



Chief Executive's Management Report – January, 2022

Kildare County Council Services and Arrangements



Access to Public Offices

The Council's COVID-19 Team working with the Council's Business Continuity Group continue to support Management Team to apply the relevant public health advice in relation to the management of COVID-19 in our workplaces while continuing service delivery in a safe and sustainable manner across Council facilities/premises.

As outlined in *Reframing the Challenge: Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting*, important and necessary public health guidance remains in place. This includes the requirement for physical distancing, the wearing of masks and appropriate ventilation along with the continued requirement for self-isolation / restricted movements for those with symptoms. These requirements remain as a core component of our response to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In line with Government guidance staff continue to work remotely where possible and attend at the office only where it is necessary to do so.

With restrictions and remote working continuing through the current phase of *Reframing the Challenge: Continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting* access to our public offices is by appointment only.

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



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

Appointments where necessary will be facilitated but must be made in advance at <http://kildare.ie/county council/OnlineBookingSystem/>

You can continue to conduct business online at www.kildarecoco.ie or email customerservice@kildarecoco.ie or Phone 045 980 200.

Please do not attend our offices without an appointment. Your co-operation is appreciated.

All meetings are online for the present. Notice of dates and times of statutory meetings continue to issue on social media.

Where Meetings of Kildare County Council are taking place on-line Members of the public and the press may request to attend these meetings by emailing meetings@kildarecoco.ie.



News Items

Opening of New Lyreen Avenue and Lyreen Bridge in Maynooth

The new Lyreen Avenue and Lyreen Bridge officially opened to traffic on Monday 20 December (see page 7 and 58).

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards

Naas has been awarded the top spot in the 2021 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League's cleanest towns (see page 7 and 39).

Enjoying Christmas and Reducing Waste

Kildare County Council rolled out a Christmas Waste campaign (see page 8).

Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Department finalised the Housing Delivery Action Plan which was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in December (see page 11).

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

This strategy was launched on 14 January. (see page 13).

Local Authority Home Loan

A new loan came into effect on 04 January 2022, replacing Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (see page 22).

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

Kildare County Council has launched an awareness campaign reminding every household and commercial premises in Kildare of their responsibility to minimise, manage and dispose of their waste (see page 35).

Green Kilometre Scheme

The Kildare Green Kilometres has been shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Local Authority Awards under the Sustainability category (see page 39).



Digital Strategy for Kildare

Work has now commenced to develop a Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare (see page 58).

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) (see page 59).

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative (see page 71).

LEADER Programme

Applications are now being sought from individuals, businesses and community groups/organisations seeking grant aid to progress enterprise, community development and environmental initiatives (see page 71).

Allenwood Playground

A tender for initial site clearance of scrub to facilitate the playground has been completed and the work is due to be carried out in February (see page 78).

Spring Training Programmes 2022 Launched

LEO Kildare has launched the official Spring 2022 Brochure of Training Programmes (see page 80).

Flavours of Kildare Food Network

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food Network as part of an ongoing effort to harness the power of the 'collective' and to ensure that unique food and drink heritage in the county benefits from the attention it deserves (see page 80).

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses in County Kildare can avail of two full days of consultancy costs worth €1,800, a unique opportunity to cut harmful emissions and make significant energy, waste, water and other savings through this programme (see page 81).



Diary/Calendar

Annual Political Donation Declarations

Forms for Statutory Declarations are due back to Members Services by 31 January (see page 9).

Annual Ethics Declaration

Completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2022 (see page 10).

Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

The deadline for completion of approved work under the Scheme has been extended to 31 January 2022 (see page 16).

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

The 2022 schedule of clinics has not yet been received from Irish Water but the first one is expected to be held in March. (see page 35).

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022 (see page 37).

Community Grants Schemes 2022

Community, festival, Drechtid and residents' associations grants will be advertised at the end of January. Closing date for online applications all schemes will be Friday 11 March (see page 70).

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

The national deadline for receipt of applications is 28 February 2022 (see page 71).

St Brigid's Day 2022 -Brigid 1500

Events for St. Brigid's Day Tuesday 01 February 2022 (see page 76).



31 Jan 15:00 Full Council ; On Line	1 Feb 10:00 CDP County Kildare Small Towns and Villages Strategy and... 14:00 Briefing for councillors on the Eastern Midlands Regional ...	2	3 11:30 Local Community and Culture SPC; On line 14:00 Transportation SPC; On Line	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth Monthly meeting ; On line
7 14:30 Finance Committee ; On Line	8 15:30 Naas Municipal District Monthly meeting; On Line	9 10:00 Climate Action SPC 14:30 Environmental Services and Water Services SPC	10 10:00 Housing SPC 14:30 Audit Committee TBC; on Line	11
14	15	16 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly meeting 15:00 Coiste Gaelige	17	18 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District
21 10:00 Athy Municipal district Monthly Meeting 14:00 CPG	22 09:00 KWETB	23	24 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee	25
28 15:00 Kildare County Council Monthly Meeting	1 Mar	2	3 10:30 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee LTACC	4 09:00 Clane Maynooth JPC 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate Services.....	7
Finance and Information Technology	10
Housing	11
Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm	23
Water Services, Environment and Climate Action	33
Environment	35
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	58
Building and Development Control	66
Economic, Community and Cultural Development	70
Local Community Development Committee January 2022.....	70
Kildare Fáilte	72
Library and Arts Service	74
Parks	78
Local Enterprise Office (LEO)	79



Corporate Services

Communications



Opening of New Lyreen Avenue and Lyreen Bridge in Maynooth

The new Lyreen Avenue and Lyreen Bridge officially opened to traffic on Monday 20 December. Lyreen Avenue, which connects the Moyglare and Dunboyne Roads is approx. 800 metres in length and includes new cycle tracks, footpaths, crossing facilities as well as signalises junctions at the Dunboyne Road and Moyglare Road.

Kildare County Council press office, in collaboration with Cairn Homes plc held a small photocall on site to mark the official opening. In attendance was Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare along with representatives of the project teams from Kildare County Council and Cairn.

Local print and broadcast media covered the announcement in addition to promotion across the Kildare County

Council website and social media channels.



Naas Named Ireland's Cleanest Town

Kildare County Council was delighted to welcome the announcement on Tuesday 04 January that Naas has been named as the cleanest town in Ireland for 2021 by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL).

An Taisce, who conduct the surveys on behalf of IBAL found every site examined in Naas to be 'virtually free of litter'. The 'spotless' waterside environment at Harbour View,



Fairgreen Recycle Facility and Shopping Arcade off North Main Street came in for particular praise.



Kildare County Council, in collaboration with IBAL hosted a photocall on Tuesday 04 January for the official prize giving. There was significant local and national media coverage of the event, including RTE, Virgin Media and TG4 news.



Enjoying Christmas and Reducing Waste!

It will come as a surprise to few to hear that at Christmas time households generate the most waste and throw out the most food. It's also the time when we see some very expensive foods make their way to the brown bin. The average family throws out approx. €700 worth of food every year.

Kildare County Council rolled out a Christmas Waste campaign, to highlight the issue, provide information and stop food waste. This included publishing a 'Stop Food Waste' guide with information, tips and resources to

help avoid food waste around Christmas.

The campaign also includes information about how to responsibly dispose of your Christmas tree when the festive season comes to an end, highlighting the seven sites across Kildare where people can bring their Christmas tree and it will be mulched for free.

The campaign included local media engagement – both editorial and advertising as well as an extensive social media campaign throughout the Christmas period.

Register of Electors Value Your Vote

The Live Electoral Register for 2022/23 will come into force on 15 February 2022

and the public can check their registration at:

www.checktheregister.ie.

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



Freedom of Information

Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2021	Total received Quarter 2, 2021	Total received Quarter 3, 2021	Total received Quarter 4, 2021	Total 2021
Freedom of Information requests	35	40	50	33	158
Freedom of Information appeals	0	0	1	0	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	8	5	18	5	36
Ombudsman	5	5	16	7	33

Members Services

Annual Political Donation

Declarations

Forms for Statutory Declarations related to Political Donation statements have issued to the members by email and are due back to Members Services by 31 January. These forms can be returned by email.

Annual Ethics Declaration

On 04 January 2022, the Ethics Registrar (Ger Maher) issued notices

to all Councillors and Relevant Employees via email regarding their obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to submit an annual written declaration containing particulars of their declarable interests. Copies of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and blank 2022 declaration forms were appended to his email.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that Councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors and that they understand its meaning, and an undertaking to have regard to



and be guided by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in the exercise of their functions.

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

Meetings

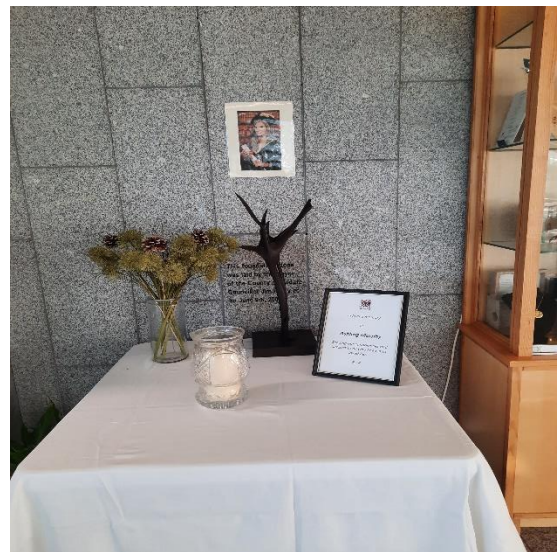
Meetings of Kildare County Council were held online during the month of December and continue online. The members of Kildare County Council approved appointments to the SPCs and Other Bodies at their December meeting. Details of the membership of Committees and Other Bodies can be located [here](#).

Book of Condolence

The Cathaoirleach opened an online Book of Condolence for the late Ashling Murphy, to offer condolence to Ashling's family and to all those who knew and loved her. The elected members gathered at 4pm on Friday 14 January at Áras Chill Dara to remember Ashling.



The staff of Kildare County Council observed a minutes silence at 4:00p.m. in remembrance also.



Finance and Information Technology

Finance

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2020 is currently being prepared.



Housing

Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness

The programme of delivery of social housing under the Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, came to a conclusion at the end of 2021. Under the programme Kildare County Council received a target for social housing delivery of 2,426 units. Over the four years of the programme, 2018-2021, the council delivered a total of 2,697 social housing units across the county, thereby exceeding our target by 271 units. The council would like to acknowledge the support of the elected members, the Housing SPC and the work of the staff across the housing department in meeting, and exceeding, the delivery target set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Work has already begun on delivering on the targets set under the new Housing Programme; Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland. Kildare County Council has been set a target to deliver 2,416 social housing units across the five years of the

delivery programme. In addition, the council will be charged with delivery of affordable housing units under the Housing for All programme.

Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland

The Housing Department finalised the Housing Delivery Action Plan which was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in December. The action plan deals with social and affordable housing delivery targets; the social housing targets are laid down by the DHLGH and the affordable targets are derived from the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. An update on the draft plan was provided at the December meeting of the Housing SPC.

The LGMA on behalf of the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office issued a national press release and social media information on Monday 22 November to identify un-commenced residential developments. The campaign was aimed at developers and builders with turnkey units (10 to 150 units), where planning permission has been granted but is un-commenced. Primarily the campaign



will be aimed at affordable housing delivery however social housing delivery can also be considered. A local media campaign will be launched by Kildare County Council in Quarter 1 2022 to identify un-commenced residential developments in the county.

Mid-East Region Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) Forum

A meeting of the Mid East Region Forum (Kildare County Council, Meath County Council, Wicklow County Council) took place on the 12 January 2022. AHBs working across the three counties were invited to attend. The forum received a presentation on Housing for All delivery targets, Cost Rental, the procedure for claiming funds and the annual compliance process. There was also a discussion regarding the allocation process.

Amendments to the Tenant Purchase Scheme

Amendments to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 come into effect from 01 February 2022 – Circular Housing 01/2022 refers.

The Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 will give effect to the following amendments which include:

Minimum income requirements: The minimum income required for an applicant to be eligible to apply under the scheme has been revised downward from €15,000 per annum to €12,500 per annum.

Time receiving social housing supports: The period of time tenants will be required to be in receipt of social housing support to be considered eligible under the scheme has been changed from one to ten years. In the case of joint tenancies, both tenants must be in receipt of social housing support for at least ten years before being eligible to apply. Clarity on scheme eligibility that applicants must have received social housing support for a period of ten years has been sought from the DHLGH.

Affordable Housing Delivery

Tuath Housing Association have received approval for the delivery of Cost Rental Units in Walkers Gate, Kildare (40 units) and Belin Woods,



Newbridge (50 units). Both schemes are due for delivery in 2022.

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

This strategy was launched on 14 January. The vision for the Strategy is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live. It aims to promote their inclusion in the community and to further enable equal access for disabled people to housing, with integrated support services.

Homeless Services

Homeless presentations remain high with increased presentations from families.

Update from National Homeless Leads Meeting

The National Homeless Leads Covid meeting was held on 11 January; no positive cases of COVID-19 reported in emergency accommodation at the time of the meeting. In addition to the impact of COVID-19 concerns were raised across the regions in relation to a number of issues including, increased presentations, particularly by families, lack of availability of

private rented properties resulting in reduced numbers of exits from homeless services and limited options for intervention in terms of homeless prevention, HAP rates increasingly unsatisfactory to meet the rents being asked.

Tenancy Support

There are currently 50 active tenancy support cases in the county with 12 additional cases being supported by the Homeless HAP Placefinder to address arrears in order to sustain tenancies.

Homeless HAP (HHAP)

There continues to be a significant slow down in the availability of properties for HHAP in the County. There were two new HHAP tenancies for the month of December.

The Placefinder has also joined the Outreach Team in engaging with members of the public in resource centres and is providing guidance for the HAP and Homeless HAP process.

Kildare County Council Homeless Outreach

The Outreach Team continues to engage with rough sleepers and, through this work, have reduced the



number of rough sleepers from 18 to 14. This work is a Key Added Value Action to be achieved in the Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2023.

Three street-work sessions were completed in Kilcock, Maynooth and Newbridge which resulted in a further 14 individuals engaging in services.

Family Hubs

Santa visited the two family hubs on Saturday, 18 December with a gift for each child. In collaboration with the Library Service a gift pack was distributed to all children in the

homeless and tenancy sustainment service.

Shared Housing

Two shared housing units are currently in operation in the county, with three male and two female clients in occupation.

Supports and tenancy management is being provided by Teach Íosa and consideration will be given to extending this service in 2022.

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 December 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	17	25	32
6 - 12 Months	9	11	13
12 - 18 Months	5	6	5
18 - 24 Months	4	5	5
24 - 30 Months	3	4	3
36 Months +	4	8	8
	42	59	66

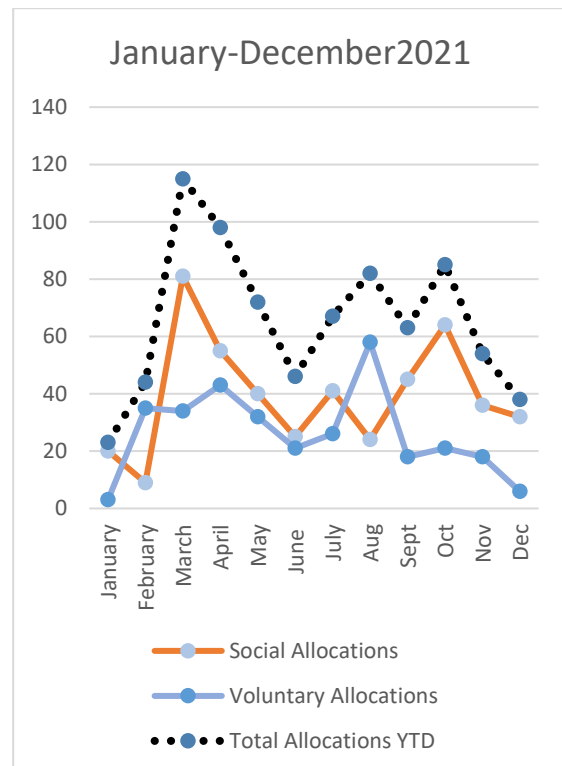


Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 December 2021

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	1	1	2
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	0	0	0
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	4	6	8
+ 36 Months	6	10	16
	11	17	26

Number of Allocations

Allocations continued in December and included allocations to Kildare County Council and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) units. All allocations took place within the controls and restrictions of COVID-19. 472 social housing units and 315 AHB units were allocated in 2021.





Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Tenancies

447 new tenancies were set up during the year. A total of 2,320 active tenancies were in place at year end. The number of new tenancies in 2021 is a significant reduction on the number set up in previous years, the limited supply of units and high rents being sought are impacting on housing applicants securing private rented accommodation.

Traveller Community

Traveller accommodation continues to demand resources in terms of both the halting sites and roadside encampments. Demands on the

council's social work service is high and the team are maintaining daily contact with traveller families, particularly those who may be at risk or vulnerable.

The next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) will take place on 03 March next.

Applications under the Self-Help Scheme 2021

Due to current COVID-19 related restrictions, the deadline for completion of approved work under the Scheme has been extended to 31 January 2022.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Engagement ongoing with DHLGH with regard to retendering this project, possibly Q1 2022.
Approval Stage 3		
Coill Dubh	10 units	Approval Stage 3 received July 2021 with conditions. Response to conditions issued to DHLGH on 1st October before tender will be approved for advertising. Awaiting response from the DHLGH.
Approval Stage 2		



St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 2 submitted October 2021. Awaiting DHLGH approval.
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Stage 2 submitted for approval November 2021. Awaiting response from the DHLGH.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Stage 2 approval received October 2021. Preparation of Part 8 documents progressing. Expected Part 8 launch Q1 2022.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 1 approval received. Consultant's tender being prepared to advance scheme to Part 8.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	57 units	Stage 2 and Design Team tender documentation in preparation.
St Evin's Park Monasterevin	16 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH Q2 2022. Redesign required after acoustic consultant's feedback.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	Volumetric Framework 64 units	Stage 2 submitted for approval November 2021. Awaiting response from the DHLGH.
Andrew, Athy	8 units	Traveller Accommodation Programme Stage 1 approval received with a number of conditions regarding costs. Review of approval ongoing.
Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Stage 1 application submitted to DHLGH August 2021. Preparation of design team tender documentation commenced in anticipation of Stage 1 approval.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Part 8 to launch Q1 2022.
Glandore, Athy	5 units	Stage 2 submitted for approval November 2021. Awaiting response from the DHLGH.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Finalising preparation of Part 8 documentation for launch Q1 2022.
Shamrock Stores, Athy	1 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Application for stage 1 & 2 approval for new unit being prepared for submission to DHLGH.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Nancy's Lane, Clane	77 units	Completed 16 November 2021
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	Part 8 launched 30 November 2021

Approved Housing Body Schemes

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

Approved Housing Body Schemes - Capital Assistance Scheme

Approved Housing Body	No. of Units	Updated Status
KARE Craddockstown	3 units	Part 8 agreed by Naas Municipal District Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2021. Stage 3 information submitted by KARE currently under review by KCC.
Sofia Housing St. John's Convent Rathangan	27 units	Meeting held with Sophia at end of August. Proposed unit numbers reduced to 27.
Cluid Dominican Lands Athy	31 units	CAS2 application submitted to the DHLGH October 2021. Requests from the DHLGH to increase density to improve viability of scheme. Increased density agreed in principle with Planning [December 2021]. Road and carparking layout to reflect public realm objectives for this area. Cluid updating drawings. Return submission to the DHLGH expected Q1 2022.



The Peter McVerry Trust Sallins	4 units	Revised proposal for 4 units submitted for review in March 2021 and discussed with DHLGH technical staff. Pre-planning meeting held. Combined stage 1 & 2 CAS application information submitted and currently under review by KCC.
---------------------------------	---------	--

Acquisitions

	Completed Units 2018	Completed Units 2019	Completed units 2020	Completed 2021
Housing Acquisitions	186	231	39	46
Housing Turnkeys	39	81	107	27
Part V Acquisitions	30	67	41	98
Total complete	255	379	187	171

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2021	22	44	57	23	25
Properties Leased Year to Date (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	21	62	20	45	186

Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting and National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Location	Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
Beechgrove, Rathangan	MEERP	14	Phase 1 Beechgrove: Works ongoing; 4 Units well advanced.
Ashgrove, Derrinturn	MEERP	21	Works progressing well, circa. 16 of 18 houses substantially complete, final snag to be carried out before sign-off.
Bishopsland, Kildare	MEERP	38	Phase 3 Bishopsland/Farrincooley/Dunmurry: Letter of acceptance ready to issue, start date to be confirmed prior to issue of LoA. Expect to commence Q1 2022.
St Evin's Park, Mionasterevin	MEERP	15	Phase 4 St Evins' Park: Works commenced.



Cill Corban, Naas	EERP	10	First 5 units completed; and works to remaining 5 units has commenced
Clonmullion, Athy	EERP	14	Letter of acceptance ready to issue, start date to be confirmed prior to issue of LoA. Expect to commence Q1 2022.
Loughnamona, Leixlip	EERP	39	Letter of acceptance issued; builder to commence site set-up week of 10 th January.
Vacants	MEERP/EERP	24	Retrofit works to vacant units is ongoing

Homeless Presentations 2021

2020	Cases	Unique	Repeats
Total	1179	348	831
2021	Total Cases	Unique	Repeats
Quarter 1	300	85	215
Quarter 2	337	77	260
Quarter 3	308	66	242
Quarter 4	289	76	213
Total	1234	304	930

Homeless Presentations: Unique Presentations Breakdown

2020	Adults	Dependents
Total	390	316
2021	Adults	Dependents
Quarter 1	95	63
Quarter 2	91	80
Quarter 3	81	78
Quarter 4	96	89
Total	363	310

Social Housing Applications

2020	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Total	237	75	705	8	171
2021	Existing Housing file updates	Transfer Requests	New valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals
Q1 2021	18	17	181	2	26
Q2 2021	39	24	241	1	31
Q3 2021	17	26	103	1	50
Q4 2021	7	12	121	2	44
Total	81	79	646	6	151



Differential Rents Assessments Undertaken

Year	LA Rents	LA HAP	LA HAP Review
2020	1078	607	562
2021 – Q1	184	143	107
2021 - Q2	300	108	84
2021 – Q3	264	140	151
2021 – Q4	302	106	149
2021 Total	1077	510	498

Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2020	410	254	0	0	320	209
2021- Q1	96	78	0	0	109	71
2021- Q2	109	84	0	0	88	68
2021- Q3	121	108	0	0	68	60
2021- Q4	64	62	16	16	82	70
2021 Total	390	332	16	16	347	269

Tenant Purchase Scheme

2020	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
TOTAL	33	6	5
2021	Applications Received	Ineligible	Approvals Issued
Q1	10	0	0
Q2	12	0	8



Q3	15	1	11
Q4	2	0	10

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

	2020	2021 to date
Total Approved	€10,340,718 (includes 2019 applications)	€11,069,863 (includes 2020 applications)
Total Drawn Down	€2,951,978 (includes 2019 approvals)	€4,284,754 (€3,232,795 from 2019 and 2020 approvals. €1,051,956 from 2021 approvals)

2021	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No (2021 apps)	Approval Drawdown Amount (2021 apps)	Expired No (2021 apps)	Expired Amount (2021 apps)
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	4	€787,300	0	0	0	0
Mar	9	€1,895,600	0	0	0	0
Apr	5	€869,200	0	0	0	0
May	13	€2,956,589	0	0	0	0
June	9	€1,994,070	2	€350,500	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	1	€288,000
Sep	3	€561,697	0	0	3	€651,100
Oct	0	0	0	0	2	€418,000
Nov	6	€1,011,507	1	€232,000	7	€1,747,133
Dec	0	0	2	€298,456	6	€1,147,070

Local Authority Home Loan

A new loan came into effect on 04 January 2022, replacing Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. Main changes are eligibility for single applicants, maximum income has increased to €65,000. A 'Fresh Start' principle will

apply for applicants who wish to apply who are divorced, legally separated/separated, or the relationship has ended, and they have no financial interest in the family home. Applicants who have undergone personal insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings will also be eligible.



Housing Maintenance

2020	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Total	97	108	6,939	6,733	80
2021	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed	Number of Self Help Grants Offered
Quarter 1	29	29	2,109	1,660	0
Quarter 2	18	7	1,940	1,883	87
Quarter 3	17	9	1,825	1,305	0
Quarter 4	26	21	2,311	1,775	0
Total	90	66	8,185	6,623	87

Planning and Strategic Development and Public Realm

County Development Plan

The Proposed Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was submitted to the elected members on the 17 December 2021. The Proposed Draft Development Plan consists of three main parts Volume 1 (Written Statement), Volume 2 (Settlement Plans) and the Appendices, of which there are 12. These appendices include (but are not limited to)

- Housing Need and Demand Assessment [HNDA]

- Open Space and Recreation Strategy [OSS] (prepared in collaboration with Parks and Recreation Department)
- Wind Energy Strategy [WES]
- Rural House Design Guide
- Rural Housing Report (prepared in collaboration with AIRO)
- Core Strategy Methodology (including a Kildare Housing Completion report)
- Single rural Dwelling Density Toolkit

The members have eight weeks to consider the Draft Plan and must then deem the plan to be the Draft (for publication) with or without amendments. A Special Council



meeting to consider and make the Draft Plan will be required in mid-February.

The Forward Planning Team are hosting a series of six workshops covering a range of themes to assist the elected members in their consideration of the Draft CDP.

Details below

No.	Workshop Theme	Date	Time
1	Core & Settlement Strategy & Housing (general)	17 January 2022	2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
2	Economic Development & Town Centres (inc. Rural)	19 January 2022	2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
3	Heritage, Biodiversity & Open Spaces	21 January 2022	2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
4	Energy Generation, Data Centres (inc. Wind) & Transportation	25 January 2022	2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.
5	Community & Creative Places	27 January 2022	10:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.
6	County Kildares Small Towns & Villages Strategy & Rural Housing	01 February 2022	10:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m.

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

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

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



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

Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Naas

The Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 was adopted at a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council on the 21 October and came into effect on the 01

December 2021. The Office of the Planning Regulator has welcomed the adoption of the Plan.

Maynooth

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

Kildare Town

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

Planning applications received:			Residential Units Granted	Applications decided: December	
December	Year	No.	Total Granted:	89	
2019:	115	1,452	2,684	Retention:	18
2020:	165	1,627	4,322	Extension of Duration:	3
2021:	151	1,846	1,077	Total Refused:	20

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

SHD Applications						
Ref No.	Stage	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	ABP Decision Due
20/2107	2	16/11/2021	Kieran Curtin	Lands at Ballyouster, Celbridge	343	KCC Opinion issued 22/12/2021



20/2108	2	26/11/2021	Cairn Homes	Mariavilla, Maynooth	414	KCC Opinion issued 21/12/2021
20/2109	2	12/12/2021	Garyaron Homes	Glencarrig, Leixlip	138	Invalid

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

Section 254 Licences

- 64 licences for outdoor dining (tables and chairs etc) received to date. 34 granted. 6 refused. 24 in progress.
- 4 licences issued to National Broadband Ireland (Overground electronic communications infrastructure) for the Athy, Kildare Newbridge and Naas Municipal District areas, with a

further 4 applications received and in progress.

Conservation Update

Architectural Conservation Officer post has been filled and work commenced on a number of projects. Further details to follow.

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

Heritage Office Update

Planning

Heritage reports 262 applications to date.

Heritage projects

All projects completed and recoupments made from :

- Heritage Plan Fund
- National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund
- Community Monuments Fund
- Creative Ireland Fund



Kilkea Stone Table

Conservation Letterfrack is progressing on conservation of the Table.

UNESCO World Heritage

Designation – Royal Sites of Ireland – Dun Ailinne, Kilcullen

Application for inclusion on the Irish Tentative list has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with five other local authorities. The Minister has confirmed that the joint bid,

submitted in June 2021, was a valid application. The appointed Expert Advisory Group has advised that the Royal Sites of Ireland application has the potential as a serial transnational nomination but needs to demonstrate the critically important Outstanding Universal Value which is a pre-requisite for any World Heritage consideration. Meetings have been held with the UNESCO steering group and Department regarding progression of the application.

Public Realm

Public Realm Funding Applications & other items		
Town & Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure in Response to COVID-19) Round 3		
Works are complete on the following projects:		
Location	Total estimated project cost	Amount of T&V grant funding requested for this project
Leixlip Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Celbridge Town Centre	€45,000	€40,000
Newbridge Town Hall environs and Georges Street	€45,000	€40,000
Main Street, Naas and environs	€60,000	€40,000



Main Street, Maynooth and environs	€45,000	€40,000
Broadband Officer, Kildare County Council	€11,000	€10,000

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

Location	Proposal	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested	Comments
Ardclough	Heritage Centre Phase 2	€97,000	€87,300	Ardclough Heritage Centre providing match funding
Clane	Main Street and Clane Abbey Community Centre	€250,000	€200,000	Clane Maynooth LPT match funding
Athy	Enterprise Centre improvements	€99,000	€89,100	Enterprise Centre to provide match funding
Sallins	Healthcheck & Town Renewal Plan	€70,000	€63,000	Naas LPT match funding

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

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



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

Concept
Athy - Athy-Athy Public Realm Plan – to commence within 12 months of the adoption of the Draft Athy LAP .
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-St Bridget's Well re-development-Draft concept received. Hydrological survey complete. Wet ground conditions likely due to blocked or damaged pipe on site. CCTV survey to be arranged.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth Main Street and Courthouse Square Public Realm Improvements Masterplan & Branding- URDF Application successful. Financial Projections submitted.
Naas - Sallins-Health Check/Urban Design - Funding under Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 secured. Tender for consultant to work on healthcheck with Public Realm team being published early 2022.
Part 8
Kildare-Newbridge – Kilcullen - Market Square redevelopment – Part 8 to be published Q1 2022.
Kildare-Newbridge - Kildare-Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 documents being prepared. Topographical Survey of Market Square, adjoining laneways and associated carparking complete. Temporary closure of Market Square carpark being piloted to allow businesses on the square to place table and chairs outside to increase capacity and allow for social distancing. Works commenced on 17 August on a temporary pilot closure.
Kildare-Newbridge – Rathangan - Market Square redevelopment - Part 8 published 26.01.2021 and public consultation extended to 13.04.2021. Part 8 approved by Kildare Newbridge MD on 19.05.2021. Detailed design will now progress.
Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Development - Part 8 published 5 th October 2021. Public consultation now closed. 110 submissions received. Part 8 will go before Clane Maynooth MD for approval at Feb meeting.
Tender Consultants and Design
Athy/Kildare-Newbridge - Athy-Barrow Blueway - works ongoing and progressing well. 20km of 36km towpath works complete with another 5km under construction. Project will be complete early 2023.



<p>Athy – Castledermot - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Athy Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation to commence January 2022 after Athy MD Members briefing.</p>
<p>Athy - Athy - Development of Shackleton Museum-Consultants appointed and detailed design has now commenced.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Celbridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation completed 27th September 2021 and submissions are being incorporated into Draft TRP.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip - Leixlip-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Athgarvan - Health Check/Urban Design and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Working document circulated to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Members briefing held. Public consultation closed and submissions received being incorporated into Draft Town Renewal Plan. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Derrinturn - Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. . Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Johnstown Bridge-Health Check/Urban Design and TRP- Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Kilcock -Town Branding and Signage. Public consultation launched but response rate was very poor. Additional consultation to now take place with youth groups and primary schools. Additional consultation to be launched Q1 2022.</p>



<p>Clane-Maynooth - Prosperous-Town Branding and Signage. Tender for Consultant to be drafted in conjunction with Clane Town Branding and Signage in Q1 2022.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Straffan - Health Check/Urban Design Analysis and Town Renewal Plan - Online survey complete. Draft Town Renewal Plan briefing given to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District Committee as part of the consultation process. Public consultation launched Sept 2021. Draft TRP will be finalised early 2022.</p>
<p>Tender Consultants</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Public Realm Dominican Lands -Tender for design consultants complete and consultants appointed. Initial draft Masterplan being reviewed by Public Realm team.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Curragh Plains - Develop Plan -Tender being prepared for: Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan-Branding and Visitor Positioning Process - Orientation, Wayfinding and Interpretation Strategy. Public consultation commenced with 3,636 online submissions received by deadline. 2nd phase of consultation complete with the formation of Focus Group Workshops comprising of various stakeholders to consider key findings of online consultation.</p>
<p>Naas - Grand Canal Greenway-Alymer Bridge to Sallins - €3 million funding approval in place which represents 100% of the project cost. Tender assessed and detailed design has commenced. Tender package being finalised for trailheads and crossings. Works will commence in Q1 2022 and will take 9 months to complete.</p>
<p>Athy- Ballitore - Engagement of consultants to assess the building and draw up the plans and drawings required to complete the restoration work on a second building in the Tanyard.</p>
<p>Tender Works</p>
<p>Athy – Athy - Upgrade to public realm Emily Square -Tender documents for construction work almost finalised.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildangan - Community Hall Upgrade-Awarded €92,000 funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Contractor appointed.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Newbridge - Newbridge Library – Design team appointed and work well underway on Part 8 which will be launched in Q1 2022.</p>
<p>Design</p>
<p>Athy - Athy-Edmund Rice Square - Scope and extent of the project to be agreed in collaboration with various stakeholders.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans.</p>



<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Monasterevin - Healthcheck and Urban Design and Masterplan – Consultation on draft Masterplan complete and submissions being incorporated into draft Masterplan.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Creation Cultural Quarter - to include Part 8's for library redevelopment, St Conleth's Square including new buildings, landmark building on Market Square, and Public Realm improvement works. Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into final plans which will inform Part 8 designs for each element of the project. Library design progressing. Feasibility Study commissioned and work progressing.</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge - Newbridge-Town Renewal Plan - Feedback being reviewed for incorporation into the Town Renewal Plan. Consultation workshops to be organised.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Main Street - Accessibility Improvements - Town and Village funding application successful. Project kick off meeting held.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Maynooth - Harbour Field Works - Detailed design to commence after Part 8 approval. Part 8 published 5th October 2021. Included in successful URDF application.</p>
<p>Detailed Design</p>
<p>Kildare-Newbridge – Kildare - Cherry Avenue - development of a town park - Tender documents to be prepared for LA led design team in collaboration with the Parks Section to develop the design post Part 8 to shovel ready stage for new RRDF application.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Kilcock-Community Centre. Works commenced 8th June 2021 and are progressing well. Playground will be temporarily relocated to outside Primary Care Centre.</p>
<p>On Hold</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth - Clane-Town Branding and Signage – LPT funding secured. Will commence with Prosperous town branding project in Autumn 2021.</p>
<p>Construction</p>
<p>Naas - Ballymore Eustace - Looped Walk - works complete and looped walk open.</p>
<p>Naas – MERITS – Works complete. Final fit out nearing completion.</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Athy - Narraghamore-Social Enterprise Community Shop - Completed.</p>
<p>Celbridge-Leixlip – Ardclough - Community Facility – Completed.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Robertstown - Masterplan - Plan finalised and complete.</p>
<p>Clane-Maynooth – Prosperous Town Park complete and open to the Public since Wednesday 04 December.</p>



Water Services, Environment and Climate Action

Water Services

Infrastructural Projects

Contract 2A (Newbridge Eastern Interceptor Sewer)

These works were completed and commissioned in 2020. The sewerage network is due to be handed over to Irish Water/Kildare County Council Operations by the end of Quarter 1 2022 pending all operation outstanding issues and Health, Safety, Quality, Environment (HSQE) issues are addressed.

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

Contract 2B (Network)

Works commenced on site in September 2019 and are advancing well. The major pipeline improvement works carried out in Clane and Newbridge are substantially complete.

The remaining pipeline works in Sallins will be completed in Quarter 1 2022.

Permanent road reinstatement has commenced in Clane and Naas town centres.

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

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

Veolia Water Ireland advanced works on this variation to the Design Build Operate (DBO) contract and completed these works in Quarter 4, 2020. Operational commissioning of the Thermal Hydrolysis Process Plant is continuing. The Exelys Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) is intended to be fully operational by end of Quarter 4 2021 pending all operation outstanding issues and HSQE issues are addressed.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline

This project involves the upgrading of the existing Maynooth Sewerage Pumping Station and the construction of a new sewerage pipeline along a



new route from the pumping station to the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is at planning and detailed design stage.

Irish Water and its representatives are currently negotiating with affected landowners and Irish Water published a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for this scheme in late September 2021 as option agreements have not been reached with all landowners. Currently, an Oral Hearing is planned to take place for this project at the end of January.

Capital Projects

Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification

Irish Water will have a brief on the Allenwood Sewerage Network (Vacuum System) Modification scoped and set out through a series of workshops in November and December this year and will have the project passed across to Asset Delivery in Quarter 1 2022 for execution. There is funding for the work in Revenue Control 3 and Revenue Control 4 periods. Irish Water is committed to getting it sorted.

Timolin Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

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

Water Networks Management Projects

Kildare Town Watermain Rehabilitation Works -

Lourdesville BYSS (Back Yard Services scheme)

All public and private side watermain installation works have now been completed as part of this scheme. Prior to the decommissioning of the existing cast iron watermains throughout Lourdesville, further investigational works are required to



ensure all properties are connected to the new supply.

Assumpta Villas BYSS

There are currently two premises remaining whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained throughout Assumpta Villas. Private side service connection works have still to be completed at each of the remaining properties prior to decommissioning the final sections of existing mains within Assumpta Villas.

Rowanville BYSS

There is currently one property remaining within this scheme whereby customer consent has not yet been obtained. Decommissioning works have yet to commence. This work will commence once consent from the final customer has been provided and the properties service connection is installed.

Irish Water Councillor Clinics

Irish Water quarterly Councillor Clinics are held online for approximately one hour. The 2022 schedule of clinics has not yet been received from Irish

Water but the first one is expected to be held in March.

Irish Water will contact members with details shortly.

Environment

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

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

Waste Management – Awareness Campaign

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



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



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

All household and commercial waste must be segregated into:

- Dry Recyclables
- Food and Compostable Waste
- Residual Waste

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

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

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

If people live in an urban area with a population of greater than 500 people, their authorised waste collector is obliged to provide them with a compostable bin collection service. These simple actions will greatly improve the quality of recyclables



collected and significantly minimise the volume of residual wastes that are disposed of at landfill. In addition, there will be significant community benefits arising from a cleaner local environment.”

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

Further information is available from:

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

Recycling Banks

Tonnages at recycling banks continues to stabilise from previous years. In December 2020, 531 tonnes of glass and cans were recycled at the recycling banks. In 2021, this has reduced to 500 tonnes, in line with previous years. Improved signage was installed at ten sites in December to remind the public how to use the banks.

Christmas Campaign

A campaign to help the public to reduce waste over the festive season was rolled out over December, this included social media and website resources as well as information in the local press. The Christmas tree recycling facilities will be in operation during January.

Civic Amenity Facilities

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

Water Framework Directive

The Minister has published the draft third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation and invited submissions, observations and comments on the proposed plan prior to 31 March 2022. Achieving good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas is essential for protecting Ireland’s drinking water sources, environment and people’s quality of life. The plan is produced in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).



Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

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

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

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

Environment Complaints

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

National Tidy Towns

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



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

Grants were processed and paid out to all applicants.

The results where County Kildare were mentioned are:

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

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Awards

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

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

Anti-Dog Fouling Initiative

An anti-dog fouling initiative was carried out in each of the five municipal district areas. The wardens and staff from the Environment Department met with councillors in Naas, Athy, Kildare, Maynooth and Celbridge to hand out dog waste bags/dispensers to passing walkers. Stencils and an audio message reminding dog walkers to dispose of the waste were placed in each of these areas. There are plans to continue the scheme in several other areas suggested by the Community Wardens.

Green Kilometre Scheme

The Kildare Green Kilometres has been shortlisted for the Chambers Ireland Local Authority Awards under the Sustainability category. Kildare County Council continues to support these groups by providing clean up



equipment and collecting the waste in a timely fashion. Over 130 kilometres registered and well over 50 tonnes of waste gathered in the year to date.

Environmental Education

In line with Government guidelines, all in-person educational talks and events are suspended until further notice in the interests of public health and will be rescheduled at a later date where feasible. The Green Schools programme has continued in a number of schools and online assessments are now taking place in order to award the green flag. While the number of flags awarded will be substantially down on previous years, many schools are organising themselves to participate over the coming year. Information at: <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/EnvironmentalEducation/>

New Initiatives

Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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

Catchment Flooding

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing, with embankments and walls in the Tuckmilltown and Turnings areas nearing completion and further works in Tuckmilltown, Killeen and Killeenmore commencing. Further details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.morellfms.ie/>

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The Kildare County Council and OPW Steering Group has commenced developing the scope of the Athy Flood Relief Scheme. The first stage will be the procurement of consultants to carry out the design of the scheme and



documentation to advance this is being currently being drafted.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

The contract for consultancy services for the Naas Flood Relief Scheme has been awarded to ARUP. The first stage of the scheme will be a review of the existing hydrology and mapping. Topographical and drainage surveys to facilitate this has just been completed. Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

Kerdiffstown

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

The site was closed for construction works over the Christmas. However, monitoring for gas, leachate and security continued. There were no issues during this period.

A view from Zone 1, below shows, that the changing rooms roof has started to progress, in the following photo.



This second photo below, shows Zone 1A and Zone 1 where the topsoil has been installed and water is beginning to collect in the pond,



The photo below shows the methane stripping plant installed.





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

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

Monitoring of the gas and groundwater boreholes as well as the management of the leachate and gas continues, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence. This will continue through the works. The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed at home on Kildare County Council's website at:

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/KerdiffstowPark/KerdiffstowParkVisualisation/>

Historic Landfill Programme

Currently there are 28 sites listed on Kildare County Council's Section 22 Register for unregulated waste disposal sites. 100% funding is provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to carry out an Environmental Risk Assessment in accordance with EPA's Code of Practice on these sites. This must be

carried out on each site and an application is to be made to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), outlining any required remediation works for approval. Currently, priority is given to the six Category A sites. The status of these are as follows:

Carigeen, Clane

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

Digby Bridge, Sallins

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

Pollardstown, The Curragh

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

Knocknagarm, The Curragh

Environmental Risk Assessment is being carried out. Further site investigation works are required which



are due to be complete in Quarter 1 2022.

Greenhills, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Prusselstown, Athy

Application for CoA submitted and currently awaiting response from EPA.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Newbridge Cemetery Carpark

Works to include:

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

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

Newbridge Cemetery Road and Path Resurfacing

Tenders advertised for footpath and roadway improvement works. Contractor appointed and works scheduled in Quarter 1 2022.

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

Tenders advertised for footpath and roadway improvement works. Contractor appointed and works scheduled in Quarter 1 2022.

Allen Cemetery

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

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

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

Risk Management

2022 risk management cycle now about to commence.



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



CAP 2021

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

support the delivery of the plan has now been approved and published. It is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223>

[e-climate-action-plan-2021/](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223). The CARO is undertaking an examination of the CAP and Annex of Actions, to provide local authorities with details of the sections relevant to the sector.

Community Climate Action Programme



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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

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

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

The first phase is comprised of two strands:

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

Strand 2 - Education: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing - A total of €6 million is being provided to build



community capacity in relation to climate action. There are two elements to this strand:



A - Open Call for Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing Projects:
€5 million will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications (DECC). Applications opened on the 15 November and closed on 14 January 2022.



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

Capacity Building



The CARO continues to work with its strategic training partners, to implement on behalf of the local government sector, a national training programme for all elected members and local authority staff. The training programme, which includes six pillars and has received CPD accreditation from a number of bodies (Engineers Ireland, Irish Planning Institute, CIWEM), are available to all local authorities:



Elected Members/Senior Staff

The Climate Leadership training for senior staff and elected members has been delivered to participants in 24 local authorities to date. The remaining seven counties will be completed in early 2022.





Climate Action Teams

This highly collaborative programme, with contributions from Met Éireann, Climate Ireland, the CAROs, the SEAI, the AIEI (Association of Irish Energy Agencies) and the IPA, is aimed at members of local authority Climate Action Teams. The course takes place over six half days and to date, has been delivered to CAT members in the three CARO regions of Atlantic Seaboard North, Dublin Metropolitan and Eastern and Midlands. Training is currently ongoing for CAT members in local authorities in the Atlantic Seaboard South region. Strong attendance has been reported, particularly for the leadership modules.



Online Training

The rollout of the Raising Awareness online programme is ongoing. To date, a total of 8,522 staff at Grades 7, 6, 5, 4 (and technical equivalents) have completed this programme across each of the 31 local authorities. Participation rates have been positive – with average completion rates over

70% of enrolled participants. A further 4,540 Grade 3 and analogous staff enrolled to complete the programme, between 01 November to 23 December 2021 and an update on participation and completion rates is expected shortly.



Thematic Training

In the first training course of the Actioning Policy training pillar, the Planning for Climate Change training, informed by workshops held in conjunction with the three Regional Assemblies was rolled out to 291 local authority planners of all disciplines.

Other training courses being developed under the Actioning Policy pillar are at various stages as follows:

- A Green Procurement course, to address a number of actions across local authority strategies, the Climate Action Charter and other environmental legislation, is expected to commence course rollout in 2022.



- An introduction to Flood Risk Management is an eight module course designed to develop skills and knowledge in flood risk management for key staff involved in managing, planning and responding to flood risk.

A pilot took place in Quarter 3 of 2021 and the course rollout to all local authorities has commenced with 379 registered attendees and 212 in attendance over the initial five (of eight) modules rolled out to date.



Outdoor Staff

A pilot of the Delivering Action programme took place in Quarter 3 of 2021, with feedback from attendees being used to finalise course content and delivery method before rollout to all local authority outdoor staff. The LASNTG are recruiting in-house trainers to deliver this programme to outdoor staff on a county-by-county basis.



Frontline Staff

Training for front line or community engagement staff remains under design and development with the Institute of Public Administration. A pilot programme took place online on 15 and 16 December 2021 with further rollout planned during 2022.



Guidance for Local Authorities – Preparing Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 calls for each local authority to develop a Climate Action Plan, to specify the mitigation and adaptation measures to be adopted. The CAROs, working in partnership with Climate Ireland/EPA convened a project advisory group and commenced work on guidelines for local authorities in support of the



development of their climate action plans.

The draft guidelines have been developed, comprising a main guidance document and three technical annexes. They will now be circulated through the governance channels of both the CCMA and EPA, before submission to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications by 01 December. Once finalised, the guidelines are to be published by the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

In the Mid-East (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, Louth): A position paper for pathfinder support has been developed and a Memorandum Of Understanding is awaited from the SEAI, prior to approval being sought from the local authority Chief Executives. The three local authorities involved (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow) are meeting regularly and it is hoped to progress this further in 2022.

In the Border sub-region (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim): A public building energy efficiency report for the three local authorities went to tender, with Codex Energy being appointed. Their final report has been received and identifies 18 buildings with a project pipeline for each building to attain a B2 rating, as well as detailed costs of upgrade works, payback period and energy savings. The CARO were successful in securing funding from SEAI's Project Assistance Grant (PAG) Programme for the respective local authorities and this grant may cover up to 50% of the costs of the report.

In the South East (Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary): The



three Counties Energy Agency (CEA) have met with the CARO and are pursuing a position paper for approval from their local authorities (Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford), with the ambition of forming a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the SEAI in 2022.

In the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath): the region intends to carry out a similar project to that of the Border region, to identify opportunities.



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet: The vision of this project is to develop a pathway for decarbonizing local authority fleet with a view to realizing emission reduction and energy efficiency targets. A working group has been established under the stewardship of the CCMA Climate Change, Transport and Networks Committee, and to date, a survey has

been issued to all local authorities to establish a baseline. The initial phase of the project will be to examine the survey returns and to research and present opportunities for immediate reduction of carbon across the local authority fleet.

Kildare County Council Climate Action



Climate Change Adaption Strategy (CCAS)



CCAS Action Reporting was submitted on the 12 November to Department of Environment, Climate and



Communications (DECC). It was approved by the National CARO Steering Group beforehand. The number of actions being undertaken and completed by Kildare continue to increase. The final data shows 65.35% of all actions are ongoing, 16.5% are completed and 5.51% are new actions. Kildare is above the national average in the number of completions/ongoing actions. The update was warmly welcomed by the CAT.

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

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

Decarbonising Zone – Maynooth Nominee



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



Energy

Energy Management Team

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

Kildare Climate and Energy Week

Kildare's first Climate and Energy Week was delivered on 26 to 29 October 2021.

Ciara O'Flynn of the Climate Action Office has compiled the Teams key learnings from the week of events which can be utilised for future events by ourselves and other similarly resourced councils. Our Climate Action Office hopes to hold a comparable or more targeted event in 2022 achieving greater strategic collaboration with Kildare's climate action groups.



Panelists in "Climate Action Panel Discussion"

Energy Usage Monitoring and Reporting (M and R)

Our provisional scorecard for energy usage in 2020 shows a 33.3% energy reduction against its baseline year of



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

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

Mid-East Energy Bureau

Kildare County Council is engaged in a process with other local authorities to form an Energy Bureau to drive energy efficiencies at a regional level. It is proposed to establish the Bureau with the assistance of SEAI's pathfinder program which will assist with funding towards energy related projects across the region and also funding for the Bureau establishment and staffing needs over a fixed period of time. Currently Kildare, Wicklow and Meath Local Authorities are partnered to deliver this initiative, with support from CARO. Kildare's Energy Efficiency

Officer is also assisting with a sub-group of the Bureau Establishment Team to develop tender documentation to procure a suitable consultant to drive this project. While the process is ongoing and is taking more time than all parties had hoped for, there are a number of meetings through January 2022 to progress the proposal, at which point Chief Executives from each of the Local Authorities will be asked to approve the progression of the Mid-East Energy Bureau.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's)



Kildare County Council continues to make good progress on Sustainable Energy Communities in the county. There are currently 22 SEAI registered SEC's in county Kildare, with four of these nearing the end of their energy



master plan stage which will allow them to move to the action phase. Further strengthening of the Energy Master Plan(EMP) process has been developed by SEAI, which now includes greater structure and guidelines to ensure quality standardized Energy Master Plans (EMP) are delivered. Kildare County Council can now also utilize an EMP delivery framework structure established by CODEMA. Ballymore Eustace and Naas SEC's have lodged applications with Kildare County Council for funding assistance to deliver their energy master plans. It is hoped to have agreements in place in early 2022. The Climate Action Office is considering working with CODEMA to streamline the administration of the system for all parties involved.

Fleet Electrification



The CCMA has recently published its Electric Vehicle Guidance Document for Local Authorities; this is a welcome development which gives direction for

LA's as demand for public EV charging and fleet electrification grows. Kildare County Council's suitable small vehicle fleet can also be considered for electrification. The council currently have four EV vans in our fleet but there is growing interest in the electrification of other suitable vehicles in the fleet. Some Municipal District Offices have also expressed interest installing electric vehicle charging points in their depots to facilitate EV charging.

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

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



Climate Action



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

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

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

Forestry

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

sites chosen to be assessed provisionally.

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

Ezine



ISSUE 2

14.08.21

A quarterly update from the Kildare County Council Climate Office

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

Just Transition

The municipal districts of Athy, Clane-Maynooth and Kildare-Newbridge have



generously contributed €15,000 per municipal district to establish a fund to engage a consultant to develop and prepare a 'Local Just Transition Plan for West Kildare'. Urban Foresight Limited presented the draft Local Just Transition Plan to the Climate Action SPC and the CPG in December. As circulation of the draft document increased, further consultation requests were received. Consultation is ongoing with various parties including Bord na Mona and will inform a more cohesive and workable document in the near future.

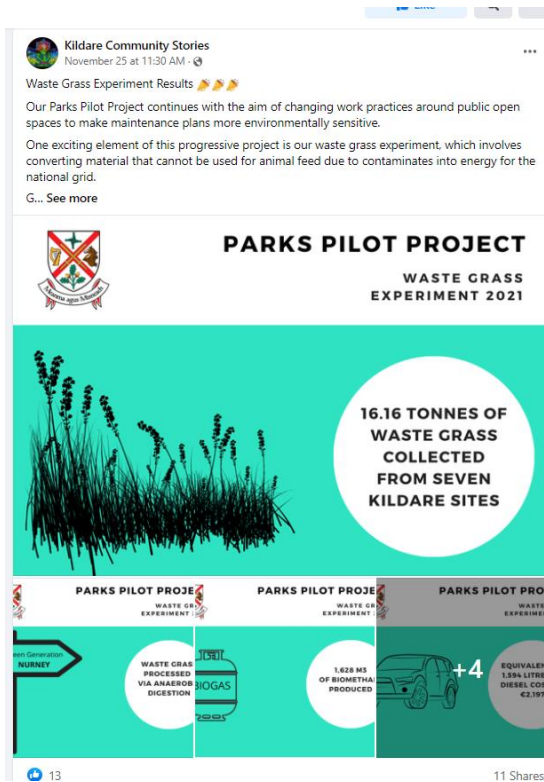
Alternatives to Herbicides Project

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

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

Ms Sophia Couchman, Masters student, has finalized her first report of what exists on the various sites with regard to vegetation and biodiversity. Her assessors have narrowed her remit regarding the continued approach requirements. Maynooth University, Trinity College, NBDC, Teagasc and Kildare County Council have reviewing the data collected to date. The potential experiments and follow up research items were designed in December to inform the scientific and practical process during 2022. Teagasc have made lands available for controlled experiments and practical experiment sites have been chosen within Kildare county.

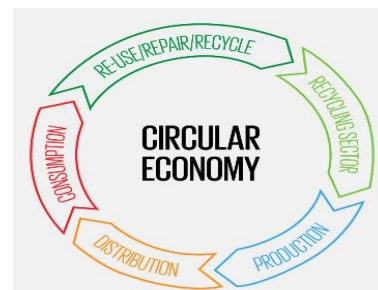
Community Stories is continuing to roll out monthly updates. The November update shows the results of the circular economy experiment with Green Generation.



Waste grass has proven to be environmentally sound and efficient at creating energy. 16.16 tonnes of waste grass produced the equivalent of 1300 litres of diesel being produced post operational requirements being removed and the saving of four tonnes of carbon being released into the atmosphere - the equivalent of driving an SUV style vehicle 20,000km per annum. The next steps are to assess the financial costs further with the potential to break even or make a profit from using the circular economy model.

Gas Networks Ireland have invited the Climate Action Office to consider an

application for potential grant funding to assist with the circular economy model of maintenance given our results to date and the uniqueness of the project. Discussions will continue to be explored during 2022.



The CAT members visited Green Generation facility on the 02 December to fully understand the process and future possible applications.

Alternative Fuels for Plant and Machinery

Gas Networks Ireland invited a small group to look at the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel source for larger plant and machinery. The example was a grab truck utilising the gas to travel on average 600km between refueling at designated stations. The truck is 50% quieter than a diesel version while gas is considered the greenest carbon fuel in this case the gas is



produced by Green Generation making the vehicle carbon neutral with green certification available. It also significantly produces less air particulate matter and Nitrous Oxide. Plans are advancing to potentially provide fuel stations in the county of Kildare to increase the viability of CNG usage in transport.

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and Green Generation are exploring the increasing potential of CNG powered vehicles with the Climate Action Office.



Council Policy Documents and Initiatives

The Climate Action Office is researching the viability of partnering with others to enable the use of the newly announced Strand 2 funding under the Government's Climate Action Fund and other funding strands.

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

The Climate Action Office continues to work with the Age Friendly section with a county wide 'Wool in Schools' programme to be distributed through older person care homes as an intergenerational piece.

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

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

Paul Woods

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



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

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

The council are also working with Creative Ireland team to inform and



increase mitigation, adaptation and resilience within our communities.

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Key Highlights



The new Lyreen Avenue and Lyreen Bridge officially opened to traffic on Monday 20 December. Lyreen Avenue, which connects the Moyglare and Dunboyne Roads is approximately 800 metres in length and includes new cycle tracks, footpaths, crossing facilities as well as signalised junctions at the Dunboyne Road and Moyglare Road.

Storm Barra

The first winter storm of 2021, Storm Barra, resulted in a Yellow level weather warning for county Kildare. Our Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) was convened in advance of the storm to review local

preparedness and members of this team attended the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management's Crisis Management Team briefings over the duration of the event.

The council crews and emergency services were available to respond where required. No major issues arose during the storm event.

Digital Strategy for Kildare

Work has now commenced to develop a Draft Digital Strategy document for Kildare. The Strategy will set out an overall vision for the county outlining a number of core objectives, priorities and actions over the short, medium and long term. In line with the NBP deliverables, Kildare County Council is developing this digital strategy to maximise the opportunities of digital transformation for the benefit of our society and economy, ensuring that Kildare is among the best places to live, work, invest or visit. Following a tender process, the council have commissioned PMG Consult to conduct a strategic policy study leading to the development of the first Kildare Digital Strategy. A workplan based on the methodology of the successful tenderer has been agreed



which will require fairly extensive consultation around the strategy themes.

PMG Consult will be conducting consultations individually and collectively with key Kildare County Council personnel as well as other key stakeholders and agencies from the enterprise, education, community and other sectors.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip

The aim of the project is to assess the needs of the M4/N4 mainline corridor and junctions from Maynooth to Junction 5 Leixlip in terms of catering for future demand from a capacity, safety and operational perspective. The scheme will take a number of years to pass through the various steps required for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility), Phase 2 (Option Selection), Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) and Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), provided it successfully progresses through each phase.

Athy Distributor Road

Contractor is now on site. Kildare County Council has appointed a Land

Liaison Officer to work with the Project Team.

New Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

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

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Kildare County Council is currently endeavouring to gain control of the lands (identified under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) Scheme) as a prerequisite to the CPO going ahead.

Detailed design of the scheme, including drainage design, is at an advanced stage. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (LIHAF).

Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road

Kildare County Council was successful in securing funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). The scheme, which will connect Celbridge Town and the Hazelhatch Train Station, will include a second bridge over the River Liffey. The project is currently at Route Selection stage. Non-Statutory Public



Consultation no. 1, presenting the route corridor options has been completed and submissions have been compiled.

Non-Statutory Public Consultation no. 2, presenting the emerging preferred route option will commence in Quarter 1 2022.

Newhall Junction Improvement

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

Naas to Sallins Greenway

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

Kildare Town Transport Strategy

The Kildare Town Transport Strategy is currently at DRAFT stage. Meetings with the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal

District Councillors were held on the 07 April 2021 and the 26 April 2021. The non-statutory public consultation was completed in August 2021. It is expected to have a final document available in January.

Maynooth Transport Strategy

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

Naas Permeability Improvement Project

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

Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

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

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

Brook bridge has been approved by An Bord Pleanála and it is proposed to



proceed to construction stage Quarter 3 2022.

Newbridge Southern Relief Road / Second Bridge Crossing

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

Following the unsuccessful application for funding under URDF Call 2, the Project Team has commenced the tender process for the appointment of consultants to progress the project to stage 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (Planning Stage).

Kildare Town Northern Link Road and South Green Area Access Improvement Scheme

The Route Selection Report is substantially complete. This project will not proceed further until the Kildare Town Transport Strategy is completed.

NTA-funded Sustainable Transport Projects Update



Work Programme for 2022 is being discussed with the NTA and will be circulated when confirmed.

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

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

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Contractor to be appointed in Quarter 1 2022.

Naas to Kill Cycle Route

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

Easton Road/Green Lane Cycle Route, Leixlip

Documents for the Part 8 process are being prepared.

Celbridge Bridge

No update currently from the NTA.



Sallins Village Traffic Management Measures

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

Maynooth Permeability Measures

Construction of permeability measures in Maynooth complete.

Meadowbrook Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

Documents for the Part 8 process are being prepared.

Celbridge Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Kilcock Road Cycle Route, Maynooth

The scheme is at preliminary design stage.

Safe Routes to School Programme

Documents for the Part 8 process are being prepared.

Kilcullen Road Cycle Route, Naas

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

Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review

Meetings being scheduled with each municipal district to discuss amendments.

Municipal District Updates

Athy Municipal District

Municipal District Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works

- All road works programme completed as planned.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

- A number of projects have been completed as agreed and a number are ongoing.

Local Improvement Schemes

- Goulyduff.
- Hughestown.
- Calverstown.
- Pullagh.
- Killeen East.

Community Involvement Schemes

- Ball Alley Lane, Kildoon.
- Carrigeen lane.
- Richardstown Lane.



- Rosbran lane.
- Killeen East lane.

Road Markings

- Hacklow junction works completed.

Miscellaneous Works ongoing

- Patching
- Hedge Cutting
- Gully cleaning

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

- Brownstown – drainage and footpath works

Local Improvement Schemes

Three local improvement schemes are now completed.

Signage works

General signage maintenance and renewal across the municipal district is ongoing.

Road Markings

Road marking upgrade works at:

- Junction Seshoon Cross
- Mullacash Cross

Drainage Works

- Gilltown, Kilcullen
- Ladytown

Road Improvement Works and Restoration Improvement Works

Preparation of the 2022 schedule is ongoing.

Miscellaneous Works ongoing

- Patching
- Hedge Cutting
- Gully cleaning

Naas Municipal District

2021 Roadworks programme has been completed as planned.

Active Travel Measures Updates

All works to footpaths funded by the NTA under active travel have been completed.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

Contracts have been awarded for the completion of the LPT footpath programme and are due to be delivered by Quarter 2 2022.

Drainage Works

The drainage project in Johnstown is due to be completed in January. The maintenance crews are currently



carrying out routine maintenance to water inlets and cleaning gullies in the municipal district.

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District

Footpaths

The Municipal District Office is progressing the identified footpath repair projects.

The following works have been completed in the past month.

- Hillview Heights, Clane – Footpath Repairs
- Allenwood – Footpath installation along the R403 to Bluetown
- Footpath Repairs – Hatters Cross Prosperous

The Sustainable Transport team is continuing the project in Maynooth to increase permeability links with many existing footpath links throughout the estates widened and improved.

LPT Funding

The Municipal District Office is progressing the LPT.

The following were completed in the past month

- R403 Prosperous - Installation of Driver Feedback Sign

- Road Safety Works at Ticknevin National School
- Footpath Repairs – Maynooth Road, Prosperous

Schools

The Municipal District Office has forwarded to plans for Killina and Robertstown National Schools to the elected members and schools for comment. It is hoped to forward the Derrinturn plan in January. It is anticipated that these projects will be delivered in 2022, subject to funding being secured.

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

Active Travel Measures Updates

All works to footpaths funded by the NTA have been completed including the Hazelhatch Road in Celbridge where we were awaiting ESB networks to move a pole.

Local Property Tax (LPT)/Carpark Funded Works

Crews are working on footpath repairs and a tender is currently being assessed to commence works to footpaths in older estates in the municipal district.

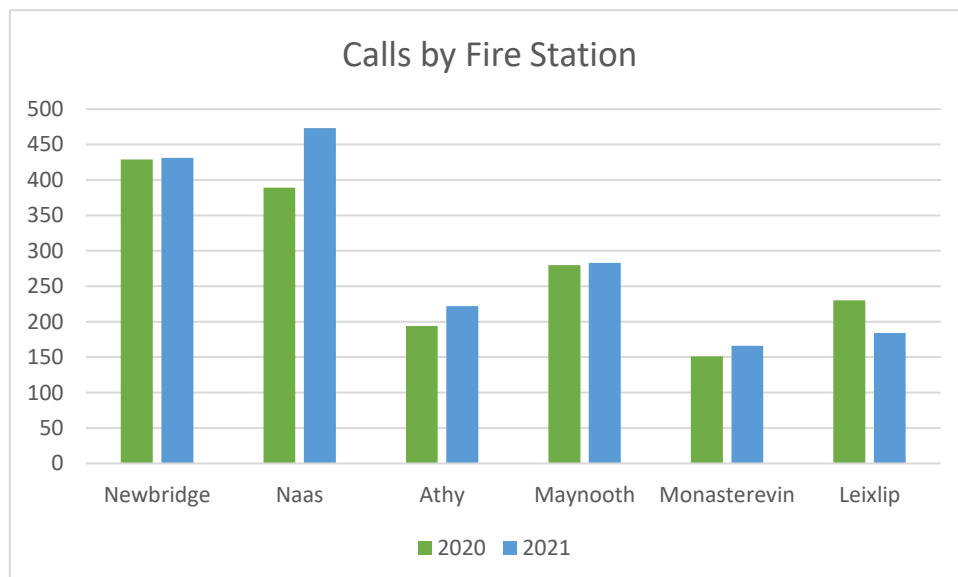
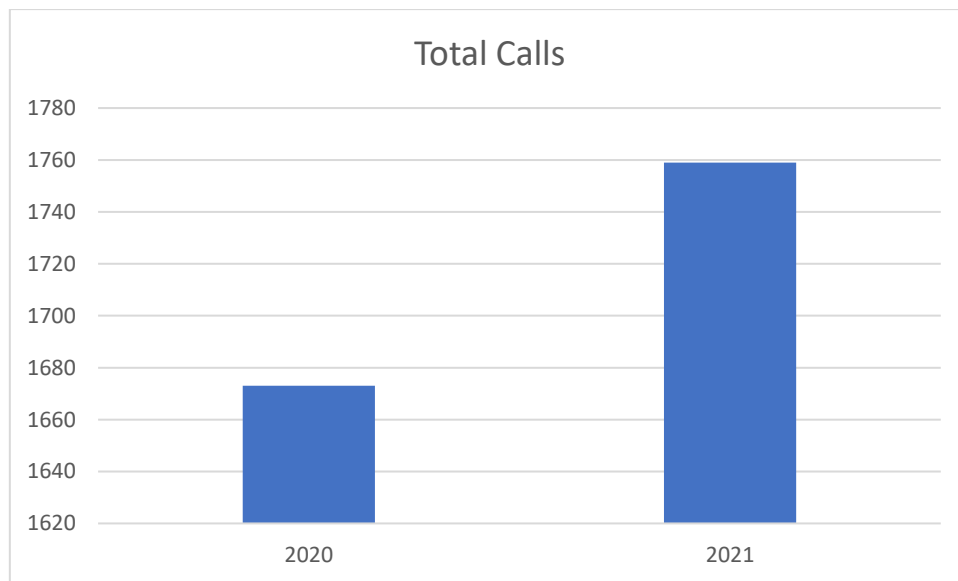


Drainage Works

The maintenance crews are currently carrying out routine maintenance to water inlets and cleaning gullies in the

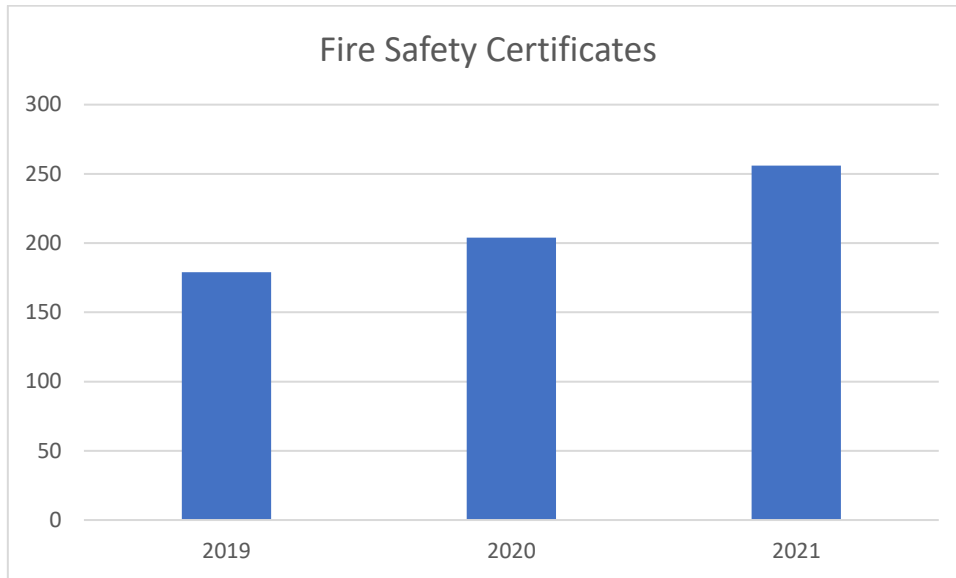
municipal district. Gully cleaning will take approximately three months to complete.

Fire Service Operations: 2021 Summary





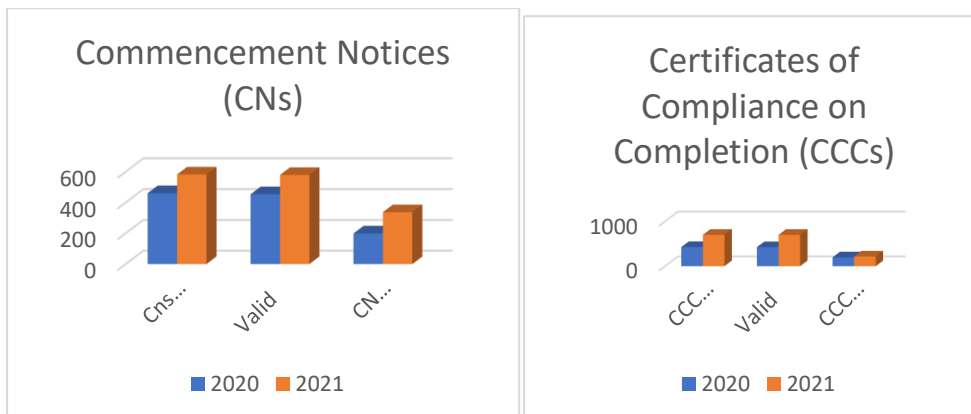
Fire Safety Certificates



Building and Development Control

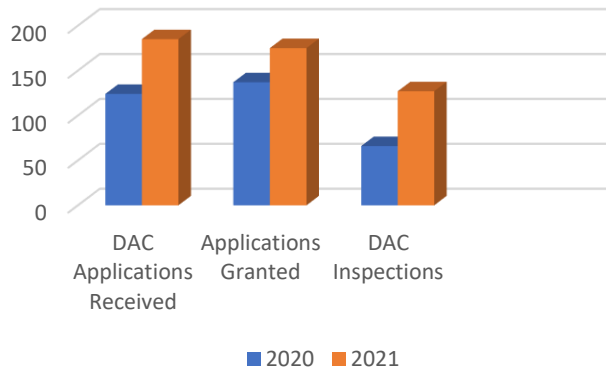
The following figures are cumulative up to the end of December 2021.

BUILDING CONTROL

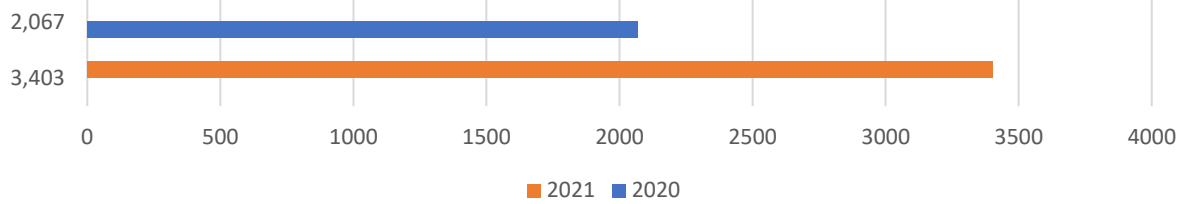




Disability Access Certificates (DACs)

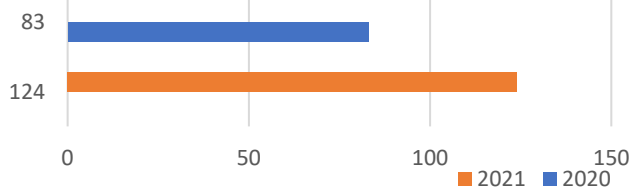


Number of Buildings Inspected



DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Active Sites





ACCESSABILITY

Key Highlights 2021:

- Monthly meetings with five Local Access Groups – Quarterly meetings with County Kildare Access Network.
- Work commenced on Changing Places facilities – two locations – Áras Chill Dara and Newbridge Sports Centre.
- Disability Awareness training delivered to staff and councillors.
- In conjunction with DESSA (Disability, Equality, Specialist Support Agency) developed the Kildare Inclusion in Schools Project which supports County Kildare schools to become positive to disability.
- Sensory Pods purchased and located in Leixlip and Kildare Town libraries. The Sensory Pod is a state of the art, calming, safe space suitable for any child, young person or adult to spend time in.
- 360-degree Virtual Tours completed for 15 libraries and Áras – A detailed virtual tour can provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to scope out the space and identify potential obstacles and plan for accommodations.
- Successful submissions made for funding from Disability Participation and Awareness Fund for two projects:
 - Connecting Locally with Kare and UCD Centre for Disability Studies – €67,800
 - Social farming Kildare with Kildare Leader Partnership – €22,200
- Kildare Disability Week – 29 November to 03 December:
 - Lighting County Kildare Purple – Landmark buildings across Kildare were lit up in purple
 - Fly the Flag – 250 County Kildare Access Network Flags were flown in prominent locations across the county.
 - New initiatives launched during Kildare Disability Week:
 - Access All Areas
 - JAM Card





- Our World – Disability Awareness Education Program
- Naas Community Bus - a joint initiative between An Garda Síochána and Naas Municipal District.





Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Community Grants

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

2022 Grants schemes

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

Local property tax grants

Details of grants are awaited from municipal district meetings.

LCDC Community Activities Fund for 2022

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

Local Community Development Committee January 2022

The last meeting in 2021 of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams on 24 November 2021.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

An online briefing event took place on 09 December and will be discussed at the next LCDC meeting.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Athy is one of 19 successful towns selected to be part of the National Healthy Communities initiative. A dedicated co-ordinator will be employed and will work to co-ordinate approaches between Kildare County Council, HSE and Tusla. This post was advertised and interviewed, with the recruitment being finalised.

Community Activities Community Grant Scheme

The LCDC received draft guidelines and application forms for the Community Activities Funding from the DRCD. This funding is aimed at community/voluntary groups to support small scale capital costs and towards utility bills. Kildare LCDC have €296,027 to administer. The national deadline for receipt of applications is 28 February 2022. Work to advertise the scheme is taking place.

Healthy Ireland

An extension has been granted for projects to complete their work until March 2022. Planning is underway at national level for Healthy Ireland Round 4. Sector 3 Solutions are contracted to develop the Healthy

Kildare Plan. Work has commenced on this, with consultations commencing in January 2022.

LEADER Programme

Applications are now being sought from individuals, businesses and community groups/organisations seeking grant aid to progress enterprise, community development and environmental initiatives.

County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) can be contacted for detailed information and support:

<https://www.countykildarelp.ie/> or telephone 045-895450

SICAP- Social Inclusion Programme

Additional resources of €4m were secured nationally for SICAP 2022. Kildare is receiving an additional 15% for SICAP 2022. This is very positive as the national baseline was a 5% increase. The Kildare SICAP budget 2022 is €1,256,797. Work to complete the plan for 2022 is currently being finalised and will be presented to the LCDC meeting in January in line with national requirements.

For further information on the programmes and supports on offer



please contact: County Kildare
LEADER Partnership –
<https://www.countykildarelp.ie/>, or
telephone 045-895450.

The next meeting of the LCDC is
scheduled for Wednesday 26 January
2022.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Ahead of the December trading period
for the industry, new guidelines for
hospitality were introduced from the
Government. Kildare Fáilte amended
the marketing message and focus to
support the hospitality industry, which
was much appreciated.

Kildare Fáilte attended the Grand
Canal Greenway Marketing Focus
Group Meeting which highlighted the
importance of identifying ‘wow’ factors
in Kildare along the Greenway.

Steering group meetings for the
Shackleton Museum Project were
attended by Kildare Fáilte.

The Thoroughbred Country and
Kildare Fáilte carried out visits to
several key equine and visitor

attractions in the county ahead of the
launch of saleable experiences in
2022.

The final report on the statistic and
insights project was completed and
recommendations were identified. The
project sought to examine how we can
assess tourism in the county to have
visibility of marketing campaigns and
identify gaps. These findings will be
presented to tourism and hospitality
industry in Kildare in January.

Kildare Fáilte met with stakeholders in
Athy to start work on creating an
interactive map game to encourage
people to spend longer in the town and
area and visit more businesses.

The Fáilte Ireland Industry Briefing for
December was attended by Kildare
Fáilte, which included Fáilte Ireland
CEO Paul Kelly (below) addressing the
issues faced by the tourism industry in
the current climate and supports
offered from Fáilte Ireland.





The Taste of Kildare at Christmas campaign continued through December across Into Kildare social media channels and website blogs. The campaign continued to promote festive breaks, festive experiences and gifting in Kildare to encourage people to support and shop local at Christmas. This was being supported by a targeted digital campaign to drive bookings for Kildare businesses.



Visitor engagement across social media channels remained high as festive experiences and offerings were the focal point of posts throughout the month of December.

Kildare Fáilte also inspired visitors to join a Virtual Cook-a-long which included a series of Kildare chefs sharing some of their most loved recipes joined by celebrity chef, Rachel Allen. Outdoor walks, events and festive afternoon tea experiences were among some of the most popular

searches among visitors on social media and website.



The highly engaging posts, coupled with the targeted digital campaign, drove traffic from Into Kildare channels to restaurants and hotels around the county where users could book or purchase an experience.

Kildare Fáilte attended the launch of the Brendan Grace exhibit in the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge Silverware which included a dedication to the life of legendary comedian and entertainer. The launch was hosted by Newbridge Silverware. The exhibition includes costumes from some of Brendan's most loved characters.

As we approached the year-end, Kildare Fáilte reviewed activity from 2021 and put plans in place for 2022. Meetings were held with stakeholders to agree concrete actions that can be delivered over the coming year to progress the objectives from the Strategic Plan for Tourism in Kildare.



Library and Arts Service

Libraries are everyman's free university. — John Jakes.

Right to Read: Family Time at Your Library

Right to Read is the national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy, in addition to local programming.

Family Time at Your Library events take place in Kildare libraries every December to support a family-focused approach to reading with children and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. In December 2021 the libraries hosted 13 events online and one outdoor event with 233 children and families taking part.

Capital Projects

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Duggan Lynch, the main contractor for Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Capital Project are progressing well. Library and Arts Service expect to open to the public in Autumn 2022.

County Library, Archives and Cultural Centre

This Capital Project received Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) under Category 2 as part of the Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter. Metropolitan Workshop Architects have been appointed as the Design Team lead and are working with the Public Realm and Special Projects Team and the Library Service on the design in advance of the Part 8 Planning process. Kildare County Council inter-departmental pre-planning consultation due to begin in the coming weeks.

New Clane Library

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



Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives (LSGA)

Decade of Commemorations Programme 2022

Leinster Leader Annual

Articles contributed to the above on the release of prisoners from the Rath Camp, The Curragh, December 1921, review of our 2021 programme and plans for events and publications in 2022.

Centenary of the Treaty

Interview on the Treaty debates by James Durney on KFM Radio.
Publication of articles and original pamphlets and newspaper reports held in our collection on Kildare Library Service's eHistory site, and via social media.

Artistic and Creative Bursary Awards 2022 launched

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

Access to Find My Past, including British Newspaper Archive

Access to the Find My Past subscription site, and its companion site, the British Newspaper Archive, is provided via the main library branches in the county. The website gives the public access to a wealth of Irish, English, Scottish, Welsh, American and Australian datasets for genealogical and historical research.

County Kildare and the War of Independence video

Produced by Ireland's Military Story and supported by the Decade of Commemorations programme on Kildare and the War of Independence, now available on the Library and Arts Service YouTube and social media channels.

Publications

Wilful Murder. Lt. John Hubert Wogan-Browne, Kildare, 10 February 1922 by Mark D McLoughlin, will be launched shortly.

Microfilm Reader/Scanner

A new machine has been purchased which will allow scanning of the



extensive microfilm collection in LSGA to enable ease of use and dissemination of material.



St Brigid's Day 2022 – Brigid 1500
Kildare County Council welcomed the announcement by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin of the designation of a new permanent public holiday from next year in celebration of St Brigid's day, and the season of Imbolc.

Events for your Diary St. Brigid's Day 2022 include the following:

- With Herstory Education Trust, the cathedral in Kildare Town, and three other sites in the county, will be illuminated with an artwork featuring images of Brigid, in the evening on 01 February.
- Herstory poet in residence Laura Murphy has been

commissioned to create a poetic concept film for live performance at the cathedral in Kildare on Feile Bhride.

- An RTE Nationwide programme on St. Brigid will be aired on 28 January 2022.
- Into Kildare are distributing 5,000 candles through the library network to commemorate Feile Bhride. Following the success of 2021 they are also organising the lighting of the tower on the Hill of Allen.
- Kildare's Decade of Commemorations committee with the Kildare's Creative Ireland team has distributed a report on Brigid 1500 for circulation to Creative Ireland teams countrywide and to strategic partners, in advance of the 2024 1500th anniversary of the death of Brigid.
- Artist Josephine Hardiman is hosting and creating an exhibition on the Brigid of



Kildare inspired 'Book of Kildare' in Solas Bhríde.

Artists' Collective, SULT, are also holding an exhibition on Brigid of Kildare in Solas Bhríde to coincide with St Brigid's feast day. It will consist of around 18 specially created artworks.

Kildare Arts Service

ComeBack Festival - supported by the Kildare Local Live Performance Programme Scheme Phase II

The Kildare Local Live Performance Programming Scheme supported the ComeBack Returns series of online concerts filmed and broadcast during December. This scheme aimed to support the creation of employment opportunities in Kildare for professional artists and musicians of all genres, performers, technicians, crew, lighting and sound engineers and other support staff working in the live culture, creative and music industries.

Premiering online from 16 to 22 December 2021, the Comeback Returns series of streamed performances featured artists including Sequence, Sharyn Ward, Celine Byrne, Eimear Quinn, Pillow Queens, Daire Patel, Sinéad White, Amy Dillon,

Loah and Jack L. Hosted by May Kay these concerts have already had over 100,000 online views to date.

Comeback Returns, produced by Davis Events, was a festival of Kildare's creative spirit which showcased the county's musical diversity and talent. Presented as part of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme (Phase II) in association with Kildare County Council and Kildare Libraries and Arts Service, Comeback concerts were recorded in St Mary's Church Maynooth and Village at Lyons Celbridge. Watch all concerts now by visiting <http://kildareculture.com/>

A third phase of the scheme for 2022 has been offered to Kildare County Council, with an award of €143,000. It is hoped to develop a programme with Maynooth University, focusing on cultural diversity.

Digital Folklore and Stories

Capturing the Ordinary

In early December artist/folklorist Michael Fortune (folklore.ie) concluded a six session series of online workshops on new techniques to record people and places and edit



short video. Participants responded positively to the programme and the tutor, engaging enthusiastically in this upskilling and peer-to-peer learning experience. 'Digital Folklore and Stories Capturing the Ordinary' was supported through the Kildare Creative Ireland programme.

Online Consultation on pilot Basic Income for the Arts Scheme

Kildare Arts Service will support the national consultation towards the pilot Basic Income for the Arts Scheme led by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The online consultation is open and closes on 27 January 2022. It follows a successful stakeholder forum on 15 December that saw over 150 participants including 50 artists and arts workers resource and representative bodies come together to discuss the proposal and provide their views and feedback to the Minister and her Department.

Parks

Allenwood Playground

A tender for initial site clearance of scrub to facilitate the playground has

been completed and the work is due to be carried out in February. Work on the tender for the playground has started and it is hoped to have this completed in the next eight weeks.

Tree Works Tender

Tree works in Celbridge-Leixlip, Kildare-Newbridge and Clane-Maynooth Municipal District areas have been awarded and work on finalizing the details of the work and start dates is ongoing. Work on preparing tenders for the Athy and Naas Municipal Districts are ongoing. It is hoped to tender Athy in the next month and Naas after that.

Tree Planting Programme

The 2021 tree planting programme is currently being completed. This work was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions last year. A tender for this years planting is currently being prepared and is due to be awarded before the end of the month.

Sallins Amenity Land

It is proposed to advertise the Part 8 masterplan for Sallins Amenity Land by the end of the month. The details



of the Part 8 will be available on the consultation portal on the Kildare County Council website and be advertised publically.

Newbridge Playground

An online survey to ascertain adults and childrens opinions on play provision in Newbridge has been completed. The survey was also distributed to the primary schools in the town. The results will be analyzed in the coming weeks and the results will be used to initially inform the development of a natural play area in Liffey Linear Park. They will also inform the development of additional play facilities in Newbridge.

Celbridge Playground

A new wheelchair swing is due to be installed in Celbridge playground in the next fortnight. The swing is being funded from LPT allocated by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District members last year.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

January 2022

Funding Applications Awarded From 01 January – 31 December 2021		
	No. Business es	Amount Received
Web Development Grant	119	€221,578.31
Shopfront Grant *Remainder of funds per MD see pg2	78	€144,504
Outdoor Seating and Accessories Grant	126	€387,272
Export Marketing Grant	18	€28,496
Start-up/ Expansion/Primi ng/ Export Marketing Grants	54	€1,017,039
Agile Innovation Fund	3	€214,725

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



Immediate business support:

To access a business advisor or mentor, email

localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Register query or request to speak to an advisor:

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/11>

[3](#)

For Brexit and Export support, email

afrese@kildarecoco.ie

For all other queries

email localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

or call 045980838.

For continued updates please follow

Kildare County Council's LEO on social media.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

Spring Training Programmes 2022 Launched

LEO Kildare has launched the official Spring 2022 Brochure of Training Programmes. The suite of programmes feature areas such as finance, digital marketing and LEAN management. The training schedule has a focus of providing Kildare businesses with the knowledge and technical skills to continue to trade throughout 2022 despite current economic challenges.

In 2021, 4,300 clients availed of LEO Kildare training programmes, including 479 individuals who completed a Start Your Own Business Programme showing the continuing ambition for start-ups in the county.

For a full list of available courses please visit

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

Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP)

The Advanced Management Development Programme (AMDP) is for business owner/managers who have previously completed the very popular Management Development Programme (MDP) with LEO Kildare. It is aimed at business owners who have a strong commitment to expanding their business onto the next stage of their business cycle. The programme will run for ten morning sessions beginning on 18 January.

Flavours of Kildare Food Network

Local Enterprise Office Kildare has launched the Flavours of Kildare Food Network as part of an ongoing effort to harness the power of the 'collective'



and to ensure that unique food and drink heritage in the county benefits from the attention it deserves.

Through the Flavours of Kildare brand these programmes can enjoy better linkages and cross-promotion.

Food and drink businesses can apply online to join the network by visiting <https://leokildare.submit.com//show/126>

Food Starter Programme

The Food Starter programme is a short programme provided online and designed to help those with a food idea. The programme is aimed at those at a very early stage of starting up a food business - typically the first 24 months.

The Food Starter Programme was held twice in 2021 with 18 food and drink business entrepreneurs taking part in the programme.

Green for Micro Programme

Businesses in County Kildare can avail of two full days of consultancy costs worth €1,800, a unique opportunity to cut harmful emissions and make significant energy, waste, water and other savings through this programme.

85 clients availed of the Green for Micro Programme in 2021.

The next Green for Micro information briefing is taking place on 26 January 2022. For more information and to secure a place please visit

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/Green-for-Micro-Briefing-Session1.html>

Lean for Micro Programme

The training programme introduces Lean concepts to participating businesses. Each company participating is encouraged to complete a specific improvement project to show the value of the approach.

A total of 68 clients availed of the LEAN for Micro Programme in 2021.

Ongoing Business Advice and Mentoring Support

The mentoring programme is available for startup businesses and for established businesses. This support is free of charge and applications can be made by visiting

<https://leokildare.submit.com/show/17>



705 sessions of 1 to 1 expert mentoring support were provided to businesses over the course of 2021.

Business Advice clinics continue to be held weekly where participants can receive advice and guidance from an experienced Business Advisor. To register query or request to speak to an advisor then please visit <https://leokildare.submit.com//show/113>

Economic Support Services

Shopfront Enhancement Grant

LEO Kildare has been notified that the 2022 budget for the Shopfront Scheme will be €200,000 (the same as in previous years). €40,000 will be allocated to each Municipal District under the scheme in 2022.

2021 Budget Remaining

Kildare-Newbridge	€0
Athy	€8,659
Naas	€0
Clane-Maynooth	€14,239
Celbridge-Leixlip	€20,789

Economic Development – Capital Projects

MERITS – Innovation and Incubation Centre



MERITS continues to onboard new tenants. The latest additions include Genkos United t/a Fieldy, Vyra, CareerPathways2Success and Hub360.

The grand opening with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar was scheduled for the end of January 2022 but has been deferred due a diary clash, but a series of open days/open evenings over the coming months to market the facility to local tech founders will now proceed in light of the relaxing of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The MERITS team has scheduled two LEO-funded programmes, Genesis and TechHatch for the coming month. A number of webinars for StartUps will be held during January and February



along with the launching of a Digital Platform and online booking system.

National Equine Innovation Centre

The programme of works at the Irish National Stud has now been completed and the marketing and promotion of the National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) will commence shortly to attract equine innovation companies from Kildare to locate there.

Kildare Hub Strategy Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub

The final design has been completed for the project. A pre-qualification process for interested contractors for the main construction contract was published in October and expressions of interest were submitted from a number of contractors. The successful contractors have been informed that they have been approved to tender for the main construction contractor which will be published for tender next year. Following the announcement of a new round of RRDF funding, the project team are preparing an application in advance of the deadline in April.

K-Hub Network

Hosted by Kildare County Council the public and private co-working and

innovation space owners/managers have been meeting regularly and have formed the K-Hub network. The network leverage economies of scale in research, collaboration, training and funding applications and is supported by the economic development unit in Kildare County Council.

Kildare Hub Strategy

Kildare County Council appointed a consultant, PMG Consult, in July to develop a hub strategy that carries out a critical piece of analysis for the county to ensure its future growth and to align its approach and hub development strategy with regional and national policy. A consultation phase was completed with over 25 internal and external stakeholders and a draft strategy was presented to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for consideration in September. Following feedback from the SPC, a final version of the strategy was presented and approved at the December SPC meeting. The strategy will be presented to the members and published in early 2022.

Kildare Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The Economic Development team have worked closely with the regional



stakeholders to consult and prepare the final draft of the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024. It is expected that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will publish the plan in Quarter 1 2022.

Kildare Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator

Kildare County Council has tendered for a Food Strategy and Food Network Co-Ordinator. The successful service

provider will be required to act as co-ordinator of the Kildare Food Network and drive the implementation of the Kildare Food, Beverage and Hospitality strategy on behalf of the key project stakeholders. The date for submission of tender was 22 December and it is envisaged that the successful applicant will be appointed in January 2022.

Appendix: COVID-19 Business Supports

Please advise your constituents of the following business supports available in response to COVID-19.

All COVID-19 Business Supports Available from All Government Bodies Outlined on the Kildare LEO Website:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Covid-19-Supports/>

Objective	Support	Link
Financial		
Immediate Cashflow	MFI COVID-19 Business loan – The first 6 months is interest and repayment free, a reduced rate of 4.5%, a LEO mentor assigned to complete the loan application form.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html
Generate Revenue with Online Sales	Shop County Kildare – new online Kildare eCommerce platform providing the opportunity to make the	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/News/Introducing-Shop-County-Kildare!.html



	move to online sales in a free of charge, quick and user-friendly way	
	Trading Online - Please encourage constituents to submit completed application forms to the LEO at localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie .	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Online-Trading-Vouchers/
Advisory:		
Expert Strategic Mentoring	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring programme with panel of specialist mentors	https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE
Health and Safety Guidance	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring with specialist to ensure businesses have tools and knowledge to implement Health and Safety measures in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible	https://leokildare.submit.com//show/113
Managing Employees in line with Government Guidelines	Free of charge 1:1 mentoring with HR specialist to ensure businesses have knowledge of new policies and procedures with managing and bringing staff back to work in line with Government Guidelines to allow them open as soon as possible	https://www.localenterprise.ie/!KHSQYE
Improving Online Presence and Increasing Online Sales	Suite of digital marketing training to support businesses in driving traffic to website, communicating with customers and overall keeping the business operating	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/



Communications:		
Frequent Updates Regarding the Evolving Situation, Notification of Upcoming Supports and services as well as support documents and publications	The LEO website, newsletter, social media, the Head of Enterprise Update, online knowledge hubs.	Sign up to newsletter: https://localenterprise.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8fc2c8db27df60c85a7f58de8&id=87063fc48c
Access to LEO team and specialists	The LEO mailbox, direct and personal phone contact and ability to speak to specialist within 24 hours of enquiry	localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie 045980838

Sonya Kavanagh
Interim Chief Executive