

LEADER 2023 -2027 NEWS



KILDARE LEADER PROGRAMME OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS



The new strategy emphasizes support for ideas in the areas of eco and regenerative tourism, in former peatland areas, development of the tourism offerings connected to the Barrow Blueway, supporting farm diversification and small rural business development, responding to gaps in community and youth facilities, promoting greater social inclusion, and increasing Climate Change Awareness and Environmental Protection.

We are delighted to announce that the new Kildare CAP Rural Development Programme (LEADER) is up and running.

It is based on the Kildare Local Development Strategy developed by CKLP and the Kildare LCDC and approved by Government in January 2024.

This means that the LEADER Programme will continue to support communities and individuals with funding, supports and resources to assist in the development of stronger, better connected, more resilient and prosperous communities across Kildare.

If you have an idea or a challenge facing your community it might be eligible for LEADER support.

Check out the themes of the new Strategy on www.countykildarelp.ie/programmes/new-leader-rural-development-programme

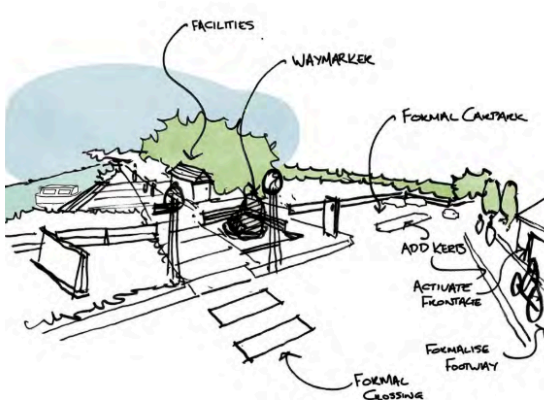
WORKING FOR GREENER, SMARTER, MORE SOCIAL AND VIBRANT, RURAL COMMUNITIES

LEADER AS A STRATEGIC PROGRAMME: THE BARROW BLUEWAY PLANS...



The Kildare LEADER Programme does not see itself as simply a funding mechanism for ideas generated by individuals or communities, although this is a very important element of its success. It also seeks to be proactive and develop strategies to guide the future development of the county and respond to gaps in services.

A good example of this can be seen in the Barrow Blueway Economic Plan and the Barrow Blueway Placemaking plan. The **Barrow Blueway Economic Plan** was proposed to give structure and guidance to entrepreneurs and community groups in advance of the development of the Blueway, showing where the potential was for developing activities and businesses. This plan won the “Best Employment & Enterprise Plan” at the Irish Planning Institute’s Irish Planning Awards 2023.



The Steering Group responsible for the development of the Plan, comprised of staff from CKLP, Kildare County Council and Waterways Ireland, went on to oversee the development of the **Barrow Blueways Placemaking plan**, which sets out a series of programmed and costed actions to maximise the success of the Barrow Blueway as a local, national and international attraction in accordance with the Blueways Ireland Accreditation Criteria of: Experience, Safety, Technical, Conservation & Environment, Access and Sustainability. These actions consider wayfinding, access, trip planning, activation, services, and activities for land- and water-based users. On the basis of this Plan, an application was submitted to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for further funding to complete the work. **On May 13th, €3,940,827.49 was awarded for the completion of the Blueway** and the installation of interpretation pieces, as outlined in the Placemaking Plan.



Karl Duffy CKLP Rural Development Manager and Helen Mulhall, Regenerative Economic Development Officer and Kildare Just Transition Tourism Activator presented both plans at the the European “Inclusive Cities and Regions” Conference in Naples. The Barrow plans were the only Irish plans representing the Irish Planning institute at this important event. We are very pleased as to how the LEADER Programme has accompanied the development of this important resource in the county and can be used to influence development and attract further funding.