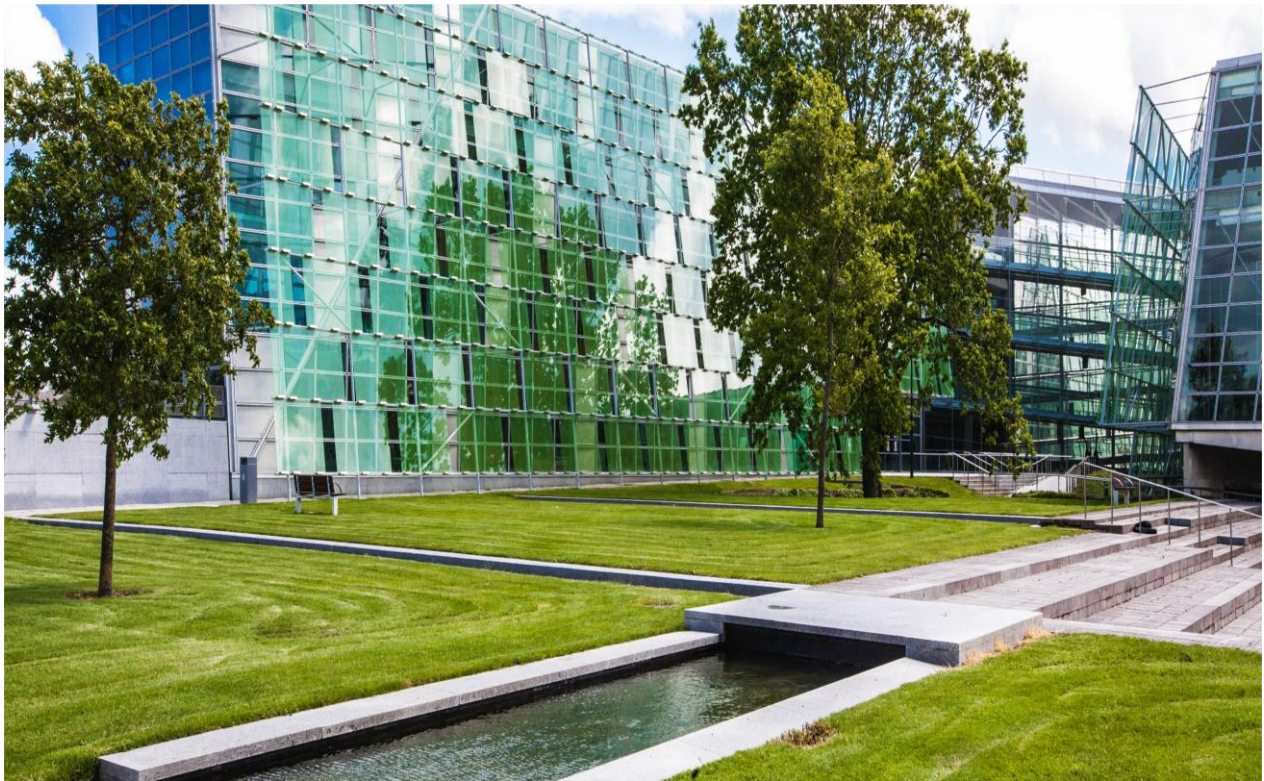




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## Kildare County Council

### Chief Executive's Management Report – September 2024





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## News Items

### **Kildare Housing Estate Recognised as First ‘Age Friendly Housing Estate’ in the Country**

Castlefen housing estate, Sallins, County Kildare has been awarded the status of Ireland’s first Age Friendly estate. This status was awarded to the Estate by Age Friendly Ireland (see page 7).

### **Kildare County Council Consultation for new Corporate Plan**

Kildare County Council is carrying out a public consultation for the development of a new Corporate Plan for the period 2025 – 2029. (see page 8).

### **Heritage Week**

Kildare Libraries hosted lots of great events for Heritage Week 2024 (see page 11).

### **Applications invited for Project Coordinator role for ‘Did I Ever Tell You’ Project**

The Project Coordinator will support the coordination and evaluation of ‘Did I Ever Tell You’ a creative health and wellbeing project taking place across counties Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath (see pages 13/14).

### **National Strategy for Migrant Integration**

The Department is developing a new national strategy for migrant integration, succeeding the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020. This strategy will outline the Government’s approach and commitment to supporting migrant integration (see page 22).

### **Serviced Sites in Clogherinkoe**

The council is selling seven serviced sites in Clogherinkoe, Co Kildare under the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme 2023 (see page 30).



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## **Strategic Projects and Public Realm**

Funding under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024 - Project Development Measure has been awarded to Monasterevin in the sum of €34,335.00 (see page 32).

## **Flood Risk Management**

### **Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)**

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare (see page 58).

## **Winter Maintenance**

The Machinery Yard team are preparing for winter maintenance operations for the 2024/ 2025 season, including fleet maintenance (see page 66).

## **Kildare Fáilte**

In August, Kildare Fáilte, in partnership with Barberstown Castle, sponsored the Kildare visit of the International Rose of Tralee Festival (see pages 77/78).

## **National Ploughing Championships**

LEO Kildare is proud to support Equine Products Ireland Limited from Narraghmore who will exhibit at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village (see page 82).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Kildare County Council to host National Play Day 2024**

This free family event will take place at Áras Chill Dara, Naas on Saturday 14 September between 12.00pm and 5.00pm (see page 7).

### **Culture Night 2024**

Kildare Arts Service is pleased to confirm that Culture Night will take place on Friday 20 September 2024 from 4.00pm till late. (see page 13).

### **Proposed statutory budget date**

18 November 2024, with a briefing on Monday 11 November (see pages 18/19).

### **Design Sprint**

The Innovation Team have organised a Design Sprint event on October 22 as part of Public Sector Transformation Week (see page 22).

### **Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029**

The plan and details can be accessed on the Council's Consultation Portal (Online) <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> Comments and submissions will be accepted in writing or online no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, 24 October 2024 (see page 31).

### **Housing Clinics**

For upcoming housing clinics (see page 32).

### **Uisce Éireann Councillor Workshop**

Uisce Éireann will be holding an in-person workshop on Monday 30 September from 1.30pm to 3.00pm in the Council Chamber (see page 53 ).

### **LCDC**

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 02 October 2024 (see page 62).



## October Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Sep 09:00 Uisce Éireann 13.30pm followed by NTA 15:00pm; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>1 Oct</b>	2	3	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calen..	5	6
7	8 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	9	10	11	12	13
14 14:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting; Members Calendar	15	16 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calen..	17	18 08:00 Special meeting Clane Maynooth; Microsoft Team... 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal distri...	19	20
21 10:00 Special Meeting Clane ... 10:00 Athy MD Meeting Octob... 14:00 County Ki... 15:00 Full coun...	22 15:30 Naas Municipal District Special Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>1 Nov</b> 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calen..	2	3





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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services

#### Communications

### Kildare Housing Estate Recognised as First 'Age Friendly Housing Estate' in the Country



Castlefen housing estate, Sallins, County Kildare has been awarded the status of Ireland's first Age Friendly estate. This status was awarded to the Estate by Age Friendly Ireland, following an extensive programme of work to improve the estate for older residents and a re-assessment by Age Friendly Ireland. With the support of a Kildare County Council community worker, Castlefen embarked on a programme of work to improve the environment, the housing provision and the community supports for older people, making the estate more Age Friendly and inclusive for all generations.

The community undertook this body of work because they recognised the diverse needs of older people who reside in the estate.

### Kildare County Council to host National Play Day 2024

Kildare County Council has announced details of National Play Day 2024, which promises to be a fun-filled and inclusive event for every member of the family. This free family event will take place at Áras Chill Dara, Naas on Saturday 14 September between 12.00pm and 5.00pm. This event is organised by Kildare County Council, in conjunction with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Kildare Play Day has been running for over ten years and always attracts a large crowd, so we're looking forward to another busy day at Aras Chill Dara.

### Ostálfaidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara Lá Náisiúnta Súgartha 2024



**National Playday** 'Time to Play'  
**Lá Náisiúnta Súgartha** 'Tá sé in am Spraoi'

**Saturday**  
14th September 2024  
12 - 5pm

**Dé Sathairn**  
14 Meán Fómhair 2024  
12 - 5in

**FREE ACTIVITIES**  
for the whole family

**IMEACHTAÍ SAOR IN AISCE**  
don teaghlach ar fad

**Áras Chill Dara, An Nós**  
Kildare County Council, Naas **W91 X77F**



Tá an-áthas ar Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara sonraí faoinár Lá Náisiúnta Súgartha 2024 a fhógairt. Imeacht lán spraoi agus uilechuimsitheach a bheidh ann do gach uile bhall den teaghlach. Beidh an t-imeacht teaghlaigh saor in aisce seo ar siúl in Áras Chill Dara, An Nás, Dé Sathairn 14 Meán Fómhair idir 12 i.n. agus 5 i.n. Is í Comhairle Contae Chill Dara atá ag eagrú na hócáide i gcomhar leis an Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige. Tá Lá Súgartha Chill Dara á reáchtáil le breis agus 10 mbliana anuas agus freastalaíonn slua mór ar an imeacht chuile bhliain. Mar sin, táimid ag súil le lá bríomhar eile ag Áras Chill Dara i mbliana.

### **Kildare County Council Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme**

Kildare County Council carried out public consultation for the development of a new scheme for the formation of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) for the period 2025 – 2029, between 30 July and 2 September. Submissions received are being reviewed and it is proposed a Draft SPC will be brought to the

elected members for their consideration in October.

### **Kildare County Council launches Consultation for new Corporate Plan**



Kildare County Council is carrying out a public consultation for the development of a new Corporate Plan for the period 2025 – 2029. Kildare County Council is inviting members of the public to get involved by completing an online survey, sharing views and providing feedback on their vision for the strategic development of Kildare County Council. The consultation began on 30 July and was extended to 16 September.





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## **Kildare County Council signs contract for the purchase of Donaghcumper House and Lands**

Kildare County Council has announced that the Council has signed a contract for the purchase of Donaghcumper House in Celbridge, County Kildare along with approx. 26.3 hectares of adjoining lands. Kildare County Council currently owns 12.33 hectares of land on the south side of the River Liffey adjoining the Donaghcumper landholding. The purchase of these additional lands at Donaghcumper will re-unite the landholding into the Council's ownership. It is also part of a longer-term vision to establish the River Liffey Amenity Park and corridor, and it is a step towards the County Development Plan objective to protect the special landscape character associated with the historic country estates and houses of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans. In due course, and following the expected close of sale, Kildare County Council will prepare a masterplan for the Donaghcumper lands in consultation with the public and local stakeholders. It is expected that the lands could accommodate a new public parkland with potential

opportunities for sports, recreation, amenity and biodiversity initiatives together with some community and mixed uses.

## **Explore Connections, Routes and Networks this Heritage Week 2024**

Heritage Week 2024 took place nationwide from Saturday 17 August to Sunday 25 August, showcasing the joy, diversity and accessibility that can be found within Kildare's rich heritage. As a nation of storytellers, all of our heritage is linked to stories of people, places, moments and things. The Theme of Heritage Week 2024 was 'Connections, Routes and Networks', which encourages people to look at the roads, routes, traditions, species, and ecosystems all of which are connected. Events that took place in Kildare include barge trips, biodiversity walks and exhibitions and tours for all ages.

## **Kildare Census 2022 - AIRO Findings**

The Kildare Census 2022 reports compiled by the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) have been examined and statistics filtered on a Municipal District basis. A briefing for



elected members from AIRO will be provided at 1.30 on 25 November in the Council Chamber.

### **Risk Registers**

Q2 Risk Register templates have been circulated and work is progressing on finalising these.

### **Members Services**

The Meeting of the Council on 23 September will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube Channel.

### **October Municipal District Meetings**

The Draft Budgetary Plan will be discussed at all October Municipal District meetings.

As Clane Maynooth and Naas monthly Municipal District meetings fall outside the prescribed period, special meetings will be arranged to discuss the Draft Budgetary Plan for these Municipal Districts

### **Casual Trading Opportunities**



The opportunity to apply for casual trading licences will be advertised in quarter four of 2024, with many existing licences expiring by year end.

This will be advertised via local newspapers, our relevant social media channels and in cooperation with trader representative bodies/networks.

Further information in relation to casual trading within the county, such as how to apply and a list of designated locations in each District, can be found at [www.kildarecoco.ie/Business/CasualTrading/](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/Business/CasualTrading/)

### **Library and Arts Service**

#### **News and Highlights**

**“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.**

**—Henry Ward Beecher.”**

#### **Reader Services**

##### **Summer Stars 2024**

The national reading challenge has now finished. Children were encouraged to read for pleasure over the summer months. There were lots of fantastic, free events organised throughout June, July, and August in all our libraries. Over 4,700 children took part in Kildare's Summer Stars challenge this year which is an



increase of over 1,400 from last year's participation figures.

### **KRF presents Kildare Reads series**

Over the summer we had three KRF presents Kildare Reads author events in Celbridge, Athy and Leixlip.

In June Celbridge hosted Sprout co-founder Theo Kirwan with food writer Kate Ryan on his book Saladology. Ally and Turtle Bunbury discussed their writing process in Athy in July. Amanda Cassidy and Fiona Sherlock chatted about crime in Leixlip in August.

### **Heritage Week**

Kildare Libraries hosted lots of great events for Heritage Week 2024:

#### **Screening of HANDS with special guest Michael Tutty**

Libraries celebrated a very special Heritage Week screening of the beautiful Hands episode featuring Tuttys Shoemakers of Naas. Michael Tutty, the current manager of the family enterprise, demonstrated some of the tools and materials used to make their bespoke shoes. Unique in Ireland, Tuttys are the only

shoemakers of this kind left in the country.

HANDS is a unique, multi-award-winning series of thirty-seven documentaries on Irish crafts. Made by the renowned filmmaking team, David and Sally Shaw-Smith, it was originally produced for Irish television (RTÉ)

#### **Connecting the Past with the Present with Cill Dara Historical Society**

Cill Dara Historical Society in association with Grey Abbey Conservation Group, Kildare Town Heritage Centre and Kildare Community Library.

#### **'Connections, Routes and Networks'**

Heritage of County Kildare at Kildare County Archives and Local Studies Traditional Irish Music Workshop with Irish Institute of Music and Song for children aged six plus.

**Meet a Beekeeper**— and the bees! As part of Heritage Week, we will be joined by a local beekeeper, who will be available to answer all your beekeeping questions, along with a live colony of bees, which you can view in an observation hive.



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## **'Let's talk about Parenting' in Kildare Libraries**

The Autumn Parenting Programme has been launched, with a mix of free in-house and online talks and workshops designed to support parents and professionals with their children and young people, whatever their life cycle stage may be.

Talks on the programme include recurring popular, but also new and current topical issues. Examples include Raising bilingual children in Ireland, Parenting when separated or divorced, Let's talk about Fertility, 50 / 50 parenting, and emotionally based school avoidance. The brochure is available now on the library website and in your local library.

["Let's Talk About Parenting" Events Programme Autumn 2024](#)

## **Toys, Technology and Training (TTT)**

Kildare Library Service launched the Autumn 2024 Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme, supporting our neurodiverse community.

Please find our brochure of FREE events which will be taking place from September - December this year. The brochure can be accessed online [here](#).

## **Library IT**

Following an ICT upgrade earlier this year, the library service was happy to offer a selection of old public access laptops as a donation to St. Catherine of Siena National School, Curragh Camp, which were gratefully accepted. Jonathan Healy, Principal: "Thank you so much for the donation of the laptops. They really will add substantially to our IT resources here in the school."

## **Kildare County Archives and Local Studies**

The installation of new lights has been conducted, as well as landscaping works, at Harbour View.

Staff deal with researchers in person and via email/telephone; Kildare County Archives is open to in-person researchers on Thursday/Friday, 10.00am -1.00pm and 2.00pm-5.00pm by prior appointment. Local Studies is open to in-person researchers from Wednesday-Saturday, 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm -5.00pm by prior appointment.

Accessioning, listing, and processing archival collections, including records stored in Kefron continues. Local



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Studies staff are cataloguing their collection.

### **Forthcoming events**

13-15 September - Brigid's World' conference organised by Maynooth University and Kildare County Council (Brigid 1500).

20 September - Annual John Devoy commemoration, 8.00pm, Old School, Kill. The Friends of John Devoy and Kill Local History Group will be presenting a new play 'They Also Serve,' written by Martina Murphy, and directed by Claire Joyce.

### **Culture Night 2024**

Kildare Arts Service is pleased to confirm that Culture Night will take place on Friday 20 September 2024 from 4.00pm till late. The programme is being finalised and a brochure of upcoming events will be distributed soon.

### **Artist in Residence 2024**

In partnership with the Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, the National Youth Council of Ireland and Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, Kildare Arts Service are delighted to

invite 'expressions of interest' from qualified artists.

### **Creative Places Athy Artist in Residence**

Artist Anthony Haughey has begun his yearlong residency project in Athy. The Good News Bureau, on Leinster St, Athy will function as a community hub, a meeting place leading to the co-production of a series of unfolding art exhibitions. A living archive that will belong to the people of Athy.

### **Creative Places Athy Evaluation and Roadmap**

Evaluation is ongoing for Creative Place Athy's three-year programme 2021 – 2024 with Dr David Teevan and associates.

A Roadmap and Culture of Learning plan is in development for the sustainability of arts and culture in Athy. This body of work is being delivered by Workhouse Union from Callan, Kilkenny who are leaders in community co-design and creative placemaking.





## Applications invited for Project Coordinator role for 'Did I Ever Tell You' Project

The Project Coordinator will support the coordination and evaluation of 'Did I Ever Tell You' a creative health and wellbeing project taking place across counties Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath. This project is supported by the Creative Ireland Programme under the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme working in partnership with Kildare County Council, Offaly County Council and Westmeath County Council.

## Short Grass Film Commission 2024 going into production.

Rye Films who were confirmed the recipient of the Short Grass Film Commission Award 2024 (€12,500) start production of their film 'Heartsick' on location in County Kildare.

## Health and Safety

### 1. Site Inspections:

Nine inspections completed in the following areas:

- Kildare roads area office, Newbridge

- Offices of new machinery yard
- Donaghcumper graveyard
- Kill yard enclosure
- Gully cleaning with Downings pit team
- New machinery yard-workshop and salt barns
- Housing DPG
- Oil spill- Timahoe team
- Planning Department Floor one

### 2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:

21 assessments completed in the following area:

- National Roads Office (NRO) (thirteen)
- Planning (one)
- Housing (three)
- Community (one)

### 3. Pregnancy Risk Assessment completed in community section.

### 4. Five Health and Safety Inductions:

- Delivered to 44 new starts.

### 5. Update of Accident/Incident Database.

### 6. Two accidents logged with HSA

### 7. Brownstown facility – final agreement on Risk Assessment



- 
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Method Statement (RAMS) and Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP)</p> <p>8. Briefing session at NRO on Safety statement and RAMS-ten National Roads Office staff in attendance</p> <p>9. Working on Metabolic Age Testing initiative</p> <p>10. Dealing with Health and Safety issue in Newbridge Cemetery</p> <p>11. Preparation for Annual Conference</p> <p>12. Review of safety statement e-learning programme</p> <p>13. New SSWP reviewed and updated with Building and Dev and updated on Portal and shared folders</p> <p>14. Meeting with IT re moving of Health and Safety portal to Sharepoint</p> <p>15. Meeting with Climate Action re E-bikes around training and insurance.</p> <p>16. School wardens RAMS made active</p> <p>17. Brownstown pollution complaints crew RAMS made active.</p> <p>18. Assistance to machinery yard and salting barn re the provision of Risk Assessment (RA) and Method Statement (MS) for all activities on site (completed refueling and use of power washing and workshop)</p> | <p>19. Review of Risk Assessment (RA) and Method Statement (MS) with Planning.</p> <p>20. Ongoing review of arrangements sections – outstanding with libraries.</p> <p>21. Ongoing review of Risk Assessment (RA) and MS with libraries- proper recording of such.</p> <p>22. Safety Meet and Greet – Surface Dressing Athy.</p> <p>23. Health and Safety and Governance Committee Meeting – Uisce Eireann.</p> <p>24. Accident Investigations-Rathangan, Athy (two).</p> <p>25. Review and update of Policy and procedure for the management of winter maintenance as per LASOG and LGMA national guidance- DRAFT only sent to relevant parties</p> <p>26. Site visit Kerdiffstown in preparation for opening.</p> <p>27. Preparatory work for Flu Vaccination delivery.</p> <p>28. Review of PPE purchasing system with MJ Scannell and Procurement team at Kildare County Council.</p> <p>29. Discussion with Tenant Liaison Officers (TLO) and Social Workers (SW) on the requirements around</p> |
|---|---|



MS and RA – TLO now completed and approved, social workers outstanding.

30. Following query -Examination of the RT smart data sensor feedback re temperatures on the floor etc.

31. Assisting environment in the completion of the arrangement section of the safety statement.

### **Accessibility:**

#### 1. Meetings:

- a. Athy Disability Access Group
- b. Leixlip Disability Access Group
- c. Meeting with IWA (Irish Wheelchair Association) and Athy Disability Access Group
- d. Meeting re setting up Local Access Group in Clane
- e. Meeting with Dara Community Living re Partnership agreement with Kildare County Council.

2. Setting up of accessibility folders on shared drive

3. Inspection of Accessible Toilet in Kilcock Community Centre for conformity to specifications under

Technical Guidance Document (Part M).

4. Attended Think-in with Creative Places Athy.

5. Meeting with Ability Focus re developing content for disability awareness training

6. Review of reasonable accommodation with staff member.

7. Workshop with LGMA re organising Access officer's workshop:

- Purpose

The purpose of the training is to deliver clear, current, and accurate information about disability and neurodiversity and to address questions or concerns that, Access, Equality, Inclusion and HR teams may have about working with and creating policies and procedures for people with disabilities. Disability Awareness Training will help staff:

- Understand the barriers faced by people with disabilities and enable them to identify why inclusion is important in Irish society.
- Explore their own attitude towards disability and inclusion.



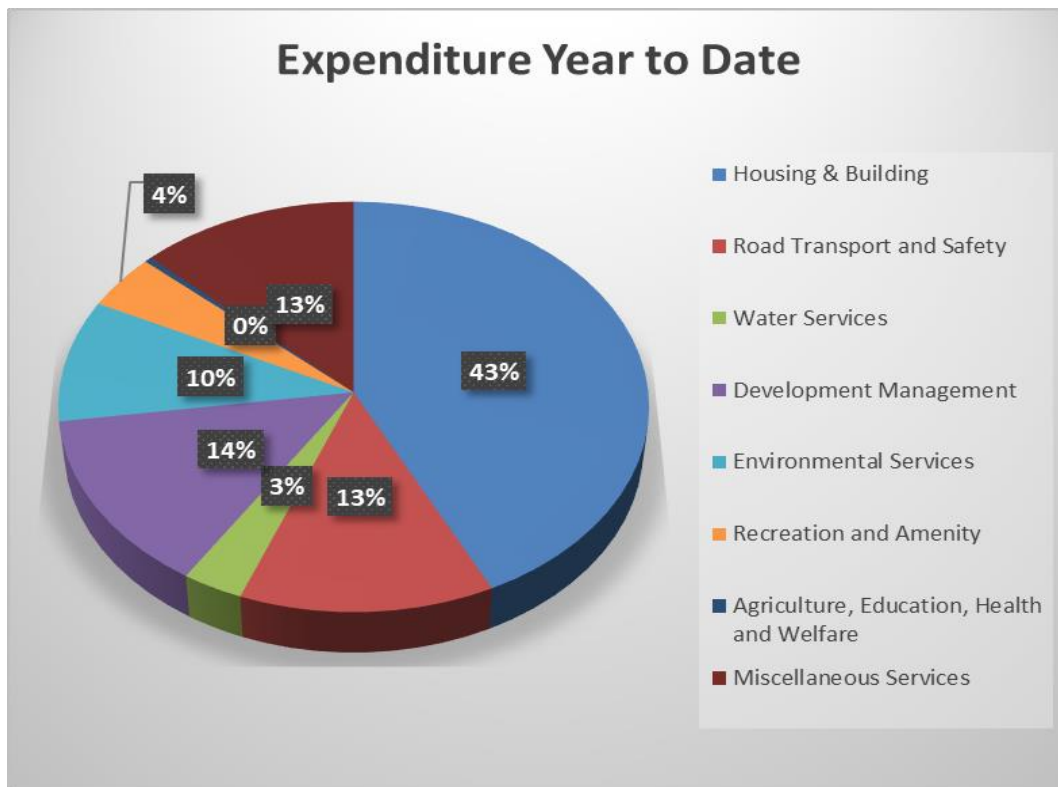
- Define the Medical/ Social and Rights models of disability.
- Identify barriers PWDs face and how to remove these barriers with clear policies.
- Acquire a working knowledge of disability and equality legislation and how it relates to their organisation.
- Develop an awareness of practical measures in relation to inclusive service delivery and equality issues.
- Appreciate the importance of promoting anti-discriminatory practice and inclusive service delivery within their organisation.
- Training on key issues such as why inclusion is important, how to organise inclusive events and how to communicate and assist PWDs effectively.

## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

<b>Kildare County Council</b>				
<b>Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 August 2024</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Budget Spend</b>	<b>Budget remaining</b>
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	72,563	88,215	82%	15,652
Road Transport and Safety	22,226	44,078	50%	21,852
Water Services	5,321	9,767	54%	4,446
Development Management	23,355	29,330	80%	5,975
Environmental Services	16,370	24,474	67%	8,104
Recreation and Amenity	7,339	17,635	42%	10,296
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	726	1,305	56%	579
Miscellaneous Services	21,821	21,941	99%	120
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	169,722	236,745	72%	67,023



### Budget 2025

The proposed statutory budget date is 18 November 2024, with a briefing on Monday 11 November.

The public consultation period for setting Local Property Tax (LPT) adjustment factor for 2025 closed on 16 August, 130 submissions were received.

Public consultation period for Rates Abatement scheme in respect of vacant properties closed on 04 September, no submissions were received.

As Members are aware the budget in the public sector represents the ceiling to funding provision of a service – i.e. excluding additional grants, the budget amount is the maximum spend that can be incurred.

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure or by receiving additional grant income.

It is of note that that the expenditure and income in Development





Management is significantly ahead of budget, this is due to the expenditure and income on the “Increased Cost of Business Grant Scheme” of €9.9million being included in this division but not budgeted for in 2024 as the scheme was announced at a date after Kildare County Council budget was adopted.

The executive is very conscious of the need to monitor and manage expenditure and to ensure that overall budgets are not exceeded whilst at the same time delivering services in accordance with the budget agreed by Members.

### Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 August 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/06/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	70,603,313	122,653		78,861,125	54,342,765	24,518,360
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	14,482,259	6,453	-	15,819,864	14,471,453	1,348,411
Housing Loans	1,387,626	2,679,384	12	-	4,066,998	2,760,539	1,306,459

### Cashflow / Overdraft

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

### Risk Management

The individual directorates have had workshops on their individual Risk Registers with IPB. A quarter two review of departmental risk registers is ongoing and a review of the Corporate

Risk Register is scheduled for October.

### Local Government Audit

Eamon Daly, Local Government Auditor has commenced his audit of the Financial Statements of Kildare County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 and expects to issue his audit report in late October.



## Increased Cost of Business Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses.

Kildare County Council has approx 4,100 eligible businesses.

3,186 submissions received; 48 applications refused.

Both ICOB schemes are now fully dealt with. Total ICOB issued €9,937,345

## Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

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

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

water and wastewater connection charges to 30 September 2024.

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

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15-Aug-24
Total number of residential units		1036
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	708	€5,742,579
Apartments	328	€1,008,174
Special Roads		€150,000
Car parking		€75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>€6,975,753</b>

## Digital Services

### Improving Mobile coverage

Novatel have completed their work in the Áras, and the enhanced mobile coverage has now gone live.

### New Printers

The roll out of new printers to the Áras is now complete, we have also upgraded printers in satellite offices in Naas, over the next few weeks we will start replacing all printers across the county. This will result in one standard type of printer in use across all the main offices in the county.



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## **Program and Project Management solution:**

Kildare County Council are working with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. This joint team will focus on putting together a tender document, publishing a tender and selecting a PPM solution.

## **Governance**

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) are holding a one-day training event for Board and Governing Body members in-person at the IPA on Wednesday 02 October.

The event is designed to support new Board/Governing Body members and those who might benefit from refresher training on the roles and responsibilities of Boards and Board members of state, public and not-for-profit bodies. It will address, inter alia, the Board's role in the effective direction and control of entities, board-executive relationships, the obligations and duties of individual members, and the key characteristics of the Board as a team and board effectiveness. Contact Member services to book this training.

## **Innovation**

Kildare County Council has been shortlisted in the twentieth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for the following projects:

Ballymore Eustace as an Age Friendly Climate Friendly Village in Age Friendly Initiative

Leinster Women's Shed Fest in Municipal District Initiative

A key goal of the Innovation Team is to deliver learning and development opportunities that build on the innovation skills in our organisation and a number of these initiatives are detailed below.

## **Lean Six Sigma 2024**

A further Lean cycle is now in progress with eight diverse project teams working on improvements to existing systems/processes/ services. Projects in progress include an etranslation tool, a tool to map our capital projects, a library data dashboard and improvements to our staff induction programme.



## Design Sprint

The Innovation Team has organised a Design Sprint event on October 22 as part of Public Sector Transformation Week. This event will explore how we can use Design Thinking tools and methodologies, to ensure a user-centered and creative problem-solving approach to challenges relevant to Kildare County Council.

## Integration Team

### National Site - Localgov.ie

LocalGov.ie has recently been developed as a national-level resource on local government and services. Designed with a user-centred approach and a focus on Plain English, the site provides information at a national level. The site includes an Integration page with directions on how best to contact or find Local Authority Integration Teams in each county: [localgov.ie/integration](https://localgov.ie/integration)

### National Strategy for Migrant Integration

The Department is developing a new national strategy for migrant integration, succeeding the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020. This

strategy will outline the Government's approach and commitment to supporting migrant integration.

To inform this work, the Department conducted a public consultation in late 2023 to gather insights into the migrant experience. However, several sizable migrant communities were underrepresented in submissions. To address this, the Department is conducting further targeted consultations with these communities via in-person and online focus groups. Additionally, the Department is seeking input from stakeholders who support migrants and believes that consulting with Local Authority Integration Team members will be valuable in shaping the strategy.

### EU Migration and Asylum Pact

Since 1999, the EU has had a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to provide for “common standards and co-operation to ensure that asylum seekers are treated equally in an open and fair system – wherever they apply” within the EU territory. The system's legal framework is centred around a number of core legislative instruments, in particular the Dublin III Regulation.



The upsurge in international protection applications revealed the limitations of the existing CEAS and prompted a legislative and policy reform process at the EU level, which has been ongoing since 2016. It culminated in the adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2024.

The Pact includes the following core legislative instruments,

1. An Asylum Migration Management Regulation
2. An Asylum Procedure Regulation
3. A Return Border Procedure Regulation
4. A Screening Regulation
5. A Eurodac Regulation
6. A Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation
7. A Qualification Regulation,
8. A Reception Conditions Directive
9. A Union Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Framework.

On 27 March 2024, Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, T.D., secured approval from the Cabinet to seek the necessary approvals from both Houses of the Oireachtas for Ireland to opt-in to the non-Schengen legislative measures that comprise the Pact.

On 16 April 2024, Dáil Éireann passed a Motion referring to the Joint Committee on Justice (the “Joint Committee”) the proposed approval by the Dáil of a proposal for EU Regulations and an EU Directive on international protection, asylum and migration (without debate).

The Government subsequently presented a motion for consideration by Dáil Éireann on 18 June 2024 (in substitution for a previous motion published on 15 April 2024) that the Dáil approves the exercise by the State of its discretion to opt into the non-Schengen legislative measures that comprise the Pact.

The above legislative measure entered into force on 11 June 2024. The measures are expected to be implemented in participating Member States by mid-2026.

Further information on the Pact can be found at [EU Migration and Asylum Pact \(oireachtas.ie\)](https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/jcjc/2024/06/18/180624001)

### **Accommodation Strategy for International Protection Applicants**

In line with the principles outlined in the White Paper to end Direct Provision and Support a new





International Protection Support Service proposed reforms in the provision of accommodation will see a move away from full reliance on private providers, delivering 14,000 State-owned beds by 2028 supplemented by commercial providers as required. The strategy intends to end the use of unsuitable accommodation options currently being relied upon.

Accommodation will be delivered through:

- use of State land for prefabricated and modular units
- conversion of commercial buildings
- targeted purchase of medium and larger turnkey properties
- design and build of new Reception and Integration Centres
- upgrading of IPAS centres.

By adopting a mixed accommodation plan the Government will gradually move away from a reactive response to the provision of accommodation.

### **Recent Developments: Consolidation of Accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) continue to consolidate its existing accommodation portfolio for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 as numbers decline. As centres are closed residents are being relocated to alternative accommodation centres.

Approximately 30,000 BoTP's are currently accommodated in Offer a Home or Pledged accommodation with communities.

### **Change to Social Welfare Entitlements for BOTPs in Full Board Accommodation**

A [new Government policy on changes to social welfare payments for BOTPs](#)

in full board accommodation will take effect on 09 September 2024.

Impacted individuals will receive a letter from the Department of Social Protection outlining these changes and their implications. Posters in three languages have also been sent to relevant accommodation centres.



Existing full board accommodation centres will become Designated Accommodation Centres to allow this change. It is expected in time that changes to entitlements will also be extended to existing self-serviced accommodation.

### **Day-75 Clinics in Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)**

Kildare County Council has commenced attendance at day-75 clinics in the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's specifically to assist and advise residents who are coming close to the end of their 90-day State-provided accommodation and have not sourced accommodation by that date. Kildare County Council will take over responsibility for those clinics in late September. To date most BoTP's have sourced alternative accommodation either through Offer a Home, Pledges or by private arrangement.

### **Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)**

#### **Local Authority Integration Teams | Local Government Ireland**

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local

authorities to facilitate coordination of the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### **Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP):**

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare:

941 (719 adults/ 353 children)



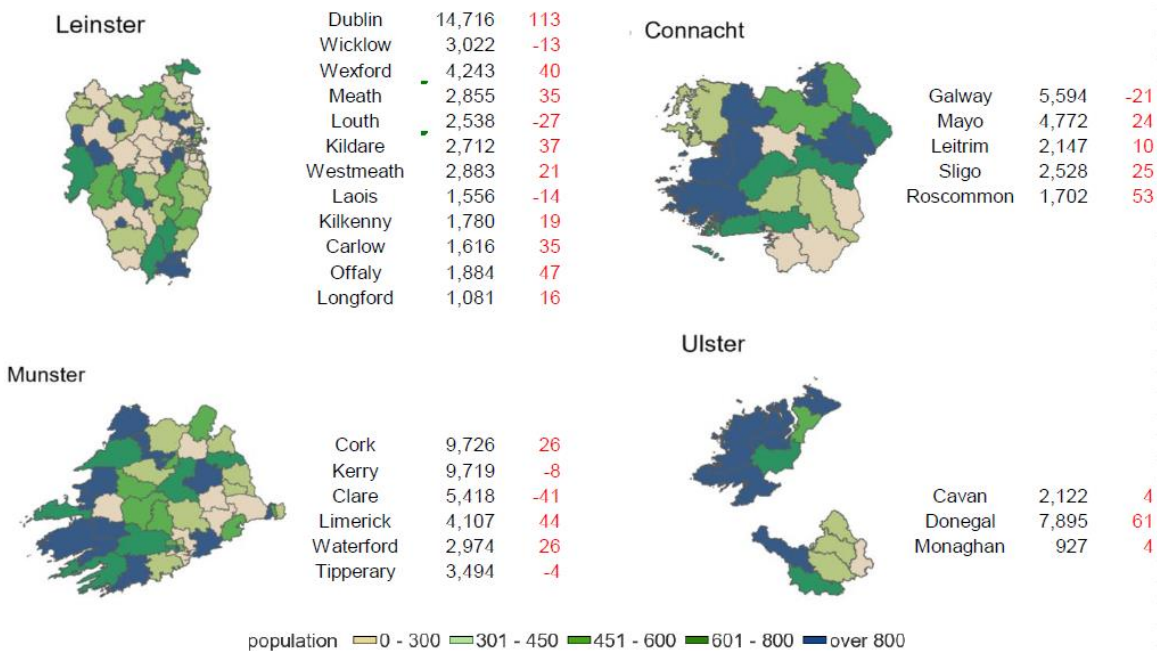
Data source Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DECDIY) – 02 September 2024.

**National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection**

During July and August 2024, the LAIT has visited all centres accommodating BOTP in county Kildare and arranged 21 clinics and one outreach visit supporting 139 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. Various community events were arranged to

mark Ukrainian Day on the 24 and 25 August.

The process of consolidation and rationalisation of the State’s portfolio of accommodation for BoTP’s is continuing. 1,196 residents are due to relocate over the next month under this process. The current distribution of BoTP’s nationally is as follows (16 August):

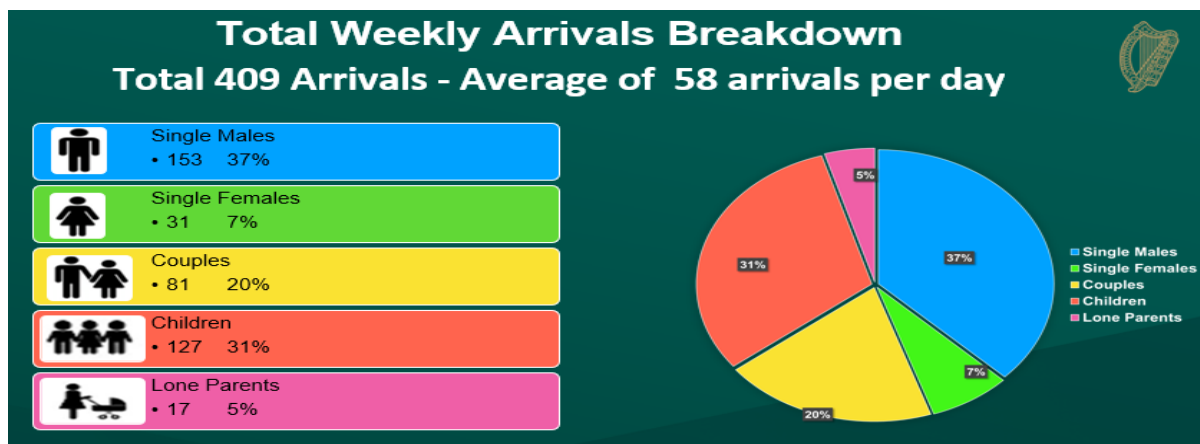


**International Protection Applicants:**

International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 687 (573 adults/114 children) - Source DECDIY 18 August 2024



The current breakdown of new arrival during the week of 21 August is as follow:



Kildare LAIT has visited all IPAS accommodation in Kildare during July and August 2024 and carried out four outreach visits and 17 information clinics supporting 89 International Protection Applicants and Persons with Status.

Up to the 05 July 2024, the LAIT has received 919 queries and resolved 909 of those queries. This entailed supporting 59 persons with status, 472 persons with temporary protection and 388 applicants of international protection to access local services and/or solve queries.

### **International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)**

Through the model for distribution for IRPP II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the

allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of Approved Housing Bodies and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches in August, October, and November 2024, and in the second quarter of 2025.

Integration supports are in place with EU funds through the IRPP/DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council as an implementing partner through a tender process for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).



The Resettlement Programme will be overseen by a recently established Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired/facilitated by the LAIT. The IAWG first meeting took place on 01 July. The terms of reference have been reviewed and accepted, and members agreed on key preparatory actions. The first three families to be resettled in Kildare are expected to move in by the end of September.

### National ISC and ISW Networks

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

### Accommodation Team:

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

### Offer a Home Scheme

(update 29 August 2024)

Properties occupied	57
Properties in progress	12

Properties withdrawn	<u>31</u>
Total properties offered to date	100

### Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge

(update 02 September 2024)

Number accommodated  
14 (several families recently relocated to Modular housing and Offer a Home).

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

### Refurbishment Programme

Assessment and reporting on proposals logged on the LGMA refurbishment portal. This scheme was paused with the last applications being accepted for assessment on 19 July 2024. The scheme is now closed for new applications.

### Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

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





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### **Punchestown:**

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 208 people (29 August 2024).

### **Newhall:**

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 304 people (29 August 2024).

### **Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:**

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

A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

### **The Community Integration Forum**

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Service. The

Community Integration Forum has met four times, on 01 May, 05 June, 03 July and 04 September 2024 – no meeting was held in August although contact with the CIF members continued.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 Kildare County Council-LAIT). Links with the Kildare Integration Strategy Working Group need to be defined. The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies. Participation in the CIF includes Kildare County Council (LAIT and Accommodation Team, Community Services, Library Services) Citizens Information Centre, An Garda Siochana Community Policing, County Kildare Leader Partnership, The Irish Red Cross, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare CYPSC/Tusla, Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board, INTREO, HSE Social Inclusion coordinator, Local Link, Regional



Education and Learning Teams  
Coordinator.

## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Serviced Sites in Clogherinkoe

The council is selling seven serviced sites in Clogherinkoe, Co Kildare under the County Kildare Serviced Sites Scheme 2023. The sites are approximately 0.13 ha. and each site is fully serviced with access roads, public lighting, mains water and wastewater. Applicants to the scheme must comply with the Rural Housing Policy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

Full criteria for the scheme can be found in the Serviced Sites Scheme which was circulated to the members on 28 August.

Applications to the scheme are expected to open week beginning 14 October. The scheme will be advertised on council's website, social media and local newspapers. A joint information clinic with the Housing and Planning Teams will be held locally in Clogherinkoe in the coming weeks (date to be confirmed). Elected

members will be kept informed at each stage of the process.

#### Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029



The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires the council to prepare and adopt a five-year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers who are eligible for social housing support within Co Kildare.

A draft plan has been published and proposes that 104 accommodation units (Standard and Traveller specific housing) will be provided. A two-month period of public consultation is currently underway. The plan and details can be accessed on the Council's Consultation Portal (Online) <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie> Comments and submissions will be accepted in writing or online no later



than 12:00 noon on Thursday, 24 October 2024.

### **Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan**

A new loan called the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) has been launched. LAPR extends the types of properties eligible under current local authority mortgage lending rules. Non-habitable homes which qualify for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG) may be eligible for a LAPR. The following points provide a summary of the scheme:

- The property on which the LAPR is being sought must be eligible for the VPRG
- Eligibility for the LAPR is based on existing local authority mortgage lending eligibility criteria
- A bridging loan commensurate to the VPRG is made available, this bridging loan is repayable once the VPRG is paid out to the borrower, currently the interest rate on this bridging loan is 3.5%, this interest rate is subject to change based on the prevailing rate the loan is drawn down.

- The income limit for a single borrower is €70,000 and for joint borrowers is €85,000.
- The mortgaged property must be used as the principal private residence of the borrower.
- The value of the mortgaged property once renovated must not exceed €360,000.

Further details on the LAPR are available from Margaret O'Dwyer, Administrative Officer ([modwyer@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:modwyer@kildarecoco.ie)).

### **Customer Service**

A housing clinic was held in Celbridge on 14 August; 12 people attended.

Further Housing Clinics have been scheduled as follows:

Kilcullen Community Centre –  
Wednesday, 18 September; 14:30–16:30

Clane Library – Tuesday, 15 October; 14:30–16:30

Naas Library – Wednesday, 13 November; 14:30–16:30

Athy Library – Tuesday, 10 December; 14:30–16:30



## Homeless Outreach Clinics

**Kildare County Council**  
**Homelessness CLINICS**

Looking for advice on homeless supports?  
Visit one of our drop-in clinics to learn about the supports available.

**10th September**  
Coláiste Library  
W23 V447  
2pm – 4pm

**13th September**  
Newbridge Family Resource Centre  
W12 PX65  
2:30pm – 4pm

**18th September**  
Teach Dara, Kildare Town  
R51 D963  
2pm – 4pm

For further information contact:  
Homeless Services:  
(045) 980230  
Housing Department:  
(045) 980200  
[www.kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildarecoco.ie)

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly Outreach Clinics throughout the county. Details are published on the Council’s social media platforms. The Homeless Team can be contacted by telephone 045 980230.

## Regeneration

### Castledermot Town Centre First Plan

Funding is approved to support preparation of a ‘Town Centre First Plan’ under the Government’s Town Centre First Policy. The community has been invited to become involved in making their Town Centre First Plan through community workshops and surveys. Communications have issued seeking expressions of interest from people across the Castledermot community to create a dedicated and

skilful Town Team, which will help inform the development and execution of the Town Centre First Plan.

## Strategic Projects and Public Realm Monasterevin

Funding under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024 - Project Development Measure has been awarded to Monasterevin in the sum of €34,335.00. This funding will be used to progress the Monasterevin Masterplan project to redevelop the Market Square area in the town centre which is currently car dominated. Surveys, consultation and Part 8 planning consents will be among the first steps of the project elements to progress.



## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing. Expect substantial completion November 2024.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing on site in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Construction commenced.
<b>Approval Stage 3</b>		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phase's 2 and 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tender assessment complete. Stage 4 submission to DHLGH mid-September.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	An Bord Pleanála has issued a decision to grant. Conditions being assessed.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 launched 31 July 2024.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units	Revised Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH for approval.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 3 submission being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 amended and requires preparation of revised Part 8.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement being finalised.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Design work ongoing on preparation of S179a planning application.





		Meeting with KCC planners and internal departments in September.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Design Team tender evaluation complete; result letter issued. Letter of acceptance to follow.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.

<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application commenced.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report to be prepared.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application to be prepared.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Tender Assessment ongoing. Stage 4 application to be submitted to DHLGH in September. Target award contract in Q4 2024.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work commenced on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Works progressing on site in line with programme
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 approved at July Athy MD meeting. Stage 3 application to be submitted to DHLGH in September.



### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Tender assessment ongoing. Estimated on site Q1 2025.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement launched in July; pre-qualification results due in December.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 due to be considered by Kildare-Newbridge MD on 18 <sup>th</sup> September.
Rickardstown , Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Stage 1 meeting with DHLGH on 17 <sup>th</sup> September.
Rathasker Road, Naas	96 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design Work ongoing. Stage 1 meeting with DHLGH on 17 <sup>th</sup> September.

### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36 units	Revised documents being reviewed.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27 units	Part 8 approved. Stage 3 submission to be prepared by AHB for submission to DHLGH.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34 units	Tender documents being prepared. Awaiting revised programme from AHB.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45 units	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Association	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb of 10 units	CAS funding approved.

\*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme

\*CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility



## Acquisitions

	Completed 2023	Completed 2024 ytd
Housing Acquisitions	96	46
Housing Turnkeys	42	18
Part V Acquisitions	109	45
<b>Total Complete</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>109</b>

## Homelessness

### Families in PEA including Supporting Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 August 2024

Duration	No of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	22	33	44
6 - 12 Months	10	14	19
12 - 18 Months	4	6	8
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
36 Months +	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>74</b>

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 August 2024

Duration	No of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	7	14	16
6 - 12 Months	2	3	2
12 - 18 Months	2	6	4
18 - 24 Months	0	0	0
24 - 30 Months	2	3	5
36 Months +	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>



## Public Realm Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	Road Crossing and Bound Surfaces: nearing practical completion, the contractor is addressing line markings, signage and final landscaping. Pedestrian Bridge: located at Rathangan and is a 12 month project, the tender process is underway and contracts will be awarded in the coming weeks.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Prelim Design	Topographical surveys progressing. Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 1 & 2 Tie In (Sallins)			Part 8	Detailed design ongoing, with a view to publish tender for works contractor in September and tender award November.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 for the two additional bridges has been published. Detailed design is ongoing. It is expected the project will be split into three phases and tendered accordingly: Tender Package 1: defined as WI works from 20 <sup>th</sup> Lock to Offaly border; construction to commence in Q3 2024. Tender Package 2: defined as main alignment including consented structures. Tender award Q4 2024.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Tender Package 3: construction main alignment and additional bridges.
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Monasterevin Masterplan (Sub-Project) Market Square		€34,335.00 T&V (TCF Measure 3)	Pre-Part 8	Funding secured under T&V (TCF Measure 3) to assist with bringing a project identified in the Monasterevin Masterplan through planning consent stages. The project identified is the Market Square.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Final outstanding issues being discussed with Department of Defence.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (August 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. Funding source to be identified; application for funding under RRDF Call 5 rejected.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan	€30,000	LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Initial public consultation held on 1 <sup>st</sup> August. Feedback will inform draft Masterplan projects. Pedestrian/cycle/traffic and movement surveys will be carried out in September once the schools are back.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (August 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. Funding source to be identified; application for funding under RRDF Call 5 rejected.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals.
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,419,281	€2,735,425 (EU JTF)	Detailed Design	Construction commenced with clash detection being carried out on site with





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					excavation of slit trenches included. The contractor David Walsh Civil Contracting will take full control of the site in the coming weeks. New trading locations have been identified for the market.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Construction is ongoing. Shard extension due for erection on site in mid-September with glazing to take place in October.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre Part 8	Part 8 report being prepared.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT  €1,908,750 URDF approved  Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.	Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b> Approved to proceed to tender for the preparation of the TRMP, subject to addressing several points raised by the DHLGH. At tender assessment stage.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b> Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>feasibility study and report. SPPR are engaging with CARO to investigate further.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</b></p> <p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b> Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently with detailed design and secure all necessary permissions/ consent.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Contractor has been appointed.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC  Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Agreed at the last Naas MD meeting to hold a non-statutory public consultation piece to seek comments on proposed use of the Castle area. At tender assessment stage.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b> Feasibility Study &amp; Conservation Management Plan for St. David’s Castle is now complete. Tender documents are being prepared to complete an Archaeological Survey for St. Davids Castle and Grounds.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b> KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b> Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Further revisions have been received and are under review.

## Climate, Community, Environment and Water

### Community

Grant payments have commenced. A breakdown of the payments is detailed in the table below.

All Grants 2024		
Type	No.	Amount
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>€198,360</b>
<b>Festival Grants</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>€65,300</b>
<b>Private Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>€220,068</b>
<b>Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>€52,158</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Specific Grants</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>€508,656</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Mini Schemes</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>€124,920</b>
<b>LCDC Schemes</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>€174,357</b>
<b>Twinning Grants</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>€13,270</b>
<b>Education Bursaries</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>€0</b>



<b>Brigid 1500</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>€196,214</b>
<b>Drehid Grants</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>€133,833</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>€1,687,136</b>

## Climate

### Climate Action Regional Office



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

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



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

### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



Training SLA between Kildare County Council and DECC signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase climate training for the sector. Training will be delivered to elected members within the duration of the training plan, in partnership with the AILG.





Training for Fire Services Staff and Outdoor staff training to commence in September through regional training centres.

Elected member training webinar on Energy Efficiency and emission reduction targets to be delivered in October through AILG with SEAI.

### **Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)**

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report to be published at end of September.

To support the implementation of Decarbonising Zones (DZ), Four DZ workshop events planned as follows:

- 25 September in Kilkenny based on theme of Built Environment
- 01 October in Roscommon (TBC) based on theme of Natural Environment
- 09 October in Mullingar based on Community Activation
- 16 October in Tipperary based on Bioeconomy (in conjunction with DECC/DAFM through EIT climate KIC)

The purpose of workshops is for local authority staff, responsible for the implementation of the DZs, can meet to explore opportunities, identify challenges, make decisions and develop solutions to progressing their DZ.



### **Sub-Regional Energy Projects**

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

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

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



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

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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The EM CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonisation.

The working group are focusing on a publication for local authorities on fleet management system elements necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation. To be published in Q4 2024.

### Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate

### Action



Data collation for 2023 is complete with a report published and available at: [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf \(lgma.ie\)](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf)

This is the second such report of the Climate Action KPI working group and explores a range of data to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action.

### GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



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



five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Points of Contact have been identified in each local authority and CARO is planning a further webinar on 18 September to support points of contact in engaging with clubs in their area.

### **Kildare County Council Climate Action**

#### **Kildare Climate Action Office**



*Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow*

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

### **Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (with DZ and SECAP**

### **(Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans))**

#### **The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:**

Work has commenced and schedule delayed due to asbestos protocols. Maynooth University have prescribed and are making available PowerPal a removable system to allow active measurement of energy use in the house.

#### **Augmented Reality Image**

##### **Maynooth:**

To increase climate literacy and buy in a call for bids was made to create a 3D visualisation of Maynooth main street to show the main features should the DZ plan be implemented by 2030. This image can then be used in a subsequent phase to create augmented reality/virtuality tools with or without gamification and viewed on multiple device types. NOHO has been the successful bidder with thanks to funding under the Creative Ireland funding administered by the Arts Section.

### **The Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)**



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

1. The installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton Mills. This contract was awarded and an application to the ESB for the generation connection has been approved. Works are due to start over the next two months post preparatory elements being undertaken presently in the Mill buildings by Facilities.
2. PV and Geothermal/Air heat pumps for heating at K Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy along with works on swimming pools in Meath, Wicklow, and Louth.
3. The appraisal of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings' heating systems has been undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema and reports produced.
4. Pathfinder funding is potentially available for upgrading works to some of our library buildings. This may include energy-related elements of the new Clane Library.

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

### **District Heating (DH)**

Given the potential for a future district heating scheme (DH) in Naas, a DH feasibility study commenced at the start of July by Codema and due to be completed by the end of 2024/start of 2025. SEAI have agreed to 100% fund this Naas study. Preliminary discussions on this scheme are ongoing with potential customers (Naas Hospital, local hotels, schools) and suppliers.

A more in-depth discussion into the sustainable sources of the supplied heat for this DH scheme will be required.

A similar DH study for Maynooth has been scheduled to start in early 2025. The Planning Department will fund the project.

Kildare has signed a partnership agreement with Interreg to partake in their DH DISCO scheme at county level. We are awaiting the outcome of the proposal.



### **Display Energy Certs/ BER**

All public buildings with a floor area over 250 m<sup>2</sup> require Display Energy Certificates (DEC). A DEC was recently procured through our facilities department, for the Aras, the grade received for the building was a D2 grade. It is now on display as statutorily needed.

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

### **ISO 50001 Energy Management System**

Kildare County Council hopes to apply for ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) certification in Q4 of 2024, for the organisation as a whole. Our Energy Officer and Climate Action Officer are attending the SEAI Ten-day ISO50001 accelerator training programme as part of this process. The implementation of ISO 50,001 is a statutory requirement.

The timeline is likely to be impacted by staff movement and it is hoped a new timeline of Q2 2025 might be reached once the positions of Energy efficiency Officer and assistant Energy Efficiency Officer are realised. To this end, the interviews are due on 04 October.

### **Energy Audit/Analysis/BER of Aras:**

Took place 02 April, the initial report has been received, and will feed into decarbonisation strategy for the Aras building. Report published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) also sets out that non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), Energy efficiency Performance -32% improvement in 2022. A summary of the Aras energy report will be made available to SMT shortly.

### **Swimming Pools:**

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

### **Athy and Leixlip Libraries:**

Given their status as Significant Energy Users (SEU) it is important that actions to be taken are based on a full assessment of the properties – work has commenced.





### **SEAI Monitoring and Reporting**

Second deadline of the year was the end of June, fleet fuel and thermal fuel verified. Next window commences 29 July covering travel, building stock, projects, vehicles and travel with a closing date of 15 November. Training to be supplied in September. Further training will inform the submission.

### **Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles)**

#### **GoCar**

Go Car provided a morning of car driving trials and in person registration for car usage. The trial has proven effective and a tender is to issued by the transport section in the near future. Approx 75-80 staff have signed up to the scheme. A designated charging point is to be installed shortly for the Go Car and electric vehicles operated by various sections based in Aras.

#### **Staff use E Bikes:**

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

### **Circular Economy:**

Congratulations to Jacqui McNabb and Team on funding received to open a circular economy facility in Athy. Climate Action Office is also working with Environment on the potential for a 'Bring and Take' styled centre at the proposed Municipal District office off the M4 and is meeting Maynooth University on 02 September to look at their proposal along with other circular initiatives with the potential for collaboration to increase uptake.

### **Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):**

New elected members have been assigned to the SPC and stakeholder members are to be finalised as soon as possible. The Chair is Councillor Suzanne Doyle.

### **Climate Action Community Initiatives -**

#### **Funding Aids and Projects:**

#### **CARES – (Community Action for Renewable Energy and Sustainability)**

Maynooth University is the lead on an application under EU LIFE programme and collaboration with research institutes in France and Italy. Kildare





County Council are the Municipal/Government representative. If successful the project will provide demonstration of community energy to activate SEC's based on learning from European partners. The potential funding could assist the newly emerging energy agency between Clane, Kilcock and Maynooth to use the demo house as a 'One stop shop' type advisory centre. Italy would advance a demo house of their own based on our leading out in this area. Closing date 19 September.



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

Following the successful implementation of Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) a second phase of the project focusses specifically on the artists, resulting in an additional €35,000 in funding.

### **Climate Fortnight:**

The Climate Action Office are redesigning climate day into Climate Fortnight where four lunch time sessions will be held in October including two audience interactive sessions on transport and biodiversity, a fun fashion show of junk

couture/preloved clothing by students and film/documentary. There will also be a competition with prizes.

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



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



The group attended Picnic in the Park to create awareness.



**‘Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity in Practice Meets Climate Action’**  
**Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:**

‘Agents for Change Creative Ireland’ informed Kildare County Council on 12 July 2023 that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 was approved. Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University. The new Principal Investigator has been assigned and is Dr. Amy Fahy, School of Business, Maynooth University. Amy is coordinating aspects of the work with other third level institutes to increase awareness

and has formulated communications elements alongside information gathering methodologies to inform the process including information gathering at Picnic in the Park.



**Community Climate Action Program Fund:**



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
**Government of Ireland**

The list of 25 projects across all Municipal District’s and size of project were submitted to the Department for consideration as of 01 May. 23 have been approved, two have been rejected by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), with up to 20 other projects on reserve listing should there be funding leftover. Round two is being considered by the Department. The list also includes reserve projects should they be



required. All applicants have been notified.

### **Climate Innovation Fund 2024:**

Eight applications received, five approved by the assessment panel. Of the €125,000 potential €80,495 has been assigned. No projects were approved for the Naas Municipal District and an amount of monies remain available in the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District totaling €44,505. We are awaiting the assigning of the remaining monies to another project.

### **Grass to Gas and alternative Maintenance:**

Grass to Gas is advancing quickly, and other co-benefits such as biodiversity being explored. Modelling of potential biodiversity is being undertaken based on scientific models, existing biodiversity surveys data produced under Alternative Maintenance research and NBDC's (National Biodiversity Data Centre) datasets is being utilised to ground proof the models.

Meanwhile, under Alternative Maintenance project we are exploring the use of the soil samples taken to

assess the effects of various treatments on biome, to assess micro-invertebrates and soil carbon. If successful, this could in turn open investigation into design of public spaces for regenerative landscaping over time.

### **IRESI (International Renewable and Energy Systems Integration) - International Renewables and Energy Systems Integration and RENEW.**

A workshop was held in February with IRESI led by Fabiano Pallonetto and Amy Fahy of Maynooth University and their team, to balance energy grid usage and potential Kildare County pilot project for up to 500 houses (social and private).

In conjunction with RENEW, communities are advancing participation in shaping potential energy flexibility and renewable energy systems projects.

To this end a short video has been commissioned to inform on the project's consideration of energy issues across society which will feature the Demo House!.



## Water Services

### Uisce Éireann Councillor Workshop – September 2024

Uisce Éireann will be holding an in-person workshop on Monday 30 September from 1.30pm to 3.00pm in the Council Chamber to meet with all the newly elected Kildare County Council members to outline the work of Uisce Eireann across all areas such as Asset Operations, Infrastructure delivery, Customer operations etc. The dates for online Councillor Clinics will be arranged thereafter.

The following is the new process in Uisce Eireann for dealing with Notices of Motion:

#### Notices of Motion

To ensure Councils receive a timely response to Notices of Motion related to Uisce Éireann that arise at Council meetings, UE have put in place a dedicated email address [councilmeetings@water.ie](mailto:councilmeetings@water.ie) through which all Notices of Motion are logged and responded to. Each notice will be acknowledged on receipt, and a response issued before the next meeting.

Elected members queries will be continue to be dealt with via the LRSD as follows:

By Phone: 0818 178 178

By Email: [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

By Post: Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork.

Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at <https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>

#### Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy with Uisce Éireann taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services. Uisce Éireann is engaging with key national bodies and representative groups to prepare for the implementation of the Framework provisions.

The original Service Level Agreement has been replaced by a Master Co-operation Agreement with all local authorities and an individual Support





Service Agreement (SSA) per local authority, takes into consideration the changes included in the new Framework.

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

Kildare County Councils Shared Service Agreement was signed by Uisce Eireann in August 2024 and is now with the Chief Executive for signing. When completed, this will be another significant step in the transfer of the water function to Uisce Eireann.

## **Environment**

### **National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy**

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

management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030.

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on 01 March

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

### **National Deposit Return Scheme**

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in February 2024. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans.

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

Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their



premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

An interim report details that 6,004,496 containers have been accepted in Kildare. There are 103 Reverse Vending Machines in the county and 70 stores are accepting containers. From 01 June, all stock not branded with the Re-turn logo has been phased out of shops and consumers will only be able to buy drinks for which a deposit is payable.

The local government sector has the responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Deposit Return Scheme

### **Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2024**

Arising from Kill's performance in the 2023 Supervalu Tidy Town Competition, Kill Tidy Towns was nominated to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition for 2024 for the Best Kept Small-Town Award.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition is an all-island initiative organised jointly by the Department of Rural &

Community Development and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council. The results were announced at an awards ceremony in Belfast on 18 June with Randalstown, County Antrim named overall winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town competition, 2024 as well as being named Ireland's Best Kept Small Town.



### **Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) survey June 2024**

The first national litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) since the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme reveals a fall in cans and plastic bottles on our streets contributing to an overall improvement in litter levels.

Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities

The study, conducted by An Taisce on behalf of IBAL, showed a rise in towns





reaching the upper tier of cleanliness – ‘Cleaner than European Norms’ - and a fall of 35% in the number of towns branded ‘littered’.

### Single Use Plastics

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

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



### Water Framework Directive

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

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

### Enforcement Priorities 2024

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

Tackling significant illegal waste activity,  
Construction and Demolition activity,  
End-of-Life Vehicles,  
Waste collection,  
PRI initiatives.

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

### Environment Complaints

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



### **Election Poster Monitoring**

Monitoring compliance of regulations for election posters was done together with the Transportation Department.

### **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

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

### **Green Schools**

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

### **GAA Green Clubs Initiative**



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

clubhouse and work on this is continuing.

### **New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge**

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

### **Flood Risk Management Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)**

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.





Details of the scheme can be found at:

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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

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

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

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

### **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.**

New Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidelines have been

published. The preparation of the Guidelines was an action of the newly adopted County Development Plan. The document establishes a strong vision for implementing excellent SuDS in County Kildare through the planning process and for the lifelong maintenance of SuDS landscapes.

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

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



The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed on Kildare County Council website: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/>

The local community is being kept informed of progress through the



Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings and the wider public have access to updates on the council website:

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

### **Cemetery Maintenance Grants**

Annual applications were submitted through the Submit portal for the first time this year thus streamlining the process. Grants have since been paid to the respective local cemetery committees.

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

Contracts have been awarded for the provision of new Columbarium Walls in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works.

### **Cemetery Works**

#### **Allen**

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

#### **Staplestown**

Landscape improvement works have commenced in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are ongoing in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

#### **Boycetown Kilcock**

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

#### **Ballybracken,**

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.



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## Local Community Development Committee

### September 2024

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 03 July 2024 in Aras Chill Dara.

### SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare.

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership  
[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie) or telephone 045-895450

### LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC have signed a contract with County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) to implement the new EU-funded Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027, following the recent approval of the Kildare LEADER Local Development Strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare over the lifetime of the Programme.

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

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership  
[www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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

Applications to the Department of Health for 2024-2025 seed funding were approved in August and will focus on five key themes: Health and Wellbeing through Place, Food Inequalities, Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practice, and Children and Young Peoples' Wellbeing. Progress is being made on the Athy Health and Wellbeing Kiosk with a planned completion date of December 2024.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer





phone 087-9974155 or email

[mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

### Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The LCDC agreed on a number of new initiatives to be rolled out in 2024 under an additional budget of €35,000. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

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

### Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

### Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

All work to develop the LECP (English and Irish versions), AIRO datasets and two-year Implementation plan are now completed. Hard copies are available in Kildare County Council and all documents are also available on the Kildare County Council website at the following link:

[Local Economic and Community Plan - Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://www.kildarecoco.ie/Local-Economic-and-Community-Plan-Kildare-County-Council)

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

### LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

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





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## **Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan**

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

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 02 October 2024.

## **Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces**

### **Transport**

#### **Capital Projects**

##### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

Notices to Treat letters have issue to affected landowners and engagement to agree accommodation works is ongoing.

Detailed design and issue of tender documents being prepared with a

tender due to issue in October/November 2024.

#### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

A joint application to An Bord Pleanála for compulsory purchase of land and planning consent will be submitted in late 2024.

#### **Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane**

The detailed design for the traffic signals is awaited with a consultant to be appointed thereafter to finalise the design for the short section of road.

#### **Newbridge Transport Strategy**

Phase two consultation ongoing. Closing date for submissions: 15 September. The final ABTA report will be finalised following consideration of the submissions.

#### **Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.**

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



Transport in relation to a funding application.

**R448 National Cycle Network Pilot**

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

**Road Safety**

**Speed Limit Review**

Presentations made at each municipal district meeting in July 2024 to outline the process for Supplementary Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads. Public consultation process will close on 20 September and a report to be prepared for Full Council in October with the implementation of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph scheduled for November 2024. Subsequent phases (i.e. urban speed limit of 30kph and national secondary speed limit default of 80kph) are scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

**Junction Improvement Programme**

Option reports have been received and being assessed for delivery of the ten junctions.

JP01	Dagwelds
JP02	Prosperous Main
JP03	Allenwood Crossroads
JP04	Firmount Cross
JP05	Cloncurry Cross
JP06	Bert Cross
JP07	Perry Street
JP08	Watchhouse Cross
JP09	Thompsons Cross
JP10	Allen Cross

**Safety Improvement Schemes**

Allocation: €320,000

Works ongoing or tendered at 12 locations under municipal district offices.

**Safe Routes to School Round one Schemes (NTA funded)**

Straffan National School (€140,000)

St. Brigid’s Primary School, Kildare Town (€200,000): Construction proposals are being prepared.

Holy Child School Ballycane (€150,000): Construction completed in Q3 2024.

**Safe Routes to School Round two Schemes (NTA funded)**

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth’s Schools, Newbridge (€20,000):



Workshop with An Taisce Green Schools to be held in September 2024. Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phadraig, Clane (€20,000): Workshop with An Taisce Green Schools - September 2024. Scoil Mochua, Celbridge (€20,000): Workshop with An Taisce Green Schools - September 2024.

### **Operations**

#### **Restoration Improvement (Dot Funded)**

Allocation: €10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of 72 road improvement projects covering approximately 64 km of regional and local roads. 70% completed to date.

#### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

This has facilitated the delivery of 53 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 80 km of regional and local roads. Works are substantially complete with the final grants being drawn down.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

#### **Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads**

Grants as follows:

CCAR - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with completion expected by the end of October 2024.

#### **National Roads**

Allocation: €22,386 for N78/N81 for the general maintenance of both National Secondary roads.

#### **Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes**

The Municipal District offices continue to deliver a significant volume of LPT funded projects, improving roads, footpaths and associated works throughout the county.

#### **General Maintenance**

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals



and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

### **Street Sweeping**

Kildare County Council operates a street sweeping and bin emptying service to the urban centres throughout the county. This is a labour-intensive operation with significant costs associated with its delivery. Kildare continues to perform well both with IBAL (Naas and Maynooth) and Tidy Towns competitions (seven gold medals in 2023) through Kildare County Councils continued collaboration with Tidy Towns, residents' associations and voluntary groups.

### **Public Lighting**

Kilaree Lighting Services are the new public lighting maintenance contractor with effect from 15 July 2024. Public lighting faults should be logged on the following website:

[www.deadsureapp.com](http://www.deadsureapp.com)

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. Works are due to commence in 2025.

This project will deliver significant savings on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

### **Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn**

Vehicle servicing and associated works have been transferred to the new facility, with surface dressing works being the focus of operations over the summer months.

Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles has been completed with the commencement of the installation process to commence in September 2024.

Five electric vehicles and a velocity patcher to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts have been delivered and are now in operation.

### **Winter Maintenance**

The Machinery Yard team are preparing for winter maintenance operations for the 2024/2025 season, including fleet maintenance. 8,000 tonnes of salt will be delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024.



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### **Sustainable Transport (NTA Funded)**

#### **Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase five)**

Allocation: €1,500,000

Tenders have been evaluated and awaiting confirmation from the NTA that funding will be made available for the construction of the scheme.

#### **Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)**

Allocation: €2,750,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by Summer 2025.

#### **Green Lane Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €1,200,000

Tenders have been evaluated and awaiting confirmation from the NTA that funding will be made available for the construction of the scheme.

#### **Naas to Sallins Greenway**

Allocation: €225,000

Implementation of road closures along public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge) and at Basin Street/Abbey Street junction are complete.

#### **Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.

#### **Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €75,000

Tender process to appoint consultant for Preliminary Design completed. Appointment to be made following approval by the NTA.

#### **Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme**

Work on this scheme is complete.

#### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

Allocation: €225,000

Site investigations are delaying the detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works.

#### **Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €10,000

Agreement of preliminary design is being discussed with the NTA.

#### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €75,000



Tender process to appoint consultant for Preliminary Design completed. Appointment to be made following approval by the NTA.

### **Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

### **Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme**

Allocation: €150,000

Part 8 drawings and report are being prepared for the Station Road scheme from the Railway Station to Main Street.

### **Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop**

Allocation: €50,000

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

Allocation: €500,000

Details of how to progress this work has been received by the NTA.

### **National Roads Office**

#### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures**

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

#### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4 Westbound Bus Priority Measures**

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

#### **M9 Park and Share Scheme**

Traffic surveys carried out at M9 (Junctions 3-11)

Junctions 3, 4, 5 are to be investigated further at this time (the remaining junctions may follow in the future).

Kildare NRO examining suitable sites in conjunction with Carlow regarding junction 5 and Kilkenny regarding junction 9. Preparing feasibility and options report for TII.

#### **Upcoming National Road**

#### **Temporary Road Closure:**

None

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

M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 02/12/2024





## **N78 Athy to the M9 Pavement Scheme**

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

## **TII Active Travel Severance Seed Funding**

Application made to TII for funding for 4No active travel measures crossing the M7 (1No) and the M4 (3No), however there have been hundreds of applications from local authorities around the country and only a small number of projects will receive funding. No response yet.

## **Open Spaces**

### **De Burgh Woodland Gardens**



Opened to the public on Saturday 13 July and open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am- 5.30pm.

Access is by ticket only. These are free and are available to book from:

<https://buytickets.at/kildarecountycouncilparkssection/1215519>.

It has proven to be very popular and due to demand the number of available tickets has been increased.

### **Leixlip Playground**

Civil works to the new carpark and site of the new playground commenced on 19 August. The project will showcase best practice in sustainable urban drainage and will facilitate a new electrical connection for Leixlip Tennis Club. Works are continuing at a good pace.

### **Kilcock Playground**

Tenders have been received for appraisal. Upon evaluation completion, a preferred bidder will be appointed as contractor after successfully completing the awards process.

### **Play Day 2024**

Preparations for the annual play day are well advanced. The event will take place on Saturday 14 September in Aras Chill Dara.



## **Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services**

### **Planning**

#### **Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:**

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2025, including:

- An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework;
- Car Parking Standards; new Section 28 Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential development and Compact Settlements;
- Kilcullen Town Plan;
- Landscape Character Assessment; and
- Strategic Employment Locations Study.

Kildare County Council SuDS Guidelines and Kildare County Council Permeability Guidelines adopted and published and are available on the

Council

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

### **Masterplans**

#### **Naas North-West Quadrant**

##### **masterplan:**

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

##### **Canal Quarter masterplan;**

A stakeholder consultation event took place in Naas Library on 05 September. Ca. 45 persons attended.

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

1311 submissions were received to the Draft Joint Plan during the statutory public consultation period. These submissions will be considered in the Chief Executives Report which will be published and circulated to the Elected Members of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District on the 10 September.



### Newbridge LAP

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

### Sallins LAP

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

### Monasterevin LAP

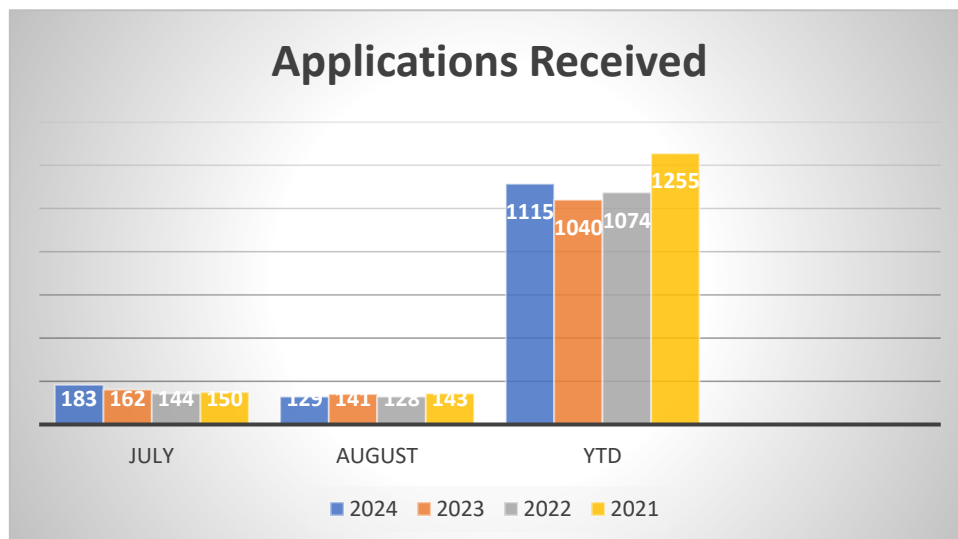
Report on Predraft Consultation to be circulated to Elected Members September 2024.

## Development Management

### ePlanning

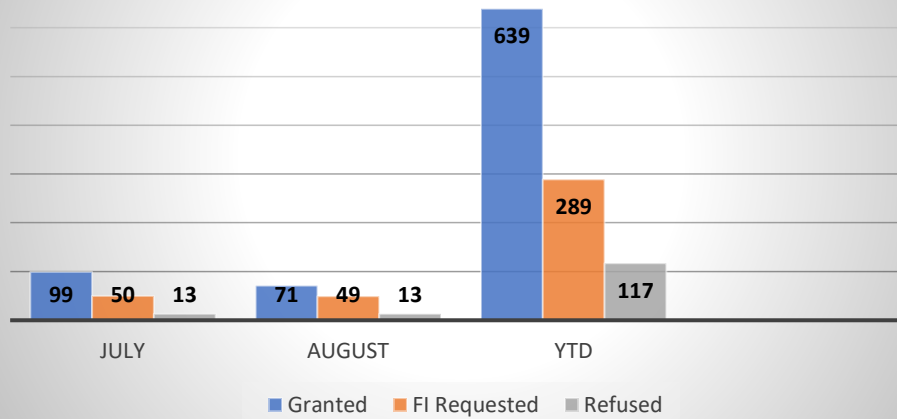
In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online.

In 2024 to date, 75.6% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.

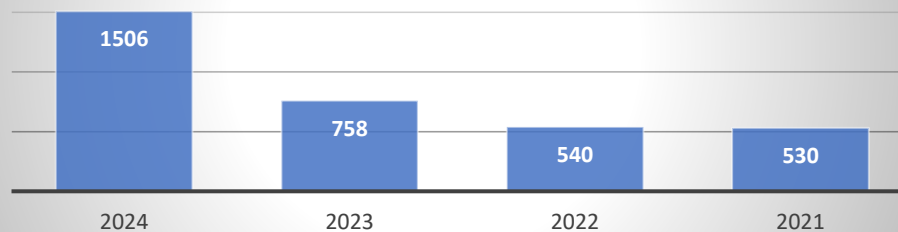




## Applications Processed 2023/2024



## Units Granted YTD



### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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



LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Appealed: Refused on appeal
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed: Granted on appeal. Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date Appealed: Granted on appeal
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crockaun commons Clane	190	Appealed: Appeal withdrawn 29/05/2024. KCC Granted 15/03/2024
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP-307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed: KCC Granted 05/04/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Granted 22/07/2024
24/245	26/07/2024	Debussy Properties Ltd	Crockaun Commons, Clane	Amendments to 23/972	Decision Due 19/09/2024
24/60774	08/08/2024	Ladas Property Company Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	Amendments to 23/494	Decision Due 01/10/2024

### Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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





## Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

### A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

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

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

### B. Heritage - Progress Updates

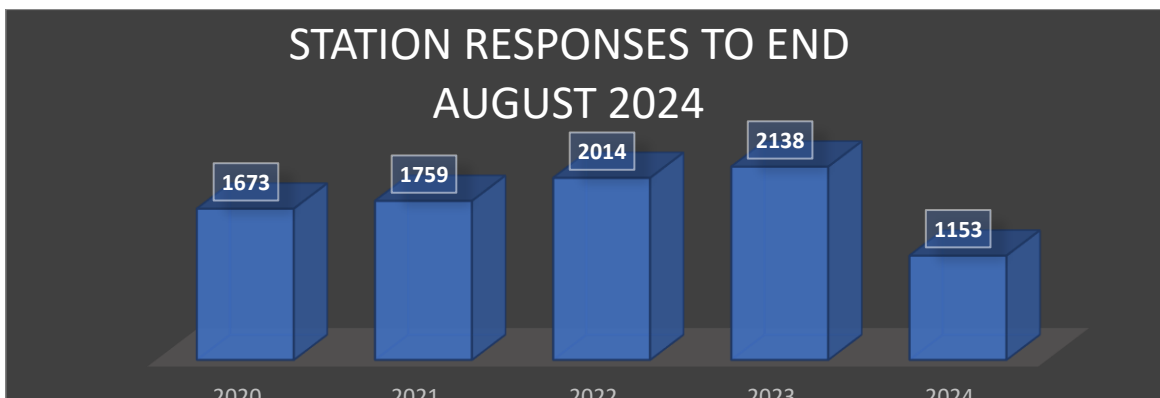
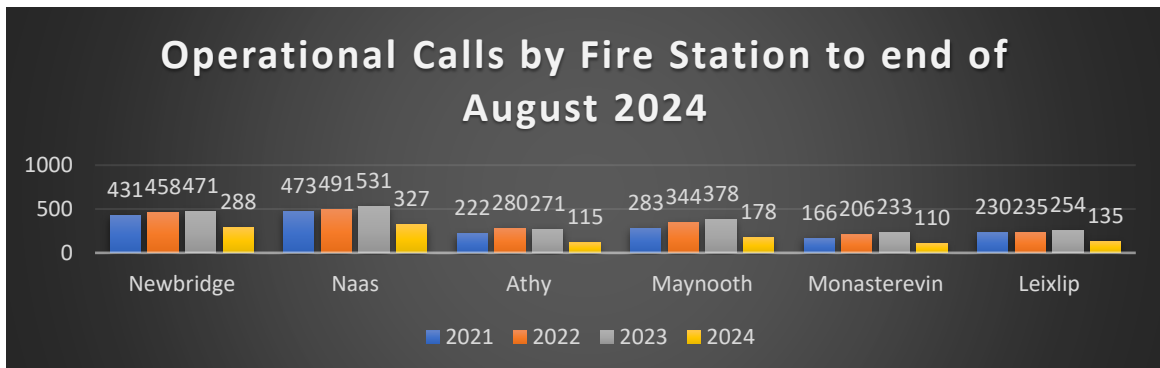
Work is progressing on the four Heritage Plan related projects that have, cumulatively, received funding of €37,500.

### C. Conservation– Progress Updates

Site visits to take place in July on all ‘Historic Structures Fund’ and ‘Built Heritage Investment Scheme’ projects for 2024 to review progress to date.

## Fire Service Operations

### 2024 Summary





## Fire Safety Certificates

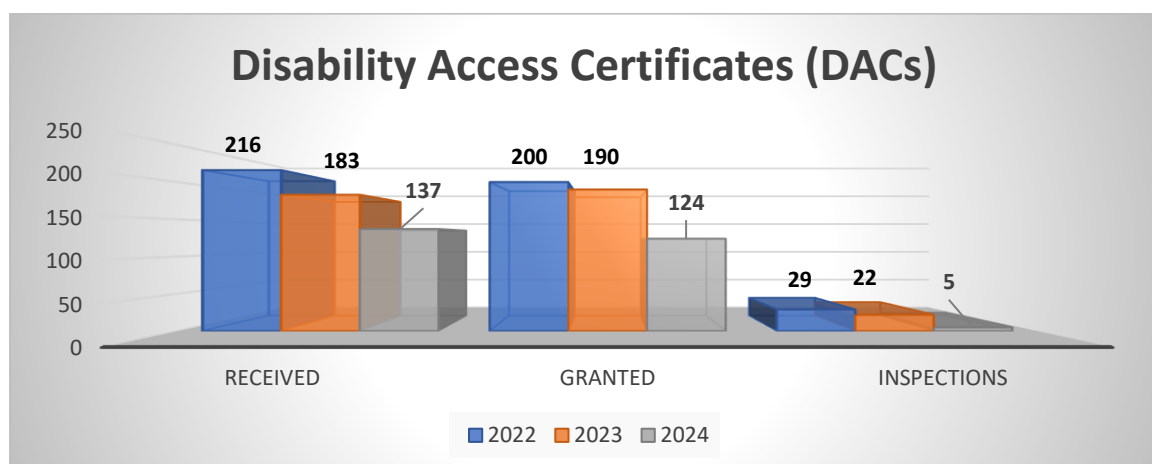
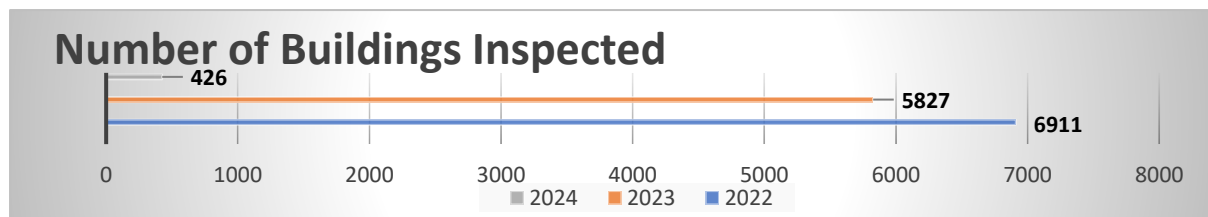
Applications received to the end of August 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

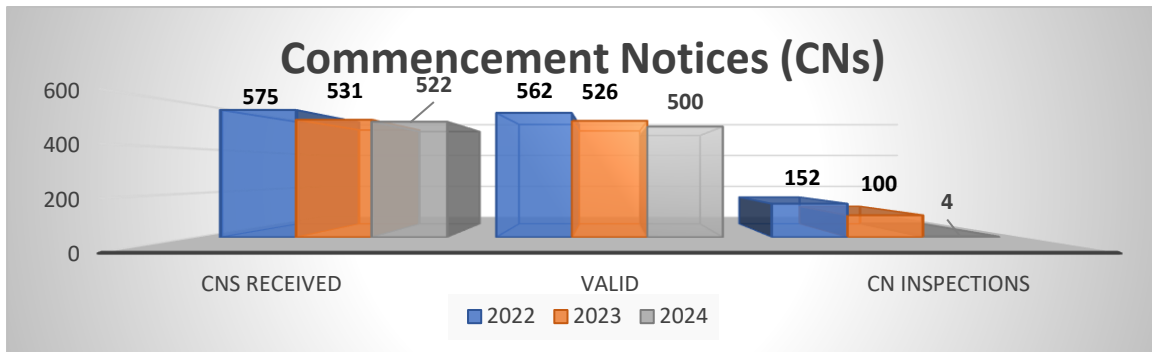


## Building and Development Control

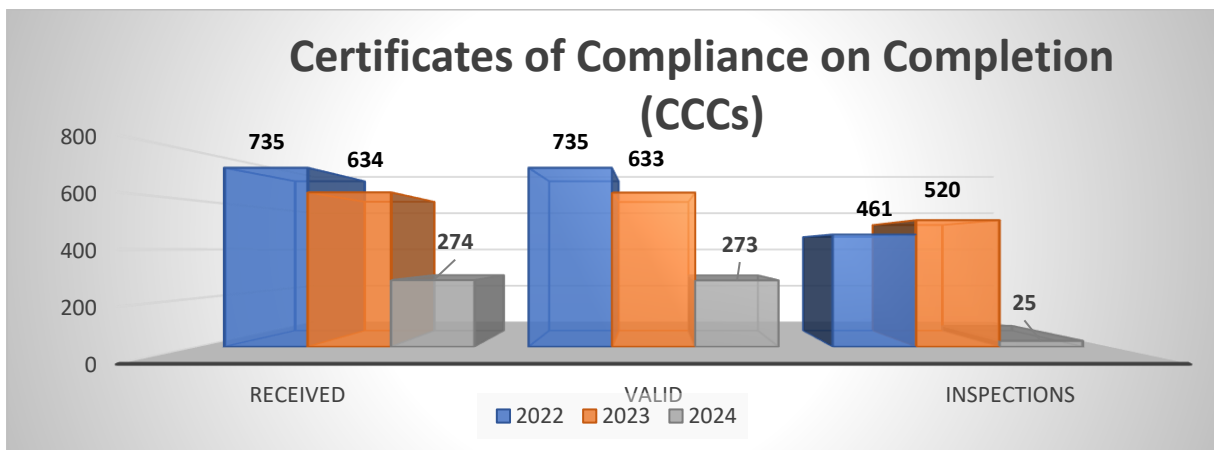
The following figures are cumulative up to end of August 2024 set against full year figures for 2022 and 2023.

### Building Control





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



## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

Kildare Fáilte's activities during July and August focused on the key tourism period, with an emphasis on marketing accommodation, hospitality, and attractions throughout the county.

Priority was given to promoting summer breaks, daycations, events, summer camps, and culinary experiences, ensuring visitors received the most up-to-date information.



Aine Mangan Into Kildare and Ronan Mackey (Newbridge Silverware)



In collaboration with Newbridge Silverware, Kildare Fáilte hosted the Into Kildare Q3 members event, which was attended by over 30 members from the Kildare tourism and hospitality sector, including new platinum members from The Heritage and Palmerstown House. Fáilte Ireland was also in attendance. The event provided a valuable opportunity for tourism providers to explore ways to upsell the county and drive footfall during key events.

The Into Kildare team delivered membership badges to those renewing for 2024-2025, reinforcing connections and ensuring ongoing engagement while supporting Kildare Fáilte's efforts to promote Co. Kildare local tourism businesses and attractions.



David Mongey, Tracey Comber Palmerstown and Aine Mangan

Newbridge Silverware also hosted a factory tour followed by afternoon tea at the Silver Restaurant.

The Kildare Fáilte team met with Jim Kavanagh from the Legends Museum in Kildare Town to discuss the museum and the Kildare Derby Festival. A campaign was launched to promote the museum as a free attraction during the summer months.



Aine Mangan and Jim Kavanagh

The CEO of Kildare Fáilte, Aine Mangan, joined other stakeholders on a site visit to the Naas Canal Quarter, which is undergoing regeneration. This project is expected to significantly enhance the area for tourists.





Chief Executive Officer Kildare Chamber with Councillor Bill Clear and Councillor Seamie Moore and Chief Executive Officer Into Kildare

An Into Kildare Board meeting was hosted in Barberstown Castle during July.

In August, Kildare Fáilte, in partnership with Barberstown Castle, sponsored the Kildare visit of the International Rose of Tralee Festival. The Roses toured County Kildare, visiting several tourism and hospitality businesses. A packed two-day itinerary showcased the county's attractions, beginning with a visit to the K Club for a Taste of Kildare activation. The Roses then proceeded to Kildare Town, where they were greeted by the community with St. Brigid Crosses and Irish dancing. Key stakeholders, including Councillor Doyle, were instrumental in facilitating this activity on the Square.

The Roses visited St. Brigid's Parish Church to view the relic and participated in a Paint and Sip experience hosted by Tribe Art Studio, where they painted St. Brigid's Cloak while listening to stories of St. Brigid from Sister. Rita Solas Bhríde.



Roses at the K Club



2024 Roses in Kildare Town Square

The Roses ended their first day at the Silken Thomas and continued their tour the next day at Carton House, promoting the upcoming KPMG Women's Irish Open, followed by a visit to Mondello Park. The tour





concluded with the Rose of Tralee Ball at Barberstown Castle, attended by over 180 guests.



Aine Mangan and Kildare Rose Catherine Cunningham

This visit to Kildare generated significant media coverage, including a one-minute TV broadcast on RTÉ 1, reaching over half a million viewers. The broadcast also trended as the top topic on Twitter for both nights.

Kildare Fáilte, in partnership with Kildare County Council, supported the KPMG Women’s Irish Open at Carton House from 28 August to 01 September 2024. Several activations were held to promote the event, and a stand in the tented village provided an opportunity for local tourism and hospitality providers to showcase their

properties and attractions. Participants included Newbridge Silverware, Irish National Stud and Gardens, Killashee Hotel, and The Curragh Racecourse, among others. KFM radio also broadcast live from the event for two days. Cathaoirleach Joe Neville and Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh were present for the prize-giving ceremony, highlighting Kildare's support at both national and international levels.



Cathaoirleach Joe Neville, CE Sonya Kavanagh with members of the Tourism Industry at WIO



Aine Mangan with members and President of Restaurant Association of Ireland and IK Director Brian Fallon on trade stand at WIO

Throughout July and August, efforts were focused on driving branding and ticket sales for the Taste of Kildare food festival taking place in Naas Racecourse over three days from 20 September. Regular meetings with stakeholders ensured that the latest information was continuously updated on [www.tasteofkildare.ie](http://www.tasteofkildare.ie).

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	51	€111,800
Business Expansion Grant	7	€178,194
Priming Grant	2	€43,035
Feasibility Study Grant	3	€36,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	11	€23,890
IP Start grant	4	€8,640
Energy Efficiency Grant	5	€25,537

### Priming Grants approved in July:

Equine Products Limited\_(Athy Municipal District) approved €13,125 to support the recruitment of one new



employee. The business manufactures horse supplements.

Everblooms Limited T/A One More Thing (Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District) approved €35,937 to support the recruitment of two new employees, capital and marketing expenditure. The business manufactures preserved flowers to both retail and wholesale.

### Entrepreneurship Support

#### Achievement Of KPIS:

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	1213
SYOB	160	164
MDP	72	72
Mentoring	468	422
Digital	7	7
Lean	20	33
Green	20	61

#### Focus On Start-Ups:

Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [Here](#).

#### Focus On Digital:

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme is expected to end as of September.

Businesses are encouraged to ensure that they do not miss out on this opportunity.

#### Focus On Women In Business:



Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, in association with County Kildare Chamber and Network Ireland Kildare Branch, is proud to launch Kildare's National Women's Enterprise Day, a pivotal event dedicated to empowering female entrepreneurs.

Scheduled for 17 October 2024, this year's theme, "Girls Just Wanna Have Funds!" focuses on equipping women with the knowledge and resources they need to successfully secure funding or investment to start or scale their businesses. [BOOK HERE](#)

#### Focus On Craft And Creative:

The Local Enterprise Showcase 2025 will be in hall three in the RDS (The Serpentine Hall) on 19 to 21 January





2025 and will be named the Local Enterprise Hall.

Three of Kildare's Craft and Creative Cluster members have been selected to exhibit:

- Loinnir Jewellery (Celbridge)
- Tamzen Lundy Designs (Naas)
- Síog Botanicals (Kildare)

Gather at Southwells will welcome additional brands this September.



And Gather at Taste of Kildare will host up to 20 exhibitors on Saturday 21 September at Naas Racecourse.

### Focus On Food:

In collaboration with Into Kildare, LEO will host up to 20 food businesses in a dedicated LEO area at the upcoming Taste of Kildare.



### National Ploughing Championships



LEO Kildare is proud to support Equine Products Ireland Limited from Narraghmore who will exhibit at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village.

### Focus On Lean:

LEO will host the Midlands Lean Network in MERITS this September. This Meet-Up is for businesses at all stages of their Lean journey and of all sizes. Book [HERE](#).



### Focus On Sustainability:

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



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

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

[Click Here To Apply](#) or contact [localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie)

### Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	6	€9,208
CBLX	4	€6,166
CLMN	6	€12,290
KDNB	22	€38,419
NAAS	17	€36,439

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024 remain open for applications for Athy, Celbridge/Leixlip and Clane/Maynooth. Budget for Naas and Kildare/Newbridge has been fully allocated.

### Retail Engagement

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

Dates for upcoming Business Roadshows:

- Westgrove Hotel, Clane; 17 September 6.00pm-8.00pm ([Click to register](#))





- Celbridge, Springfield Hotel; 25 September 6.00pm-8.00pm ([Click to register](#))

Retail window merchandising workshops will be held in GATHER at Southwells on 10 September to encourage uptake of the Retail Window Merchandising Grant. [Click here](#)

### **Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub**

Capital funding for the proposed development of the former Bank Of Ireland building has been secured. Architectural consultancy led services have been procured. Initial Design and the preparation of Part 8 statutory process documents have commenced. Architectural lead will carry out Work Stage one; Initial Design and Feasibility, Work Stage two; Developed Design (incl. Part 8); Work Stage three; Scheme Design (to planning/FSC/DAC); and Works Stage four; Production and Tenders.

### **Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub**

Construction works have entered the fifteenth week of the programme. 19% of construction programme complete.

Site setup, protection, and internal unbuild phases have been 100% completed. Boundary wall and piers 60% complete. Internal metal deck flooring 100% complete. Attenuation and drainage in first courtyard 100% complete. Padstone installation for steel beams first floor to commence first week September.



### **Hub Activity:**

MERITS HOSTED tech specific training sessions over July and August, including UX and UI One to One mentoring, Tech Revenue models and App Development One to Ones.



LEO/MERITS client company Faick has reached the third round of Intertrade Irelands Seedcorn Competition, while Dazult a bespoke software company, have reached the final stages of an 'Innovation Exchange' challenge with BWG Foods.

MERITS hosted the summer MidEast Tech Cluster on the topic of Ai Governance, attended by 20+ entrepreneurs, SME's and larger companies.

MERITS welcomed two new recruits to the hot desk area as well as a new building tech company in a three person office.

## **Tourism**

### **Just Transition Tourism Activation**

20 of 30 Applicants have one or more Expressions of Interests approved to date:

Eleven – Maynooth Celbridge  
Municipal District

Eight – Athy Municipal District

One – Both Municipal Districts

Fáilte Ireland have advised that EOIs are expected to be fully assessed by the end of August, unless further information has been requested from

the applicant. Applicants will be given 30 days to respond if further information is requested.

Applicant support in Q3 will include one to one mentoring and themed webinars in collaboration with activators across the region.

**Sonya Kavanagh**  
**Chief Executive**