



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
MEÁN FÓMHAIR - SEPTEMBER 2020

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19th & 20th October

Annual green schools Information Evening for Co-ordinators will take place online this year.

28th October

Closing date for receipt of entries for The Irish Business Design Challenge.

30th October

Closing date for receipt of submissions for Urban Park & Street in the Abbey Quarter.

31st October

Closing date for receipt of applications for Fáilte Ireland's COVID-19 Adaptation Fund

31st October

Closing date for receipt of applications for Restart Plus Grant.

1st November

RFA 1 forms to be completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs Department

21st November

The Pride of Place Awards will be announced.

23rd to 27th November

Virtual Regional Waste Roadshow

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HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19 [CORONAVIRUS]
INFLUENZA & OTHER VIRAL ILLNESS



IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL

Check if you have symptoms of coronavirus. These are a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, loss of taste or smell, fever (*high temperature*).

If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, phone your GP or local Emergency Department [ED] without delay.

Do not go to your GP or ED. Phone them first. Tell them about your symptoms. Give them the details about your situation. Avoid contact with other people by self-isolating. If you do not have a GP, phone 112 or 999.

IF YOU ARE FEELING WELL

If you are feeling well, carry on with your normal routine.

Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other infections such as flu.

Avoid spending time with people who are ill with a cough, high temperature, or breathing problems.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus:

- avoid contact with people by self-isolating
- phone your GP or emergency department
- tell them your symptoms and the details of your situation





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 THE IRISH TIMES	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
 Visitors	10 from 3 households	6 from 2 or 3 households	1 other household	No visitors permitted	No visitors permitted
 Gatherings	50 outside your home or garden	6 indoor 15 outdoor	No social or family gatherings	No indoor gatherings	No Except funerals or weddings
 Weddings	100 people can attend	50 people can attend	25 people can attend	6 people can attend	6 people can attend
 Indoor events	100 Up to 100 can attend indoor gatherings	50 But up to 100 in larger venues	No indoor gatherings	No indoor gatherings	No indoor gatherings
 Sports fixtures	100 indoor 200 outdoor	50 indoor 100 outdoor	No matches or events (except elite sport)	No matches or events (except elite sport)	No matches or events
 Bars, cafes & restaurants	Open with protective measures in place	Open 6 people from up to 3 households	Open. Take away or delivery. Outdoor dining only. Max 15 patrons	Open. Take away or delivery. Outdoor dining only. Max 15 patrons	Open. Take away food or delivery only.
 Wet pubs	Open	Open Groups of six from 3 households	Open Additional restrictions	Open outdoor only limited to a max of 15	Only offer takeaway or delivery service
 Domestic travel	No restrictions	No restrictions	Stay in your county/region apart from work/education/essential purposes	Stay in your county/region apart from work/education/essential purposes	Stay at home except to exercise within 5km from home
 Public transport	Travel off-peak hours or walk/cycle, if possible	Peak hours essential workers/ purposes only; 50% capacity	All hours essential workers/ purposes only; 50% capacity	Avoid public transport; essential workers/ purposes only; 25% capacity	Avoid public transport; essential workers/ purposes only; 25% capacity

Graphic: Paul Scott/IRISH TIMES GRAPHICS



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CORPORATE

Are You Registered to Vote?



Register of Electors 2021/2022

The Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 is currently being compiled.

Please ensure that RFA 1 forms are completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs before the 1st November, 2020. These forms are available from checktheregister.ie and in all Council Offices.

ROADS

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the roads projects that Kilkenny County Council has been working on in 2020.

NATIONAL ROADS

KILKENNY MAJOR SCHEMES:

N25 Glenmore to Waterford Scheme

The design of this proposed scheme is within the concluding stage of Phase 2 – Option Selection. A preferred corridor will be announced in the coming weeks.

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme

Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. Consultants have been appointed for this major scheme to bring it through the various stages and route selection through to planning and design. This process will take approximately 60 months.

KILKENNY MINOR SCHEMES

A number of minor schemes are progressing through various stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network.

N24 Tower Road

Planning approval for the proposed scheme was secured in Q3, 2019. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the scheme was also approved by An Bord Pleanála on the 5th August 2020. We are presently undertaking the administrative procedures necessary to give effect to that decision. It is expected that construction will commence in 2021.

N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee:

A planning application under 177AE and a Compulsory Purchase Order application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks for the above project.

N24 Carrick Road:

The section of N24 proposed to be improved is rural in nature and located immediately North West of the village of Mooncoin in County Kilkenny. The overall length of the scheme is 1.9km. We are currently preparing the necessary documentation to make applications to An Bord Pleanála for approval under 177AE and also Compulsory Purchase Order approval for the scheme. It is expected that the application will be made towards the latter end of Q4 2020.

NON-NATIONAL ROADS

The majority of the works are nearing completion on the non-national roads for 2020. A welcome boost of additional funding was announced for active travel and climate change adaptation in September. Climate Change received €373,000 for 10 projects and Active Travel received €1,227,000 for 28 projects. These works will keep the roads crews busy up to the end of 2020.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance Plan will start on the 12th October 2020 and run until the 30th April 2021. Routes and plan will be published on Kilkenny County Council media sites. Approval of the members are sought at this month's Council meeting.



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WATER SERVICES

Ballyhale Flood Relief Scheme

Ballyhale Flood Relief Scheme is currently in Stage 1 of a 5 Stage Project Delivery. Stage 1 target completion date is end of Q1 2021 and involves the Scheme Development and Design.

A number of surveys were carried out over the summer months in the Ballyhale Scheme area which included topographical, ecological and environmental surveys. A draft Constraints Report has been issued by the Consultant for review and approval.

The Hydrological Modelling for the scheme has been ongoing over the past number of months and the Consultant has issued a Draft Hydrology Report for review and approval which is the first key milestone deliverable for the project.

Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme

The Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme has a budget of €9.6million to deliver the scheme over the next 6 years. We are currently in Stage 1 of the project which has a target completion date of Q3 2021.

A dedicated project website has gone live @ www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamangh-tinnahinchfrs/home/ where all stakeholders and members of the public can keep up to date with progress on the scheme.

Over the summer of 2020 a number of surveys were carried out in Graiguenamanagh which included topographical, ecological and environmental surveys.

The Consultants appointed for the delivery of the scheme have submitted a Draft Hydrology Report for review and approval which is the first key milestone deliverable for the project.

PLANNING

Development Management - September 2020

Planning Summary	Total to September	
	2019	2020
Planning Applications Received	704	646
Planning Applications Granted	560	506
Planning Applications Refused	54	49
Complaints Received	93	71
Warning Letters Issued	102	65
Enforcements Notices Issued	34	10
Cases Closed	86	45

The Planning Department is open for business subject to Covid-19 recommendations for social distancing and other safety measures for the protection of customers and staff. Visits to the Planning Office are by pre-booked appointment. Appointment can be made by telephoning the planning office at 056 7794010 or by email to planning@kilkennycoco.ie

FORWARD PLANNING

City & County Development Plan

The Planning Section continue to prepare the text for the Draft Plan which is nearing completion. Members will have time to consider the draft before publication and the next round of public consultation. The Forward Planning Team has briefed all the Municipal District and two workshops will be held with Councillors, the first on the 12th of October and the second on the 16th of October Following the workshops the members will consider the draft plan for approval, where after the plan will be placed on public display for the next round of public consultation. Updates on the process are provided on the dedicated portal for the draft plan at Ourplan.Kilkenny.ie.

Masterplans

In a parallel process a number of masterplans for the areas of Loughmacask, St Canice's Campus (the former St. Canice's Hospital) and the Fairgreen area of the City are being developed. These were



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also impacted by Covid 19. Work is continuing with the preparation of these masterplans with Loughmacask being the furthest advanced. Issues arising from the public consultations held in February and those arising from internal and statutory consultations are currently being worked through by the Planning Team. Members will be briefed on the resolution of these before any draft masterplans are placed on public display.

Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan

A draft joint Local Area Plan for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch has been prepared and members of the Thomastown Municipal District were briefed at their meeting on June 10th. Carlow County Council has now reviewed the plan and it is proposed to put the draft out on display in late October for its statutory consultation of a minimum of 6 weeks.

CONSERVATION

Conservation Grants

Projects availing of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund are nearing completion.

Approval received for works to the Bridewell and Mid Terrace house, Mullinavat to the value of €25,000 and €35,230.40 respectively under the July Jobs Stimulus Package.

Building Control

A total of 251 valid Commencement Notices were received in 2020 up to the end of September. This compares with 234 commencement notices for the same period in 2019.

Valid Commencement Notices Received:

End of September	2020	2019
Number of Applications Received	251	234

61 valid Disability Access Certs Applications were received in 2020 up to the end of September. This compares with 43 applications for the same period in 2019.

1 valid Application for a Dispensation from Part M was received in 2020 up to the end of September. This compares with 3 applications for the same period in 2019.

Valid Part M Applications Received	2020	2019
Valid Applications	61	43
Dispensation from Part M	1	3

Disability Access Certs online are now available on the BCMS. Hardcopy DAC applications are currently still accepted.

TAKING IN CHARGE

Works continue to be carried out on the following estates:

- Rath Ullard
- Banagher Court, Piltown
- The Green, Ballyfoyle
- Glenvale, Ballyragget
- Newpark Crescent

Vacant sites

Seventeen sites were added to the Register for 2020. Owners were notified of the Valuation of their sites in September and they now have an opportunity of appeal to the Valuations Tribunal.

There are currently 32 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 19 of these are now liable for the 7% levy. The Council were in the process of issuing payment demands in March, however that process was halted following the Government's Emergency Order. The process will recommence to ensure compliance with statutory deadlines. Two sites have had their levy discharged to date.

The number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement now stands at 13 sites.



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ENVIRONMENT

Trends since Covid-19

Since restrictions were introduced in mid-March to combat the spread of Covid-19. The Environment Section has seen an increase in activity across a number of key headings listed hereunder:-

Environmental Complaints

The number of complaints logged and investigated by the Environment staff since mid-March up to the end of September continues to show an increase on the same period for 2019 with 777 complaints received, representing a 34% increase year on year. The nature of the complaints range from littering, illegal dumping, water quality, noise, abandoned cars and odours from farm activity and illegal burning. However, the majority of complaints (at 54%), related to littering and illegal dumping. All complaints are logged on our CRM System (Customer Relations Management System) given a unique ID No. and assigned to the appropriate staff member for investigation.

To combat this unwelcome trend and to raise awareness, the Environment Section continue to run various media campaigns via print, radio and on-line social media platforms. Our Enforcement Officers remain very active on the ground and 188 fines have been issued for littering offences this year to-date.

Bring Banks

The Council provides and manages 46 Bring Banks across the City and County. Since mid-March up to the 25th September, usage at these facilities continues to be very strong. When compared to the same period last year the tonnage collected has increased by an incredible 49% with a total of 1,526 tonnes of glass, tin and aluminium collected, representing an additional 500 tonnes. It should be noted this unexpected jump in the tonnages collected will have an impact on our 2020 budget in terms of increased expenditure required to maintain the service. Examples of the

tonnages collected across the City and County at our various facilities include Callan (an additional 49tonnes), Graiguenamanagh (an additional 75tonnes), Urlingford (an additional 40tonnes), Gowran (an additional 29tonnes), Newpark Shopping Centre (an additional 92tonnes), Loughboy (an additional 88tonnes), Mooncoin (an additional 65tonnes) and Mullinavat (an additional 37tonnes.) Environment staff are continuing to work very closely with our Service Providers to ensure the level of service is in keeping with the demand. This is however particularly challenging as the main service provider is also contracted to a number of other Local Authorities who are also experiencing a similar trend.

Dunmore Civic Amenity Site

Activity at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Site has also increased with customer numbers up 13.5% since mid-March compared to 2019 figures, with over 61,000 customers availing of this facility this year to-date. The tonnage of waste and recycling material collected at the facility has also increased by 12% since mid-March, with over 2,477 tonnes of waste and 1,248 tonnes of Recycling material collected.

Dunmore CAS - Dry Bulk Furniture Waste Collection Initiative

This Initiative was a huge success with 260 customers availing of the dry bulk waste days on Friday 18th & Saturday 19th of September. The total customer numbers each day were 391 and 502 respectively. The GAA overflow car park, to the right of the facility entrance, was used to ensure safe traffic management and compliance with Government and HSE Covid Guidelines. In total 55.5 tonnes of bulk waste were taken in over the two days.

The staff at Dunmore remained organised and efficient in the processing and unloading of each load and traffic management on site and are commended for their hard work over the two days which continued into the following week with the shredding and resulting clean up.



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A similar event was run in the Granny Civic Amenity Site and both events are funded through the Anti-dumping Initiative Programme. It is hoped initiatives like this will reduce the illegal dumping of such items across the county.



Inistioge Bring Bank – Enhancement Scheme

Works to relocate the Bring Bank at Inistioge were recently completed. The new location which adjoins the old site provides for a more attractive and safer facility for members of the public to use. The works provided for recessed on-street parking, new footpath, a level hardstanding area to front of banks, signage and bank screening.



Before



After

Kilkenny Recreational and Biodiversity Park

Works continue to progress on the proposal to repurpose the closed 17acre landfill site at Dunmore into a high quality recreational and biodiversity park. Consultations have commenced with the local community and GAA County Board and the response to-date has been very positive. This is an extremely exciting project for Kilkenny with an overall ambition to create a parkland that will create a regional destination for health and wellbeing, attracting fitness and outdoor enthusiasts of all abilities, nature lovers and educational providers. Another key objective of the proposal is to create connectivity back into the city along the River Nore Linear Park and onwards to the Nore Valley walking trail, in turn creating a key element in the Kilkenny City and Environs Green Infrastructure offering.



Our programme remains on track to progress the project through the planning process under Part 8 in Q4 2020 in conjunction with the submission of a funding application under Measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) before the end of November.





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Update of our Anti-Dumping Initiative Projects (ADI) for 2020

Kilkenny County Council successfully applied for grant funding of €102,000 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This allowed the Environment Section to complete the following projects in 2020:

Project No.	Project Title	Total Amount Approved	Update September
1	Supply and install 10 CCTV cameras at Bring Banks	€9,000	Project Complete and Operational.
2	Bulky Waste Collection Day	€18,000	Project Complete over 55 Tonnes of material processed
3	Illegal Black spot at Three Friars and liaising with Coillte/Garda checkpoints on household	€15,000	Checkpoints on main New Ross to Mullinavat road complete along with Coillte Clean up
4	Bikes for Africa	€8,000	Roll Out Complete
5	Clean up of illegal dumping Hillcrest Estate, Piltown	€8,000	Works Completed
6	Clean up of illegal dumping along R448 road clean up just outside Mullinavat	€8,000	Works completed Monday 24 th August in excess of 20 bags of rubbish removed
7	Clean-up of two viewing points Ballyinavarra & Coppenagh	€12,000	Works Complete
8	Clean up of illegal dumping Abbey Road, Ferry bank	€10,000	Works Complete
9	Clean up of illegal dumping Car Road St. Francis Tee, Kilkenny	€8,000	Works Complete
10	Clean-up of illegal dumping Newrath Road, Ferrybank	€10,000	Works Complete

Bikes for Africa National Launch at Dunmore Civic Amenity Site

Owing to the success of the Bikes for Africa scheme the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment prioritised funding for same in 2020. Minister of State Malcolm Noonan launched this initiative nationally along with Chief Executive Colette Byrne, representing the CCMA, from Kilkenny's Dunmore Civic Amenity Site on 7th September. This voluntary and multi-agency initiative has yielded great results since its inception, with 11 Local Authorities now involved and over 4,000 bikes donated to the cause to date.





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Multi Agency Site Inspections 2020

In September, Kilkenny County Council led a Multi-Agency inspection at an unauthorised End of Live Vehicle (ELV) site. Also, in attendance were staff from the WERLA Southern Region, An Garda Síochána, Customs & Revenue, Department of Social Protection along with two independent motor assessors. In total 21 unauthorised ELVs were found on site and a Section 55 Notice, under the Waste Management Act, was issued by Council officials instructing the owner of the site to clear and dispose of the vehicles at an authorised facility. The other state agencies present will be following up on their own lines of enquiry that fall under their remit.

Extract summary of some of the inspections completed under our 2020 RMCEI Plan

Inspections under the 2020 RMCEI Plan have continued since mid-March. However, the restrictions put in place to combat the spread of Covid-19 has impacted on planned inspections that require site visits and meetings with property and landowners. Notwithstanding, good progress continues to be made and protocols have been put in place to protect members of the public and staff. A summary of some of the inspections undertaken to date is provided in the table below:

RMCEI Inspections	Planned 2020	Completed to end of September	RMCEI Inspections	Planned 2020	Completed to end of September
Inspections relating to water pollution incidents	21	30	Bring Bank Surveillance	150	302
Discharge Licences to waters	25	5	Bring Bank Inspections	84	64
Inspections in relation to solid fuel regulations	38	29	Other SW or GW protection inspections	96	72
Inspections of existing planning permissions	550	440	Ambient Monitoring (us/ds WWTPs)	192	180
Ground Water quality (planning inspections)	80	196	Additional BOD analysis for Water Services	550	409
Multi-agency inspections including vehicle inspections and multi agency site inspections	1	6	WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken (WFD)	260	377
Routine Litter Patrols (City)	175	122	WFD investigative monitoring, samples and analysis	52	39

Waste Management Bye-laws

It is a requirement of each Local Authority to ensure that householders along with commercial properties and collectors comply with the Household Food Waste & Bio-Waste Regulations 2015. This legislation underpins Kilkenny County Council's Waste Management Bye -Laws which were adopted in 2018. Under the Bye-laws, households within population agglomerations > 500 persons must operate a three-bin system if they have engaged a service provider. Alternatively, if they deal with their waste by other means they must demonstrate if called upon how same is managed in accordance with the requirements.



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Prior to 2018, the compliance rate across Kilkenny city and county in terms of adhering to the above was amongst the lowest in the country at just 18%. Since the introduction of the Bye-laws, engagement by the Environment Section with service providers, along with engagement with households and awareness campaigns, the level of compliance has increased to 90% this year. The compliance rate of each Local Authority is included as a Performance Indicator under NOAC.

The Use of Branded Refuse Bags

Given the requirement for service providers to provide a two or three-bin collection service to customers or risk losing their licence and/or prosecution, operators are required to cease with the supply and collection of branded refuse bags. This is to ensure that all waste is segregated into the correct waste streams for disposal (i.e. into residual, recycling and food waste.) The Council acknowledges that there are a limited number of cases where a two or three-bin service is not practical or available. In this regard, the Council has made provision within the Bye-laws to enable householders to apply for an exemption to continue with the use of the branded bag system. The options available to households currently using the branded bag service are as follows:-

- (a) switch over to the two or three-bin service. The Council have been advised by service providers that over 400 customers have switched in recent months;
- (b) use the Civic Amenity Site in Dunmore or in Granny and keep receipts for inspection if/when called upon to produce same;
- (c) contact the Environment Section and request a Bin Exemption Form. This is where the customer (e.g. is located in an area where a collection vehicle cannot access), applies to the Environment Section to continue with the plastic bag service. The exemption application will be assessed and the service provider will be contacted to discuss the best solution for

the applicant. If it is determined that a bin exemption should be given, the customer can then purchase the bags directly from the service provider. The service provider will then record the customers details and the quantity of branded bags provided.

Another option that may be considered is Bin sharing, whereby persons living side by side may use the one set of bins for their collective household waste. Customers are encouraged to contact either their service provider directly and/or talk to the Environment Section about what options are available to them.

Animal Welfare Standards Committee

Kilkenny County Council convened its first meeting of the Animal Welfare Standards Committee on 17th September 2020. The Committee comprises of Elected Members and members from animal welfare organisations, including KSPCA, Dogs Trust, My Lovely Horse Rescue, PAWS and IFA. The main purpose of the Committee will be to provide monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the Council's Animal Welfare Standards for dogs and horses. It is a non-statutory Committee and it will make recommendations to the Council. The Committee will have a county wide remit. Cllr Andrew McGuinness was elected Chairperson of the Committee and it was agreed that representatives from An Garda Síochána and KTCM would be invited to join the Committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in November.

October Reuse Month

October is celebrated annually as Reuse Month by all Local Authorities. This year Kilkenny County Council is using its social media platforms to champion local groups who are completing upcycling projects through the Councils funded waste prevention programme.

A group from the Aislinn Centre in Ballyragget underwent a 5-week training course to complete the upcycling of furniture. Their upcycling brought life and colour back to this tired wardrobe.



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Green Schools

An Taisce Green School programme is being re-imagined to ensure the programme remains viable with the presence of Covid protocols in schools. The Green Schools HQ issued schools with guidance documents and the annual green schools information evening for co-ordinators will take place this year online on 19th & 20th of October. The Environmental Awareness Officer is reaching out to all primary schools via a newsletter this month, highlighting the online information evening and encouraging schools to follow the environmental awareness face book page as this is an easy way to promote news and opportunities throughout the year while school visits are not feasible. Everyone can keep up to date with the Environmental Awareness Office by following www.facebook.com/kkcocoenvironment. Secondary schools will be approached individually to determine what assistance they may require during the year.

Home Energy Saving Kits

Following the high borrowing demand of home energy saving kits in two libraries, the scheme has been expanded to all library branches. The kit enables a householder to become an energy detective, providing gadgets to estimate energy consumption of different electrical appliances, tools to check your home heating system and a thermal leak detector to ensure the house is properly insulated. The kit can be borrowed like a book and comes with a guide and workbook to assist the householder to complete their energy conservation checks.

Climate Change Community Initiatives

The Environment Section has collaborated with "The Acorn Project" to work with three local

groups to collect acorns this autumn that will be planted in a specially designed nursery with successful sapling harvested in 18 months and planted locally. Primary schools are set to receive climate change books to encourage climate action. The books will be posted along with the school's newsletter, the publications, purchased locally are 100 Facts; Saving the Earth and Greta Thunberg's book "No One is Too Small To Make A Difference".

Regional Waste Roadshow (November 23rd-27th)

Waste awareness and education across the southern region is now twenty years old. To celebrate our achievements, to indicate the way forward and to intrinsically link waste awareness with climate action, a virtual roadshow will take place in November. A video highlighting the services of Dunmore Waste and Recycling Centre is currently in production and will be showcased as part of the week's activities. A schedule of events will be circulated to the elected members once the roadshow schedule has been finalised.

Kilkenny retains its IBAL Crown

Kilkenny has once again been deemed cleanest of 40 towns and cities surveyed by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL). Kilkenny topped the IBAL litter rankings for a record fifth time.

An Taisce, who conduct the surveys on behalf of IBAL, praised Kilkenny commenting that in addition to the sites that consistently score well "The series of interconnecting laneways between the streets and medieval area were excellent – this is often not the case in other towns / cities throughout the country."

Kilkenny County Council's Environment Section provides education and awareness to communities in relation to all environmental matters. The Council continues to have a zero-tolerance approach to illegal dumping in the interest of public health and to keep our City and County clean. Members of the public are encouraged to play their part by reporting illegal dumping activity and they can do so by calling 1800 200 156.



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Historic Landfill Sites

The following table provides an update on the status including any remediation works to the 14 Historic Landfill sites located in Kilkenny.

Site Name	2020 Target	Status - September 2020
Gowran	Remediation Completed 2019. Close out 12-month defects period in 2020	Completed.
Sherman's Donaghmore Ballyragget	Complete Remediation & commence 12-month defects period.	Completed.
Oldcourt Inistioge	Tier 3 Report & Cert of Authorisation Application submitted.	Draft Tier 3 Report has been received.
Talbotsinch Freshford Road Kilkenny	Tier 3 Report & Cert of Authorisation Application submitted.	Awaiting Final Report.
Thorpes Ballyragget	Tier 3 Report & Cert of Authorisation Application submitted.	Final Report has been received.
Seven Houses Newlands	Tier 3 Report & Cert of Authorisation Application submitted	Consultants to be Appointed.
Skehana Castlecomer	Tier 3 Report & Cert of Authorisation Application submitted.	
Ardreagh Urlingford	Tier 2 Report completed.	Consultant Tenders due in October 2020.
Caherlesk Dunnamaggin	Tier 2 Report completed.	
Ballykeoghan Kilmacow	Tier 2 Report completed.	
Sheastown	Tier 2 Report completed.	
Mallardstown	Tier 2 Report completed.	
Granny	Tier 2 Report completed.	Tender to be issued in October 2020.
Dungarvan	Tier 2 Report completed.	

Documentary Series with KCLR

LAWPRO and Community Water Officer co-operated with this documentary series on KCLR during Sept and Oct 2020.

Programme 5: Wednesday 7th October - Make Way for the King' 4 -6pm on 'The Way It Is' presented by Sue Nunn.

This programme is dedicated to the work of the LAWPRO programme featuring the Teams working on water quality and measures to improve water quality in a collaborative process.

Water quality is hugely important and this programme brought to you with co-funding from LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) looks at how our rivers are kept clean and how to maintain them at a clean level. Agricultural activity can have an impact on rivers and so we talk with farmers about how they are implementing measures to safely farm close to riverbanks and streams.



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Water Quality in Ireland Report 2013-2018

The EPA produced its Water Quality in Ireland Report 2013-2018 in December last year. This Report showed a worrying overall trend of continuing decline in water quality. The loss of good quality waters is still a very significant challenge. The Report was presented to each Regional Management Committee where it was agreed that every local authority would arrange a presentation on the findings to a plenary session of their council and to their Environment SPC before the end of this year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, presentations have not yet been made. However, the EPA Catchments Unit have recorded an introductory video that summarises the main findings and draws some general conclusions on water quality trends. The video is available on the EPA YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9hqG6tNiw>. A presentation will be made to the Environment SPC at their next meeting and subsequently to the full Council.

Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO)

Covid-19 has radically changed the way we work. Virtual meetings and working from home (WFH) are the 'new normal'. LAWPRO, like many organisations, was forced to adapt its workplans and practices to protect the health of staff and those with whom they interact. For example, LAWPRO coordinates and facilitates 'Regional Operational Committee' meetings across five regions. These quarterly meetings bring together operational staff from Local Authorities and relevant State agencies and normally rotate to different venues in each respective region. Since the onset of the pandemic these meetings have been held remotely online.

A community information meeting will be held via zoom on the River Bregeagh Priority Area for Action, in early November 2020, date to be confirmed.

PARKS

South East Greenway

Works are well advanced on the rail lifting contract on the South East Greenway which incorporates the Kilkenny Greenway and runs from Ferrybank in South Kilkenny to New Ross, terminating at Mount Elliot, Co. Wexford. Rails and sleepers are now lifted over approximately half the length of the track (12 km). The rails and sleepers are being collected at Rosbercon at the old railway station and from there are being returned to CIE. The railway sleepers are considered hazardous waste due to the presence of creosote and will be safely disposed of by CIE. In the urban section of the Greenway in the Ferrybank area, preparation works are underway to install sections of screen fencing to safeguard privacy for residents.

Part 8 planning applications for Greenway Car Parks to facilitate access to the Greenway at Raheen, New Ross, Ballyverneen, Glenmore and Ferrybank are currently being considered by the Planning Authority. These applications were on public display in the Ferrybank Area Office, County Hall Planning Office and in New Ross Municipal District Offices. The open period for receipt of submissions has now passed. All submissions received will be considered by the Planning Authority when arriving at a final decision on the planning applications.



Clearance of rails and sleepers along the line of old railway track on the South East Greenway



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Woodstock Gardens

Works are underway at Woodstock to install the new activity trail for children adjacent to the existing playground. The activity trail will add another element in the gardens for families to enjoy and help to minimise wear and tear on the gardens. This project is funded through the Sports Capital scheme.



The new pergola erected to the side of the walled garden is now complete. This garden building which will house much needed seating is situated overlooking the arboretum. The pergola is constructed predominantly from timber from a cedar tree which fell in a recent storm. The timber was seasoned and planked locally and the pergola was made on site by our own Woodstock staff and community employment scheme workers.



In celebration of Kilkenny Day (Sunday 11th October), Woodstock Gardens are backing the Cats! To mark the day a full team of our famous, 'Kilkenny Cats' were hidden around the trails and the challenge was for children to find their County Team.



Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Work is finally complete on the construction of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park and it opened on 12th October. There is something in the park for every age group and we do hope the local community enjoy this long awaited amenity. The park is part of a wider network of green spaces in the Ferrybank area with plans in the future to create linkages to the Greenway which is shortly to commence construction.

The aim will be to manage the park as a pollinator friendly space. Grass cutting will be kept to a minimum around more formal or entrance areas. Elsewhere longer meadow grass will be maintained with an annual cut and lift approach taken. This will encourage a more diverse grass sward with wildflowers in the seed bed coming through.



*Lavender bed near the seating area
in the new park in Ferrybank*



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As the site is on elevated ground, there are great views of Ferrybank and Waterford city from this area which can be used for performances or informal gatherings in the future.



The terraced seating area in Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park.

Tory Hill Loop Walk

The upgrade of the loop walk at Tory Hill in Mullinavat is one of the projects in County Kilkenny to have been supported under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). Erosion of the informal trails on Tory Hill has been caused by volumes of people using the trails but also by blocked drainage. The works will remedy this situation in a section of the most popular places on the hillside trail. All works are being carried out with Coillte's permission as the trails are located on their lands.



Before

After

COMMUNITY

Town & Village Renewal

The Council received funding for an additional six projects in Graiguenamanagh, Kilmacow, p, Mullinavat, District Towns and County wide to the value of €166,000. Results for applications submitted under Round 3 have also been released for 3 county wide projects, Ballyhale, Graiguenamanagh, Freshford and Kilkenny City to the value of €214,200. Overall, Kilkenny has been awarded grant funding to the value of €461,200 under Town and Village Renewal Accelerated Measures in 2020.

Community Section submitted 10 applications for consideration under the standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme in respect of Ballyragget, Freshford, Thomastown, Paulstown, Stoneyford, Kilmanagh, Muckalee, Fiddown/Glenmore, Kilmacow and Hugginstown. Results are awaited.

Age Friendly

The Kilkenny Age Friendly Alliance published its Annual Report for 2019. The report sets out achievements of Kilkenny Older People's Council and all the participating state agencies and other groups that support age friendly initiatives in County Kilkenny. Link to Annual Report:

https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Publications/Council_Publications/Kilkenny-Age-Friendly-Annual-Report-2019.html

Community Enhance Programme Grants

The LCDC allocated a number of grants this September under the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) small grant - 18 Groups were allocated as follows:

Group Name	Amount Funded
Kilkenny Home Rule Club	€2,500
Urlingford Tidy Towns	€3,000
Glenmore community Centre	€3,000
Bigwood Residents Association	€2,500



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Kilmacow Community Sports Complex Ltd	€2,000
Windgap Tidy Towns	€1,000
Urlingford Boxing club	€1,500
Gairdin an Ghorta Community Group	€1,000
Ionad Lachtain	€1,450
Thomastown Men's shed	€2,000
Newpark close Community Development Ltd	€3,000
Tullahought Community Development Ltd	€930
Kilmacow Community Centre	€3,000
1st Kilkenny Scout Group	€2,900
Stoneyford Development Association	€1,640.
Droichead family Resource Centre	€2,500
Urlingford Parochial Hall	€3,000
Bennetsbridge Community Hall CLG	€2,500
Total	€39,420

A further 8 grants were allocated under the medium CEP grant as follows:

SPA Development Association (Johnstown – North MD)	€20,000
Mooncoin Parochial Hall (South MD)	€12,000
Piltown Community Centre (South MD)	€8,000
Freshford Community Group (North MD)	€20,000
Graiguenamanagh Hall (East/West MD)	€20,000
Clogh/ Mooneenroe (North MD)	€20,000
Callan Hall Racquetball (East West MD)	€7,276
Kilkenny Involvement Centre (East/West MD City)	€8,000
Total:	€115,276

Kilkenny Integration Strategy

The review and development of a Kilkenny Integration Strategy has entered the consultation phase and will be ready to present the November Council meeting.

Bike Week 2020

Bike week 2020 was held from 19th to 27th September. Bike week was in a different format this year. A series of events were held within public health guidelines, including School

Cycling events, Cycling tours of Kilkenny City, Lunchtime cycles and subsidised bicycle rental for families and a free lunchtime cycle for frontline workers.

Community Newsletter

The recent Community Newsletter focuses on Promoting Kilkenny Day, this has been posted and circulated.

Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership

Work is underway for the development of a 12-18 month KRSP Interim Strategy. As part of this process, a first phase 'Working Document' has been developed by the KRSP Sub Committee.

Tidy Estates Awards

Judging was completed for the Tidy Estates Competition. Results will be announced in January 2021.

Pride of Place Awards

The Pride of Place Awards will be announced on the 21st of November 2020.

Community CCTV Scheme

Urlingford community were awarded €15,000 under the Department of Justice Community Based CCTV Scheme. Kilkenny County Council are awaiting funding to be transferred from the Department to Kilkenny County Council.

HERITAGE

Kilkenny Cultural Stimulus Project: Supporting Heritage and Arts in Kilkenny

The Heritage and Arts Office jointly commissioned a pilot project to explore the impacts of Covid 19 on the heritage and arts sectors in the county, and identify supports which may be required by the sector. The project is co-funded by Creative Ireland.

Talbots Tower: Covid Stimulus Grants

Kilkenny County Council has received a grant of €40,000 from the Heritage Council in Sept as part of the Heritage Covid Stimulus Package for urgent conservation and repair works to Talbots Tower. Works have to be completed by Nov 2020.



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LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Launch of #tastelocal Campaign



Deirdre Dunne (Kilkenny Co. Co.), Julie Calder-Potts (Highbank Orchards), Cormac Vesey (Harpers Restaurant), Eimear Ni Bhraonain (KCLR), Cllr. Andrew McGuinness (Cathaoirleach, Kilkenny Co. Co.)

The Launch of the #tastelocal campaign took place on the 10th October on The Parade. Kilkenny County Council's Local Enterprise Office have launched the #tastelocal tour in partnership with Carlow County Council and KCLR96fm which aims to promote all things food and drink over the coming months from our local producers to our fantastic cafes, restaurants and hotels. The tour involves a series of outside broadcasts with KCLR96fm which will feature stories from local food and drink producers and hospitality establishments such as pubs, restaurants, hotels and coffee shops. The Tour included visit to Kilkenny City, Gowran, Thomastown, Ballyhale and Castlecomer over 5 dates during September & October.

Brexit back in focus for small businesses



Small businesses are being urged to refocus their minds on Brexit ahead of the December 31st deadline. Irrespective of what happens in talks between the UK and the EU before the end of year cut off, the transition period expires and that will change Ireland's trading position with the UK. This means any company who exports or imports with or through the UK will be affected and will have to change their processes.

The Local Enterprise Office are asking all small businesses to check their Brexit readiness and if in doubt to reach out. The LEO has relaunched their Prepare Your Business for Customs workshops with the programme available nationwide to all small companies. The programme will prepare businesses for both trade outcomes i.e. if the UK leaves with a trade agreement, or if it leaves without one, ensuring companies are best prepared for both scenarios.

Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny is offering FREE of charge the following:

- Manage Brexit and Covid19 Effects using Strategic Management – 21st October and periodically throughout November
- Brexit Advisory Clinic – 11th November
- Prepare your business for Brexit Customs Workshop – 16th and 17th November

National Women's Enterprise Day is taking place on Wednesday 14th October.



The interactive events on October 14th for National Women's Enterprise Day are moving online to LocalEnterprise.ie/NWED and the big themes this year are resilience, self-care, innovation and



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opportunity. All events in the programme are free of charge and include workshops with experts, panel discussions, a virtual marketplace and facilitated networking to connect more entrepreneurs with each other.

Entrepreneurs that will be sharing their insights and journeys include Olympian-turned-company founder Derval O' Rourke, Sonia Deasy of the Irish global skincare brand Pestle & Mortar, Pamela Laird of Moxi Loves who was a finalist on BBC's The Apprentice and Áine Kerr, the co-founder of Kinzen and RTÉ broadcaster, who is also the M.C. for the day. Clare Hughes from CF Pharma is the Kilkenny ambassador for NWED 2020.

To register for events, visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kilkenny/Training-Events/>

Irish Business Design Challenge



The Design & Crafts Council Ireland has launched the Irish Business Design Challenge in partnership with the Department of Business, Innovation and Enterprise, the Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland.

The Irish Business Design Challenge is a competition in which micro, small and medium Irish businesses (MSMEs) across all sectors in Kilkenny and around the country are invited to share the challenges they are experiencing as a result of COVID-19 and the solutions they have designed to resolve and adapt to the current environment.

The aim of the Irish Business Design Challenge is to recognise the resilience and innovation of MSMEs in a year which has proven to be challenging for businesses as a result of Covid-19. The competition will profile a selection of businesses over a number of weeks, during which an expert panel of judges and members of the public will have the chance to vote for their 'hero business'. Dearbhail McDonald, Author and Broadcaster, will chair the expert judging panel.

The Irish Business Design Challenge is open to three categories of business including micro (1 - 10 employees), small (11 - 50 employees) and medium sized (51 - 250 employees). There is an overall prize fund in excess of €50,000, with a €15,000 first prize for the winner of each category and €2,000 for the runner-up in each category.

The Irish Business Design Challenge is open for entries until 28th October 2020.

For further information on the Irish Business Design Challenge or to apply for the competition please visit <https://www.dcci.ie/irish-business-design-challenge>

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2020

€340,828 approved in **financial assistance** to 16 businesses linked to the creation of 138 jobs over a 3-year period - (€294,053 in Business Expansion Grants and €46,775 in Feasibility Study Grants);

1,256 business owners and employees attended **76** core **training programmes** including seminars from Financial Training to Management Development Programmes;

747 students from 14 schools participated in the **Student Enterprise Programme** which fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship from an early age;

908 entrepreneurs have received **one-to-one mentoring** to assist them in relation to particular issues within their business ranging from business continuity to ICT;



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395 entrepreneurs attended **Business Advisory Sessions** with LEO staff to discuss starting or growing an existing business (including remotely from March 2020);

311 Covid-19 **Business Continuity Voucher** applications were approved totalling **€698,218**.

211 **Trading Online Vouchers** were approved totalling **€525,370**. in order to assist businesses to implement e-commerce within their business;

107 participants attended **7 Start Your Own Business programmes** which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business (including remotely from March 2020);

14 **Microfinance loan applications** have been submitted to Microfinance Ireland (1 pre COVID and 13 COVID related) of which 13 have been approved to date with total loan value of **€258,300**.

6 businesses have participated on **Lean for Micro** in order to assist them to look at their competitiveness and innovation specifically in relation to Brexit;

5 businesses have been approved **Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants** in order to assist them access overseas markets totalling **€10,496**.

HOUSING

Housing Capital Delivery 2020

The capital schemes proposed for delivery in 2020 is as outlined in the table below. These are estimated figures, subject to change and are dependent on construction sites being permitted to remain open for the remainder of the year.

Pipeline Delivery 2020	Proposed
Kilkenny City	
Nuncio Road	28
20 Green Street	1
24 Green Street, (CAS)	1
Seville Rise, Margaretsfield, Callan Road	30

City Total	60
Kilkenny County	
Hoban Park, Bolton, Callan	38
Breaghagh Place, Main Street, Piltown	17
Lime Grove, Belmont, Ferrybank (<i>Turnkey</i>)	4
Group Home, Cloghabrody, Thomastown	4
Willow Grove, Belmont, Ferrybank (<i>PART 5</i>)	3
No 47 Barrack Street, Castlecomer (<i>Buy & Renew</i>)	1
Main Street, Kilmoganny (<i>Buy & Renew</i>)	1
County Total	68
City & County Total	128



Handover of Group Home, Cloghabrody

Delivered to date in 2020 [48 units]

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan.
- 1 unit at Main St, Kilmoganny (*Buy and Renew*)
- 1 units at 20 Green St. Kilkenny, full refurb, long term void
- 4 units (Group home) at Cloghabrody, Thomastown (KCC Direct Build)
- 4 units at Lime Grove, Belmont, Ferrybank (*Turnkey*)

Under Construction at 30th September [255 units]:

- 28 units Nuncio Road, Kilkenny (*Respond Housing*)
- 17 Units at Breaghagh Place, Main Street, Piltown (KCC Direct Build)
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer (KCC Direct Build)



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- 6 Units at New Road and Chapel Street, Mooncoin (Turnkey)
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett (KCC Direct Build)
- 40 units Margaretsfield, Callan Road, Kilkenny
- 1 unit at 47 Barrack St, Castlecomer (Buy and Renew) (KCC Direct Build)
- 1 unit at Old Health Centre, Windgap (Buy and Renew) (KCC Direct Build)
- 18 units at Pairc Nua [Broguemaker], Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny City (Direct Build)
- 16 units at Greenville Mews, Lower Kilmacow (Turnkey)
- 58 units at Pennefeather Green, Hebron Road, Kilkenny (Turnkey)
- 5 units at Grennan Villa, Thomastown (Camphill)
- 8 units at Pennefeather Court, Hebron Road, Kilkenny (Turnkey)
- 2 Units at Shanganny, Jenkinstown.

Tender Stage [51 units]

- 51 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny [Phase1]

Detailed Design/Pre Tender Stage [12 units]

- 6 units at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny
- 2 Units at Inchacarron, Mullinavat
- 2 Units at Old Fire Station, Graignamanagh
- 1 unit at 18 Wolfe Tone St, extension and full refurb, long term void
- Old Fire Station, Thomastown, refurb to 1 bed unit



28 houses at Nuncio Road, Kilkenny

Planning Stage [29 units]:

- 25 Units at Ladywell, Thomastown (An Bord Pleanála)
- 1 Accessible bungalow, Circular Road, Kilkenny
- 1 Accessible bungalow, Haggardsgreen, Callan (Buy & Renew)
- Reconfiguration of 1 apt to 2 units- Ayrfield, Granges Road

Vacant Homes

- 12 vacant properties have been identified for the commencement of Compulsory Purchase Order procedures in the coming weeks. Assessment of further vacant sites will continue around the County to locate viable housing options.

September Monthly Statistics

Number awaiting social housing support at 30 th September (Gross Need)	1,948
Number of assessment interviews carried out in September:	34
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations up to end of September (offers made):	179
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th September:	873
Number of LA tenancies surrendered in September:	9
Anti-social behaviour cases in September:	55
New Homeless Presentations in September:	26
Maintenance Calls for 30 th September 2020	540
Maintenance Calls year to date	3,781
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	11
Amount of Loans Approved to 30 th September 2020	€1,461,430



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Housing Waiting List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 30th September and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
30 September 2020	1,948
December 2019	1,988
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059
	(Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744

Housing Loan Activity

1st January to 30th September, 2020

Loan Type: Annuity/RI Home Loan

Received..... 27
 Approved 11
 Amount Approved €1,461,430
 Paid..... 16
Amount Paid: €2,258,230

Private Grants

Kilkenny County Council approved a budget of €1.5m for all three private grants (HOP/MAG/HGD). The Council recoups 80% of all eligible expenditure from the Department. Projects already committed and approved for 2020 are in excess of the allocated budget. Only emergency cases can be processed for the remainder of 2020. The estimated position at 30th September 2020 is as follows:

Grants Paid 2020		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	60	€668,686
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	26	€93,006
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	60	€300,437
Total	146	€1,062,129

Grants Approved & Committed 2020		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD Housing Adaptation Grant	96	€1,091,598
MAG Mobility Aid Grant	31	€123,150
HOP Housing Aid for Older Persons	108	€622,721
Total	235	€1,837,469

Covid19 Challenges:

- Majority of applicants are elderly or very ill and have been advised to cocoon.
- Builders not able to carry out works, source materials or provide quotations during restrictions.
- Builders had to delay starting works as they were unable to access applicant's home.
- Backlog of works building up since the restrictions were lifted.
- Occupational Therapists were unable to carry out assessments during restrictions. They are now resuming work but they will need to follow restrictions/guidelines from HSE,
- Housing Department were still progressing applications. Desktop assessments were carried out where possible as site inspections could not take place.

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations up to 30th September 2020 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 are set out below. There have been 186 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations at 30/09/2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	37	29	37	27	23
February	30	26	32	14	27
March	18	26	21	16	24
April	26	25	18	20	19
May	34	28	29	20	14
June	31	24	20	16	12
Total	176	158	157	113	119
July	31	34	15	31	19



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August	32	27	26	28	22
September	27	24	19	26	26
October	30	27	27	25	
November	32	29	23	16	
December	21	19	6	17	
Total	349	318	273	353	

Currently, there are 6 households including 1 child in Hotel emergency accommodation and 5 households in transitional emergency accommodation.

Incremental Purchase Scheme

6 Affordable home for sale in Hoban Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny



Completed Scheme at Hoban Park, Bolton, Callan

In July, Kilkenny County Council advertised the sale of six newly built affordable homes (3 bed two story) at Hoban Park, Bolton, Callan under the terms of the Incremental Purchase Scheme (IPS). This scheme allows for persons who qualify for social housing supports to purchase 'designated' newly built local authority houses at a discount.

The closing date for receipt of applications was the 31st August, 2020. There were 19 applications received.

TOURISM

Kilkenny County Council's Kilkenny Welcome Team

2020 is a year unlike any other. The Irish tourism sector is facing enormous challenges due to a global pandemic which has resulted in the loss of

the overseas visitor market. Kilkenny is no different and Tourism is a critical component of the local economy with over one in six people in the labour force employed in the Hospitality Sector (over 40% higher than the national average).



Recognising that a positive visitor experience will create return visitors and help to bolster the local economy, Kilkenny County Council launched the Kilkenny Welcome Team in August, whereby trained volunteers meet and greet visitors, providing a warm Kilkenny welcome along with visitor information.

Kilkenny Welcome volunteers continued their great work every weekend throughout September, welcoming visitors and linking in with our local communities.

The **Kilkenny Welcome Team** are strategically placed at high footfall locations around Kilkenny city to provide visitor information. From September, the Welcome Team will be available for specific events or activities happening in the City for the remainder of the year.

Failte Irelands COVID Fund

Fáilte Ireland's **COVID-19 Adaptation Fund** will help tourism businesses offset some of the costs they have incurred in adapting their premises or operations in line with Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for Re-opening. Grants are available to make either structural adaptations, such as protective screens and the development of outdoor areas, or to cover the cost of items such as sanitiser or



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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The latest CSO Business Demography Survey (2018) reports that over 900 (or 20% of all businesses) in County Kilkenny are in the Hospitality Sector.

Applications are open until the **31st October 2020**. To find out more information visit www.failteireland.ie

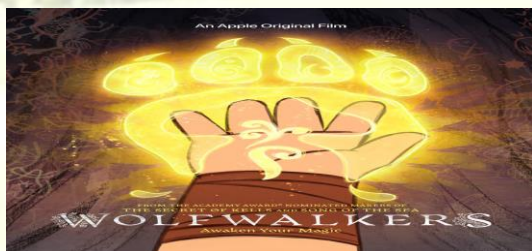
CONNECTED is Launched !



Design & Crafts Council Ireland's (DCCI) National Design & Craft Gallery is using multiple sites along Kilkenny's Medieval Mile to create a unique outdoor exhibition experience and sculpture trail. The opening of CONNECTED is the first step in what DCCI and partners across Kilkenny City and County plan to develop as a permanent fixture. Kilkenny is renowned for the range of cultural offerings marked by a packed calendar of festivals throughout the year. CONNECTED builds on existing cultural gravitas and provides a platform to highlight the craftsmanship involved in developing large-and small-scale works suited to the great outdoors.

Wolfwalker Month

A month-long celebration in Kilkenny City of the global release of Cartoon Saloon's new Academy Award®-tipped animated feature, *Wolfwalkers*, which is set in Kilkenny commenced in October.



Kilkenny will host a unique high-quality experience for visitors that integrates a world-class outdoor spectacle with a range of other outdoor and indoor activities celebrating a global phenomenon, supported by a range of thematic hospitality and attraction offerings that together animate and expand on the capital investment by Failte Ireland and create a whole new autumn season for the industry.

Kilkenny County Council is delighted to support this project in partnership with Failte Ireland and our Festivals Committee sub group of the Recovery Taskforce.

Kilkenny Day 11th October, 2020

Kilkenny County Council was delighted to host Kilkenny Day, 2020. Kilkenny people at home and abroad used their imagination and ingenuity to join in, while those at home got out and about in a very safe socially distanced way.

Over 40 events both physical and virtual took place right across the county;

Online events garnered a huge response from followers including the "Kilkenny Conversations" series of interviews conducted by Edward Hayden.

The response of the schoolchildren of the county to Kilkenny Day – from Mooncoin to Lisnafunchin – to the 1,000 Bikes to School was phenomenal. The hope now is that the younger generation have been inspired to make their journeys to school healthier and kinder to the environment.

The Young Soldier Tribute *Thomas Woodgate* from Mill Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny was only 14 years old when he died in October 1918. He was the youngest official Irish casualty from the 26 Counties who died as a result of enemy fire in World War 1 1914 - 1918. The Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee unveiled a new sculpture



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dedicated to Thomas Woodgate at the Courthouse on the day.



We can confirm that this first Kilkenny Day will not be the last. The support from our local communities and businesses throughout the City and County was remarkable so we hope to use this year's event to build on an even bigger and better event in our 2021 calendar.

For more details of the events visit www.kilkenny.ie or check out Click below to follow our Social Media pages and find out more about upcoming events.

Facebook: @KilkennyDay

Visit Kilkenny.ie & Kilkenny Tourism

Autumn Campaign has now launched. 900 years of history in a City you can explore by foot. Autumn Campaign includes: New Living History, Loving Kilkenny section on website, social media ads, google ads, blogs and two promotional videos.



New Living History, Loving Kilkenny section designed on the website with captivating imagery and content promoting Kilkenny as the medieval capital of Ireland.

For more details visit www.visitkilkenny.ie

Notwithstanding the work being planned and undertaken by our Tourism Team and our Recovery Taskforce in the past months, it has to be noted that the current Level 3 restrictions introduced from midnight on 6th October have forced our museums, galleries and many of our hotels, pubs and restaurants to close their doors.

This is an extremely difficult time for businesses coming into the shoulder period of the tourist season. We will continue to support in any way we can and to again be ready for re-opening safely and in line with any restrictions that must be adhered to.

FIRE SERVICES

Capital Projects

The delivery of a new fire engine for Callan which has been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions is now due to be handed over to Kilkenny County Council's Fire Service before the end of October 2020.

Fire Safety Certificates

94 applications for fire safety certificates were received to 6th October 2020. This was a 22 % increase in 2019 applications for the same period last year. These applications were administered by staff working from home and from our Headquarter station due to Covid-19.

Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

- Fire Prevention staff made targeted inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation.
- To date 82 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 & 2003.

Community Fire Safety

- During Fire safety week 5th to 12th October - Ongoing public messaging campaigns are being maintained through our social media channels to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.



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- Personnel have been carrying out Home Fire Safety visits to vulnerable people

Operations

Fire Brigades responded to 620 turnouts up to the 28th September 2020. The same period last year we responded to 523 turnouts.

Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade attended gorse fires on Brandon Hill during a recent dry spell in September 2020.

ARTS

Culture Night 2020

Seven different venues took part in Culture Night Kilkenny and opened their doors to the public after hours (*both online and offline*). A variety of people got a chance to encounter culture.

804 visited venues and another 1,045 engaged in Culture Night events online with a total of 1,849.



Butler Gallery



Poetry Trail

Exhibition

Less Stress More Success

Curator Rachel Botha's first exhibition opened in the Arts Office Gallery on 12th September but is now closed due to restrictions.

This exhibition invites reflection on the concept of stress success with artists Eimear Murphy, Laura Fitzgerald and Smithian Gibson.



Huddle

H U D D L E is an art discussion group devised and chaired by Saidhbhín Gibson and it took place on Saturday 3rd October.

Arts Act Grants 2020

The Arts Act Grants 2020 have been approved and 10 individuals/organisations will now complete their projects. Total Grants allocation: €9,600.

Creative Ireland

Additional funding has been secured in the amount of €50,000 under the Governments July Jobs Stimulus Package. This funding is to provide supports to a number of community groups and organisations.



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LIBRARY

Book and Browse Library Service

8,937
Items issued in
September



6,399
People visited our
branches

6 Branches

Operational in:
City Library
Graigueanamanagh
Ferrybank
Loughboy
Castlecomer
Urlingford



Contact and Collect Service in Callan & Thomastown Libraries from September 29th

Door to Door Service for Cocooning members

597
Members served
since we started



2197
Items delivered
since we started



Library Branches:

We were delighted to have reopened Callan and Thomastown Libraries as Contact and Collect Libraries, and Urlingford Library as a Book and Browse Library on September 26th. All branches are now in operation again. We have also reintroduced our PC service for members in six of our 8 branches, with a limited number of PCs available by pre-booking directly with the branch.



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Online Library Services September 2020



1,157

eBooks borrowed

▲ 67% ON 2019



713

eMagazines borrowed

▼ 10% ON 2019



4,888

Newspaper issues

read ▲ 14276% ON 2019



1,430

Music Downloaded &
Streamed

▲ 5196% ON 2019

1,619

eAudiobooks borrowed

▲ 68% ON 2019



1,047

Online course classes

▲ 109% ON 2019



53

eLanguage classes

▼ 39% ON 2019



School and Creche Support

We have made contact with primary schools and early Childcare facilities that are supported by our mobile library van. Of the 25 schools and 15 preschools, 95% are eagerly awaiting our return to the road to deliver resources for their students and teachers. We are working within guidelines to provide this service and we are hoping to be on the road shortly.

Small Scale Capital Works Grant Received

Minister for Rural and Community Development,

Heather Humphries TD announced funding of €100,000 to support significant upgrade required for the roof of Graiguenamanagh Library.

Website

Users

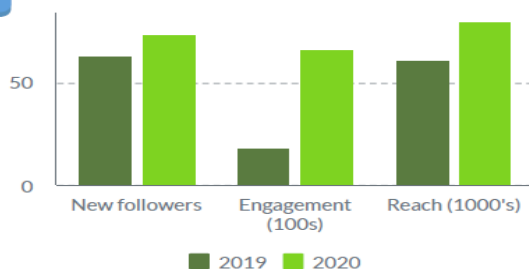
2551

Pageviews

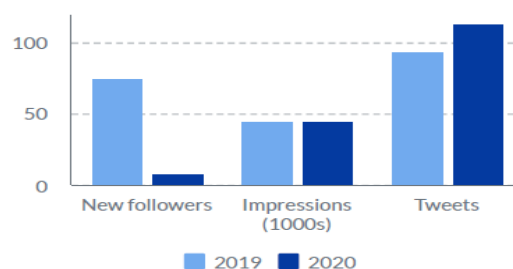
11,059



Facebook September 19 v 20



Twitter September 19 v 20





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ABBHEY QUARTER

Riverside Garden Project

Work has progressed well on the Riverside Garden Project in the Abbey Quarter, with the project now expected to be completed by the end of November (*subject to any COVID related delays*).

Skate park elements were delivered to the site in August – these have been placed in situ and work on the construction of the slab to join the skate park elements together will be undertaken during the month of October.



Work on the construction of the walkway through the park and other hard landscaping works will be completed in October, with the planting and soft landscaping of the park to take place in November.

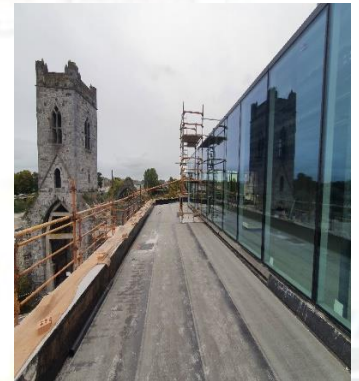


Brewhouse

Work on the development of the Brewhouse continues, with these works being undertaken by Mythen Construction on behalf of Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Ltd.

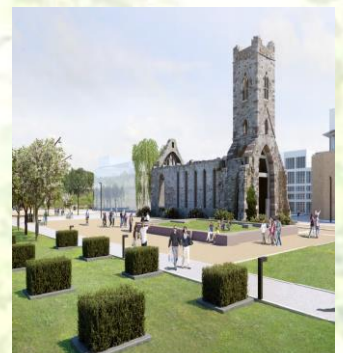
This project includes the development of the Public Realm area of Horse Barrack Lane and the

Brewhouse Courtyard. Whilst work to date has been focussed on the building works, work has commenced recently on the development of the public realm areas of the development. To date the works have been located within the former Brewery site but over the next few weeks these works will extend into Horse Barrack Lane – it will be necessary to close Horse Barrack Lane in phases to allow the works to be undertaken.



Urban Park & Street

An application for permission to develop the proposed Urban Park & Street in the Abbey Quarter was made to An Bord Pleanála in July 2020. Details of the proposed development are currently on public consultation, with a closing date for receipt of submissions or observations to An Bord Pleanála on Friday, 30th October 2020. (*note that the date for receipt of submissions has been extended from the previously advised date of 29th Sept. at the request of An Bord Pleanála*) Details of the proposed development can be found at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/consultation/abbey-quarter-urban-park-and-street>





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FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of September is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the nine months to the end of September was €73.11m compared with the annual budget of €83.6m. The expenditure under development management includes a sum of €8.07m relating to the restart grants. This expenditure was not included in the budget but is fully funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and innovation.

Table 1	Actual YTD September 2020	Budget Full Year 2020
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	15,417	17,623
Road Transport & Safety	19,048	22,688
Water Services	4,854	6,576
Development Management	15,234	10,525
Environmental Services	8,125	11,463
Recreation & Amenity	4,670	6,425
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	438	639
Miscellaneous Services	5,324	7,623
OVERALL TOTAL	73,110	83,562

The bank overdraft facility was utilized six times during the nine month period to the end of September 2020. The earlier payment by Government departments of grant monies including the Local Property Tax allocation has assisted cashflow since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis.

The audit of Annual Financial Statements for 2019 commenced on 13th July. The audited statements will be presented to Council later in the year on completion of the annual audit by the Local Government Auditor.

The Valuation Office conducted a revaluation of all commercial properties throughout County Kilkenny to come into effect for the year 2018 as part of its ongoing programme to revalue all such properties within the State.

The following is an update on appeal outcomes and outstanding appeals: -

- 197 Rate Customers appealed their valuation to the Valuation Tribunal.
- Total value of rate demand under appeal is €4.5m, 22.6%
- 162 appeals have been completed to date (28 withdrawn)
- 129 of the 162 appeals have resulted in a reduction in rates income, 4 confirmed the decision of the revaluation, 1 resulted in an increase in rates income & 28 were withdrawn.



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- Income lost to date = **€718,908**
- 35 appeals outstanding (1 appeal withdrawn)
- If this trend continues the total loss will be in the region of €1m

Impact of covid-19 on Council Finances

As previously advised to Council Covid-19 is presenting serious financial challenges as all income streams have been impacted. The estimated shortfall in commercial rates income for 2020 is €8.7m. The Government have announced a six month waiver on commercial rates for businesses impacted by the crisis and that compensation will be provided to council. The estimated income from the compensation is €5.5m leaving a net shortfall of €3.2m. Income from goods and services is also expected to be down by €1.7m. Additional covid related costs of €0.5m are also forecast for the year.

This leaves an estimated shortfall for 2020 of €5.4m in the absence of any further Government support. Expenditure in a number of areas in the 2020 budget totalling €2.35m has been deferred until further clarity is obtained regarding the income loss for the year.

There is a significant risk that the Council will incur a deficit for 2020 based on the current projections.

Budget 2021

The budget process for 2021 has already commenced. As already stated the covid-19 crisis is presenting unprecedented financial challenges for the Council in the current year and will continue to do so into 2021. All income streams are and will be impacted for the foreseeable future. Detailed discussions will take place with Elected members in the coming weeks to agree a budget for 2021.

Re-Start/Restart Plus Grants

The Re-Start Grant Plus builds on the original Restart Grant and is a support for small and medium enterprises to assist with the costs associated with re-opening and re-employing workers. Subject to qualifying criteria any businesses that occupies a commercially rateable premises or where rates are paid on behalf of a business owner and attributable to the business premises occupied can apply. In order for a business to qualify they must also meet the following criteria:

- Be a commercial, trading, entity;
- Operate from a premises that is commercially rateable by a local authority
- Have 0 - 250 employees;
- Have a turnover of less than €100k per employee to a maximum of €25m¹;
- Have suffered a 25%+ loss in turnover between 1 April and 30 June 2020.
- Commit to remain open or to reopen if closed; and
- Intend to retain employees that are on The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).



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In most cases the grant will be the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 with a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000 (or maximum of €15,000 for businesses that received the maximum €10,000 under the original Restart Grant Scheme). An additional 40% for pubs, bars and nightclubs that remain closed in accordance with Government Guidelines was announced by An Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar on the 28th August.

To date Kilkenny County Council has received 1189 Restart Grant Plus applications. The Restart Team has approved and paid 1019 applications totalling €5,373,612. This is in addition to 966 applications processed under Restart 1 with a total payment of €2,948,925.

In addition to processing applications the Re-Start Team has dealt with over 2000 Re-Start phone calls and 2800 e-mails since the commencement of the project. The Restart Plus Grant continues to be actively publicised in local and social media platforms.

For more information and to apply on-line visit www.kilkennycoco.ie/restart. The Re-Start Team can be contacted on restart@kilkennycoco.ie or call 056-7794209.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 31st October, 2020 subject to review.

Rates Waiver

As part of the support measures for businesses announced by Government a waiver on commercial rates for the six months to the end of September 2020 is being provided for eligible businesses. The waiver will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates.

The finance department is currently working on the application of the waiver across the eligible accounts. Credit in lieu of rates will be applied to eligible accounts and customers will be notified by letter in October.