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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the September Monthly Meeting

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report—(Appendix 1).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Launch of a new publication about the Kilkenny Fieldname Recording Project on Wednesday 12th October 2016, 7.30 pm. The book, "MEITHEAL NA bPÁIRCEANNA Celebrating the Field Names of County Kilkenny", is about the old fieldnames of County Kilkenny.

ROADS:	PAGE 2
PLANNING:	PAGE 3
HOUSING:	PAGE 4
ENVIRONMENT:	PAGE 5
WATER SERVICES:	PAGE 5
CORPORATE SERVICES:	PAGE 5-
LOCAL & COMMUNITY DE	VELOPMEN PAGE 6-
CULTURAL SERVICES:	PAGE 8
HERITAGE:	PAGE 8-
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:	PAGE 9
LIBRARY SERVICES:	PAGE 9-1
FIRE SERVICES:	PAGE 10



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

N78 Pavement Improvement Contract (Dunmore East to Corbettstown and Damerstown West to Ballycomy)

Works commenced on this Scheme in early August 2016. The scheme is advancing well and on programme for substantial completion by the third week in September. The Scheme enables resurfacing of 6.7km's of National Secondary Road between Hennebry's Cross and Castlecomer. The total value of the Scheme is €2million.

N77 Conahy Pavement Improvement Scheme

Tender assessment for this Scheme has concluded and works will commence end September/early October 2016 with a construction period of 3 weeks. The works provide for the resurfacing of 1.6km's of National Secondary Road with a value of €400k.

N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The total value of this Scheme is circa €8 million and tender documents will be published for the Scheme in mid September 2016. There are 40 individual land transactions to be completed for the Scheme and in excess of 35 of these have now been agreed. Following tender assessment and contractor appointment between now and the end of 2016 it is likely that works will commence in early 2017 with an 18 month construction programme. More definitive information in respect of commencement dates etc. will be available once the contract is signed.

N24 Carrick Road Improvement Minor Works Scheme

Earlier this year Elected Members were advised that, following consultation with TII, this Scheme

is now included on the TII Minor Works Programme. The Scheme is 1.8km in length extending westward from the speed limits in Mooncoin Village to the start of the N24 Piltown 2+1 Scheme at Clonmore. The Scheme will involve the widening and realignment of the existing road. Elected Members are advised that TII has recently provided €20,000 seed money to commence the planning and design for the Scheme. The 2016 funding will be used to undertake a topographical survey, pavement testing and a Preliminary Appraisal Report all of which will be undertaken before the end of 2016.

N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee Minor Works Scheme

As previously advised to Elected Members the N77 between Ballyragget Village and Ballynaslee (3.25km) is now included in the TII Minor Works Programme. The Scheme will provide for the online upgrading of the existing road to the standard of the new N77 Ballynaslee Scheme. TII has recently provided €20,000 seed money to commence the planning and design for the Scheme. The 2016 allocation will enable pavement testing and a Preliminary Appraisal Report to be prepared before the end of 2016.

N25 New Ross Bypass

The second quarterly project newsletter for this Scheme will be published at the end of September 2016 and will be circulated widely at local conveniences (service stations, shops etc.), at local public buildings and in County Hall. The dedicated project website www.n25newross.ie provides contact details for the project, progress updates and information on traffic management. The website will be developed and updated as the works progress. A 24 telephone hotline is also operational to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to August 2015	Total to August 2016
Planning Applications Received	517	575
Planning Applications Granted	405	505
Planning Applications Refused	26	38
Complaints Received	55	65
Warning Letters Issued	51	37
Enforcements Notices Issued	16	19

Forward Planning:

- The Chief Executive's <u>Two Year Progress</u>
 <u>Report On Securing Objectives in the Kilkenny</u>
 <u>County and City & Environs Development</u>
 Plans 2014-2020 was published in July 2016
- Proposed Variation 1 to the County Development Plan and Proposed Variation 2 to the City and Environs Development Plan were published in September 2016. Variation 1 to the County Plan is to
 - a) Amend the site specific development standards for Mount Juliet estate,
 - b) Incorporate the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, to apply Part V to developments of 10+ houses with 10% social housing requirement
 - c) Align the minimum development standards for new apartments with the Department's <u>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments</u> (2015).
- Variation 2 to the City Plan is to:
 - a) Incorporate the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, to apply Part V to developments of 10+ houses with 10% social housing requirement.
 - b) Align the minimum development standards for new apartments with the Department's

- <u>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on</u> <u>Sustainable Urban Housing: Design</u> <u>Standards for New Apartments (2015).</u>
- c) Change zoning objective from 'Community Facilities' to 'Residential' at St Josephs' Road, Kilkenny City
 - Work is continuing on the preparation of new Local Area Plans for the Ferrybank/Belview area and for the District town of Castlecomer
 - Invitations to quote were issued in August for "Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan".

Special Areas of Conservation:

 Kilkenny County Council received notification in August of the formal designation of the following candidate Special Areas of Conservation as SACs:

> Hugginstown Fen The Loughans Galmoy Fen Thomastown Quarry Cullahill Mountain

- Please note that these areas have been protected by law since they were first proposed for designation and this final step in the process does not alter the overall obligations to protect the sites.
- As opportunities arise we will update relevant maps and plans to reflect their formal designation as SACs.

Taking in Charge

Kilkenny County Council has commenced works to 9 housing estates to accelerate their taking in charge. We intend to complete the taking in charge of the developments before the end of

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



2016. The following developments consisting of 694 residential units have been approved for funding:

- Aylesbury, Ferrybank
- Chapelgate, Kilmacow
- Cooleigh, Carrigeen
- Lintown, Kilkenny
- Rosehill Court, Kilkenny
- Hazelbrook, Ballyhale
- Briarswood, Slieverue
- The Weir, Kilkenny
- College Square, Kilkenny.

We have commenced seeking tenders for works required to a number of developments which have provided security through an Anglo Irish Bond. It is intended to cost these works with a view to the local authority carrying out the works and claiming the cost from the special Liquidator for IRBC.

Work will continue on other applications for taking in charge.

Housing:	6 8
	30.0
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st August, 2016	2747
Number of assessment interviews carried out in June:	31
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	23
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th June	652
Number of LA tenancies	
surrendered:	18
Anti social behaviour cases:	15
New Homeless Presentations:	32
Maintenance Calls for June 2016	264
Maintenance Calls year to date	

	2821
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	25
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st August, 2016	€ 3,180,305

Crescent Housing Scheme, Gaol Road, Kilkenny

Minister Simon Coveney officially opened the new housing scheme at Gaol Road Crescent, Gaol Road, Kilkenny on Thursday 25th August. The project is the first new housing construction scheme by Kilkenny County Council, delivered under the Social Housing Strategy 2020. The Minster welcomed the new housing scheme of 10 homes made up of both houses and apartments with provision for ground floor accommodation. The new units meet the needs of the homeless, elderly, disabled and general housing needs.

Funding of €1.2 million was allocated by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to the housing scheme and Cleary & Doyle Construction Ltd were the successful building contractors. The homes have applied the latest energy efficiency technologies achieving an A rating and reducing fuel costs for the new residents.



Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)- Kilkenny County Council will be seeking an application for funding to deliver infrastructure to open up land in the Western Environs for housing.

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management Changes Ahead for Kilkenny Households

Regardless of the deferral of the "pay by weight charges" there are still changes ahead for many Kilkenny households as other waste management legislation comes into effect.

Two major changes are coming into effect, firstly households will no longer be permitted to use plastic bags for waste disposal, after December 31st 2016. Households now need to make the transition from bags to bins or other arrangements. Households in Kilkenny have four months to use any pre-paid bags they may have already purchased and to make arrangements for either a bin collection service or disposal at an approved civic amenity site. Awareness campaigns are ongoing and households are advised to contact authorised waste collectors for service details in their areas.

Only households designated as exempt under the legislation will be allowed to continue to use pre paid bags for waste disposal. There are strict criteria for exemption it is confined to access issues and anyone seeking information on registration for exemption can contact Kilkenny County Council at 056 7794470 or at www.kilkennycoco.ie/bagexemption.

The second change impacts all householders that live in a population centres greater than 500. Food waste regulations now require households to separate out food waste from their general refuse. Waste collectors are obliged to provide a third bin, brown or green, to households living in these areas. Further information is available from the Environment Section and awareness campaigns will commence in September.

REUSE MONTH – Repair, Remake, Reimagine

October is national reuse month with many events to showcase and promote activities in Kilkenny

underway from October 4th. Details available at www.facebook.com/kkcocoenvironment

Dog Shelter Service

ISPCA has given 6 months notice to Kilkenny and Carlow County Councils of their intention to withdraw from operating the Dog Warden Service with effect from 28th February, 2017. Kilkenny County Council will now proceed with the procurement of an alternative service provider at the earliest opportunity.

WATER SERVICES

Capital Update:

€1.4m investment in refurbishment of mechanical & electrical equipment in **Purcellsinch waste** water treatment plant. Works commencing immediately to finish in Q2, 2017.

Outrath reservoir & water network upgrade & is scheduled to finish before year end.

Watermain rehabilitation works at **Ballygriffin**, **Mooncoin** underway.

Watermain rehabilitation at **Stonyford & Goresbridge** to commence on Sept 2016.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Diageo Site

A full report will be given at the Council Meeting.

Kilkenny Named as Ireland's Cleanest City.

Kilkenny County Council welcomes the latest results from Irish Business Against Litter, which places Kilkenny 1st out of 40 towns and cities surveyed, and cleaner than European norms.

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



The IBAL report states:

"Yet another success for Kilkenny with nine out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. What sets Kilkenny and other very high scoring towns apart is not just the lack of litter but the care and attention in the presentation of the environment."

Welcoming the latest results, Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Matt Doran paid tribute to the work of Kilkenny County Council's environment team for their "commitment to Kilkenny and maintenance of high standards at a time of year when the pressure is at its highest. We thank all those in the community, especially the Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Committee for their support".

Well done to all of the staff involved in presenting the City to an extremely high standard. It takes effort and commitment to reach the standard and even greater effort and commitment to maintain it.

Mayor of Kilkenny Cllr Patrick O'Neill urged citizens to show their appreciation of Kilkenny by remaining "ever vigilant in the ongoing commitment to living in a litter free community."

Fair Green Callan

The Council is in the process of finalising the lease of soccer pitches in the Fair Green, Callan to Callan Utd. and is at an advanced stage in the preparation of an overall Plan for the Fair Green area which will provide for identified parking areas, revised traffic management, enhancement of open spaces and improvements / refurbishments of the playground. It is expected that the Part VIII will be on display in mid to late October.

Civic Reception

The Cathaoirleach and Mayor of the Municipal Districta hosted a Civic Reception for Presentation Secondary School Choir and Choral Director, Veronica McCarron on 1st September, 2016, in St. Canice's Cathedral, in recognition of their outstanding success in delighting audiences both nationally and internationally with their unique grace and talent and portraying Kilkenny as a place where art and culture flourish.



LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kilkenny LCDC

- 1. Department officials attended the meeting of the LCDC on September 2nd.
- 2. The Chairperson of the LCDC attended a meeting of LCDCs Chairs in August.
- 3. The Chairperson convened a working group in August to look at the role and future role of the LCDC as the committee now enter the next phase of its development and the implementation phase of the LECP. Recommendations are being brought before the September meeting.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



4. Community Staff attended the Southern Region LCDC Forum which is a forum / network of Local Authority support staff to LCDCs.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The first meeting of the LECP Advisory/Monitoring Group took place in July. This group has been established to oversee the implementation of the LECP. The group is made up of six members – three from the LCDC and 3 from SPC 1. The group agreed the Terms of Reference of the group and will meet quarterly. Next meeting is scheduled for October.

Local & Rural Development (LEADER)

A joint workshop took place in July between Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny LEADER Partnership. The purpose of this meeting was for both organisations to outline their key priorities and to agree common themes / projects which both organisations can jointly collaborate on. Project actions were identified under the following five headings.

- Water, Renewable Energy & Environment
- Enterprise
- Tourism, Recreation, Amenity & Recreation
- Youth & Social Inclusion
- Rural Towns, Communities & Facilities

A follow up workshop will take place in December to review progress.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP Subgroup carried out the SICAP midterm review. The Programme Implementer, CKLP, assured the group that all targets would be met for 2016. Quarter 3 payment was released based on the outcome of the review.

Public Participation Network (PPN).

Katherine Peacock, the new PPN Development Officer commenced with Kilkenny County Council in late July. The PPN office is located at 42 Parliament Street, Kilkenny. To date there are around 200 groups from the community registered with the PPN. This is the recognised structure in place that enables the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees of the Local Authority. The PPN are in the process of electing representatives to sit on these formal committees however there are many levels at which groups can become actively involved. A dedicated website with all relevant information on the structures and workings of the network is under construction which will provide member groups with the information on the latest developments in the council, the community and on funding available. I ask you to promote membership with all of your constituency groups in order to continue the growth of the Network, and ensure equal representation across the county. I wish the PPN continued success. For further information contact the PPN at ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie

Other Community & Culture Projects:

The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme 2016:

20 applications were received. An Evaluation Committee met on two occasions to assess the applications following which recommendations went before the full council in July. A total of 8 projects were successful in being allocated funds from the €250,000 budget. Contracts were issued to all successful applicants while all applicants were notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Comhairle na nÓg:

• The Comhairle Steering Committee held a workshop to plan for the annual AGM which will take place in October.

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



- A member of the community department attended a two day training organised by the Department of Children & Youth Affairs on 'Creative Methods for Consulting with Children & Young People'.
- Work is progressing with the Report of the Evaluation of the pilot Kilkenny Mental Health School Flag programme carried out by St. Patricks Mental Health Services Dublin. It is currently with printers who are in the design stage.

Community, Sports, Arts & Youth Facilities Audit:

An interagency working group was brought together to plan for the updating of the Community, Sports & Arts Audit which was carried out in 2009. This new audit is being expanded out to include Youth Facilities and also an audit of programmes which are happening across the county in these facilities. A design brief was agreed and a call for proposals issued. Work is progressing in terms of appointing a consultant. This audit will be carried out over the coming months with a view to be finalised in February 2016. This audit will inform future priorities with regards to CCFCS grant monies.

CULTURAL SERVICES

Arts

• Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet

Paul Muldoon, poet in residence and Kimberley Campanello, 2016 editor launched the Kilkenny Broadsheet as part of the Kilkenny Arts Festival on August 12th

The Broadsheet is currently online and available for free from the Kilkenny Libraries and the Arts Office

- http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Arts/ News/Kilkenny-Poetry-Broadsheet-2016-Now-available-online!.html
- Rhyme Rag online Poetry Journal for teenagers www.rhymerag.net

The Autumn school term programme has been scheduled for Rhyme Rag activity. July and August poems have been published on the website

Rhyme Rag poems will be published in The Kilkenny People in the coming weeks.

HERITAGE

Heritage Week a Great Success

Heritage Week (20th– 28th Aug) was a great success in Kilkenny. 80 events took place in 14 towns and villages across the county. In fact County Kilkenny has one of the busiest heritage week programmes in the country. A big 'Thank You' from the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council to all the event organisers and people who supported Heritage Week.



Date for your Diaries: Launch of Kilkenny Fieldname Publication

The Heritage Office is launching a new publication about the Kilkenny Fieldname Recording Project on Wednesday 12th October



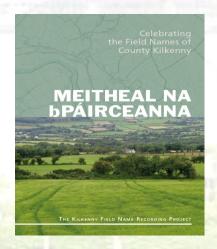
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



2016, 7.30 pm. The book, "MEITHEAL NA bPÁIRCEANNA Celebrating the Field Names of County Kilkenny", is about the old fieldnames of County Kilkenny, and also celebrates the many volunteers and landowners who have been working with us to record the names across the county for the last 5 years. Invites will issue shortly.

This will ensure that invoices can be processed in a timely fashion.

The upgrade will also result in a brief system shutdown as we change over to the new system. The shutdown period is planned for September 23rd to October 4th and is not expected to cause any significant disruption to supplier payments.



LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistics and Performance (Aug 2016)



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Financial Management System Upgrade
Kilkenny Co Council is currently in the process of
upgrading its Financial Management System.

Some of the main changes relate to the way Purchase Orders and Supplier Invoices are processed.

All of the Council's suppliers are being written to informing them that:

- All invoices submitted to the Council for payment must contain a valid purchase order number
- All invoices should be addressed and sent to Accounts Payable, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny or alternatively emailed to accountspayable@kilkennycoco.ie.
- 27,788 Visits in our libraries
 26150 Items issued
 2452 Public Internet sessions
 81 Visits to Local Studies
 1162 New members/renewals
 - 688 Wifi Sessions

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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



Library Website usage (Aug 2016)

www.kilkennylibrary.ie

<u>2016</u>	Users	New Users	Return Users	Sessions	Page Views
Aug				:	
	2568	1469	1099	4939	11096

Programming and Events

Summer Reading Challenge:

Over **900** children completed the National Summer Reading Challenge in Kilkenny, reading over 5,400 books over a 6 week period!



Our Countries 2016: Exhibition in Loughboy Library

Intercultural Family Learning Project between St. John's Junior School and Word Aid featuring tapestries from twenty seven countries, representing the diverse multicultural attendance at the school.



My Open Library

Kilkenny County Council have submitted a proposal for inclusion in the Library Capital Investment Programme 2016-2021 under the 'My Open Library, unlimited access 8am-10pm' programme. Castlecomer library is proposed as Kilkenny's pilot branch under this initiative and approval for this project is expected before the end of September 2016. When implemented then Open Library Service will greatly improve accessibility to services on a daily basis.

FIRE SERVICES

Graiguenamanagh Fire Station

Members will be aware that the Council was successful in securing funding for a new Fire Station on the Relief Road in Graiguenamanagh. The closing date for accepting tenders was Friday the 9th September, 2016. The evaluation of tenders will now commence with the expectation of appointing a contractor before the year-end and commencement of construction early in the new-year.

KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Inclusive Summer Camps

Over 70 children with disabilities took part in KRSP's Summer Camp programme ran over two weeks in July, with over 40 volunteers supporting and assisting the participants. The first week was a new partnership with Nore Valley Park, introducing the children to a huge range of camping and outdoor activities.

The second week took place in St Patricks Sports Hall and grounds with access to the Hydrotherapy

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



pool. There were 2 day trips; surfing in Tramore and kayaking on the Nore.

Once again, the generosity of the people of Kilkenny, made the whole experience possible. Over 40 invaluable volunteers gave up their time to support and lead activities, The Kilkenny Scouts provided marqees, Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club brought over 40 children with disabilities out on the river, paddling pools were provided by friends and neighbours and some of the volunteers performed with their jazz band to entertain during the barbeque. An amazing fortnight was had by all, with new activities discovered and many friendships formed!

Irish TV came to visit on the last day of Nore Valley and captured some of the ambience on the day!













Inclusive Activity Days Adults

A range of activities were provided for Adults with Disabilities over the summer months, including Pitch and Putt, High Ropes in Castlecomer Discovery Park, Surfing in Waterford and Cycling in Kilkenny City.

The support of KRSP allows organisations and individuals to try out new activities and build relationships with service providers in the community. KRSP's support also allows the service providers to better cater for people with disabilities and increase the awareness of the supports that can allow their services to be more available to all members of the community.

Active Travel Schools: Park & Stride

KRSP are working with schools in the Waterford Road area to encourage parents and students to Park & Stride. Agreements have been obtained with Aldi and SuperValu about use of their parking facilities for the project. A3 posters (for the schools and supermarkets); car stickers (for those who sign up to the programme) and publicity leaflets which will be distributed to all pupils in the participating schools.



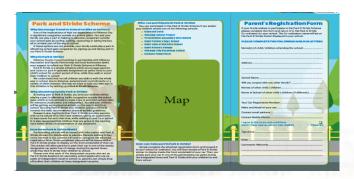




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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT





Active Travel Schools: Workplaces

Three sites are taking part: Access (SOS) services, Merlyn Showers (Purcellsinch Industrial Estate) and St Luke's General Hospital. All sites will be starting in September.

An Post Ras na mBan 7-11th September

Rás na mBan is the premier women's cycling event in Ireland. It runs for five days with a total of six stages to a total of over 400km of racing action. For 2016 the event was headquartered for the first time in Kilkenny. Approximately 22 teams from 12 different nations took part in an event that has become established as one of the toughest and friendliest autumn stage races on the calendar.







Older Adults Programme of Activity

All Older Adult Activities resume the week of the 12th of September.

Pilates programmes take place in Kilkenny City and Callan. Chair Based programme also take place in Callan.

Swimming and Aqua Aerobics programmes take place in Kilkenny City in the Watershed, Ormonde, the Newpark and Springhill! Approximately 200 Older Adults are catered for as part of the programme.

Dates for September 2016

Medieval Marathon 17th September

Kilkenny provides the historic backdrop for Ireland's first Medieval Marathon. On September, the 17th, participants will set off from the grounds of Kilkenny Castle at 2pm. There are 4 routes on the day, from a 10km right through to a full marathon. Approximately 500 people are expected to sign up for the Medieval Marathon.

Men on the Move

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership is one of eight counties involved in the national programme, Men on the Move. The final Health Check as part of the 12 month national research programme took place on the 12th of September in 3 venues. Following this, the Men on the Move Activity Programmes will be offered in these venues, FREE and open to all men over 18.

The project lead is Dr Paula Carroll from Waterford Institute of Technology. "Men on the Move has completely dispelled the myth that men are not willing to engage with their health and well-being, and that men don't talk. Men on the Move has certainly hit the right note for hundreds of men around the country and the benefits far out reach the physical benefits that motivated many men to get involved in the first place. Friendships have been formed, some men no longer feel isolated in their communities, dependence on medications have been reduced and so many men



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



have a renewed vitality and stamina for living. Anyone interested should contact their Local Sports Partnership and see how they can get involved locally".

Men on the Move Dates and Venues

Thomastown, Tuesday and Thursday at 8pm with tutor, Paul Dempsey,

Castlecomer, Tuesday and Thursdays, 7pm with Elaine Sherwood,

The Watershed, Fridays, 8pm with Sally Teehan Clara, Wednesdays 8pm with Paul Ward.

All venues kick off on the week of the 19th of September.





COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



APPENDIX I

1.Kilkenny County Council

Finance Report – September 2016.

The expenditure by service division for the seven months to the end of July is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €42.9m compared with the annual budget of €67.18m.

Table 1	Actual YTD July 16	Budget Full Year 2016	
715	100		
	€′000′s	€′000′s	
Housing & Building	9,351	14,083	
Road Transport & Safety	11,902	16,848	
Water Services	4,021	7,603	
Development Management	4,273	6,562	
Environmental Services	4,907	8,628	
Recreation & Amenity	3,444	6,024	
Agriculture,Education,Health, Welfare	382	761	
Miscellaneous Services	4,669	6,673	
Overall Total	42,949	67,182	

Cash collected on commercial rates for the first seven months was €500k higher than the same period last year. Collection on housing rents was in line with the same period last year. The bank overdraft facility was utilized on 33 days to the end of July and the maximum overdrawn balance was €3.7m.

- 2. Rates Revaluation A presentation will be made at Council Meeting
- **3**. A proposal to borrow for Capital Expenditure already incurred or to be incurred by year end will be presented to Council for approval.