shortly.

Planning Referrals / Section 57's / Part 8

Work in these areas is ongoing.

Thatching Grant Scheme 2022

This Scheme was advertised on 01 March 2022, with a closing date of 22 March 2022.



Part 8

Assessment of tender for Wonderful Barn. Appointment of successful design team underway.

Planning

Planning Applications to date: 550

Forward Planning

Habitat Mapping for Maynooth and Kildare.

Heritage Projects Progress

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Consultants have been appointed and meeting and sites visits will commence in June.

Towns were requested to apply to be considered for the project. 11

Towns/Villages were selected. Athy, Narraghmore, Ardclough, Rathangan, Kilcock, Maynooth, Prosperous, Naas, Sallins, Straffan, Caragh. Funding was secured from LPT across the five municipal districts.

Biodiversity Training for Residents Associations

Training will commence in June in each municipal district.

Municipal District Biodiversity Grant Scheme

This will be launched in September 2022.

Geophysical Survey – Old Kilcullen

Geophysical survey work has been completed and a report is awaited.

Presentations will be made to the Old Killcullen Development Group.

County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022

Survey brief is out to tender.

Gordon Bennett Videos

It is proposed to develop a series of videos on the stories of the Gordon Bennett Race in co-operation with Carlow and Laois County Councils. Consultants has been appointed.

County Kildare Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

Closed for applications with over 45 applications received. The recommendations will be brought to each municipal district in May for approval.



Biodiversity Week 2022

Biodiversity Week 2022 (13 May to 22 May) 24 events are taking place across the county. In addition, the Library as Part of the Stem Programme will be hosting a number of biodiversity events for schools.

Historic Towns Initiative

Consent has been received from National Monuments Service for works to the Potato Yard. Final vegetation removal will be finished this week.

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Currently compiling works programme for 2022 with the Conservation Officer.

UNESCO World Heritage Designation – Royal Sites of Ireland – Dun Ailinne, Kilcullen

Meetings have been arranged with the Expert Advisory Group and the Royal sites steering group to progress outstanding items in order to progress the application. A final presentation was made on the 21 April. The Department UNESCO Technical Team will visit the Royal Sites during May. A

decision regarding the final tentative list is expected in June 2022.

Received

Community Monuments Fund 2022

Stream 1: Essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments.

Stream 2: Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed specification of works

Four Kildare Sites received funding (Three will be managed by Kildare County Council)

Site	Stream	Applied for
St Michaels Church, Athy	1	€83,570.00
Kildare Round Tower, Naas	1	€85,000.00
Moone Tower, Moone	2	€27,856.65
Total		196,427
Donadea Castle Coillte		€85,000

Irish Walled Towns Network 2022

Funding was secured for three projects:



Project	Applied for
Castledermot Wall Conservation	15,000
Medieval garden-Kildare	4,000
Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan Naas Town Walls	13,500
Total	€32,500

Project	Funding received
Old Kilcullen Geophysical	10,000
Gordon Bennet Videos	5,000
Heritage Awareness 2022	11,000
Hedgerow Survey	10,000
Total	36,000

Heritage Plan Fund 2022

Funding has been received from the Heritage Council for four projects (€36,000).

Historic Towns Initiative

Project	Funding received
Naas Potato Market	168,000

Public Realm

STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND PUBLIC REALM TEAM Updates from previous report in **BLUE**

Concept
Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan and Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted. Business Case being finalised for submission and approval.



Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. NTA funded interim traffic management measures underway. Tender for consultant to work on Healthcheck and develop Town Renewal Masterplan with Public Realm team published with a closed 13 April 2022. Four tender submissions received which are currently being assessed.

Part 8

Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 published 08 February 2022, on public display from 09 February 2022 – 09 March 2022. Public consultation closed 23 March 2022. 27 submissions received. Part 8 to be brought to June meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for decision.

Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.

Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26 January 2021 and public consultation extended to 13 April 2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District on 19 May 2021. Detailed design progressing well.

Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 05 October 2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 approved by Clane-Maynooth Municipal District at February meeting.

Tender Consultants and Design

Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 27km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023. First 5km complete formally opened to the public by Minister Heather Humphries on 24 March 2022.

Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Masterplan. Public consultation on Draft Masterplan launched from 29 March 2022 to 26 April 2022.

Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced. Shackleton branding formally unveiled by Minister Heather Humphries on 24.03.2022.

Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as



<p>part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27th September 2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. . Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools. Additional consultation to be launched Q2 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Q2 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>



Tender Consultants
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. Second phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation. Work now commencing on Wayfinding, Interpretation and Branding Plan.</p>
<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q2 2022 and will take nine months to complete.</p>
<p>Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
Tender Works
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Q2 2022.</p>
Design
<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Masterplan formally launched by Minister Heather Humphries on 24 March 2022.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans</p>



<p>which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p>Detailed Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 08 June 2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre.</p>
<p>On Hold</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. May be incorporated into Town Centre First Masterplan.</p>
<p>Construction</p>
<p>Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.</p>
<p>Naas – MERITS – Works complete.</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Athy - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December 2021.</p>



Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

Contract 2B (Network)

Upgrade and improvement works are continuing at Clane, Monread and Sallins pumping stations.

Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) will be managing this project from 01 June 2022 and Water Services will have no involvement in this project.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

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

Irish Water and its representatives are currently preparing to publish the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) confirmation documents and notices. Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) will be managing this project from 01 June 2022 and Water Services will have no involvement in this project.

Capital Projects

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 3 2022 for execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control 3 and Revenue Control 4 periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

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



Irish Water Councillor Clinics

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

- Monday 27 June at 11:00 a.m.
- Monday 24 October at 11:00 a.m.

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

Four members attended the last clinic on the 28 March.

Environment

Role of Elected Members in the Making of the “National Waste Management Plan for the Circular Economy”

Local Authorities under the Waste Management Act are responsible for ensuring waste services are provided. Nearly all local authorities have discontinued the direct collection of waste but they continue to provide a range of services either directly or through shared service arrangements such as waste management planning, enforcement, permitting, transfrontier shipment and the operation of civic amenity sites and bring centres. Local

Authorities are required to make a waste plan either individually or collectively to provide a roadmap for management of waste arisings in accordance with EU and National Policy.

The waste plan contains a range of policies and actions aimed at preventing waste, increasing reuse and recycling and ultimately reducing the amount waste directed to disposal. Elected members have a key role in the making of the waste plan through their engagement with strategic policy committees on behalf of constituents. These engagements impact on the shape of the policies adopted.

While the making of the waste plan is an executive function the support of the elected members is important to the implementation of the policies contained in the plan.

In addition to policy shaping and making role, elected members have the power to make bye-laws and have been instrumental in the making of consistent bye-laws for the presentation of waste across the local authority sector.



The Regional Waste Management Offices will continue to engage with Local Authority Staff and elected members to ensure this waste plan is the best possible plan for the country.

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

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

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste by using an authorised waste collection service, a civic amenity site or recycling centre. The public awareness campaign is asking households and commercial

premises to ensure they are waste compliant by correctly managing their waste. By doing so they will make an important contribution to meeting the climate challenge as well as improving the quantity and quality of recyclable material collected and help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and incineration.



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

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

- Dry Recyclables
- Food and Compostable Waste
- Residual Waste

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



your authorised waste collection service.

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

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

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

benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

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

Further information is available from: mywaste.ie or kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/AllServices/Environment/Waste/

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continue to stabilise from previous years. In April 2021, 525 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2022, this has reduced to 409 tonnes, in line with previous years.

Green Schools

Twenty-one schools were assessed for their Green Flag by the end of April, a welcome increase in activity from last year.

Water Framework Directive

The public consultation period for the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 ended on 31 March



2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland's drinking water sources, environment and people's quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

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

- Waste Enforcement
 - Illegal waste activities,
 - Construction and Demolition Activity,
 - End of Life Vehicles and Waste Metal,
 - Household and commercial waste,
 - Producer Responsibility Initiative's and local priorities
- Water Priorities
 - Pressures from agricultural storage,
 - Pressures from agricultural spreading,
 - Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems's,
 - Discharge licenses,

- Water quality monitoring.
- Air Priorities
 - Solid fuel regulations,
 - Air monitoring programme,
 - Noise directive,
 - Air/noise control, and
 - Ongoing air/noise enforcement.

2021 end-of-year Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections report was signed off by the Director of Service and returned to the EPA. The council had a very busy and successful year in 2021 and a busier year is planned for 2022.

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. For details of approved operators, check the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: www.nwcpo.ie



Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards

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



National Spring Clean

Over 180 groups and individuals registered for litter clean-ups over the course of National Spring Clean. Groups were assisted in terms of litter pickers and bags (made available also through the Municipal Districts offices) and also in having the waste collected. This year was the biggest spring clean recorded nationally and initial figures suggest this to be the case in Kildare.

New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

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



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

and constructions sustainability performance.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Mapping of the revised flood extents will be completed by the end of May. A presentation will be given to the June meeting of the Naas Municipal District, with public consultation on the revised mapping to follow. The combined hydrology and hydraulics report will be published once completed.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

Kerdiffstown

Capping works and installation of over liner progressing along with installation of drainage material for Pitch C.

Preparatory works have been completed for the playground area and 95% of zone 1 is now topsoiled with grass seeding to commence in May 2022.



Mechanical and electrical installation to infrastructure compound continuing. Preparatory works have commenced in advance of directional drilling under the N7 which will provide a connection to Johnstown pumping station.



Pumping trial continuing which will determine the flare sizing requirements.

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

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

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

Protection Agency (EPA) Licence.

This will continue through the works.

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

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

Historic Landfill Programme

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

The status of these are as follows:

Carigeen, Clane

CoA issued by EPA. Previous tender had to be withdrawn due to technical



issues. Tender documents issued into the market in May.

Digby Bridge, Sallins

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

Pollardstown, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works required; we are awaiting results.

Knocknagarm, The Curragh

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

Greenhills, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Prusselstown, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

Works to include:

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

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

Newbridge Cemetery Road and Path Resurfacing

Tender has been awarded and contractor due to commence works onsite later this week..

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

Works have been completed in January 2022.



Allen Cemetery

Plans for Phase 4 expansion currently being developed. Part 8 documents to be prepared with a view to proceed to Part 8 publication in Quarter 1/Quarter 2 of 2022.

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Cemetery Maintenance Grants for 2022 are being progressed at present.

Risk Management

All departmental risk registers have now been completed and a draft corporate risk register has been prepared.



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

Community Climate Action Programme



The CAROs have been working with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and the LGMA to advance the framework for local authorities on Strand 1 of the Community Climate Action Fund – Building Low Carbon Communities. Under the Community Climate Action Programme, a total of €24 million is being provided to local authorities to partner with their communities, with activation of this funding expected imminently.



Capacity Building

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme commenced in January 2021 and is reaching the end of its first phase of training courses delivered to the sector. To date c.16,600 staff and elected members from the network of local authorities have received training. Attention is now turning to the second phase of



training. A review of the training programme has been undertaken and the review report is currently with the CCMA's Climate Action, Transport and Networks committee for review.



Elected Members/Senior Staff

This programme has been delivered to all local authorities as of 23 March 2022. Circa 1300 staff and elected members have completed this training to date.



Climate Action Teams (CATs)

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI, the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, has now been delivered to local authorities across the four CARO regions. Circa 400 staff (members of the local authority CATs), have completed the programme. This programme is currently being revised and updated and will be made available to new members of CATs in

an in-person training environment during Quarter 2 of 2022.

A new webinar series, to support the work of CATs will be launched in May 2022, as well as a training and networking event for members of all CATs which is planned for September 2022.



Online Training

Since its launch in January 2021, the rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme has seen a total of 17,531 staff at grades 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 (and equivalent technical grades) enrolled on the programme. The programme is undergoing review and updating, with re-launch for new entrants planned for Quarter 4 2022.



Thematic Training

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



to almost 600 staff across all local authorities. It is anticipated that training under this pillar on Green Public Procurement and Implementation will be delivered from May 2022, by Greenville Academy.



Outdoor Staff

This training focuses on outdoor staff in local authorities, with recruitment ongoing to secure a trainer(s) and delivery intended to be rolled out on a local authority by local authority basis, from Quarter 2 of this year.



Frontline Staff

This training is targeting staff of local authorities who are front line or community-facing and will be delivered in person by the IPA and the LASNTG, who will coordinate with training officers in local authorities to make registration arrangements. The programme was piloted in March 2022 and is scheduled to be rolled out

across the CARO regions over the remainder of this year.



Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted. The CAROs worked in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA under the guidance of a project advisory group to develop guidelines for local authorities in support of the development of their climate action plans.

The draft guidelines have been developed and were circulated through the governance channels of both the CCMA and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and



Communications, who has until December 2022 to issue direction to local authorities to prepare their plans.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building energy efficiency report for the three

local authorities went to tender, with Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report has been received and identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline of over 100 potential projects for each building to attain a B2 rating. This sub-region is currently looking at forming an MOU with SEAI relating to Pathfinder Support.

In the South East (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The four Directors of Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny, have instructed the three CEA (three Counties Energy) to engage with CARO and the SEAI to discuss an MOU for Pathfinder Support, with a position paper being drafted at present. Tipperary County Council have also expressed interest in being part of this arrangement. In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): Roscommon County Council has recently entered an agreement to become the fifth member of the Midlands Energy Agency (MEA). The MEA local authorities with the support of SEAI, will now undertake a gap analysis to target assessment and intends to engage with SEAI to



progress an MOU for Pathfinder support for capital projects in their subregion.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet:

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

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

GAA/CCMA Green Club

Partnership:

The programme is starting to build back momentum after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The pilot phase has been extended to provide additional time for clubs to implement and pilot projects, as well as for Green Club Toolkits to be fully developed.

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



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

Phase 1 of the Green Club

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

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

new Sustainability Module was officially launched on 17 May 2022.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Energy

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

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



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

Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee



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

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

Energy Management Climate Action Team

Kildare County Council's Energy Management Team and Climate Action Team have aligned. This is a more streamlined option which will reduce meetings for some members of the teams and will cross pollinate actions. It is proposed to hold the meetings every two months throughout 2022. The second meeting was held on the 6 April with forums on climate proofing functional areas work streams, updates on Climate Actions being undertaken by the thematic groups and a presentation by ESB on micro-energy production for homeowners and residential housing.

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

Our provisional scorecard for energy usage in 2020 shows a 33.3% energy reduction against its baseline year of 2009, which is significant progress



from the 2019 figure of 24%. Although this is a provisional figure from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) it shows continued progress on energy efficiencies and also meets the national target of 33% reduction by 2020.

The monitoring and reporting system for 2021 is changing during 2022 to capture more energy usage across the council's functions, namely staff business travel. The focus is now being placed on 2030 targets under The Climate Action Plan 2021 requiring 51% reduction in energy green house gases emissions through 50% improvement in energy efficiency and space heating to be 50% renewable.

Mid-East Energy Bureau

In the Mid-East, the three local authorities (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) with the assistance of CARO, are in dialogue with a third party to provide expert technical support and guidance in the management of energy in the region's local authorities.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



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



administration of the system for all parties involved.

Fleet Electrification



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

As fleet electrification starts to embed in Kildare County Council through infrastructural changes and greater awareness of EV's it will also be key to facilitate specific EV driving training for all drivers of fleet vehicles to ensure

potential EV drivers are fully informed and upskilled in this area.

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

Climate Action Community Initiatives

Items Awarded:

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021



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

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



all while enhancing biodiversity and climate proofing the project.

Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) - new initiative as part of the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme

€75,000 has been awarded under the Creative Ireland's Climate Action: Invitation to Collaborate fund an application, led by Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Kildare and Meath County Council. Gnáthóga Nádúrtha will be an ambitious arts led inquiry, an interdisciplinary, collaborative intervention, sited across three natural heritage peatland habitats in Carlow, Kildare and Meath that brings the urgency of climate action to the forefront. The focus of this initiative is on Climate Action and place-based practice in these rich natural heritage sites across three counties, including Rathangan in Kildare.

Other Initiatives

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

'The People's Patches'

The Climate Action Office supported the submission of 'The People's Patches' led by Neighbourhood Network and in conjunction with The Useless Project, Longford and Laois County Council under the Community Climate Action Fund Strand #2. 'The People's Patches' is an initiative that engages individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to promote seasonal food growing in unused or neglected spaces in their area with the aim of producing a toolkit for scaling up the initiative to different areas.

'Stitching the Community Together'

The Climate Action Office, Community and Libraries submitted the project 'Stitching the Community Together' under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age 2022 programme. The project is an intergenerational, art project centered around wool and knitting between nursing homes and schools with a virtual reality aspect to showcase Irish material supply chains for wool that links in with a climate action perspective.



Gas Innovation Fund

The Climate Action Office applied to the Gas Network Ireland's Gas Innovation Fund in conjunction with Maynooth University's TerrainAi research group and Teagasc. This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g. grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nation-wide. If successful the main body of work will be carried out by a postdoctoral researcher with project support from the Climate Action Office, Maynooth University and engagement with Teagasc.

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award

The Climate Action Office supported a local artist and community organisation with a successful application to the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award. The project called 'We Hold the Power' involves creating a collaborative community mosaic art piece with the Allenwood Community Development Association community groups and the artist Marta

Golubowska. The mosaic will reflect the imagery of the community centre's history, ecology, and heritage which was originally a former ESB peat power station.

Agri-Tourism Project

Climate Action Office, Into Kildare and CKLP continue to develop the agri-tourism project in Kildare targeted at cultivating diverse revenue streams for farmers in the county. Currently, the project is at its planning stage where the engagement and feedback events for farmers are being planned for May 2022. The feedback gathered at these events will be fed into an application for LEADER funding or other funding streams to facilitate the supports and resources needed for the project.

Climate Innovation Fund

The Climate innovation Fund was piloted in 2021 with the support of LPT funding from Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District. This year all five municipal districts have generously contributed €25,000 each toward the scheme. The fund will enable those with innovative climate action projects to advance their ideas and prototypes



to the next stage while striving to reduce or capture Green House Gas Emissions through mitigation and adaptive measures. All projects must be scalable and be outwardly promoted to advance the knowledge base. The fund was launched on the 29 April and applications are via the Consultation Portal see video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PHFtsOIfE>

Murals

The Arts section is working with us to further expand Climate Action themed mural work across the county. Presently an artist has been engaged to create a mural on two sides of the ICA building in Harbour Field, Maynooth. It is proposed that work will commence late June in cooperation with the local community.

Forestry

The finalised document 'Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme' was released on 28 May 2021. The project is being advanced by a subgroup of the CAT called, Coillteach Chill Dara. Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer has five potential

sites chosen to be assessed provisionally.

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

Communications and Mainstreaming Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.06.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

The first 2022 issue of the K-Climate eZine was released in February to the members and council staff, which features updates from across the Climate Action and Energy Management Team. Discussions with the communications section are being scheduled to scope out the potential to broaden the reach of the eZine.

Intranet Portal

To enhance mainstreaming of Climate Action within the body corporate the Climate Action Office has established a Climate and Energy Portal on the Intranet [here](#).



SharePoint



Climate & Energy

The portal has been streamlined to reflect the combining of the Climate Action Team and the Energy Management Team. The portal is subdivided into Projects and Initiatives, Meetings, Meet the Team, Communication, Resources Policy and Useful links. The portal is also being used to give secure and stable access to work files associated with the members of the CAT/EMT only. We look forward to organizing our external webpage in the future.

Just Transition

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

The plan was published on the 30 March with coverage given by Leinster Leader and KFM Radio and other media platforms.

Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

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



Research

Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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



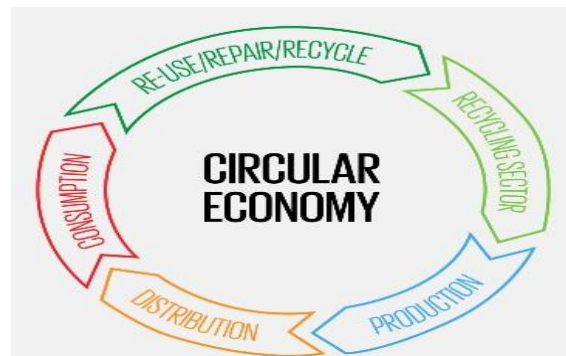
Cork City, Galway City, Meath, Kilkenny, Westmeath, Roscommon, Fingal, Offaly, Tipperary and South Dublin Councils have confirmed their partnership together with Waterways Ireland.

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, together with Dr James Carolan Maynooth University, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have undertaken the scientific experiments in Kinsealy, county Dublin (Teagasc lands) along with practical experiments on Millennium Link Road, Naas while Eire Landscapes continue practical experiments on roundabouts in the Naas town area.

Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The April post showcases Pollinators SOS – Pledging your Garden for Pollinators and how any planted are large or small can feed hungry emerging pollinators



Screenshot of Community Stories Post 28 April 2022.



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

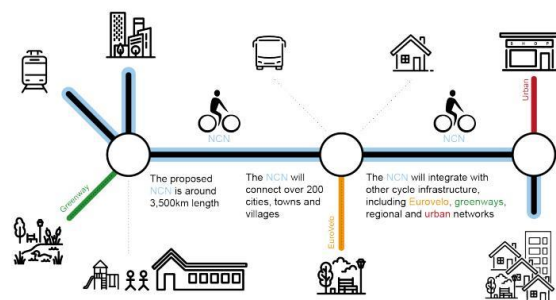


Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Key Highlights:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is inviting the public and anyone that is interested to make their views heard on the development of a new National Cycle Network (NCN). The ambitious NCN, a planned core cycle network of 3,500km will criss-cross the country connecting more than 200 villages, towns and cities. The network will include cycling links to transport hubs, education centres, employment centres, leisure and tourist destinations, and support “last mile” bicycle deliveries. The public consultation on the new NCN is open from Wednesday 04 May to Tuesday 07 June 2022.

The NCN will act as the core network connecting towns, cities and destinations across Ireland



Digital Strategy for Kildare

The Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare is now at report stage following a successful public consultation process. Progress continues to bring the Draft document to CPG and Full Council for adoption shortly.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

Work is progressing on this project, the aim of which is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required.

Athy Distributor Road

BAM have generally completed mainline fencing and site clearance and are moving to earthworks. Project teams are in place. Progress meetings, board meetings and steering meetings are all ongoing.



New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

Awaiting feedback and input from Department of Transport prior to award of construction contract.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Discussions are continuing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address a funding shortfall on the project.

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Second non-Statutory Public Consultation 2, presenting the emerging preferred route option is underway.

Newhall Junction Improvement

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

Maynooth Transport Strategy

The Maynooth Transport Strategy has entered the options development stage. Draft options for walking,

cycling and parking are nearly complete and AECOM are working on the public transport options. The scenario testing in the traffic model has also started. Once the traffic modelling stage has been completed, a full suite of draft transport measures for the town will be available.

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

Six bridge projects are being funded by the Department of Transport for 2022

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Road Number	Location		LA Allocation
R445	R445	Monasterevlin Bridge, Monasterevlin, Co. Kildare	€177,200
Kildare	L7049	Brooke Bridge, Monasterevlin, Co. Kildare	€70,200
Kildare	R102	Moonee Village Bridge, Moonee Co. Kildare	€73,500
Kildare	R407	Graiguepottle Bridge	€68,500
Kildare	L6962	Corn Mill Bridge	€10,500
Kildare	L2004	Rechtown Bridge	€55,500
Total			€655,400

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

The Newbridge 2nd Bridge will be provided as part of the much broader Newbridge Southern Outer Orbital Route.

1. The council is actively working with the owners of the private road between the Newbridge - Naas road (Lidl Roundabout) and the Great Connell Roundabout with a view to having the road opened and taken in charge. It is expected that this process will be largely complete by the second half of 2022.



2. Glenveagh Homes are currently constructing part of the NSORR between the Athgarvan Road and the Liffey, through their Belin Woods development

3. Aston Ltd have applied to An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development – Case No 311390 on the route of the section of NSORR between the Great Connell Roundabout and the Liffey. This is subject to planning permission, however if granted this will deliver the section of road from Great Connell to the Liffey.

4. In relation to the remaining portion between the Aston Development and the Glenveagh Development, which is essentially the bridge over the Liffey, Kildare County Council continues to work to move the project through the project planning stages, notwithstanding the fact that funding has not been identified to date for the construction of the bridge.

Junction Programme

Roads Design Team are currently developing a Junction programme with

an initial 10 Junctions identified for upgrade in Phase 1.

NTA funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

AECOM continuing with the detailed design of the Mill Street works. Construction is expected to commence in 2023.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Project retendered and due to start construction in 2022. Design work on the upgrading of the Greenway is continuing in parallel to the construction of the approved scheme.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

Preliminary design ongoing and a Part 8 Public Consultation process is due in 2022.

Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Part 8 Public Consultation Process submissions were due by 6 May 2022.



Naas to Sallins Greenway

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in 2022.

Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

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

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Part 8 Public Consultation Process submissions were to be received by 06 May 2022.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Naas Permeability Routes

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in 2022.

Safe Routes to School Programme (Craddockstown, Naas)

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process in 2022.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

Detailed design phase continuing with the scheme being tendered for construction in 2022.

Celbridge Pedestrian Bridge

Part 8 Public Consultation Process started with deadline for submissions of 22 June 2022.

Athy College Campus to Southern Distributor Road Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

Monread Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

Dublin Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.



Vulnerable Road User Improvement Measures

Construction continuing at locations across the county to upgrade signalised crossings.

Cycle Parking

Expression of Interest for Schools and Sports Clubs being prepared.

Leixlip to Maynooth interim Cycle Scheme

Design being progressed inhouse for scheme to be brought forward to Section 38 Consultation Process.

Monasterevin Cycle Network

Preparations being made for a Part 8 Public Consultation Process.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

Naas to Newbridge Interurban Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Cycle Scheme

Consultants appointed to start option selection and preliminary design stages.

Bond Bridge to Dunboyne Road Cycle Scheme

Appointment process for consultants continuing.

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Subject to review by Department of Transport (DoT), the Speed Limit Review will shortly be presented to Full Council for approval.

Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract 2022-2024

Appointment of contractor completed.

Traffic Related Communications and CCTV Maintenance Contract 2022-2024

Appointment of contractor in progress.

Roads Maintenance

Surface Dressing season to commence on 30 May by direct labour



works and expected to last for eight to nine weeks – weather dependant
Work on 58 sites and close to 4% of Local/Regional i.e., up to 100 km will be completed.

This is a fulltime activity for all municipal districts with Health and Safety high risks and is afforded top priority by municipal district staff.

Local Improvement Scheme allocations to all counties has been circulated by Department of Rural and Community Development. A

submission to the value of €352M is being prepared.

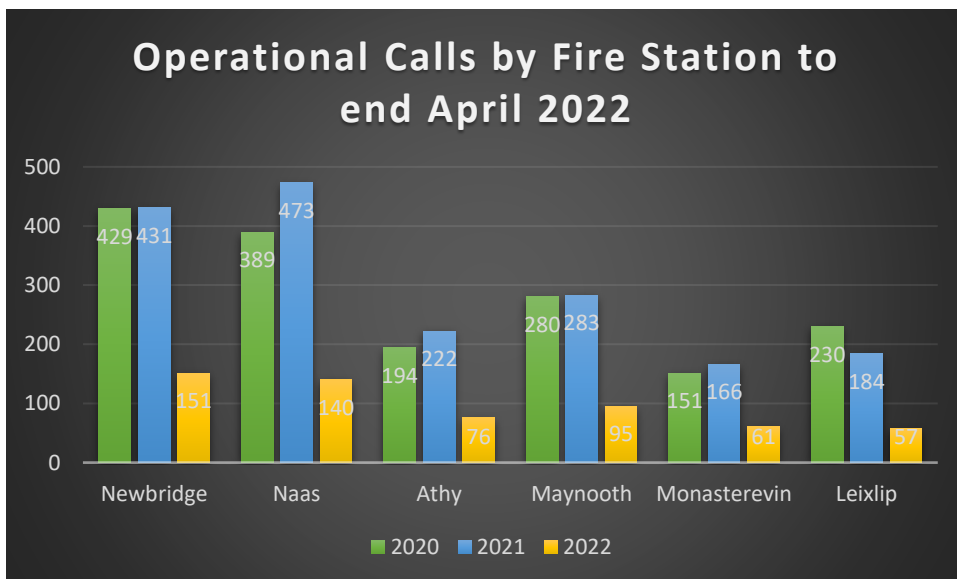
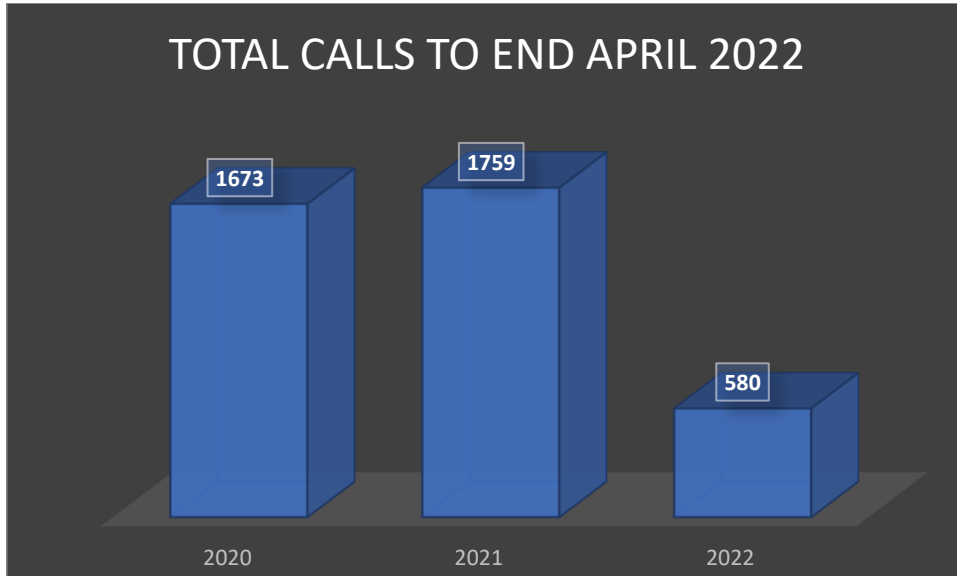
It is noted that unit rates for Restoration Improvements are up by (10-15%) over 2021. Contracts under way in all municipal districts areas.

End of Life Vehicles are in process of being removed from Machinery Yard following tender.

Post of General Operative has been advertised to fill vacancies in Roads municipal districts areas – the aim is to maintain existing numbers.



Fire Service Operations: 2022 Summary





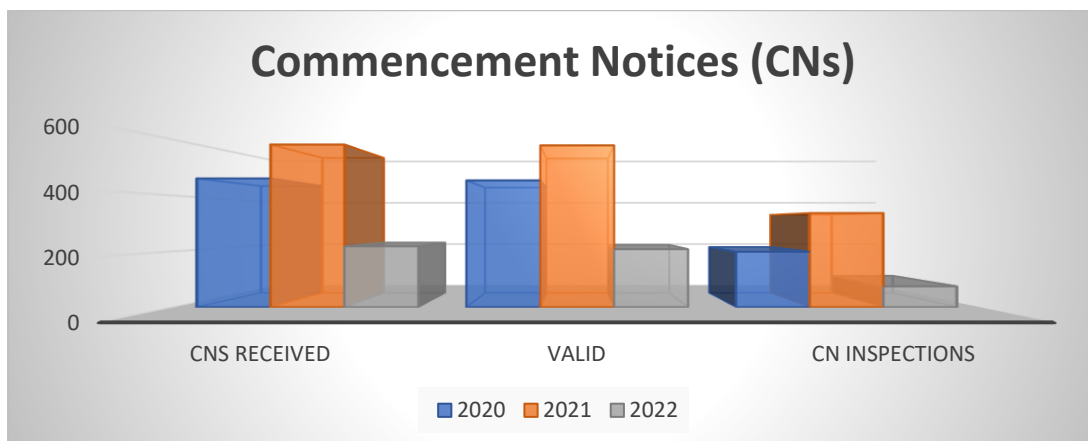
Applications received to the end of April 2022 compared with the totals received in previous years

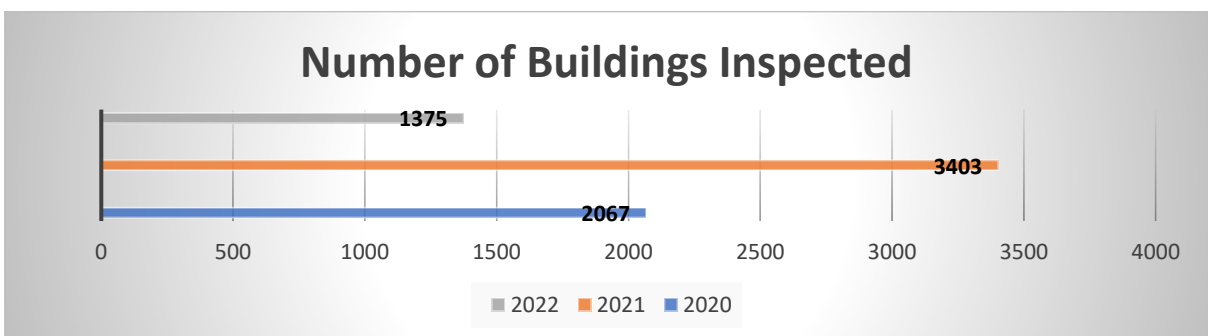
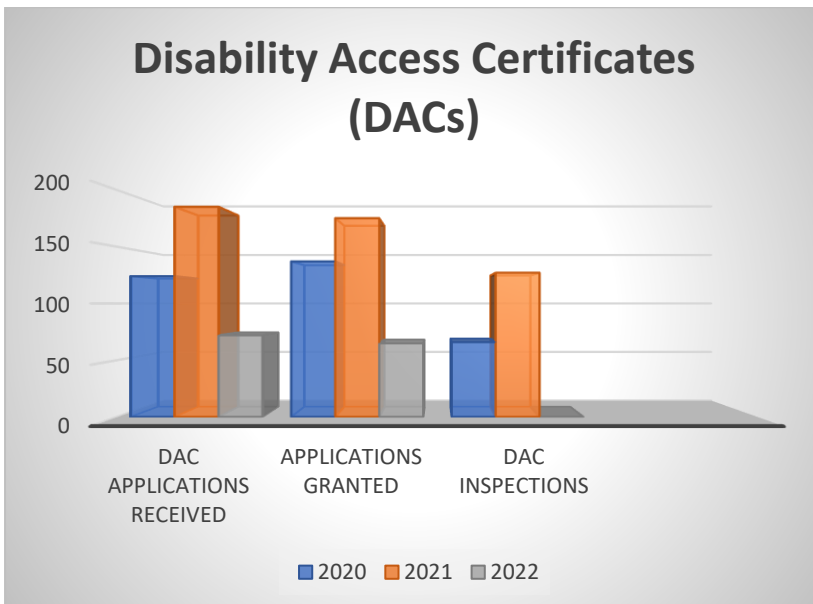
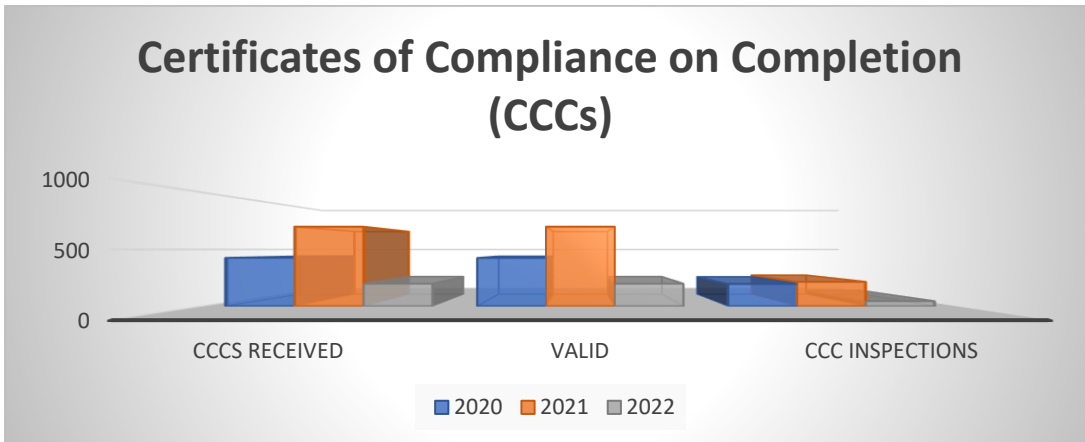


Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of April 2022 set against full year figures for 2020 and 2021.

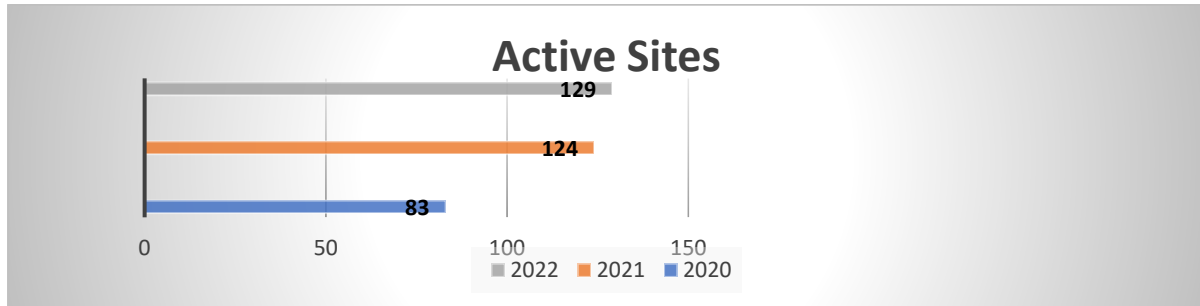
BUILDING CONTROL







DEVELOPMENT CONTROL



HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Focus on Health and Wellbeing in 2022 with particular emphasis on Mental Health
 - Annual Conference booked for 26 October – Osprey Hotel, Naas. Theme is ‘How do you look after your Mental Health and Wellbeing’. Speakers are:
 - Barbara Brennan - SeeChange Programmes Coordinator
 - Dr Harry Barry – Self Care and Emotional Resilience
- safeTALK Training- safeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) is an internationally recognised half-day training

- programme that prepares participants to recognise and engage with people who may be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide first aid resources – two courses booked (30 attendees for each session)
- Exploring possibility of basic health screening for staff
- Business Continuity Meeting
- Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
- Safety committee meeting with safety representatives
- Lead Worker Reps Meeting
- Accident investigation with IPB on Gritter incident
- Review of Chapter 8 and Policy Document
- LGMA Health and Safety Operational Committee Meeting
- Two site inspections completed



- One VDU Assessment and two Pregnancy Risk Assessments completed
- Supported Camping Wardens and Revenue collectors with the development of RAMS for their operations.
- Accidents:
 - Employee fell and broke ankle – reportable to HSA
 - Employee struck by object and broke finger – reportable to HSA

Single Vehicle road traffic collision involving a fire appliance

ACCESSIBILITY

- Meetings with Leixlip, Athy, Newbridge, Naas Access Groups and CKAN
- Part 8 meeting re: County Library
- Site visit to Walkinstown library to review Cubbie Sensory Hub which is an interactive Sensory Management System offering individual multisensory care.
- Meeting re: Kildare Digital Strategy
- Steering group meeting with KARE on Connecting Locally

Project – SLA agreed and signed.

- Meeting with public realm re: potential accessibility issues around casual trading on Georges Street and Market Square Newbridge.
- Meeting with CEO of Dara Community Living re accessibility in their new facility in Celbridge.
- Meeting with Creative Places Athy Coordinator and Health Communities Coordinator re accessibility and inclusion within the community
- Inspection of Women's shed Athy for potential Accessibility Works.
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) eLearning Module on statutory obligation to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty
- Planning to host a Ukrainians with Disabilities Seminar
- Meeting re: possibility of setting up wheelchair tennis in Athy



Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

2022 grants schemes

The 2022 community, festival and residents' associations grants were approved at municipal district meetings in April.

Local property tax grants

Community section has processed grant awards where possible and is arranging to run LPT mini schemes at the earliest opportunity.

The table below sets out all grants awarded to date.

Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	141	€243,955
Festival Grants	64	€68,425
Private Residents' Associations Grants	276	€200,128
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	64	€58,433
Community Activities Fund	53	€219,744
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	61	€361,394
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes		
Education Bursaries		
Total	659	€1,152,079

Local Community Development Committee May 2022

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 30 March 2022.

Local Economic and Community Plan

Online workshops are taking place to support the development of the LECP. Liaison with planning is taking place as the County Development Plan process provides a strong basis to help develop the LECP. The consultation



outcomes from this process and data collated are particularly critical.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative. Slaintecare meetings are continuing with the HSE/Tusla locally. Maria Healy commenced work as the Local Development Officer on the 21 March. She is currently meeting key agencies and groups. A launch is being planned.

Community Activities Fund

The 53 successful applicants have been informed with work underway to transfer the funding. A total of 77 applications were received. The LCDC approved the grant awards at their meeting. Applicants are being notified of the decision and a list will be published shortly.

Healthy Ireland

Work to progress the Healthy Ireland Programme of the LCDC and CYPSC is now complete since 31 March. The final return on the programme was submitted to Pobal. Overall it was an extremely successful programme with all actions completed. Announcements

are being awaited in relation to a further programme HI4 which is expected shortly. Funding has been secured for the HI Co-ordinator post for a period of three years with the post currently advertised.

Further information on Healthy Ireland is available by contacting:

Laura Kelly Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: 086 8858508

healthyirecoord@countykildarelp.ie

@Healthy_Kildare

Connected Hubs- Osprey Hotel

Osprey Hotel through the Prem Group have as part of the funding received from DRCD to develop their working hub space, made office and meeting space available to community/voluntary groups particularly with a focus on disadvantage. An expression of interest process has been developed. Four organisations are being contacted by the Prem Group following their expressions. This is an ongoing rolling process which will be advertised on an ongoing basis.

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, who are contracted to run SICAP in Kildare are focussing on responding to



priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities a) Traveller/Roma, b) Older People, c) Mental Health (including Youth mental health), d) Long Term Unemployed e) New Communities (particularly direct provision) in addition to young early school leavers/young people at risk of leaving school early. The plan for 2022 was approved at the last LCDC meeting.

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

LEADER Programme

A meeting with Oireachtas members is taking place to inform the members of the current programme which is due to conclude in 2022 and priorities for future LEADER programmes.

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

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 May 2022.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Kildare Fáilte organised and hosted education trips in April.

Tourism officers from around Ireland were invited to Kildare for a networking and education event. Representatives from Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Tipperary and Limerick County Councils experienced a selection of activities including Castletown House and Parklands, Mondello, a barge trip along the Grand Canal, Kildare Village and the Racehorse Experience at the Irish National Stud and Gardens. The event provided tourism officers with an opportunity to network and share ideas. Mr Eoghan Corry, Travel Writer, was the tour guide for the day. The group were welcomed by Ms Annette Aspell, Director of Services Kildare County Council and were also greeted by the Cathaoirleach Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil and Leas-Cathaoirleach Councillor Carmel Kelly.

In addition, Kildare Fáilte arranged meetings between key attractions in the regions and the Directors of Kildare County Council.



Mr Ted Robinson, Managing Director Barberstown Castle, Ms Aine Mangan CEO Into Kildare, Cathaoirleach Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil and Mr Eoghan Corry Travel Writer

To support businesses in Naas and surrounding villages and encourage collaboration, Kildare Fáilte sponsored Paint the Town Red during the Punchestown Festival. The message encouraged visitors to the racecourse to visit the towns and villages nearby.



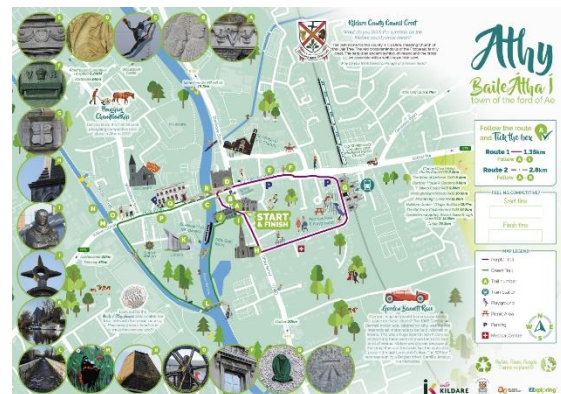
Paint the Town Red launch, Mr Vincent O'Neill and Ms Camilla Grey (Fletchers), Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Carmel Kelly, Mr Conor O'Neill (Punchestown Racecourse), Mr Eoghan Ryan (Kildare County Council), Ms Aine Mangan (Kildare Fáilte)

The prize for the Best Dressed Window, to celebrate Paint the Town Red, was provided by Kildare Fáilte

and included a two-night stay in Killashee with dinner and afternoon tea, tickets to Castletown House "Making an Entrance" and an OPW Heritage Card, and a gift card for Kildare Village.

Flavours of Kildare food network meetings commenced and Kildare Fáilte were invited to present to the group on the importance of food tourism. This collective collaboration between Kildare Fáilte and LEO Kildare will strengthen the message that the county has a quality and variety of food and drink producers and encourage visitors to Taste Kildare.

An interactive map for Athy was launched. The map was commissioned by Kildare Fáilte who collaborated with stakeholders in Athy community to bring the project to completion.



The maps are available in tourism and hospitality businesses in the town and



surrounds for distribution to visitors. The map was created to encourage visitors to explore Athy, stay longer in the town and nearby area, thus contributing to the local economy.

At the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards, the Royal Canal Greenway was received Best Tourism Initiative 2021. The Award, sponsored by Fáilte Ireland, seeks to recognise an initiative which directly increases visitor numbers to an area, or to Ireland as a whole and positively impacts visitors, communities and existing businesses as well as creating new business opportunities. Kildare Fáilte were involved in preparing the submission, along with the other local authorities and Waterways Ireland.



Representatives from Waterways Ireland, the four local authorities and Cathaoirligh, with Cathaoirleach of Kildare Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil at the LAMA Awards, April 2022

During the month of April, Kildare Fáilte attended Royal Canal Greenway meetings where we discussed

opportunities to animate the Greenway during the summer and to create an annual calendar for the trail. A meeting for the Barrow Blueway was also attended by Kildare Fáilte and the marketing plan is currently in progress.

Monthly calls took place with Fáilte Ireland and Kildare Fáilte attended Tourism Ireland industry briefings.

Ahead of St Brigid's Day 2023, Kildare Fáilte met with County Kildare Chamber to discuss potential joint activity as the build up to Brigid 1500 continues.

The first twinning network meeting took place since 2019. In addition to the three twinning committees there was also representation from the County Twinning Committee. Kildare Fáilte presented on diaspora and twinning activity that was carried out over the last two years including St Brigid's Day, St Patrick's Day and Taste of Kildare at Christmas.

Kildare Fáilte attended a meeting with a community group interested in exploring the tourism potential of Rathangan and Monastervin and are supporting them in this endeavour.



Kildare Fáilte hosted a journalist from RTE who visited to experience the Royal Canal Greenway with his family. They stayed at the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth before setting off on the route and exploring a little piece of each county along the way. The piece was published before the Easter break to inspire families to visit in the coming months.



Martin Crummy, RTE Digital Editor, with his family at the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth

Are We There Yet? a travel series on Virgin Media TV was broadcast on Sundays in April. The family toured the length of Ireland, and Kildare was featured heavily on their itinerary – Castletown House and Parklands, Kildare Farm Foods, Bargetrip.ie, Taste of Kildare, Mondello Park, Castletown House and Newbridge Silverware.



Marketing communication in April centred around the Easter break, staycation, day cations and Easter events and activities. Ahead of the May bank holiday weekend, itineraries were created and shared to the consumer database to encourage visitors to stay longer in the county. The itineraries cluster together experiences in each municipal district and are proving to be extremely popular downloads.

Library and Arts Service

A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life – Henry Ward Beecher

Reader in Residence

The inaugural Reader in Residence bursary has been awarded to Kildare based children's writer, Emma-Jane Leeson. Emma-Jane will work with children aged 5-12 and their families at our part-time libraries until the end of



2022. This bursary is supported by Creative Ireland.

Spring into Storytime

The first of this year's Right to Read programmes specifically aimed at children was held in April.

Kildare Libraries held 42 events online and in-person with over 830 participants across these events.

The Glass Room – Misinformation Edition

Throughout May, Celbridge and Naas Libraries will host this pop-up intervention that provokes people to think about how technology impacts society, and their lives. It covers various topics including data privacy, big tech, the internet of things, and the most recent edition, misinformation. This exhibition explores what misinformation is, why it's shared and how it spreads. Find out how we, the individual users, take part through our many clicks, likes and shares. Learn about the business models, design practices and habits that create an environment where misinformation can spread or go viral. An outdoor exhibition will also take place this month in Maynooth, at the university and at Harbour Field.

Stitching the Community Together

The Library Service, in partnership with The Climate Action Officer and Age Friendly Officer have been awarded a grant from Creative Ireland under their Creativity in Older Age scheme. Total grant awarded is €30,837.25. Stitching the Community Together is an art-based, intergenerational programme centred around the medium of wool and knitting which will incorporate a bespoke VR learning module.

Connections Through Literature 2022

This creative writing partnership with The Irish Writer's Centre continues in 2022 with the first events launched this month – Putting the Planet in Your Prose with Lynn Buckle, Getting Ready to Submit to a Literary Agent with Fíona Scarlett and LGBT+ Voices with Gavin McCrea.

Let's talk about Parenting Programme

Another successful series of Parenting talks were held last month, including a talk on 'Rediscovering your Identity in Motherhood' which was very well received, with a support group established afterwards on Facebook.



We were delighted also to have our regular 'Baby Sign language' classes back in-house in Celbridge Library, giving parents the opportunity to re-connect in person once again and for their babies to get much needed socialization, post pandemic.

Kildare Library Cli-Fi Friday Series

Since March 2022 the Kildare Libraries Blog [<http://kildarelibrariesblog.com>] has been posting a series of fictional and non-fictional climate awareness themed book recommendations as part of our Cli-Fi Friday Series. Cli-Fi, or Climate Fiction, is a term coined by journalist Dan Bloom and refers to a growing branch of fiction literature that deals with the effects of climate change and global warming on human society.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Naas Library and Cultural Centre Capital Project is experiencing some delays due to supply chain issues arising from the war in Ukraine and the current operating environment. The Library and Arts Service are awaiting an updated programme from the contractor with an estimated handover date of late 2022.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

The Design Team are currently working on the pre application interdepartmental requirements and organising surveys. The Library and Arts Service hope to submit the plans for Part 8 Planning in the coming months.

New Clane Library

The Design Team, Architects and Library Service are working on drawings in preparation for Part 8 Planning process in the coming months.

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives – Civic Guards/An Garda Síochána)100 Anniversary event

A well-attended community event took place in Kildare Town on Saturday 16 April, with the Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council opening proceedings. A pop-up museum in Kildare Town Courthouse, an open day in the Garda station, Living History re-enactment groups and walking tours all featured.

Civic Guard Mutiny Talk

Author Brian McCarthy recently gave a well-received online talk on the nationally significant Civic Guard



Mutiny that took place in Kildare Town in the Summer of 1922.

Athy Garda Plaque Unveiling

A large-scale plaque was unveiled in Athy on Saturday 16 May, to highlight the industrial heritage of Athy. This joint project between students of Athy College and the Annals of Athy Industrial History Group features a piece to commemorate the central role of Athy in the design and production of the first Garda station plaques created in the new Free State in the 1920s.

The Irish Military Seminar

The Irish Military Seminar is taking place from 04 to 11 June 2022. See [6TH IRISH MILITARY SEMINAR \(kildare.ie\)](#) for the full programme

Commemorative Oak Tree in Grounds of Áras Chill Dara

A commemorative oak tree has been planted near the 1916 Garden in Áras Chill Dara to mark the centenary of the taking over of the former British Army Barracks in Naas (present day location of Áras Chill Dara) by the National Army in May 1922. This event followed a motion passed by members of Naas Municipal District.

Life Goes on Art Exhibition in Bórd na Móna, Newbridge

A joint art exhibition between SULT Art Co-Operative and Newbridge Local History Group opened in the Bórd na Móna Headquarters Campus in Newbridge on Monday 16 May and continues until Sunday 29 May. Titled 'Life Goes On', this exhibition marks the centenary of the withdrawal of the British Army from Newbridge in 1922.

Kildare Arts Service

Writers in Residence workshops

Kildare Library and Arts Services, in partnership with Maynooth University announced new writing workshops with Writers in Residence 2021/22, Oisín Fagan and Ryan Dennis. 'Writing Fiction with Oisín Fagan', the first of these 3-part series for creative writers, began on 26 April (until 10 May).

Information Sessions for Creative Places Athy grants

Lucina Russell, Arts Officer hosted an information session about the suite of grants and supports available via Creative Places Athy (Friday 8 April). The deadline for receipt of applications to the grants was extended to 19 April. Grants available: Sowing the Seeds of Socially Engaged Art; Emerging



Artist/Creative Practitioner Award;
Creative Communities Award.

Presentation of fine art prints from Unlegendary Heroes exhibition

At the launch of a new exhibition at Maynooth University featuring a collaboration between Visual artist/printmaker Geraldine O'Reilly and poet/novelist/short story writer Mary O'Donnell, a set of fine art prints was presented to Kildare Arts Officer, Lucina Russell. Kildare County Council purchased a set of prints to support the project and to enhance the Municipal Art Collection for the county.

In Conversation: Dance and Health webinar

On 26 April, former Kildare Arts, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator Carolann Courtney facilitated a conversation online about Age and Opportunity's Artist in Residence in a Care Setting initiative at Naas Day Centre and Philippa Donnellan's Kildare County Council's Dance Research Residency. The webinar was well attended by members of the public, dance professionals and professionals working in healthcare settings from both Ireland and abroad.

Parks

News and Highlights

Allenwood Playground

A tender for the playground has been issued. Tenders are due back the end of June.

Sallins Amenity Land Part 8

The Naas Municipal District members approved the Part 8 for Sallins Amenity Land with the following modifications to the drawings advertised.

1. The All-Weather Pitch to be redesignated from a full size All Weather Soccer pitch to a Multi-Use All Weather pitch.
2. One full size GAA pitch to be redesignated as a full size Multi-Use Pitch to accommodate other sports and organisations in using the park.
3. A mechanism to maximise the use of the pitches in the park to be examined as part of the Detail Design stage, in order to accommodate local clubs and organisations in Sallins primarily and surrounding areas.



4. The proposed location for the playground shall be revised in consultation with the Planning Department, to provide a more visible/supervised location, compatible with adjacent uses, in the vicinity of the proposed Community and Sports Hall Building. Exact location to be agreed in writing with the Planning Authority at Detailed Design stage.
5. The detailed design considerations outlined in the responses to the submissions from the public in relation to Circulation, Parking, Lighting, Furniture Signs, Interpretation, Accessibility, Allotments and Community Garden, Biodiversity, Recycling, Active Recreation, Playground, Facilities for Teenagers, Playing Pitches and Old Farm Buildings shall be included as part of the Detailed Design Stage.
6. The relationship of the Amenity Lands with the Grand Canal Greenway and Naas/Sallins Greenway, and the compatibility of the Masterplan with greenway infrastructure, in particular any proposed bridge crossing near Soldiers Island, shall be fully considered and incorporated at Detailed Design Stage.
7. The detail design considerations as outlined by the HSE, Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Roads Design Office and Irish Water shall be included as part of the Detailed Design stage.
8. The requirements as outlined in response to submissions from Naas Municipal District Engineer, Roads/Transportation Section, Environment Section, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Section, Water Services Section and the Architectural Conservation Officer shall be complied with as part of the Detailed Design stage.
9. The proposed Community and Sports Hall Building, and any proposed Dog Park shall be subject to separate Part 8 process(es).



The Peoples Park, Athy

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the improvement works in The Peoples Park. It is hoped the works will commence at the end of the month.

Leixlip Summer Bedding

A tender for the annual summer bedding in Leixlip has been awarded. The bedding is due to be in place for the June Bank Holiday weekend.

Tree Surgery Works

Tree surgery works in Celbridge Leixlip have been completed. Works in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District and the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District are due to start in early June.

Monread Park

Work on the reinstatement of the goal mouths in Monread Park is being carried out and will be completed by the end of the month.

The Bawnogues, Playground

The temporary playground in the Bawnogues is being installed. It is hoped to have it open by the end of the month.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 16 May 2022		
	No. Businesses	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	47	€95,214.13
Feasibility Study Grant	3	24,515
Priming Grant	4	96,015
Business Expansion Grant	11	259,459
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME)	6	13675

Grant Aided Businesses this Month Kildare–Newbridge Municipal District

1. Gordon Stewart was approved feasibility funding of €14,175 to prototype his accounting platform integration – SafeSync
2. Laura Sironi approved priming funding of €1,124 to support her craft start-up
3. David McManus was approved expansion funding of €28,500 to support the recruitment of three



new employees in Premier Timber Frames Limited.

4. Keith Shelly, Shelly Interiors approved expansion funding to €32,500.

Naas Municipal District:

1. Martin Cullinan, All Event Production Limited was approved expansion funding of €15,000 to recruit a sound engineer.
2. Michael Tutty of Tutty's Handmade Shoes approved expansion funding of €11,800 to aid in the first step of their ambitions to digitise manufacturing.

Clane–Maynooth Municipal District

1. Tara Lane, Centerpiece Rosettes approved €1,580 in export support.

Competitive Start Fund (CSF)

Two LEO Kildare start-ups have been successful in the [CSF](#) competition. Green Till (led by Gokul Gurijala) in Leixlip and The Vitamin Ones in Maynooth (co-founded by Catherine Banks and Dan Jones) each secured

investment from Enterprise Ireland of €50,000 to accelerate their technical and commercial milestones.

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

Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Register query/request to speak to an advisor:

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

For Brexit and Export support, email

afrese@kildarecoco.ie

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie or call 045980838.

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

Entrepreneurship Support Services Spring Training Programmes 2022

LEO Kildare continue to promote an extensive suite of business-specific training programmes to develop the



entrepreneurial capabilities of our clients.

To date, 845 clients availed of these training opportunities which can be booked here.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Kildare LEO Flavours of Kildare Food Network

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food and Drink Network to ensure that food and drink heritage in the County benefits from the attention it deserves. Food and drink businesses are invited to apply to join the network -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/126>

Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Kildare LEO Women In Business Cluster to ensure that Female Entrepreneurship supports are a key highlight in the County.

Women In Business Entrepreneurs are invited to apply to join the cluster -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/165>

Kildare LEO Craft and Creative Cluster

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Craft and Creative cluster to ensure that Craft and Creative businesses in the region are aware of supports and have the opportunity to network.

Craft and Creative businesses are invited to apply to join the network -

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/164>

Green for Micro Programme

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

<https://leo.submit.com/show/1>

Lean for Micro Programme

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

LEO welcomes new applications on an ongoing basis.

Ongoing Business Advice

Business Advice clinics continue weekly. Participants benefit from the guidance of an experienced Business



Advisor. Appointments can be requested online.

Digital Start Tender

LEO Kildare sought tenders Digital Start Programme. 15 suppliers were awarded tenders. Clients can find out more about the Digital Start programme here -

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Digital%20Start/>

Training Needs Analysis Co-Ordinator

LEO Kildare requested tender for Training Needs Analysis Co-Ordinator in order to carry out research into Training Demands of LEO Clients. Tender is currently being reviewed and finalized.

Economic Support Services Shopfront Enhancement Grant

The Scheme was officially opened on Monday 28 March and will remain open for applications until Tuesday 31 May. Details of the scheme are available at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Shop-Front-Improvement-Scheme/>

*2022 Budget Allocation

Kildare/Newbridge	€40,000
Athy	€40,000
Naas	€40,000
Clane Maynooth	€40,000
Celbridge Leixlip	€40,000

To date, seven applications have been approved

Retail Window Merchandising Grant

Over 35 businesses recently attended a Visual Merchandising workshop with Kildare LEO. The launch of this scheme will financially assist and support independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. Funding under the scheme is available to existing businesses. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme will cover the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Spring/Summer period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure is available. The scheme opened on the 5th of May and closes on Friday 1st July. Further details are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise->



[Development/Retail%20Window%20Merchandising%20Grant/](#)

Diaspora Project

Kildare County Council are seeking to create linkages and networks that create and maintain relationships, share experiences, create opportunities and deliver on further investment and economic activity for our County. A draft of The Diaspora Strategy has been received and the economic development team are working with the consultant to finalise the strategy and will present it to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC in June for consideration.

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS

MERITS' next cohort of Tech founders completed their demo day on 17 May with a pitch of their business plans to a group of external investors. Nine founders will participate and get feedback and guidance from the panelists.

A further nine businesses are midway through the TechHatch Pre-Accelerator programme and will pitch to investors on 30 June.

The MERITS tech network will have their summer meeting on 23 June with a key note address from Brendan Noud, the Kildare founder of Learn Upon - a globally successful EdTech company.

National Equine Innovation Centre

The programme of works at the Irish National Stud has now been completed and the tenants officially moved into the centre at the start of March. Kildare LEO will work closely with all tenants to support their development. The team have tendered for a consultancy team that will carry out a feasibility study to assess the opportunity to expand the NEIC. 50% of funding for the study was secured from Enterprise Ireland. The tender process closes on Tuesday 07 June.

Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

Following the announcement of a new round of RRDF funding last December, the project team submitted a comprehensive application at the end of April. A final decision regarding funding is expected in September.



Kildare Hub Strategy

The strategy will be officially launched in Quarter 2. As part of the ongoing development of the hub network, a multi hub application has been made to the Connected Hubs funding scheme to carry out upgrade works on MERITS, NEIC and Athy Enterprise Centre. A decision on funding is expected in May.

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Manzor Marketing was appointed to co-ordinate the network and implement the actions of the food strategy for the next 12 months. The network meets on a monthly basis and members have met in MERITS for their April and May meeting. The ED team submitted an application for funding under the Rural Innovation Development Fund to support the activities of the network and were awarded €25,000.

Innovate Kildare

County Kildare Community Network (Innovate Kildare) has published a tender to appoint a consultancy with the relevant skills and experience to carry out the development of a marketing strategy and branding

concept for Innovate Kildare which will also include the development of a website InnovateKildare.ie. Given the importance of the strategic projects Kildare County Council and Kildare LEO are working on for the county, we wish to develop a brand for Innovate Kildare that will resonate with people and encourage people or industry and investors to choose Kildare as a place to live, work, study or invest in. The tender process closes on Tuesday 31 May.



Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

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

Objective	Support
Financial:	
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business loan – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.
Grow online sales	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to attend our next TOV seminar to learn more about this opportunity and how to make an application.
Advisory:	
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors
Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines	Free 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work
Improving Online Presence / Increasing Online Sales	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating
Communications:	
Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs. Join our Newsletter.
Access to LEO team and specialists	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive