



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – June 2024

Dear Cathaoirleach and Members,

Comhghairdeas to the returning members who succeeded in being re-elected and to our newly elected members who are joining Kildare County Council for their first term. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you, our new Council. I can assure you that the staff of Kildare County Council are looking forward to working alongside you for the betterment of our County. The last Council laid excellent foundations for a positive and progressive partnership and we very much looking forward to building on the great work already done to achieve our shared objectives.

Is mise le meas,

Sonya Kavanagh

Chief Executive



Elected members of the outgoing Council 2019-2024

(not present in image: Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy, Cllr Bob Quinn, Cllr Vera Louise Behan, Cllr Peggy O'Dwyer)



News Items

De Burgh Woodland Gardens

Kildare County Council hosted members of the Naas Municipal District to mark the launch of the initial phase of works being undertaken to provide public access within the De Burghs Woodland Gardens (see pages 8/9).

New Playpark opened in Allenwood

Kildare County Council has officially opened a new playpark in Allenwood. The completion of this project marks a significant milestone in Kildare County Council's ongoing commitment to providing exceptional recreational facilities for the local Community (see page 8).

Local Elections 2024

The Local and European Elections took place on 7 June, with the Count taking place at Punchestown Racecourse over 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 June (see pages 10/11).

Kildare Cruinniú na nÓg programme announced

Full programme details have been finalised for the Cruinniú na nÓg festival, to take place on 15 June in libraries, community centres, and arts centres across Kildare (see page 13).

Innovation

The Innovation Team in collaboration with Paula Comerford, Ethics Registrar and our colleagues in Corporate Services, HR and IT are pleased to advise that a new Ethics Register application is now live in Kildare County Council (see page 23).

Homelessness Action Plan Launch

The new Homelessness Action Plan 2024 -2026 (Mid-East Region) was formally launched at the Regional Homeless Forum meeting on 30 May (see page 30).



Town Regeneration

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has announced a new initiative to support Town Teams. The Support Fund will deliver funding for communities that have never had a Town Team before (see pages 29/30).

Staff use E Bikes

Work on the back of house elements is close to being finalised and IPB have been very helpful in assisting. It is hoped the bikes can be launched soon through interdepartmental co-operation (see page 48).

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP was approved by the full Council at their meeting on 29 April. The Plan was then launched in advance of the full Council meeting on 27 May 2024 with the Cathaoirleach, Kildare County Council's Chief Executive and LECP Advisory Steering Group members in attendance (see page 59).

Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Biodiversity Week took place during the week ending 26 May. The numerous, mostly free, events were well attended, and very positive feedback has been received (see pages 71/72).

Bloom Festival

A stand was secured at the Bloom Festival in Phoenix Park from the 30 May – 03 June for the second year running. Planning and preparation took place throughout April and May with the event taking place for five days over the June Bank Holiday (see page 77).

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works officially commenced on 13 May 2024. Site set-up has been fully completed (see page 84).



Diary/Calendar

Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Full Council will take place at 3.00pm on Friday 21 June, with the Monthly June meeting taking place on Monday 24 June at 3.00pm (see page 11).

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Conference will be held on 23 October 2024 (see page 18).

Climate Action SPC

The next meeting is scheduled for the 11 September 2024 (see page 48).

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Needs assessments are currently underway, with consultation at a local level to identify new projects and priority areas for funding from July 2024 onwards (see page 58).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 03 July 2024 (see page 60).

Upcoming National Road Temporary Road Closures

Upcoming road closure information (see page 61).



July Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jul	2	3 10:00 LCDC	4	5 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
8 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Members Calendar	9 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	10	11 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee	12
15 10:00 Athy MD Meeting July; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	16	17 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	18	19 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
22 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Members Calendar	23	24	25	26
29 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Members Calendar	30	31	1 Aug	2



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare County Council launches Active Travel Scheme



Kildare County Council hosted Minister of State in the Department of Transport and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Jack Chambers TD in the presence of the Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare for the official opening of the Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme in Naas, Co Kildare. The Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme forms part of the cycle network in Naas. It consists of the upgrade of approximately 900m of the Kilcullen Road, improving the connectivity of the overall existing cycle network, specifically linking to the Piper's Hill cycle infrastructure and

connecting to the existing cycle facilities on the South Ring Road.

Official Opening of new Kildare County Council Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn



Kildare County Council hosted the Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick for the official opening of the new Kildare County Council Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn.

The official opening marks the culmination of years of design, planning, consultation, and construction works. The new development replaces the existing Machinery Yard facility currently located in Newbridge and will be used by Kildare County Council to carry out a range of activities. The new development comprises two main elements, namely a new Machinery Yard and a new Regional Salt Barn. The Regional Salt Barn provides



storage for approximately 23,000 tonnes of salt for use by Kildare County Council and several other local authorities in the region as part of winter maintenance operations. The storage and distribution of the salt will be operated by Kildare County Council on behalf of the Department of Transport.

New Playpark opened in Allenwood by Kildare County Council



Kildare County Council has officially opened a new playpark featuring a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), Playground Outdoor Gym and BMX Pump Track in Allenwood. The completion of this project marks a significant milestone in Kildare County Council's ongoing commitment to providing exceptional recreational facilities for the local Community. The project was funded through contributions from Development

Levies, local property tax, and Drehid community grants scheme.

The Playpark covers an area of 3200M² and aims to create an environment where children, young people, and families can come together to engage in active play and enjoy the outdoors. A diverse range of activities is offered to allow children of all ages and abilities to play, interact and socialise together.

Public Amenity set to open at De Burgh Woodland Gardens



Kildare County Council hosted members of the Naas Municipal District to mark the launch of the initial phase of works being undertaken to provide public access within the De Burghs Woodland Gardens. Located in the heart of Nass, and accessed off Mill Lane, the De Burghs Woodland Garden date back to around 1696. The woodland gardens are an important historic landscape, the area



of estate subject to this initial opening consists of circa 18 acres of mature woodlands, walkways, water features including an octagonal pond, waterfalls, and canals and a rich collection of plants and trees. Once opened, the woodland gardens will provide a much-needed amenity and resource to the community.

The gardens, which will open to the public in the coming weeks, will initially open on a ticketed managed basis for weekend access only. A free online booking system will allow users to prebook day tickets.

Official Opening of Food Distribution Hub in Athy Enterprise Centre



Kildare County Council in the presence of the Cathaoirleach of the Athy Municipal District, Veralouise Behan, recently welcomed the opening of Bradbury's "Irish School Meals" dedicated distribution hub in the Athy

Enterprise Centre. Each day, over 6,000 hot meals are prepared and delivered to Kildare-based schools from the hub, with all used packaging returned and recycled in line with circular economy principles.

Technology and innovation are at the heart of the operation, which supports a number of local jobs and will create further jobs in the coming months as the business expands.

Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards

Six projects have been submitted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024

- Naas Library and Cultural Centre
- Re-rendering of the Mary Leadbeater Library and Museum in Ballitore
- Ballymore Eustace as an Age Friendly and Climate Friendly Village
- GeoCollect
- Intergenerational Social Media, Bridging the Digital Divide
- Leinster Womens Shed Fest.



Shortlisting will take place in September and the Awards Ceremony takes place in November.

Launch of LEO Policy Statement

The Chief Executive was in attendance when Minister Burke launched the Leo Policy Statement in Mullingar on 20 May 2024. The policy highlights the central role the LEOs play for small businesses across every community in Ireland such as assistance in starting

and growing a business, as well as expert guidance on how to save time, money and energy, mentoring, training and general business advice.

Local Elections 2024

County Kildare has eight Local Electoral Areas as follows: Athy, Celbridge, Clane, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge. The total number of seats to be filled was 40. Following nominations, there were a total of 90 candidates.

Kildare County Council



A poll was conducted, under the auspices of the European Local Returning Officer, on Friday 07 June. The local election counts were conducted at the Trackside Pavilion, Punchestown on Saturday, Sunday

and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 08, 09, 10, 11 and 12 June.

10 first time Councillors have been elected, to join 30 Councillors who returned to the council.



The Electorate and turnout for each Local Electoral Area (LEA) was as follows:

Local Electoral Area	Electorate	Total Poll	Invalid Ballot Papers	Valid Poll	Turnout
Athy	21,249	10,066	122	9,944	47.37%
Celbridge	16,662	6,956	81	6,875	41.75%
Clane	20,665	9,322	103	9,219	45.11%
Kildare	19,042	8,422	136	8,286	44.23%
Leixlip	14,011	6,221	149	6,072	44.40%
Maynooth	20,869	9,480	89	9,391	45.43%
Naas	30,153	14,046	138	13,908	46.58%
Newbridge	25,116	11,755	117	11,638	46.80%
Total	167,767	76,268	935	75,333	45.46%

Members Services

Members Services are preparing induction packs for all councillors, and liaising with our IT Department regarding related requirements for Elected Members. Induction programmes with AILG have also been notified in writing to all elected members.

The Annual Meeting of the Full Council will take place at 3.00pm on Friday 21 June, with the Monthly June meeting taking place on Monday 24 June at 3.00pm.



Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

“A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.” — Shelby Foote

Aras Library Recruitment Drive

The library team hosted a stand for Kildare County Council staff on level six on Wednesday 22 May to promote library membership, services, and the Kildare Seed Library. Staff could join/renew on the day, borrow some new bestseller titles, and have a tutorial on library eServices such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, online magazines, newspapers, and language learning.

Naas Library

Naas Library and Cultural Centre hosted several events in the large multi-functional Chamber space in May.

As a nod to times past when Naas Cinema occupied this building, a special showing of the old classic film ‘Mata Hari’ was put on for Age Friendly Day. This was just one of many Age Friendly events which took place

across the Kildare Library Service on 17 May.

Naas Library and Cultural Centre also hosted the May meeting of the Naas Municipal District, providing a trip down memory lane for some of the attendees.

The Libraries Association of Ireland Youth Library Group were delighted to host the annual conference in Naas, and it was an opportunity for librarians around the country to enjoy some wonderful speakers in this beautiful, new library.

Rathangan Library

The library welcomed special visitors from Freehold, New Jersey on Saturday 18 May, including Mayor Kevin Kane, Freehold Library trustee Jane Kaye, Glen Cashion (cousin of Bruce Springsteen) and members of the Freehold–Rathangan Twinning Committee. They called into the library in advance of their tour of Rathangan and tree planting ceremony to chat



with the librarian and view the painting donated by Mr. Cashion.

Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Award €140,000

Kildare Culture and Creativity Team, spearheaded by Kildare Arts Service, have successfully applied for, and been granted €140,000 via the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme. This funding will support the project ‘Did I Ever Tell You...’ a storytelling project focused on collecting the thoughts and memories from older people in HSE healthcare settings across Kildare, Offaly, and Westmeath. Creative practitioners will facilitate a bespoke programme of sustained engagement over the period September 2024-December 2025, with selected stories from each county published in a collective book. The project is designed and delivered in partnership between the three local authorities’ Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland, and Age Friendly teams along with the HSE, with approx. €46,000 going

towards Kildare based projects over two years.

Kildare Cruinniú na nÓg programme announced.

Full programme details have been finalised for the Cruinniú na nÓg festival, to take place on 15 June in libraries, community centres, and arts centres across Kildare. Highlights include a new ‘Teen Night’ at Naas Library courtyard, featuring a Garageland GALAXYZ concert of 17+ youth bands, graffiti art workshops, and free food via Food Junkie pizza truck. Full programme details are available at

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/kildare/>

Kildare Readers’ Festival presents Kildare Reads

Singer-songwriter and author Declan O'Rourke and former RTÉ presenter and broadcaster Flor MacCarthy discussed his famine trilogy in Newbridge Library on Tuesday 28 May. It was the second Kildare Reads event of the series, presented by



Kildare Readers Festival in association with the Irish Writers Centre. Declan O'Rourke's Pawn Broker's Reward and Whisper of Oblivion are the first two books of his trilogy set in the famine years. They tell the story of Pádraig and Cáil Ua Buachalla, based on real lives and events in the early months of the Great Hunger.

UEFA EURO 2024 Activity Book

The Football Association of Ireland continues its collaboration with Libraries Ireland this year with the launch of the UEFA EURO 2024 Activity Book, aimed at inspiring young football enthusiasts across Ireland. The activity book is available in all Kildare Libraries while stock lasts and is aimed at 10–14-year-olds.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

The service re-opened to the public on 23 May at its new location. The building now houses a large amount of the county's historical archival material, as well as its extensive Local Studies collections including Special Collections. It has a large Reading

Room, along with a microfilm/public access PCs area. Researchers will be able to avail of assistance with their local history or genealogical research from our experienced staff. Kildare County Archives is open to researchers on Thursdays and Fridays, 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm by prior appointment. Local Studies is open to researchers from Wednesday-Saturday, 10.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm-5.00pm by prior appointment.

The eight annual Irish Military Seminar which took place on 10-11 May in Riverbank Arts Centre and included the launch of The Colour of Kildare 1913-1923 by James Durney, Mario Corrigan and John O'Byrne, was a great success. Speakers included author and broadcaster Ralph Riegel who gave a talk on the Elizabethville ambush, Congo, to an audience of serving and retired Defence Force personnel and the current Cadet Class.



The Archivist is working on Kildare County Council Records Management, listing and processing collections. Digitised Journals of the County Kildare Archaeological Society from 2007-2019 have now been uploaded, along with volumes previously available from 1891-2006, to <https://archive.irishnewsarchive.com/olive/apa/KCL.Edu/#panel=home> Migration of content from Kildare.ie to the Library website and eHistory ongoing. Works on the building are ongoing.

Kildare Arts Services Municipal Art Collection (MAC) catalogue available online

A printed catalogue of selected artworks from the Kildare MAC is available to the public to pick up for free at Naas Library and Cultural Centre, also now available [online here](#).

Arts Grants and Bursaries 2024

All applicants have been informed of the outcomes of our 17 grants and bursaries.

Maynooth University Musician in Residence Call Out Announced

Maynooth University, Kildare County Council Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare, Music Generation Offaly, and Music Generation Westmeath, with support from the Arts Council, are welcoming applications for a Major Creative Project for 2024/25 as part of the MU Musician in Residence Programme (€22,000 award). Closing Date: Monday 03 June.

New Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Grant Announced

Kildare Arts Service has announced a new EDI Artist Practice Bursary (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) supported by The Arts Council. This award (€5,000) is available to artists specifically from under-represented backgrounds and communities. Deadline Wednesday 12 June.

Professional Development Programme for Kildare Artists

Kildare County Council Arts Service is once again partnering with Visual



Artists Ireland (VAI) to deliver a series of professional development sessions for creatives across County Kildare in 2024. Session 1: 'Critiquing your Work' Led by Laura Mc Cafferty Public Programmes Curator, CCA Derry Londonderry took place at Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Thursday 09 May.

Kildare Dance Artist in Residence Performance in South Kildare

Philippa Donnelly's (Kildare Dance Residency 2023 – 2024) community dance theatre performance Stepping The Land Took place on a farm in south Kildare on 11 and 12 May. This Kildare Dance Artist in Residence 2023-24 is developed in partnership with Kildare County Council Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre.

Maynooth Film for All Screening part of MU Arts and Minds Festival

Our last screening of 'Ballywater' for this season took place on Friday 10 May at 8.00pm in collaboration with Maynooth University Arts and Minds Festival.

European Poetry Festival in Newbridge

The European Poetry Festival took place at Riverbank Arts Centre on Thursday 02 May supported by Kildare Arts Service. This is a predominantly UK-based festival celebrating the resurgence of avant-garde and literary poetry. The festival's primary focus is on innovative poetry in collaboration and engagement between poets from across the continent.

Creative Places Athy Art and Ecology Reflective Session

The Art and Ecology programme with Kildare County Childcare Committee will deliver an evaluation of the shared learning and findings from this programme with childminders/guardians and children 0 – 3 years. The findings will support the investigation into delivering similar programmes for the early years and their carers.



Creative Places Athy Connect and Gather Award

[The Connect and Gather Award](#)

(€30,000) welcomed expressions of interest from local, national, or international professional artists/creatives or arts organisations/collectives in any artform to respond to the notion of ‘Connect and Gather’, inspired by the ‘Third Space Theory’. Shortlisted applicants have been invited to Phase 2.

Creative Places Athy Medicinal Folklore Project

Creative Places Athy will hold a pop-up exhibition called the Athy Folklore Pharmacy in August along with artist Sheena Malone and they are looking for participants with knowledge of folk medicine practices to join them at a number of gatherings in the run up to the exhibition. Two sessions took place in May in Athy Community Arts Centre.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Ten inspections completed in the following areas:

- Road’s Depot-Kildare town
- Roads work on live site – Kildare farm foods
- Parks-Prosperous Park area- fencing works G/O team.
- Parks – Sallin’s area, tree surgeons on site.
- Parks-Newbridge playground- soft surface replacement by contractors at Newbridge Leisure Centre
- Roads Crew- path works- Leixlip.
- Roads Crew- installation of wooden pillars-bus stop – Leixlip.
- Roads Crew- bin collections – Leixlip.
- Road’s depot, Mooretown, Kildare
- National Roads Office

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:



Nine assessments completed in the following areas:

- HR (two)
 - Housing (two)
 - Motor Tax (two)
 - Community
 - Motor Tax
 - Finance
3. Pregnancy Risk Assessment:
One assessment completed in the following area:
 - Finance
 4. Review of new Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) for sports partnership (five) completed to date.
 5. Placement of transportation RA on Proworks 26 in total RA only.
 6. Placement of current safety statement V4 on Proworks.
 7. Method statement and risk assessment presentation completed with sports and leisure team (six in attendance)
 8. Health and Safety Roadshows – Safety Manual and Safety Management System
 - Newbridge/Kildare Municipal District -40 attendees
 9. Review of SSWP with Environment crew.
 10. Annual Health and Safety Meeting with GSS and Area Engineers
 11. Kildare County Council and Uisce Eireann, Health and Safety and Governance Committee meeting
 12. Review of Risk Assessment and Method statement for external painting of Maynooth Library.
 13. Health and Safety Governance Committee Meeting with Uisce Eireann
 14. Health Talks:
 - Men's Health Cancer Awareness Talk
Newbridge/Kildare Municipal District – 40 attendees
 15. Two Health and Safety Inductions completed for new starts (five attendees).
 16. Supported Libraries on the preparation of an event management plan for Teen Festival in Naas Library and Cultural Centre
 17. Commenced preparations around Health and Safety Conference- 23 October 2024:
 - Osprey Hotel booked.
-



-
- AV visual team booked.
 - Three guest speakers booked.
18. Update of Accident Database.
 19. Proworks Meeting re sharing of information between local authorities.
 20. ESUS meeting to commence project(s) induction and safety statement – requesting additional info- floor plans of Aras – org charts etc.
 21. Review of control of contractors from Limerick County Council via Proworks.
 22. Local Authority Safety Officers Group Meeting
 23. Working with Roads team on preparation of RAMS for river side sampling.
 24. Supporting National Roads Office around safety documentation- Preliminary Health and Safety plans
- Accessibility:**
1. Walkability Audit of Athy with Athy Disability Access Group
 2. Working with Creative Place Athy on part two of Art Project to raise awareness of accessibility/disability.
 3. Working with DESSA (Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency) to get KISP (Kildare Inclusion Schools Project) participants recognised in Gaisce Awards.
 4. Meetings:
 - a. CKAN (County Kildare Access Network)
 - b. Newbridge Disability Access Group
 - c. Leixlip Disability Access Group
 - d. Monasterevin Disability Access Group
 - e. Fingal County Council Access Officer
 - i. Inductions covering disability/accessibility.
 - ii. Event management plans covering accessibility



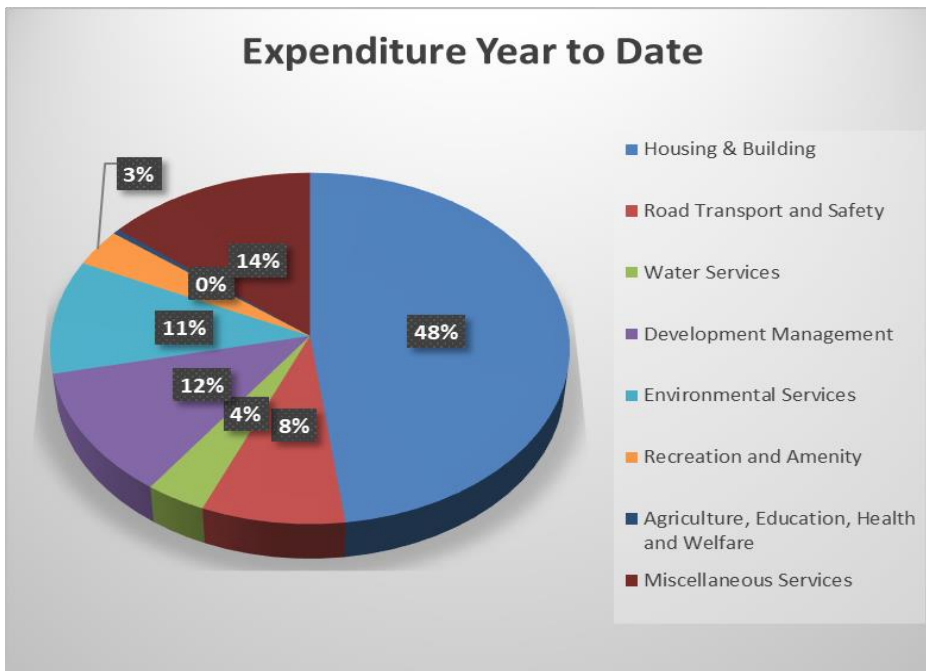
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2024

Division	Expenditure €,000	Budget €,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining €,000
Housing & Building	46,993	88,215	53%	41,222
Road Transport and Safety	8,191	44,078	19%	35,887
Water Services	3,443	9,767	35%	6,324
Development Management	11,480	29,330	39%	17,850
Environmental Services	10,265	24,474	42%	14,209
Recreation and Amenity	3,371	17,635	19%	14,264
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	444	1,305	34%	861
Miscellaneous Services	13,769	21,941	63%	8,172
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	97,955	236,745	41%	138,790





Kildare County Council				
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2024				
Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	49,909	78,925	63%	29,016
Road Transport and Safety	2,132	23,074	9%	20,942
Water Services	2,125	9,685	22%	7,560
Development Management	7,481	11,182	67%	3,701
Environmental Services	2,229	7,886	28%	5,657
Recreation and Amenity	1,437	2,187	66%	750
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	76	308	25%	232
Miscellaneous Services	1,954	10,043	19%	8,089
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,153	21,460	33%	14,307
Rates	30,137	71,995	42%	41,858
	104,634	236,745	44%	132,111

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 May 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/05/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	72,242,187	54,130	-	80,568,522	42,314,956	38,253,566
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	8,965,081	6,453	-	10,302,686	8,693,689	1,608,997
Housing Loans	1,387,626	1,699,478	-	-	3,087,104	1,681,833	1,405,271

Cashflow / Overdraft

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

Risk Management

The individual directorates have had workshops on their individual Risk Registers with IPB and are finalising the individual directorate risk registers. The Information Technology risk register was presented to the Audit Committee at their May meeting.



Increased Cost of Business Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses. A second round of ICOB grants was announced in May 2024 and we await further guidance as to those eligible for second round payments.

Portal closed for first round grant registrations on 01 May.

A total of 3165 grant submissions have been received

2168 grants have been paid as of 05

June with a value of €4.464 million

It's expected all first round applications will be approved by 14 June.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions in respect of residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of the build of the units by 31 December 2025.

The Government has approved, on 23 April 2024, an extension of the current arrangements for the waiving of local authority “section 48” development contributions to 31 December 2024 and the refunding of Uisce Éireann water and waste water connection charges to 30 September 2024.

On the 15th of each month each LA is to submit a claim to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15-May-24
Total number of residential units		670
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	509	€4,047,006
Apartments	161	€639,634
Special Roads		€150,000
Total	670	€4,836,640

Digital Services

After using the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) print framework, IT have selected Opogee Corp to provide and support our new print, scanning and copying solution for the



next three years (including the option to extend by three years).

This deployment of new devices will ensure all devices used by Council staff in all locations will be using the same printers and same support contract.

Rollout of the new devices commenced week beginning 03 June and should be completed in three to four weeks for all areas in Aras Chill Dara.

Innovation

The Innovation Team in collaboration with Paula Comerford, Ethics Registrar and our colleagues in Corporate Services, HR and IT are pleased to advise that a new Ethics Register application is now live in Kildare County Council.

The new application digitises the Ethics Declaration requirement for relevant staff and Councillors. The application replaces the paper form requirement with an online form that is prepopulated with key information including relevant dates, email, department and various signature

options. The application includes all relevant documentation, user guides and videos.

New relevant employees or Councillors who take up their position during the remainder of this year will be invited to submit their declaration on the new application. Any paper forms completed for 2024 remain valid.

In early 2025, all relevant employees and Councillors will be asked to complete their annual declaration in the new application form. Further information and guidance will issue at this time.

Phase 2 is planned for Quarter 4 2024 and includes the Donation Statement requirement for Councillors

Integration Team

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

DAC's reaching the end of the first 90-day accommodation period. The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to issue protocol for Day-90



to Local Authority's. Note that Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) are not entitled to social housing or homeless services. On leaving DAC's BOTPs will be entitled to full social welfare payment and rent supplement.

DCEDIY consolidating existing accommodation centres for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 and numbers decline. All new arrivals since 14 March are now accommodated in DAC's.

Recent Developments

New contracts with DCEDIY for BOTP accommodation will have the option to pivot to accommodation for International Protection Applicants where the building has the relevant statutory approvals or exemptions.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The main role of the LAIT is to provide integration supports to international protection applicants, persons with status, beneficiaries of temporary

protection and programme refugees resettling in county Kildare. This includes information, advice, and guidance. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, signposting mainstream and other services available locally appropriate to needs, supporting access (particularly for the most vulnerable), and helping to resolve any issues arising.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP)

Statistics: BOTP in State provided accommodation nationally: 45,216.
In Kildare: 928 (698 adults/230 children) - Source LGMA update – 05 June 2024

- The LAIT has visited to date all seven accommodation centres for BOTPs in Kildare, carrying out 14 outreach visits and organising 12 clinics.
- The LAIT has identified language and transport as the main barriers accessing mainstream services.



Most services are at full capacity and have been for some time.

- Vulnerable groups identified include older persons (over 65) with limited English who need additional supports to integrate in the community.
- Designated Accommodation Centres (DACs): DECDIY is finalising a protocol for residents who complete the 90 days period. Residents will be transfer to City West Transit Hub where they will receive a transport/accommodation voucher (value TBD). Vulnerable cases will be relocated to an alternative accommodation; vulnerability criteria include medically vulnerable persons assessed by the HSE, children (under 18) and older persons (over 65). DECDIY/LGMA to provide further guidelines.

International Protection Applicants and Persons with Status

Statistics:

IP applicants in State provided accommodation nationally: 30,757.

In Kildare: 628 (487 adults/141 children). - Source DECDIY 26 May 2024

- To date the LAIT has visited all ten IPAS accommodation centres in Kildare and carried out 15 outreach visits and organised 13 clinics to signpost services available locally based needs and resolve queries.
- De Burgh Manor (formerly known as Bert House). Transport continues to be the main barrier for residents to access services in the community. Staff at the centre has advocated for public transport or for service providers to provide transport for residents. The LAIT has sent a query to IPAS as centres situated more than 2km from a town are obliged by contract to provide regular transport to amenities. The LAIT has asked what is the minimum that the centre should offer in terms of transport.



Vulnerable groups identified among IP applicants include:

- Single women (no family and/or supports) GBV survivors.
- 'Age out' minors: The Child and Family Agency (Tusla) is statutorily responsible for Separated Children Seeking International Protection/ Unaccompanied Minors. Those who reach 18 years of age ('aged out' minors) are transferred from Tusla care accommodation to IPAS accommodation. Generally, a transfer from Tusla care to an IPAS accommodation will not take place in the middle of an academic school year, but the LAIT has identified 'age out' minors transferred before seating their leaving cert. Working with 'aged out minors' the LAIT has learned that only those who have been under Tusla's care for a minimum of one year received aftercare.

The LAIT has received 271 queries and resolved 221 to date. Mostly were related to Housing (21%), Employment (14%), Adult Education (12%) half of

them were related to English classes, and Healthcare (8%).

New IP Applicants Daily Expenses Allowance Policy (from June 2024):

An income assessment is being introduced for the Daily Expenses Allowance with effect from June 2024, for persons 18 years or over. For claims involving couples or families, the Daily Expenses Allowance payment of the person who has income may be reduced or withdrawn. This will not impact on any payment in respect of other family members. Note that 'income' includes pay from employment, self-employment and social welfare payments. The Daily Expenses Allowance payment will cease where a person has income of more than €125 per week for a combined total of 12 weeks or more.

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Through the model for distribution for IRPP II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for



2024-26. IRPP will start in July 2024 with the resettlement of three Syrian families in the first location. It will be carried out in various tranches (in July, August and November 2024; dates in 2025 TBD) in a combination of Approved Housing Bodies and Kildare County Council housing units.

An implementing partner for the provision of integration support over 18 months has been identified through a tender process. This includes the recruitment of an Integration Support Worker, and an Arabic-speaking Intercultural Support Worker. The Tender applications were submitted on the 14 May. Clarifications requested by the Assessment Team on the 23 May. A Notice Letter confirming CKLP's success in the tender process was issued on the 29 May. Subsequently CKLP furnished all the required documentation (04 June). The Chief Executive Order was signed on the 05 June, and a Letter of Acceptance from Kildare County Council accepting the tender was sent to CKLP (06 June), allowing CKLP to commence the

recruitment process. Formal signing of the service contract in the coming days.

IRPP/DECDIY submitted in May the social housing applications for the families selected for the first two locations and details to initiate the garda vetting.

The Integration Team met with Oaklee and Tuath (AHBs for the first two locations) and the Department of Social Services to agree upon the next steps. Action trackers were drafted to ensure coordination in the delivery.

Community Integration Forum

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month, starting on the 01 May (expansion of the integration remit, rename of the forum, ToR, membership and procedural matters discussed). Meeting 05 June (ToR approved). Focus on info sharing, coordination and collaboration to deliver better services to persons in need of international protection. Links between the CIF and the LCDC and



Kildare Integration Strategy Working Group need to be defined, including establishing communication channels and areas of collaboration.

National ISC and ISW Networks

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

Accommodation Team:

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

Offer a Home Scheme

(update 06 June 2024)

Properties occupied	54
Properties in progress	9
Properties withdrawn	<u>32</u>
Total properties offered to date	95

Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge

(update 04 June 2024)

Number accommodated 29

The Accommodation Team are also involved in the following accommodation programmes:

Refurbishment Programme

Assessment and reporting on proposals logged on the LGMA refurbishment portal. As the number of BOTP's arriving is declining the portal is currently closed for new applications. All current applications must be complete and delivered by 31 October 2024 as the temporary directive expires on 04 March 2025. A minimum capacity of 30 people is required for all refurbishment proposals.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Established to accommodate BOTP's arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. Kildare has two DAC's.



Punchestown:

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 136 people (06 June 2024).

Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 321 people (06 June 2024).

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

A technical working group (TWG) has been established to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS and the LGMA.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL)

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage [DHLGH] has widened the definition of the Fresh Start Principle for Local Authority Home Loan applicants. Persons who have experienced divorce/separation or insolvency/bankruptcy will be eligible to apply for LAHL, irrespective of the number of previous dwellings that person may have owned. In such cases the most recently owned home must have been lost due to the 'Fresh Start' event.

Town Regeneration

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has announced a new initiative to support Town Teams. The Support Fund will deliver funding for communities that have never had a Town Team before. Three towns in Kildare will receive funding of €10,000 each: Kilcullen, Monasterevin and Ballymore Eustace. The funding may



be used to support the establishment and/or development of town teams where they are not already well established, and to better understand the unique features of towns. Kildare town and Athy have been added to the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund [URDF] eligible towns and an increase in funding under Call 3 allocations has been received. In terms of the Call 3 programme, which saw a dedicated fund being made available to local authorities to tackle long term vacant and derelict properties in their URDF eligible areas. Properties which are located within the newly eligible towns, and meet the criteria of the fund, have been included on the approved acquisition programmes.

Homelessness Action Plan Launch

The new Homelessness Action Plan 2024 -2026 (Mid-East Region) was formally launched at the Regional Homeless Forum meeting on 30 May. The plan can be accessed online at [Homeless Services - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://www.kildarecoco.ie/Homeless_Services_-_Kildare_County_Council)



Strategic Projects and Public Realm Part 8s

Two Part 8's came before the Municipal Districts of Naas and Kildare-Newbridge at their May meeting:

- Grand Canal Greenway Phase 1 and 2 Tie-In – approved with one amendment.



- Kildare Market Square – approved with two amendments.

Renewal Masterplans will launch in June.

Wonderful Barn

Part 8 launching on 07 June; this will commence the public consultation period.

Harbourfield Maynooth

The tender period has closed and tender assessments are underway.

Town and Village Masterplans

Allenwood; Coill Dubh/Cooleragh; Kilmeague; Robertstown Village

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing. Expect substantial completion September 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing on site in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Letter of Acceptance issued; acknowledgment received. Archeology, SUDS, IW requirements to be concluded in advance of commencement on site.
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.	Tenders being assessed
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 being prepared.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Stage 2 approval received with conditions
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 published on 08.04.2024. Housing report being prepared.
Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement being assessed.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Civil & Structural Engineer appointed to assist in preparing S179a planning application, design works commenced.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender evaluation complete; result letter issued. Letter of Acceptance to follow.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.
Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Feasibility complete on brownfield site. Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application commenced.
Canalside , Athy	3 units	Feasibility report to be prepared.



Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application to be prepared.
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Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application approved. Construction tender assessment ongoing.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work commenced on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site in line with programme
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 launched 03.04.2024. Target July MD meeting.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: tender dialogue stage ongoing, tender deadline extended to 20.06.2024.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 submission period closed on 07.05.2024. Preparing Housing report. Target July MD meeting
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Finalising design documents for Part 8.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	80 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team have commenced work
Rathasker Road, Naas	80 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team have commenced work

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

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



CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Part 8 launched 27.03.2024. Housing report being prepared. Target July MD meeting.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Tender documents being prepared.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45 units	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Association	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb of 10 units	CAS funding approved

*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme

*CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility

Acquisitions

	Completed 2023	Completed 2024 ytd
Housing Acquisitions	96	31
Housing Turnkeys	42	6
Part V Acquisitions	109	39
Total Complete	247	76

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,711,698	RRDF €8,858,455	Construction	RRDF Call 5 application for additional funding was successful. Snagging is currently underway by John Craddock. Tender will issue for the Bridge in the coming weeks.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Prelim Design	Topographical surveys progressing. Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 1 & 2 Tie In (Sallins)			Part 8	Part 8 approved with 1 amendment at Naas MD meeting on 14 May.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Detailed design ongoing including Part 8 amendments for additional 2 bridges.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references completed. Final outstanding issues to be discussed with Department of Defence.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding has been under RRDF Call 5 has been rejected.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan	€30,000	LPT	Town Renewal Plan	This Plan will be researched, prepared, and delivered in-house by the SPPR team, drawing on external resources where specialised skills are not available within the Council. Base maps are completed, document formatting



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					has commenced. Plans are in place to run an Art/Photography competition in conjunction with local primary and secondary schools. Public consultation piece will take place during the Summer months.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding has been under RRDF Call 5 has been rejected.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals.
	Kildare Town Renewal Plan	€126,500	€95,000 T&V €31,500 LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Plan published on 15 May.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Tender documents have been received. A funding request has been submitted to the Failte Ireland Just Transition Fund.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Contractor commenced on site, no issues to report, project is progressing as planned. PIN published for Exhibition Tender. The Cabin is expected to arrive in Athy in early July; its



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					arrival will co-ordinate with the internal construction programme.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre Part 8	Advance works continue at the site. HSF funding of €100,000 was recently confirmed. Part 8 launching on 07 June.
	Celbridge Town Renewal Masterplan	€73,585	€73,585 LPT	Town Renewal Masterplan	Plan published on 17 May.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Approved to proceed to tender for the preparation of the TRMP, subject to addressing several points raised by the DHLGH. Tender documents will be published on 07 June. Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid



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



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway. Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently detailed design and secure all necessary permissions/ consent. Part 8 approved. Additional funding will be required to bring the project through the construction stages. Tender period has closed and assessment is underway.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Publication will take place in June
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Publication will take place in June
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Publication will take place in June
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Publication will take place in June
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case	TBC	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area. Tender documents will publish on 07 June.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p> Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Feasibility Study & Conservation Management Plan for St. David's Castle is now complete. Tender documents are being prepared to complete an Archaeological Survey for St. Davids Castle and Grounds. </p> <p> Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions. </p> <p> Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only. </p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are being finalised. Draft document has been received and is under review.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

All Grants 2024			
Type	No.	Amount	
Community Grants	134	€146,890	
Festival Grants	58	€41,550	
Private Residents' Associations Grants	261	€235,094	Incl LPT
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	44	€39,673	Incl LPT
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	44	€162,118	
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	0	€0	
LCDC Schemes	40	€120,303	
Twinning Grants	5	€13,270	
Education Bursaries			
Brigid 1500	57	€191,214	



Drehid Grants	52	€193,448
Total	695	€1,143,560

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan 2024-2027 was endorsed by a specially convened steering group, chaired by a representative of the Climate Action, Transport, Circular Economy, and Networks (CATCEN) committee. The

training plan will oversee the delivery of training guided by the training needs and priorities of elected members and local authority staff on climate action. The CATCEN committee and the CCMA have endorsed the plan. Kildare County Council signed the Service Level Agreement with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to fund the delivery of training over the duration of the plan.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

LACAP Review: Review of all 31 LACAPs is underway to ascertain robust information on action typology. The review process involves a three phased approach including:

- **Scope:** Requirements, outputs and needs were identified as well as options for data analysis. Status: Complete.



- **Develop:** Information Management System was established, tested and refined. Status: Complete.
- **Data processing:** Input of actions of all 31 LACAPs and DZs (3919 actions) against pre-determined categories, actions analysed, actions peer reviewed for consistency in interpretation. Status: Quality check is nearing completion.

The outcome will be a robust central database that can be utilised to identify commonality of actions to support local authorities to work together, to inform of action prioritisation, reveal challenges in implementation, to help identify pertinent case studies and inform reporting and monitoring requirements. Database will inform sectoral reports.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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

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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonization. The working group are focusing on a publication for local authorities on fleet management system elements necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



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

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:



The CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme sees c.200 clubs working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Points of Contact have been identified in each local authority and CARO is planning a further webinar in September to support points of contact in engaging with clubs in their area.



Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

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

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

With thanks to the Senior Management Team, we are working closely with the housing section, accessibility officer and Maynooth University to refurbish a house and associated garden to enable a ‘Show and Tell’ home.

The tender was published on Supplygov.ie and it is expected the house will open in October 2024.

The Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)

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

1. The installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton Mills. This contract was awarded and an application To ESB for the generation connection has been approved. Works are due to start over the next two months.
2. PV and Geothermal/Air heat pumps for heating at K-Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy in conjunction with works on swimming pools in Meath, Wicklow and Louth.
3. The appraisal of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings' heating systems has been undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema and reports produced.



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

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

District Heating (DH)

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

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

Display Energy Certs/ BER

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

An in-depth energy audit and BER survey took place of the Aras building by a company called IES and the initial report is under reviewed.

ISO 50001 Energy Management System

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

The implementation of ISO 50,001 is a statutory requirement.

The timeline is likely to be impacted by staff movement.

Energy Audit/Analysis/BER of Aras:

Took place 02 April, the initial report has been received, and will feed into



decarbonisation strategy for the Aras building. Report published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) also sets out that non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), Energy efficiency Performance -32% improvement in 2022.

Swimming Pools:

CODEMA undertook site visits to inform decarbonisation appraisal reports at Athy and Naas pools and the resulting reports have now been received with stakeholders meeting held 13 May to inform the path forward.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

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

Staff use EV GoCar

A six-month trial of a staff use GoCar Electric Vehicle (EV) has been under way since the start of the year. Approx 50 staff have signed up to the scheme and 60 work-related trips have been undertaken.

Staff use E Bikes

Work on the back of house elements is close to being finalised and IPB have been very helpful in assisting. It is hoped the bikes can be launched soon through interdepartmental co-operation.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

On the 08 May, the Climate Action SPC with the Environment SPC as guests collectively journeyed by bus to view climate action projects in action. The first stop was a talk on rewetting of the bog at Prosperous under the Bord na Mona Bog Rehabilitation Scheme. The second stop was Hortland Solar Farm. The attendees enjoyed wide and varied discussions on both elements. Participants found the trip insightful.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 11 September 2024.



Climate Action Community Initiatives

Funding Aids and Projects:



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

Following successful implementation of Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) a second phase of the project focusses specifically on the artists resulted in an additional €35,000 in funding. Arts Section are working diligently with the arts and organised Bog Eco Literacy and Community Communication day in Lullymore on 23 April, 2024.

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



Kildare, Longford and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have

been awarded by Pobal €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The name of the project has changed to 'Our Shared Plate Project' to reflect the community cohesion through the celebration of food. Sites in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy have been chosen for the project and community contacts identified. The Maynooth grouping had a highly successful street feast in May to commence the project. Athy's first event took place on the 07 June.



'Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity In Practice Meets Climate Action'

Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:

'Agents for Change Creative Ireland' informed Kildare County Council on 12 July that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 has been approved. Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design



Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University. The new Principal Investigator has been assigned and is Dr. Amy Fahy, School of Business, Maynooth University. Amy is coordinating aspects of the work with other third level institutes to increase awareness and has formulated communications elements alongside information gathering methodologies to inform the process. Work continues apace.

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

The list 25 projects across all Municipal District's and size of project has been submitted to the Department for consideration as of 01 May. The list also includes reserve projects should they be required.

We await the outcome.

Grass to Gas:

This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g., grass-clippings as a

feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with the potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nationwide. An agreement has been formulated with Maynooth University to enable the research to commence and the work is progressing at a pace. It is expected that the project will be completed by Q2/3 of 2024.

Stakeholders including Microsoft, Teagasc, Kildare County Council, Gas Networks Ireland, Green Generation met in Maynooth University hosted by Terrain AI in April to advance the project inputs. A follow-up meeting in Green Generation is being undertaken in June.

Phase two of the project has now been agreed between Terrain Ai and the Climate Action Office to advance the measurement of the gas production and the wider socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon reduction potentials.

IRESI - International Renewables and Energy Systems Integration

A workshop was held in February with IRESI led by Fabiano Pallonetto and Amy Fahy of Maynooth University and



their team, to balance energy grid usage and potential Kildare County pilot project for up to 500 houses (social and private). We continue to work collaboratively on this project and the meeting held with SFI enshrines the milestones being met.



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Clinics

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

Dates for 2024 are as follows:

Monday 26 June at 11.00am

Monday 23 October at 11.00am

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

Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects

in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at

<https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>

Uisce Éireann Framework

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

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

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

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

Kildare County Councils Shared



Service Agreement is at the final stage of completion.

Environment

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.

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

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on Friday 1st March

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy

responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

National Deposit Return Scheme

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

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

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

An interim report details that 6,004,496 containers have been accepted in Kildare. There are 103 Reverse Vending Machines in the county and 70 stores are accepting containers.



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

Further details can be found at

www.re-turn.ie

Water Framework Directive

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

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

Enforcement Priorities 2024

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

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,

- Construction & Demolition activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles,
- Waste collection,
- PRI initiatives.

The Kildare County Council Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

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

Environment Complaints

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

Poster Monitoring

Monitoring compliance of regulations for election posters is ongoing in conjunction with the Transportation Department.

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal.



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

Green Schools

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

Rubbish Film Festival



This is the second year that Kildare "Rubbish Film Festival" for Transition Year Students in Secondary Schools was held with 13 entries from ten participating schools across the County. It was a resounding success. The festival, which challenged students to create a one-minute short film on the theme of reducing waste and encouraging sustainability, was

facilitated by Createschool and supported by Kildare County Council. The festival received a great response from the schools, with students showing their creativity and innovation in producing ten short films that were both educational and entertaining. Two films and a poster design were selected as the winners in their respective categories and went forward to represent County Kildare at the National Awards which was held online, in May. A Kildare entry from Cross and Passion in Kilcullen, came first in a special category – The Judges Award. The organisers hope that the festival will continue on as an annual event that will help to raise awareness about environmental issues among young people and inspire them to take action to protect the planet.

Single Use Plastics

Single Use Plastics campaign was run from 20 May - 02 June.

The campaign by MyWaste.ie will be run on radio, print and digital media.



GAA Green Clubs Initiative



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative. The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is proceeding.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Flood Risk Management

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)
A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been

established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence.

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. A Public Participation Day was held on the 27 February in Athy Library. This was the first of a series of community engagement and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.



Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

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

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

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



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

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

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

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

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Applications for grants submitted by cemetery Committees are currently being assessed. Applications were submitted through the Submit portal for the first time thus streamlining the process.



Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries.

Tenders have been returned and assessed for new Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. All going well, it is expected works to commence in June, with completion expected by mid Q3 2024.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

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

extension to Staplestown Cemetery.

Civil improvement works are expected to commence in mid-summer in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

Boycetown, Kilcock

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

Ballybracken

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate additional burials.

Local Community

Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 22 May 2024 in Aras Chill Dara.

SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership, are contracted by the LCDC to



implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare.

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450.

LEADER Programme

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

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

www.countykildarelp.ie, or telephone 045-895450.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

2023 Seed Funded projects are due for completion and reporting to the Department of Health, at the end of May. A focus on Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practice and Food Insecurity will continue for the duration of 2024. Needs assessments are currently underway, with consultation at a local level to identify new projects and priority areas for funding from July 2024 onwards.

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

mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The LCDC agreed on a number of new initiatives to be rolled out in 2024 under an



additional budget of €35,000. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

For further information contact Claire Morrissey, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: phone. 086-8858505 or email cmorrissey@kildarecoco.ie

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy was selected by Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. The programme has continued for 2024 with the same budget allocation. An annual report on the programme for 2023 was submitted to the Dept for approval.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP was approved by the full Council at their meeting on 29 April.

The Plan was then launched in advance of the full Council meeting on 27 May 2024 with the Cathaoirleach, Kildare County Council's Chief Executive and LECP Advisory Steering Group members in attendance. Work continues to complete the implementation plan. AIRO have completed demographic, economic development/commuting, housing, education and health analysis from Census 2022.

For further information contact: Susan Bookle, LECP Co-ordinator phone. 087 6687808 or email sbookle@kildarecoco.ie

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

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

Local Enhancement Funding

Kildare was allocated Local Enhancement Funding in 2024 to



support community groups for capital type costs. Funding was allocated as follows: €163,322.51 towards community groups and €34,749.47 for women's groups. Applicants have been informed of the outcome of their application under the main Local Enhancement Fund and it is expected that applicants under the LEP Women's Groups Fund will be informed of the outcome soon.

Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan

Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) in collaboration with the LCDC will submit an application in June to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth's (DCEDIY) and DRCD to establish a Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan in Kildare. There will be at least four areas selected nationally under this pilot scheme.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 03 July 2024

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Westbound Bus Priority Measures

Contract signed with Arup for Phases 3 and 4 (Design and Statutory Process) on 26 May 2024 for the M4 Westbound Bus Priority Measures.

M9 Park and Share Scheme

Kildare National Roads Office (NRO) have been asked to get involved in Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Park and Share sites along the National Road Network, initially there were three locations on the M9 indicated to Kildare NRO (Junctions 3,4 and 5). TII have now asked Kildare NRO to assist with Park and Share sites on the N11 and on the N3 at the Meath Cavan border and a further one on the M9 (junction 9). The priority is the M9 and a consultant has prepared



an draft 'Ad Hoc Parking Report' for the M9 for junctions 3 through to 11 based on traffic surveys and windshield surveys on the M9 at junctions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Junctions 3, 4, 5 and (are to be investigated further at this time (the remaining junctions may follow in the future). Kildare NRO will now look at lands available around junctions 3, 4, 5 and 9 and work towards feasibility and options and will liaise with Carlow County Council regarding junction 5 and Kilkenny County Council regarding junction 9.

Upcoming National Road

Temporary Road Closures:

M7 Temporary Road Closure Junctions 12 – 15 (Egis Lagan) from Monday 10 June 2024 and Friday 14 June 2024 and Monday 08 July to Friday 12 July 2024

M7 Temp Road Closure Junctions 12 – 14 (Jons Civil Engineering) between Wednesday 19 June and Friday 30 August 2024

Road Works Speed Limit Orders in place on the National Roads:

M7 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO1-2024. (Junctions 14-12). Until 15 July 2024

M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 02 December 2024

M7 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO4-2024. (Junctions 14-12) – Starting 19 June 2024 until 23 August 2024.

N78 Athy to the M9 Pavement Scheme

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

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Active Travel Severance Seed Funding

Application made to TII for funding for four active travel measures crossing the M7 (one) and the M4 (three), however there have been hundreds of applications from local authorities



around the country and only a small number of projects will receive funding.

ISO Audit

Kildare NRO are ISO accredited and have our next audit by NSAI is scheduled for 24 June 2024

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

The official opening of the project took place on 27 May 2024. Machinery yard outdoor staff and drivers are currently moving to the new building, and this is substantially complete.

A contract has been awarded for consultancy services for traffic management and operational plans for the development, in line with Department of Transport requirements.

A draft traffic management plan has been completed and is under review.

An operational plan for the development has commenced and will be developed over the coming months.

A tender process has been commenced for a teleporter for the new machinery yard.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

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

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

It is expected that the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Planning Consent will be submitted in Q3 2024. DHLGH / URDF team have been kept informed and expect/require a Business Case to be submitted. A draft has been completed and this will be finalised and submitted once the CPO and Planning Consent are submitted.

Murtagh's Corner/ Corban's Lane

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



Maynooth Transport Strategy

The ABTA is complete and is due to be published in June.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

AECOM are finalising the ABTA document ahead of Phase 2 consultation which is due to take place in June 2024.

Junction Programme

Phase 1A and 1B of the Rural Junctions Improvement Project is for the delivery of five separate schemes each (10 in total), which are to be delivered in tandem. Consultants are O'Connor Sutton Cronin (1A) and Clandillon (1B). Option reports have been received for both phases and these are under review by the project teams.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

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

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

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

A design has been prepared by AECOM and a Section 38 public consultation is live at present with a closing date of 14 June.

It is hoped to tender this project in July and start work on the ground before the end of 2024 subject to contractor availability.

Sustainable Transport Section - Projects Update

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

An allocation of €1,500,000 has been received from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to start construction of this scheme in 2024. Discussions continuing with Manor Mills Shopping Centre to agree a temporary works licence and a construction tender will be released on completion in Q3.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

An allocation of €2,750,000 has been received from the NTA and the



construction of this scheme is progressing.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €1,200,000 has been received from the NTA to start construction of this scheme in 2024. The scheme will be tendered in Q3 2024.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. A Section 38 public consultation process has closed and report being prepared for the section of project along the public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge).

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €50,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. The preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €75,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Following the Phase 2 A tender

process to appoint a consultant to progress the Preliminary Design to public consultation has commenced.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Scheme substantially completed.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

An allocation of €225,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024. Site investigations are continuing.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €10,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

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

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

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



Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

An allocation of €150,000 has been received from the NTA in 2024.

Preliminary design commencing on section to Newbridge Railway Station.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes

€140,000 allocation – Straffan National School.

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

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

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes

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

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

€20,000 allocation – Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

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

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

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

Speed Limit Review

Circular 1 RS 01/2024 published by the Department of Transport sets out timescales for implementation of new county bye-laws in accordance with new legislation passed in April 2024.

Local Improvement Scheme

Applications being assessed and processed at present with notifications to be issued during June.

Municipal District Works

Roads Works Programme 2024 has commenced – Restoration Improvement works are ongoing and tender being sought for other schemes i.e. Former National and Climate Resilience works.



All road works are to be uploaded on AMS MapRoad – as is requirement of RMO / DoT – recent Regional meeting refers.

Road Safety schemes are in design - planning stage.

Restoration Maintenance works i.e. Direct Labour surface dressing is due to commence on 04 July and Health and Safety Tool Box talk is to take place in advance

Public Lighting

PLEEP survey works ongoing – approx 30% complete. Design will follow in Quarter 3 2024 and main Retrofit Contract due to start in 2025 – further clarification being sought on timescale.

Significant annual savings on energy and maintenance costs is expected once Contract is complete.

Public Lighting Maintenance Contract Enerveo have served notice that they plan to exit market and not tender for upcoming competition.

Existing faults level on network is as low as 1.4% of total Public lights Closing date for new PL Maintenance tender is 16 May and it is expected that

successful contractor will be notified by mid-June

Open Spaces (Parks)

Allenwood Playground

The playground was officially opened on 31 May by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Darragh Fitzpatrick.

De Burghs Woodland Garden

Resurfacing of the paths in on the site have been completed. New Seating is due to be installed in mid-June.

Information signage for the site will also be installed before the end of June also. Safety fencing around any water hazards is also being installed in the next two weeks.

Sallins Amenity Land

An application for Large Scale Sports Infrastructure is being prepared to fund the implementation of the sporting elements within the masterplan for the site.

Leixlip Playground

Tender assessment to appoint contractors to construct the new playground and car park are nearing



completion. It is hoped to have contractors appointed by the end of the month.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2024, including: An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework; Car Parking Standards; new s28 GPA on Sustainable Residential development and Compact Settlements; Kilcullen Town Plan; Landscape Character Assessment; and Strategic Employment Locations Study. Kildare County Council SuDS Guidelines and Kildare County Council Permeability Guidelines are available on the Council's website.

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentGuidelines/>

The CDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023 was published on the 15 May 2024.

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

- Allotments Strategy.
- Strategic Employment Locations Study
- County Kildare Urban and Regional Parks Strategy.
- Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study.
- Corbally Canal / River Liffey enhancement (Kilcullen to Newbridge) Feasibility Study.
- Active Recreational Infrastructure Study.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

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



Collinstown Masterplan, Leixlip:

Landowner consultation completed. Masterplan being finalised for publication.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP

The Draft LAP and environmental assessments are being finalised. The draft plan will be published in June 2024.

Newbridge LAP

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

Monasterevin LAP

The Pre-Draft Consultation Stage closed on 22 May 2024. 54 submissions have been received from members of the public and prescribed authorities. Approx. 50 people attended the 'drop-in' event at the Monasterevin Council Hall on Thursday 16 May 2024.

Sallins LAP

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

Development Management

ePlanning

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

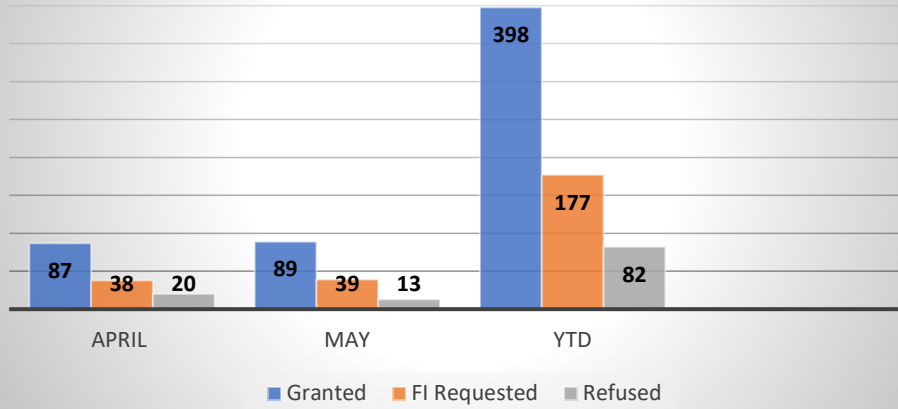
Confirmation of our live status was communicated to planning agents and Elected Members and positively acknowledged.

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

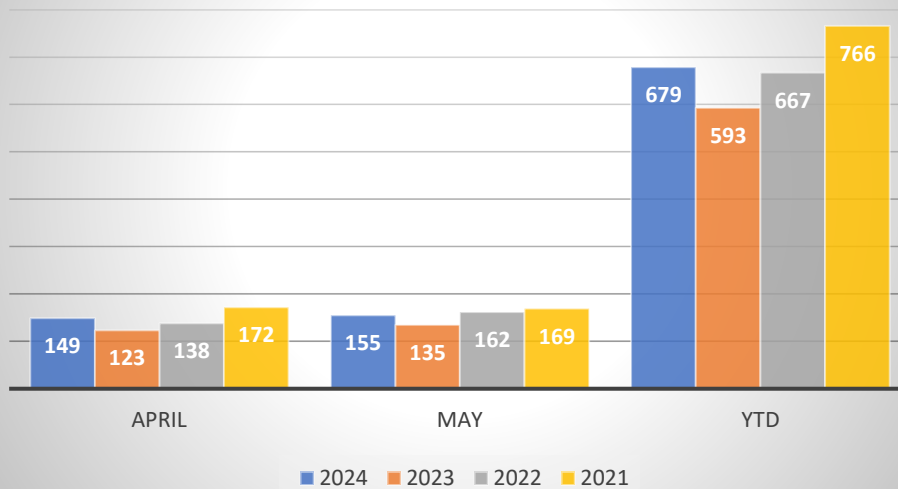
In 2024 to date, 73.56% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.

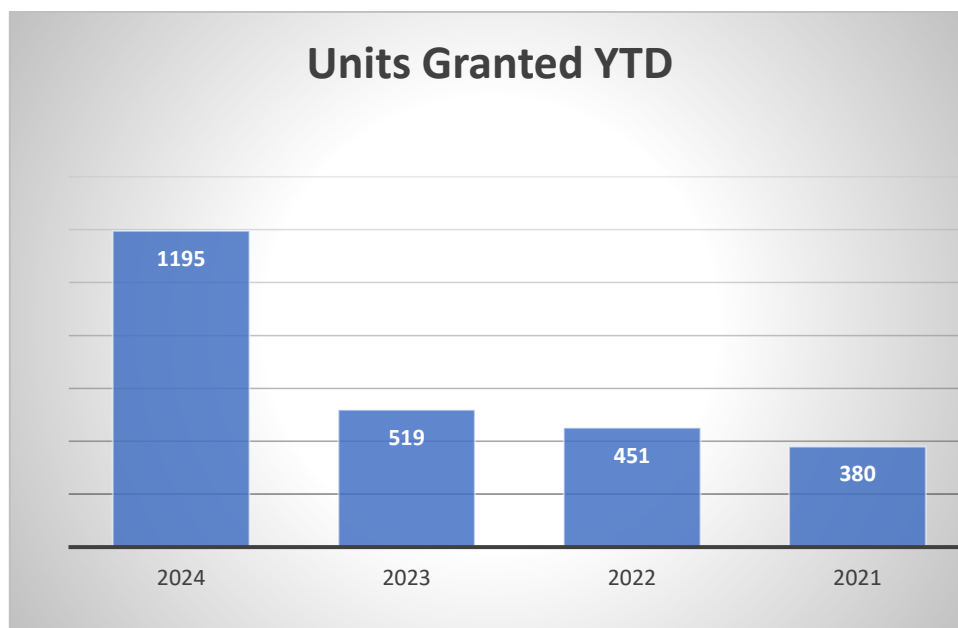


Applications Processed 2024



Applications Received





Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed: Granted on Appeal
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed & Appeal Withdrawn:-Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock,	295	Appealed: Refused on appeal



			Kildare Town		
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed: Granted on appeal. Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date Appealed: Granted on appeal
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crockaun commons Clane	190	Appealed: Appeal withdrawn 29/05/2024. KCC Granted 15/03/2024
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP-307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed: KCC Granted 05/04/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	PreValidation

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Biodiversity Week took place during the week ending 26 May. The numerous, mostly free, events were well attended, and very positive feedback has been received.

Work is progressing on the four projects that have been awarded funding under the ‘Heritage Council Biodiversity Action Plan Fund’ (€16,750)

Work is progressing on the ten projects that have been awarded funding (€100,000).



B. Heritage - Progress Updates

Work is progressing on four projects that have received funding (€359,500) under the 'Community Monuments Fund'. A visit to Kildare Tower (one of the CMF projects) was undertaken by Minister Malcolm Noonan on 28 May. The Minister was very impressed with the work undertaken to date and would like to visit the site again when all works are complete later this year.

Work is progressing on the four Heritage Plan related projects that have, cumulatively, received funding of €37,500.

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

1. St. David's Castle, Naas

The Conservation Management Plan for St. David's has now been completed.

2. Cassidy's Distillery, Monasterevin

The Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy's site has now been completed. It is timely that the review of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan has now commenced which will provide the 'statutory' link for the CMP.

Heritage Training Series

Heritage Training commenced on 24 April with a session titled 'Biodiversity and its links with Climate Change' by Dr. Meabh Boylan (Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer). 70 Kildare County Council staff attended (in person and online).

On 22 May, Bridget Loughlin (Heritage Officer) gave a presentation titled 'An introduction to Appropriate Assessment screening'

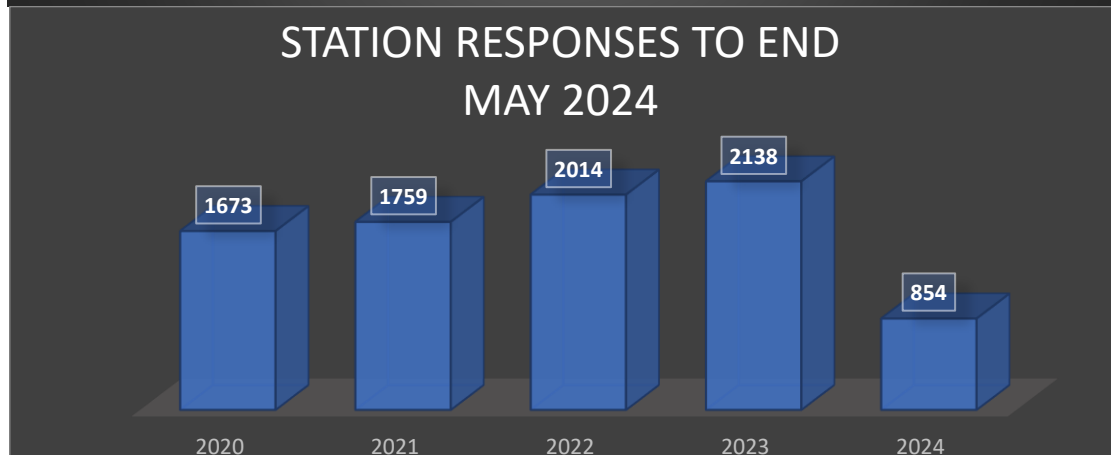
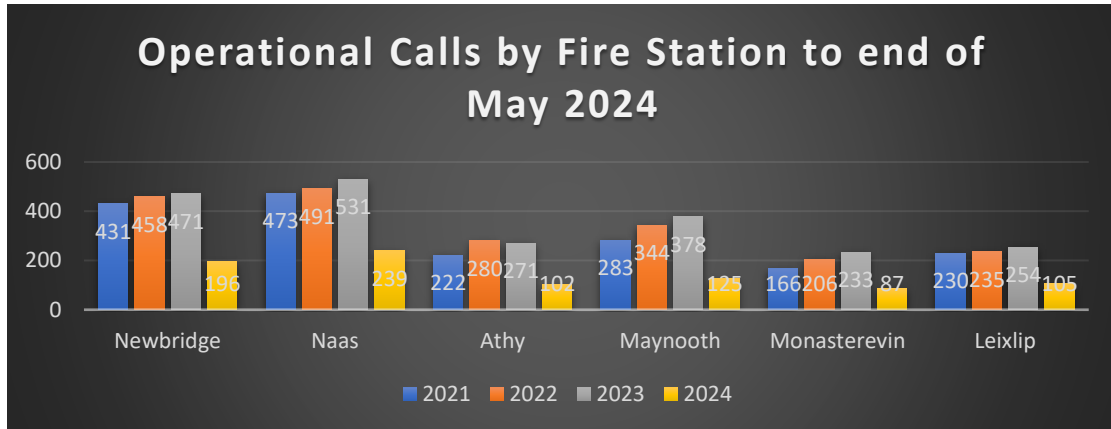
On 12 June, Ruth Gaj McKeever (LAWPRO) will give a presentation titled 'Local Authority Waters Programme – Structures and Opportunities'

The Heritage Team also screened the documentary 'Birdsong' for Kildare County Council staff in the Council Chamber during lunchtime on both 21 May and 23 May. Both sessions were well attended and for those who missed the screening they can view the documentary on RTE player where it was shown last weekend.



Fire Service Operations

2024 Summary



Fire Safety Certificates

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

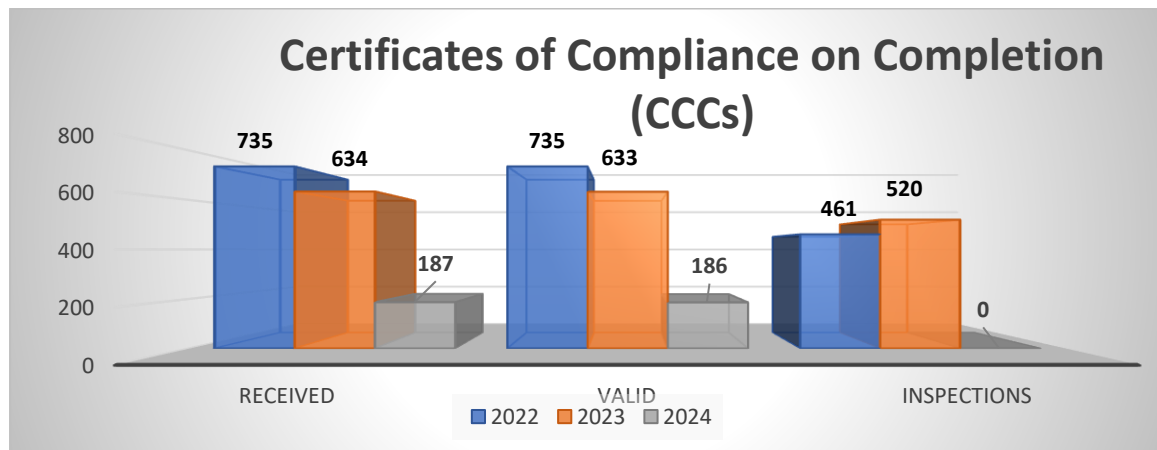
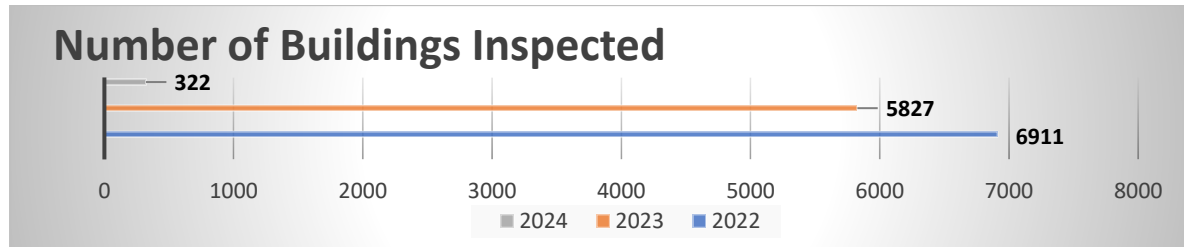


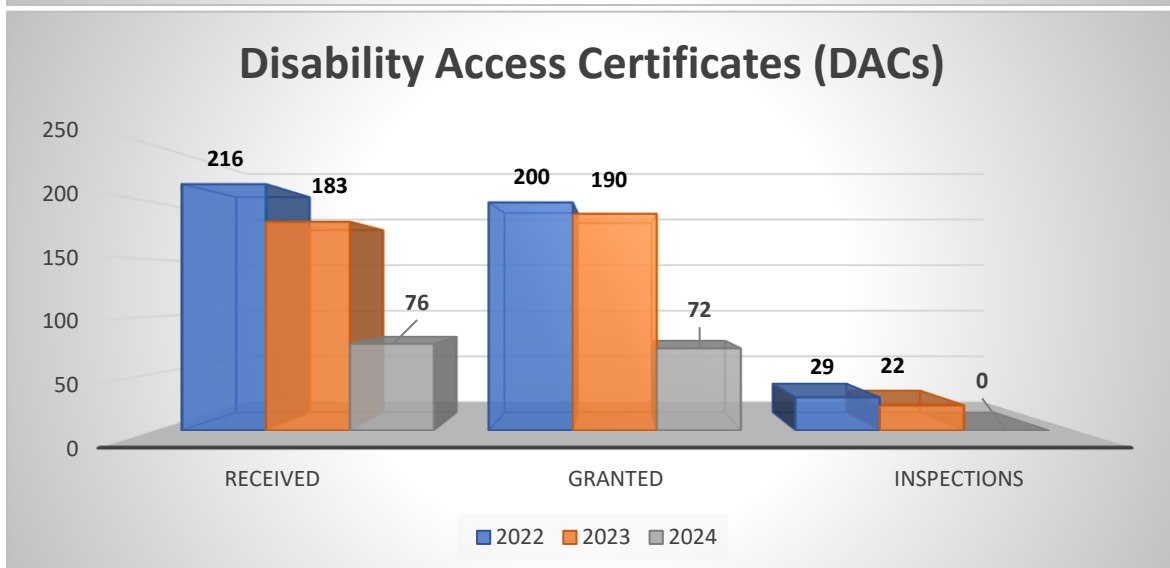
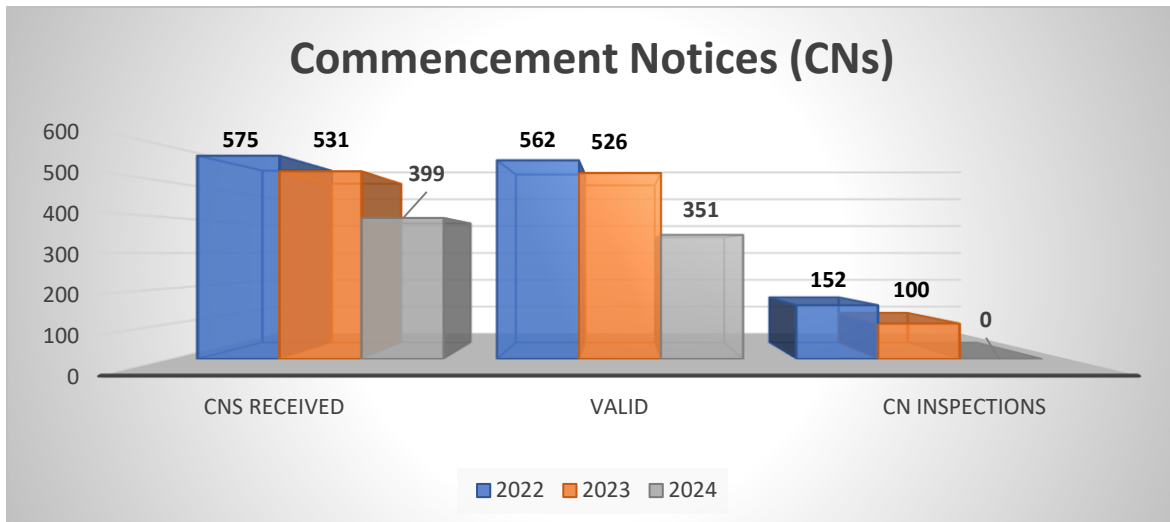


Building and Development Control

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

Building Control





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

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Key activities that took place this month in County Kildare included Punchestown, the launch of Taste of Kildare Festival and the National

Famine Walk. In County Dublin, Into Kildare represented the county at Bord Bia Bloom connecting with many individuals and organisations Into Kildare (IK) attended Punchestown as an attendee at



Killashee Hotels' corporate day where a lot of members were also present.



Representative from Killashee Hotel, Newbridge Silverware with Aine Mangan

Social media campaigns ran highlighting Punchestown and the Taste of Kildare Festival was advertised by the parade ring to the national and international market.

The quarterly members event and official launch of the third Taste of Kildare Food and Drink Festival, brought to you by Into Kildare took place at Naas Racecourse on the 16 May.

Into Kildare Chief Executive Officer Aine Mangan welcomed over 80

people from the tourism and hospitality sector along with local businesses, sponsors and media.

Also attended was the Cathaoirleach of County Kildare and other council members.



Gary O'Hanlon, Daragh Fitzpatrick-Cathaoirleach of County Kildare, Aine Mangan, Paul Lenehan and David Mongey

At the launch a panel of experts provided information to the audience on the opportunities available including dining opportunities, masterclasses, workshops, and a producers village.

The launch was a great success which gained much coverage on radio, press and social.

Ongoing sponsorship and planning meeting are taking place and Into Kildare are delighted to announce that Kildare County Council and the Local Enterprise Office have confirmed their sponsorship.



Derry Clarke, Jacqui McNabb, Gary O'Hanlon, Aine Mangan with Kildare Chefs.

The National Famine Way Commemorative Walk took place over six days, traversing six counties, from Monday 20 May to Saturday 25 May 2024. Into Kildare welcomed the walking group into County Kildare on behalf of Kildare County Council at Kilcock Harbour on Friday 24 May.

The walking group was led by the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Eamonn McKee and representatives of the Liverpool Irish Famine Trail to mark the launch of the Global Irish Famine Way which is hoped to become an annual event



Breda Smyth and Peter Kinch

Bloom Festival

A stand was secured at the Bloom Festival in Phoenix Park from the 30 May – 03 June for the second year running. Planning and preparation took place throughout April and May with the event taking place for five days over the June Bank Holiday. Into Kildares' presence at Bloom allowed it's members to attend and promote their offerings along with the Into Kildare team who represented and promoted County Kildare through the distribution of their brochure. A number of partners participated in this event which is expected to welcome 100,000 visitors.

This event was a great opportunity to promote the Taste of Kildare festival and KPMG Womans Irish Open,



another key event happening in the county in August.

Into Kildare organised a number of competitions, with prizes generously donated from our members, in the Irish Times and other Taste of Kildare competitions. These activities engaged with the nation through print and online.

Into Kildare coordinated an itinerary of activities to showcase some of the region's prominent attractions for travel writer Isabel Conway who stayed at Kilkea Castle and visited Newbridge Silverware and Kildare Heritage Centre.



Isabel and family with representatives from Kildare Heritage Centre and Into Kildare

Chief Executive Officer, Aine Mangan, was interviewed by Isabel for the Daily Mail.

Planning and preparations are underway by the Into Kildare team in collaboration with Dublin Convention Bureau / Failte Ireland for UK sales missions.

Into Kildare, Chief Executive Officer was invited to attend the launch of “Princess Diana’s Elegance and A Royal Collection” in the Museum of Style Icons at Newbridge Silverware



William Doyle and Aine Mangan

Into Kildare also met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss future opportunities and collaborations.



Enterprise and Economic Development

Total LEO Financial Supports direct to Clients at 28.05.2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant .	30	€63,863
Business Expansion Grant	4	€93,297
Priming Grant	1	€29,910
Feasibility Study Grant	3	€36,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	8	€17,131
IP Start grant	4	€8,640
Energy Efficiency Grant	1	€5,000
Total	51	€254,794

Business Expansion Grants Approved in May:

Burke Bros. joinery Limited (Kildare / Newbridge Municipal District) approved €30,000 to support the recruitment of two new employees. The business manufactures gates, doors, and sash windows.

The Nude Wine Company Limited (Naas Municipal District) approved €12,500 to support the recruitment of a new employee to advance their expansion into export market in conjunction with development of a new App to provide global training on wine education.

Priming Grants Approved in May: Retain and Grow Limited (Athy Municipal District) approved €29,910 to support development of an App integrating AI to assist large corporates improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

Bespoke Offsite Manufacturing Limited (Clane/ Maynooth Municipal District) was approved €2,160 in IP Start Grant to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property



protection by undertaking trademark research and filing.

Grant Process Online Briefing:

This monthly briefing transparently outlines the grant process and includes a tutorial on how to prepare financial projections for your business. Link to reserve a place -

[Understanding the Grant Process - 13 June - Local Enterprise Office - Kildare](#)

Entrepreneurship Support Achievement Of KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	901
SYOB	160	151
MDP	72	38
Mentoring	468	264
Digital	7	5
Lean	20	26
Green	20	46

Focus On Start-Ups:

Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#). To date 144 clients have received 1-1 start-up business advice.

Kildare Company Wins National Enterprise Awards:

DreamDev Technologies Limited was announced the overall winner of The National Enterprise Awards, 2024.



DreamDev, a software company based in MERITS, has developed a new AI augmented platform helping companies to significantly increase their product’s time to market. Established by Naas-based Eoin Barry, DreamDev are the 03 Kildare winner of the National Enterprise of the Year Award in the last six years following on from Terra NutriTech in 2018 and Pestle and Mortar in 2019.

Focus On Women In Business:

15 female entrepreneurs participated in workshop on Scaling a Service Based Business on 14 May.



Sector-specific examples of scaling



success stories were provided. It is hoped that these female-led businesses will now adopt digital solutions to scale their businesses.

Focus On Craft And Creative:

Expressions of interest are sought for individual brands, or groups who wish to operate the Southwell's unit as a pop up.

Proposals are welcomed from business owners whose product is made in Kildare, or whose brand originates from Kildare.



The exterior signage will read Created in Kildare and the first group of businesses will occupy the unit in advance of the Dubai Derby.



Expressions of Interest are sought from the craft sector to exhibit at Showcase 2025. Applications can be submitted online [HERE](#).

Focus On Lean:

Members of the Creative Cluster joined a factory tour of CarveOn in Kilcullen.

Through a continuous commitment to lean processes and process improvement, Carve On is as close to automated as a hand-made business can be.





Local Enterprise Office Kildare continues to accept applications for businesses who want assistance to implement Lean [HERE](#).

Focus On Manufacturing: Creative Cluster joined a factory tour of NutracoPack in Celbridge to see production automation in practice.



They then visited CELTEC Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics lab in Celbridge to explore the facility and its training opportunities.

Focus On Sustainability:

Businesses in all sectors with up to 50 employees are encouraged to apply for the Energy Efficiency Grant.



The aim of the Energy Efficiency Grant is to support businesses in their investment in technologies and equipment to support their sustainability journey.

This scheme prioritises reducing the impact of enterprises on the environment and in turn increase the agility and resilience of these businesses.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#) or contact localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	1	€72
CBLX	2	€1,916
CLMN	3	€6,700



KDNB	12	€11,230
NAAS	7	€6,100

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024 remain open for applications.

Retail Engagement



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

Retail Series:

Hosted a merchandising masterclass in Southwell's, Kildare Town to train and assist businesses in window merchandising for the Dubai Derby. May webinar on sustainability in retail May with a second webinar on the

digital revolution to be held on 10 June – [BOOK HERE](#)

The Economic Development team will undertake a roadshow to Kilcullen on the 26 June to engage businesses on available supports.

Skills Audit

As part of our comprehensive skills audit, Economic Development team circulated a skills survey among business owners to identify critical skills gaps and find what skills are required by businesses across the county.

This stakeholder engagement will be concluded by end-June and will inform Kildare County Council's strategic employment/ industrial land study. KPMG will then work to deliver a



comprehensive report to determine a strategy for the County by July 2024.

[CONTRIBUTE TO THE SKILLS AUDIT HERE](#)

Kildare Diaspora Engagement Strategy

The second quarterly newsletter ([link](#)) has been distributed to its members. This included details of cultural events such as the Brigid 1500 festivities, as well as business news such as construction beginning on the Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub



Construction works have officially commenced on 13 May 2024. Site set-up has been fully completed. Dilapidation condition surveys, and asbestos surveys have been completed with supporting reports. Protection inspections were carried out

identifying salvageable structural items (doors/windows, flagstones, etc).

Hoarding licences progressed allowing works to commence on the demolition of the boundary wall to create planned new entrances. Wall realignment works envisaged to commence for week ending May/start of June.



An invitation has been circulated to stakeholders in the food and beverage sector in Kildare to Clonard Court on 28 June at 9:30am as we share the vision for The Athy Food, Drink, and Skills Innovation Hub.

Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare and Southwell's Unit

A suite of contract documents to be developed to procure an architect-led detail design contract for the development. Subject to planning and development regulations, tender package will be published to align with



an appropriate funding mechanism once identified.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

Capital funding for the proposed development of the former BOI building has been secured. A suite of contract documents has been developed to procure an architect-led detail design contract for the development. Tender documents to be peer reviewed. Subject to planning and development regulations, it is anticipated that the tender package will be published in Q3/Q4 2024.

Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Kildare County Council; applied to the EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, as managed by Pobal in late January.

The application seeks to commission a master plan and technical support to achieve full planning, procurement, and a strategic business plan for the proposed development of the site as a 'Sustainable Growth Business Park'.

Awaiting confirmation from Pobal on application status.

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Economic Development completed a training session in May to accredit to accredit Life Credit Union with Age Friendly certification.



Economic Development will continue to work closely with Kildare County Council Age Friendly Team and Age Friendly Ireland to roll out a further training session in the coming months.

Erasmus+ Young Equine Innovators





The first onsite meeting for the Erasmus+ project was held at Holar University, Iceland, in late May. We are working with its university as well as project partners from Ireland, Sweden and Denmark to deliver the objectives of the project which is aimed at enabling pathways of innovation in Europe's equine industry with a special focus on young innovators and trainers.

Kildare County Council Industrial Estate Enhancement

Signage infrastructure for three of the industrial sites have been manufactured and are to be supplied and erected by June. It is anticipated the contractor's works will be completed to align with signage erection including greening and final enhancements.

Tourism

During the month of May the Tourism team held two information nights (Clane and Castledermot) and one webinar on the EU Just Transition Tourism fund.

Through the fund 41 potential applicants from Kildare were engaged,

including 31 businesses and ten Community Enterprises. Of these, ten Expressions of Interest were deemed eligible and one application for the fund has already been submitted.

There are currently 15 expressions of interest awaiting assessment by Failte Ireland.

The Tourism team facilitated a meeting between Kildare County Council's Planning department and Coillte to discuss collaboration to enhance tourism and Forrest Recreation.

K-Hub Activity:

MERITS in Naas hosted a number of training and capability-development programmes in May including a Masterclass in UX and UI Design.

MERITS continues to facilitate a pilot Coder-Dojo project and the most recent iteration of the MERITS-led, LEO Tech PreAccelerator Programme commenced in May with 14 founders taking part.

MERITS also welcomed visits from two separate delegations - a group from Shandong Province in China and a separate group from Tulsa State University in Oklahoma.



The Hub team attended the Dublin Tech Summit 2024 in the RDS, networking and collaborating with thought leaders and founders from the tech industry.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive