Brigid Spirit of Kildare

Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival, Community and Creative Grant Scheme 2027

Opening Date: Tuesday, 10th November 2026
Closing Date: Friday, 4th December 2026

Kildare County Council
Department of Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism

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BRIGID, SPIRIT OF KILDARE GRANT SCHEME OVERVIEW

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce the launch of the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival, Community and Creative Grant Scheme 2027. Brigid, Spirit of Kildare offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of Brigid whose influence continues to inspire people in Kildare, across Ireland and around the world.

To celebrate, Kildare County Council invites local community groups and organisations to develop and deliver their own events and initiatives that complement the wider Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival. The launch of this Community Grant Scheme offers a key opportunity for local communities to get involved in the celebrations in a variety of meaningful and creative ways.

Applications from all aspects of the story of Brigid are welcome, promoting inclusion and celebrating the increasing diversity of the Kildare community. **Applications are invited for funding awards up to €3,000. Please note the closing date for applications is Friday, 4th December at 5pm.**

WHO MAY APPLY

The scheme wishes to support applications from a range of different groups and age cohorts. This scheme will prioritise community groups and those delivering festival type activities in partnership with local community groups.
The activity must take place in Kildare.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

Funding is available for a range of activities and projects that celebrate Brigid
Examples of projects include:

- priority will be given to festivals and similar types of events.
- events such as performances, talks, workshops, walks, tours etc.
- biodiversity projects.
- history talks.
- heritage projects.
- creative projects.
- other activities that have a strong link to Brigid.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES/ PROJECTS

Activity/ Project must:

- Provide good value for money.
- Be inclusive, appropriate and respectful in theme and approach.
- Uphold current Health and Safety guidelines.
- Be organised at community level and encourage participation from the community.
- Be accessible to diverse audiences and participants.
- Be feasible based on realistic financial basis.
- Must comply with National Procurement Guidelines.
- Applicants must provide a minimum of 3 quotations for goods and services exceeding €1,000.
- A Tax Clearance Certificate is needed if you receive more than €10,000 in a 12-month period in grants, subsidies or similar payments from public sector bodies.
- Permission must be obtained prior to application and evidence of permission supplied if (a)involving sites or locations in private ownership (b) requires the participation of a community group.
- For festivals/events occurring on public property or relating to public infrastructure, groups must upload a letter confirming Public Liability insurance (and Employers Liability insurance if you have employees) with indemnity limit(s) of not less than €6.5million (and €13million) respectively covering any liability, loss, claim or proceedings. Insurance must contain a notation of an indemnity for Kildare County Council.
- Comply with planning regulations and civic memorial policy if applicable. Further information can be obtained on www.kildarecoco.ie
- Project must take place from Friday, 15th January 2027 to Tuesday, 12TH February 2027 in Co Kildare.
- Please note that funding must be drawn down before the 30th of April 2027. Failure to draw down payment before this date may lead to funding being revoked.
- Event Evaluation and Evidence of Spend reports must be uploaded via Submit by 25th June 2027. **Failure to submit these reports will result in the Council being unable to consider a future application for grant funding.**

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PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES WHICH DO NOT QUALIFY

The following are examples of some of the activities or projects that will not qualify for funding:

- Activities not located in County Kildare.
- Fundraising events.
- Improvements to private land that has no public access/benefit.
- Spend on alcoholic beverages, fines, legal costs, penalty payments.
- In general, cost of items for resale are ineligible.
- Generic running costs (such as heat, light, staff).
- Capital projects and infrastructural projects e.g. plaques, building restoration, monuments.

This list is not exhaustive and the final decision on any grant application is a matter for Kildare County Council.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted via the online grants application system on the council's website and completed in full using the official application form.

- Applications must be accompanied by all relevant supporting documents and submitted by the closing date. Applications received by email or post will not be accepted.
- If you applied for a grant in the past, please use the same login details. If you are a new user, please note that when you click on 'Apply' you will be invited to setup an account/profile for you/ your group. It is recommended that an email account in the group's name is set up for the online grant application process (instead of personal email addresses).
- Applicants must have a bank or credit union account and must submit a header from bank account statement showing the following: group name, bank name, the BIC and IBAN. Please note that transactions should be redacted. This must be uploaded with the application even if submitted on previous occasions.
- It is essential that applicant's signatures is verified by response to the security signature verification email which will issue once your form has

been submitted. Unverified applications will not be processed (please check all mailboxes as it may go to your junk/ spam/ promotion folders.)

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel. Criteria for assessment will include:

- Relevance to Kildare's Brigid, Spirit of Kildare programme 2027.
- The level of community participation and extent of local contributions to the proposed project.
- The use of innovations or imaginative approaches.
- The capacity to carry out the proposed project.
- Environmental sustainability.
- The quality of the application.
- Value for money.
- Ability to deliver the project in event of partial funding.
- Clear evidence of costs/ quotations for all elements.
- Availability of budget and number of applicants.

Final Approval of the grant will be given by Kildare County Council.

AWARD DETAILS

- The maximum award is €3,000.
- Subject to assessment, applications will be awarded, rejected or may receive a partial grant towards their project.
- Funding will not be paid until any outstanding receipts for any previous grants from Kildare County Council are submitted.
- A full project report including receipts for all costs must be submitted upon completion of the project.
- All grants awarded must be used for the specific purpose for which it has been granted. Receipts must match costings approved in grant application. Any changes in budget must be pre-approved.
- Kildare County Council reserves the right to make revisions to this scheme including awards, closing dates and may, upon occasion, re-open the scheme in-keeping with programme objectives.

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PAYMENT PROCESS

- All payments will be made by bank transfer to a nominated account in the name of applicant/ group. Cheques will not be issued.
- Individuals/ groups must provide the details of their bank or credit union account and spending must be traced to this account.
- Remittance advice will issue to the supplied email address.
- Any monies unspent must be returned to Kildare County Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATICANTS

It is the applicant's responsibility to:

- Read and understand this policy and application form, complete the online application fully and include all required documents.
- Sign and uphold 'Grant Agreement' at end of application form.
- Read and be aware of Kildare County Council's Privacy Statement. Information supplied by applicants is subject to Freedom of Information legislation.
- Acknowledge the award of the grant from Kildare County Council and Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival in any promotional material in any publicity pertaining to the project and submit proof of same with final project report.
- Endeavour to tag Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival on any social media posts relating to the project.
- Include Brigid, Spirit of Kildare and Kildare County Council logos where possible.
- Photographs submitted may be used by Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival on its website, social media or otherwise in promoting the grant scheme. The necessary permissions will be obtained and retained by awardee in accordance with Data Protection legislation.
- Obtain all necessary permissions relating to personal data and retain them in accordance with data protection/ GDPR legislation.
- Secure all necessary insurances, Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare programme shall not be liable in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from this application or the subject matter of the application.

- Obtain necessary permissions from all relevant authorities (e.g. Gardaí/ Planning/ Park's department/ Municipal Engineer).
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations. Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare programme, its employees or agents shall not at any time in any circumstances be held responsible or liable in relation to any matter whatsoever arising in connection with the development, planning, construction, operation, management and/or administration of individual projects.
- Any groups must register or be registered with the Kildare Public Participation Network.
- Submit a project report, including photographs, and evidence of the spending of the grant awarded by 25th June, 2027.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Website:	www.kildarecoco.ie
Email:	spiritofbrigid@kildarecoco.ie
Phone:	045 980653

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SELF-DECLARATION

Grant Agreement

1. I/ we certify that information provided in this application is a true and fair representation of my activities and the project for which funding is being sought. I/ we have read the relevant guidelines and will comply with same.
2. I/ we undertake to ensure that any grant awarded to me by Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival under this application will be used for the specific purpose for which it has been granted. Any monies unspent will be returned to Kildare County Council.
3. I/ we will acknowledge the support of Kildare County Council the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival in any publicity pertaining to the project and submit proof of same with my final project report. I/ we will endeavour to tag Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare on any social media posts relating to the project.
4. I/ we agree that photos, submitted by me, may be used by Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival on its website, social media or otherwise in promoting the grant scheme. The necessary permissions will be obtained and retained by me in accordance with Data Protection legislation. I/ we agree to be contacted by Kildare County Council or agents operating on their behalf for marketing, communication and promotional purposes.
5. On completion of the project(s), I/ we undertake to submit a project report as proof of completion and of expenditure incurred on my/ our project by June 25th. Acceptable forms of evidence of the spending of grant award are receipts on headed paper/ till receipts, invoices stamped as 'Paid' by the supplier or showing a zero-balance due or invoices/ cheque details accompanied by a bank statement showing relevant payments. All unspent monies must be returned to Kildare County Council.
6. I/ we will secure all necessary insurances. I/ we understand that Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival shall not be liable in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from this application or the subject matter of the application.
7. Kildare County Council and the Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival, its employees or agents shall not at any time in any circumstances be held responsible or liable in relation to any matter whatsoever arising in connection with the development, planning, construction, operation, management and/or administration of individual projects.

8. I/we have provided a tax clearance certificate if I/we have received more than €10, 000 in a 12 month period in grants, subsidies or similar payments from public sector bodies.
9. I/ we understand that funding will not be paid until any outstanding receipts for any previous grants from Kildare County Council are submitted.
10. By completing this application, I/we declare that I/we have read and are aware of Kildare County Council's Privacy Statement. I/we are also aware that information supplied is subject to Freedom of Information legislation.