



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE

**To: *Each Member of
Kilkenny County Council***

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

**COME SEE
COME DO**

Since being recognised by the Restaurants Association of Ireland (RAI) as Ireland's top foodie destination, Kilkenny has continued to enhance its position as an unmissable part of Ireland's food culture.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

CORPORATE:PAGE 5

ROADS:PAGE 6

PLANNING:PAGE 7

ENVIRONMENT: PAGE 10

PARKS: PAGE 14

COMMUNITY: PAGE 19

LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PAGE 20

HOUSING: PAGE 24

FIRE SERVICES PAGE 27

ARTS: PAGE 29

FINANCE: PAGE 31

HERITAGE:..... PAGE 33

LIBRARY SERVICES: PAGE 34

VOTE

YES ☐ NO ☐



P.5

YOUR COUNTY. YOUR WASTE?

Illegal dumping
is costly. It threatens
our environment.
We all take
responsibility.



P.18



P.29

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

City & County Development Plan

Draft Direction Plan on display from 29th October to 12th November 2021

11th & 25th November

History Talks

Before 10th December 2021

Submissions / Observations on the Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 available for public inspection

28th December 2021

#CareersKilkenny is back on the 28th of December at the Medieval Mile Museum

Historic Structures Fund

Closing date for receipt of applications is 26th January 2022



CORPORATE



Draft Register 2022/2023.

The Draft Register of Electors for 2022/2023 is currently being compiled.

In order to register to vote and be included in the Register of Electors 2022/23 a form called an RFA 1 form needed to be completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs before the 1st November, 2021. These forms are available from www.checktheregister.ie and in all Council Offices.

Currently the Franchise Section of the Council are carrying out a data cleansing process on the existing Register of Electors database in preparation for the national system to modernise the Electoral Registers across the Country. In order to maintain an accurate Electoral Register an essential element is address accuracy. In this connection, it has been agreed nationally that the allocation of EIRCODES to each property on the system will help to address this issue.

We will be carrying out a campaign in the coming weeks through leaflet drop, local media and social media to ask people to contact the Franchise Section to provide their Eircode details for updating to the Register of Electors database.

ROADS

Kilkenny Ring Road Extension

Roadplan consulting have been appointed to prepare the SAR (Strategic Assessment report) for above project. This report will be ready in Q2 2022 for submission to the department for consideration to proceed with the design and planning of this important strategic project for Kilkenny City.

Castlecomer Footbridge

The footbridge and associated works are under construction at present and remains on track to be open at the end of Q4 2021. The construction costs for the project is circa €1m.



Central Pier Completed and river reinstated

Abutments under Construction with stone facing



Ormonde St Improvement Works - Footpath looking from Patrick CT.



Bus Shelter Provision at Larchfield - SHELTER INSTALLED

PLANNING

Development Management

Planning Summary	TOTAL (October 2020)	TOTAL (October 2021)
Planning Applications Received	730	885
Planning Applications Granted	599	741
Planning Applications Refused	52	67
Complaints Received	84	106
Warning Letters Issued	74	92
Enforcements Notices Issued	11	17
Cases Closed	54	90

The Planning Department continues to remain 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 City and County Development Plan was adopted on the 3rd September 2021 and came into effect on the 15th October last. On the 15th October 2021, the Minister for Planning, Local Government and Heritage issued a Draft Direction to Kilkenny County Council as regards certain aspects of the adopted plan in particular in relation to the Wind Strategy. The Draft Direction was put on display for a period of two weeks from the 29th of October 2021 to the 12th of November 2021. Written submissions or observations in respect of the Draft Direction may be made to the Planning Authority during this consultation period and these shall be considered by the Chief Executive in her Report to be submitted

to the Office of the Planning Regulator by 10th December, 2021. The OPR then makes a recommendation to the Minister on the matter.

Masterplans:

An appointment has been made for consultants to assist the Project Steering Committee for the St. Canice's Masterplan to commence the drafting of a Masterplan for the HSE's St. Canice's Campus. A Steering Committee workshop is scheduled for early November 2021. Once a draft plan is available it will be presented to the Council and HSE before it is put out for public consultation.

Work is continuing with the preparation of masterplan for Loughmacask. A draft Loughmacask Masterplan has been prepared and is being internally reviewed before it

will be presented to Members in the coming weeks prior to public display of the draft.

The preparation of the Fair Green Masterplan will recommence shortly.

Taking in Charge

Whitescaslte, Knocktopher, Co Kilkenny – Taken in Charge

Works are in progress on the following estates:

- The Fairways & Greenoaks, Ferrybank [developer carrying out works]
- The Greens, Thomastown [developer carrying out works]
- Roseleigh, Mooncoin [developer carrying out works]
- Whitehall, Paulstown [developer carrying out works]
- Filbuckstown, Mooncoin [planning authority carrying out works]
- Abbeygate, Ferrybank – developer progressing with works
- Seville Rise, Callan Road – developer progressing with works
- Arbourmount – schedule of works and costings to be collated [planning authority]
- Abhainn Ri, Kilmanagh – additional works including additional cctv to be carried out [planning authority]
- Castlehyde, New Ross – currently there is an appeal by the developer with An Bord Pleanala regarding the bond condition of the most recent planning application.
- Lakeside, Kilkenny – works almost complete.

PLANNING

Conservation

All protected structures in Kilkenny County and City are recognised for the following special interest: Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Artistic, Cultural, Scientific, Technical, Social.

The following funding streams continue to be managed by the Conservation Office:

Built Heritage Investment Scheme:

The total funding assigned for 14 projects in Kilkenny is **€117,600**.

Applicants have noted challenges in acquiring trades people as a result of pandemic. A number of projects have been completed, while other projects are nearing completion. The Architectural Conservation Officer is working continually with applicants and agents to deliver the projects by DHLGH deadline.

Historic Structures Fund:

The total funding assigned for 6 projects in Kilkenny is €312,000. Applicants have noted challenges in acquiring trades people as a result of pandemic. The Architectural Conservation Officer is working continually with applicants and agents to deliver the projects by DHLGH deadline.

Historic Town Initiative:

Works to St. Mary's Church boundary iron railings and masonry elements have been completed. The project has been part funded by the Heritage Council's Historic Town Initiative.

The following were also delivered in October:

- Three new Architectural Conservation Areas were agreed as part of the City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. They are Kells, Piltown and Stoneyford
- Saint Canice's Architectural Conservation Areas and Freshford Architectural Conservation Areas have been extended as part of the new City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027
- Three more structures were added to Kilkenny's Record of Protected Structures as part of the new City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027
- **The Living City Initiative** continues, with inspections and letters of consent being issued in a timely fashion.
- Conservation work have been completed on the Black Freren Gate in Kilkenny City.
- Tender has been received for the assessment of Old Ennisnag Bridge. Following assessment of same, an appointment will be made by the of November 2020

Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage visited two conservation funded projects, Rothe House and Tynan's Bridge Bar, in Kilkenny.

There has been a steady increase in funding for Kilkenny

under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme from €98,000 in 2020, €117,600 in 2021 to €156,800 in 2022.

PLANNING

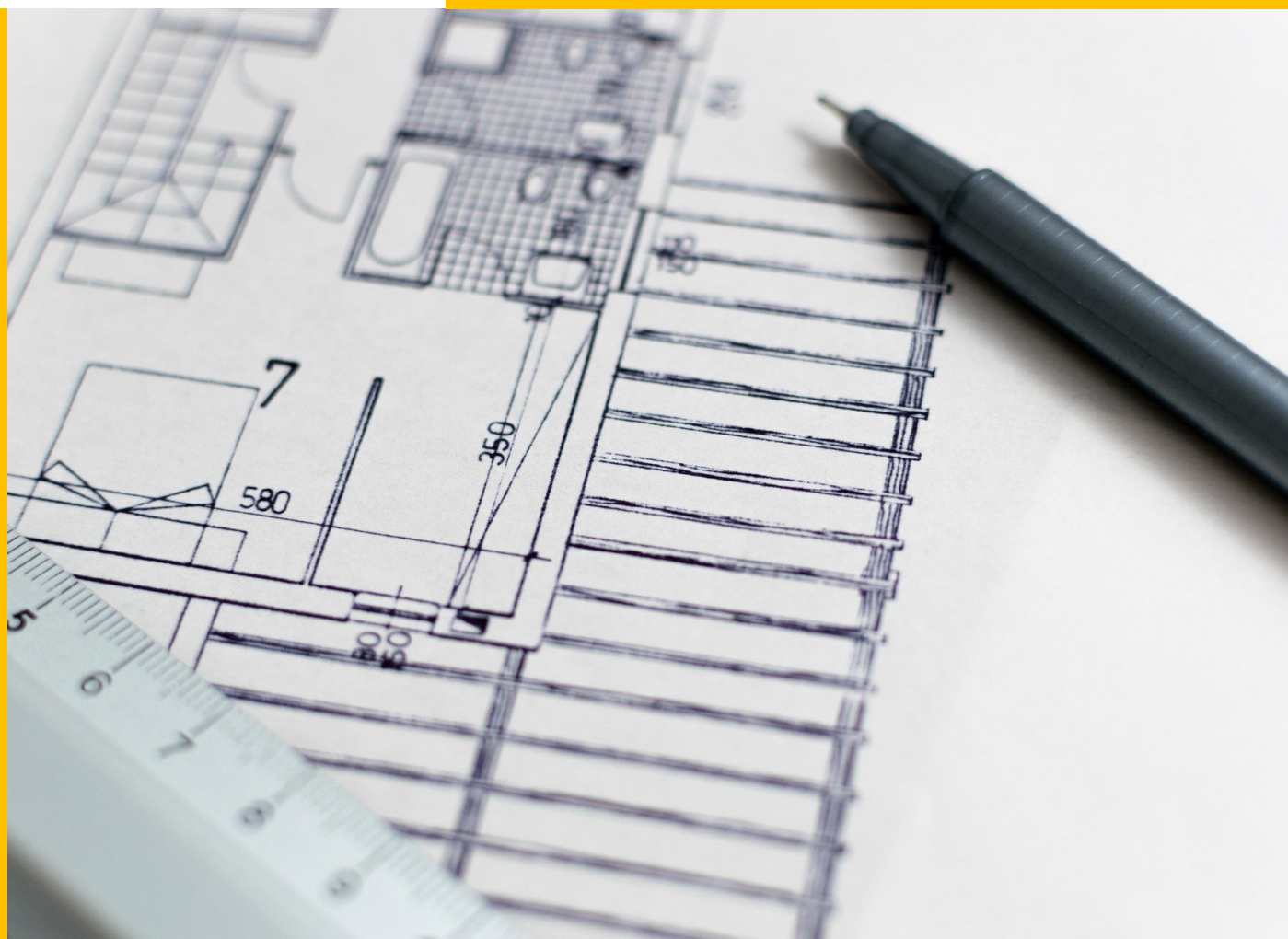
Vacant Sites

- There are currently 31 sites on the Vacant Sites Register, two of which are under appeal to An Bord Pleanála.
- The number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement now stands at 16 sites.
- Payment demands were issued on May 10th for a total of 23 sites.
- Owners had an opportunity to appeal the payment demands to An Bord Pleanála and we have received notice of 9 appeals.
- Following the recent changes announced in the National Budget, the Council is considering the process of additions for 2022.

Building Control

391 valid commencement notices submitted to 31st October, 2021.

289 valid commencement notices submitted for the first 10 months of 2020, representing an increase of approximately 35%.



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Complaints

The number of complaints received by Environment staff for investigation to the end of October this year is 1,093. The vast majority of complaints continue to be related to littering and illegal dumping. Despite the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19, our Enforcement Officers remain very active on the ground in dealing with these complaints while adhering to Government and HSE guidelines.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The final KCLR radio promotion under the Anti-Dumping Initiative took place on the run up to Halloween. Radio adverts aired to remind business owners and householders to keep their rubbish secure and not offer waste for bonfires as it impacts on local air quality. Kilkenny County Council will promote the illegal dumping campaign for the coming months and Elected Members are asked to share the enforcement video across their social media platforms networks to ensure this important message reaches communities across the county.

Bring Banks Usage

The Council provides and manages 46 Bring Centres across the City and County. In October almost 163 tonnes of glass and metal cans was collected for recycling. This represents a 12.6% decrease compared to the October last year.

Environment staff are continuing to work very closely with our service providers to ensure the collection service is in keeping with demand, especially around long weekends.

Anti-Litter Initiative - Picker Pals Programme

Picker Pals is an innovative primary school programme, inspiring children to become the next generation of environmentalists by leading their families on local litter picking adventures. In September, the Mayor launched the Picker Pals Programme in association with VOICE Ireland in the City. Funding from the Department of the Environment, Climate



and Communications permitted a further 20 classes to participate in the wider county. Schools, both green schools and non-green schools were notified of the opportunity and all spots have been filled allowing over 1,000 families to experience the litter picking programme over this academic year.

Conscious Cup Campaign

This campaign aims to reduce and eventually eliminate single use cups in Ireland. An information webinar was jointly hosted by Kilkenny and Carlow County Council. Kilkenny Lions Club is championing the campaign in Kilkenny City. The Council canteen in County Hall is signed up and is running a special staff promotion in November to encourage staff to present reusable cups when purchasing a hot beverage.

Green Schools Information Evening

The annual green schools information evening will be hosted virtually on the 11th of November. Participating schools or schools interested in joining the programme are encouraged to register www.greenschoolsireland.org/seminars-2021-2022-online/



ENVIRONMENT

Local Authority Waste Prevention Grant

Kilkenny County Council was recently awarded funding for a number of community waste prevention projects from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). The Environmental Awareness Officer will be collaborating with community partners to complete the following projects, the grant scheme period runs between November 2021-April 2022.

Project Name	Project Brief	Community Partner	Funding Amount
Re-cycle the Bicycle Project	Collect 15 junior balance bikes and 15 junior bicycles (2nd-6th class) by public donation and repurpose. They will then be Presented to St Canices Co-Ed School to be used annually for pupil cycle training	Kilkenny Cycling Officer	€2,500
Music Re-Generation	Seek out unused musical instruments in the community, complete minor repairs before being donated to MG musical instrument loan library.	Music Generation	€3,550
Re-Clash of the Ash	Seek out junior hurley's for refurbishment and donate to a Club	GAA Club (TBC)	€1,200
Kilkenny Re-pair Directory	A community collaboration approach to be taken to update the online repair directory and to increase its profile in the county.	KKB	€1,000
Dunmore Re-Use Hub	Minor repairs required to make an existing shed suitable for storage	Numerous Opportunities in 2022	€9,000
Total			€17,250

ENVIRONMENT

Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws 2021 for the Municipal Districts of Castlecomer, Callan-Thomastown and Piltown

Kilkenny County Council proposes to make Casual Trading Bye-Laws in respect of the Administrative and Functional area of the Municipal Districts of Castlecomer, Callan -Thomastown and Piltown. The Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 are available for public inspection and the public are invited to make submissions or observations on <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or in writing in respect of these Draft Bye-Laws on or before Friday, 10th December, 2021.



IBAL

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) is an alliance of companies sharing a belief that continued economic prosperity - notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment - is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment. As part of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, An Taisce monitors towns independently and in accordance with international grading standards.

The results of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2021 was released in October and Kilkenny City retained its perennial status as Cleaner than European Norms, despite slipping down the league table to 6th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed nationally.

Tidy Towns

A Tidy Towns Forum took place in Woodstock Gardens on the 9th of October. A small number of people gathered to experience forest bathing and

an Autumnal nature walk. The Tidy Town results are set to be announced later this month.

Climate Actions

Kilkenny County Council's Climate Action Team Members of the Council's Climate Action Team are currently undergoing a Building Capacity training course delivered as part of the Local Authority Climate Action training programme. The training supports the work of the Climate Action Team in delivering local climate action measures across all local authority functions to align and meet national obligations on climate change. The Training will also assist the Climate Action Team prepare for the forthcoming Climate Action Plan that the Council will have to prepare next year.

Kilkenny County Council's Climate Change Strategy The Climate Action Team updated this years Climate

Change Strategy report and a summary of the progress report was presented back to the Climate Action Team prior to it being sent for appraisal to the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications. The Strategy lists 96 actions with 235 associated sub actions. In 2021, 41% of sub actions were completed, 38% of sub actions are ongoing and 21% of sub actions remained incomplete. Further examination of the incomplete sub actions (50 in total), reveals that 31 of the actions were not completed due to the lack of financial resources while the other 19 actions were not completed due to Covid restrictions.

Reuse Month

A webinar series of sustainable living talks by Elaine Butler an advocate for sustainable living took place in October to celebrate Reuse Month. The series was widely advertised and was well received by the general public.

Reuse is about valuing our stuff, by using and reusing it for as long and as often as possible. This avoids the need to extract raw materials, manufacture and distribute new stuff, and avoids waste thereby cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions.

ENVIRONMENT

Historic Landfill Sites

There are 14 Historic Landfill sites (or closed landfills) in County Kilkenny formerly used by the Council for the disposal of waste. Local Authorities are required to carry out an assessment of the risk of environmental pollution on historic landfills according to a Code of Practice issued by the EPA, which involves a framework of assessments ranging from Tier 1 through to Tier 3 (remediation works). The risk assessment and remediation work at historic landfills are fully funded by the Department. The sites at Sherman's Ballyragget and Gowran are fully remediated and validation reports have been issued to the EPA. The following table provides an update for each Historic Landfill location.

Location		Target	Progress October 2021	DECC Approved Funding	Anticipated Out-turn 2021
S22-02572	Gowran	Submit Validation Report to EPA & Ongoing Monitoring.	Validation Report sent to EPA. 2021 Monitoring to be completed End Q4	€0	-
S22-02589	Sherman's Donaghmore Ballyragget	Satisfactory conclusion of the defects period & submit validation Report to EPA. Ongoing monitoring.	Defects period completed. Validation Report sent to EPA. Additional CCTV survey completed on cap drainage to confirm no defects / blockages. Monitoring to be completed Q4 2021.	€50,000	€51,239
S22-02580	Oldcourt Inistioge	Obtain CoA.	CoA Application submitted & acknowledged as received by EPA.	€0	€0
KKTAL01	Talbotsinch Freshford Road Kilkenny	Engage with EPA to conclude & agree matters, including Risk Assessment, Certification / Licensing route in the context of the current Section 63 Notice.	Final Reports received & forwarded to the EPA for comment. Meeting to arranged.	€4,105	€4,173
S22-02584	Thorpe's Ballyragget	Obtain CoA.	CoA Application submitted & acknowledged as received by EPA.	€0	€0
S22-02595	Seven Houses Newlands	Submit CoA application	CoA application October 2021.	€0	€0
S22-02582	Skehana Castlecomer	Submit CoA application	CoA application October 2021.	€0	€0
S22-02590	Ardreagh Urlingford	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application	Tier 3 Report to be completed. CoA application to be submitted January 2022	€14,750	€12,500
S22-02591	Caherlesk Dunnamaggin	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Tier 2 Report being reviewed. Tier 3 & CoA Application to be submitted Q1 2022.	€14,000	€12,500
S22-02597	Ballykeoghnan Kilmacow	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Tier 2 Report being reviewed. Tier 3 & CoA Application to be submitted Q1 2022.	€11,900	€11,900
S22-02592	Sheastown	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Site Investigations Completed. Tier 2 Report Q4 2021. Tier 3 & CoA submitted Q1 2022.	€45,650	€45,650
S22-02597	Mallardstown	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Site Investigations Completed. Tier 2 Report Q4 2021. Tier 3 & CoA submitted Q1 2022.	€31,250	€31,250
S22-02594	Granny	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Tier 2 Report being reviewed. Tier 3 & CoA Application to be submitted Q1 2022.	€16,500	€16,500
S22-02578	Dungarvan	Complete Tier 2 & Tier 3 Report & submit CoA application.	Consultant Appointed Tier 2 Report due December 2021. Tier 3 & CoA services in 2022 subject to funding.	€18,500	€18,250
TOTAL >>>>>				€206,655	€203,962

Columbarium Wall – St Kieran's Cemetery

Following presentations to the Kilkenny Municipal District Meeting in March 2020 as well as the Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council in June 2021 and the positive feedback received therein, a decision was made to proceed with planning for the provision of a Columbarium Wall Garden at St. Kieran's Cemetery via the Part 8 Planning process.

The Aim of the Proposed Development is:

- To provide an alternative option to traditional burials & inurnment of ashes in grave plots;
- To meet the needs of families within our diverse population who have made the choice to

cremate their loved ones; and

- To extends the life span of an existing established cemetery for use by future generations.

The following provides an indicative timeline and update on the project:

- Part 8 Planning Application published on the 8th of October 2021;
- 3rd of December 5pm - final date for receipt of submissions;
- Conclude Part 8 Planning by February 2022;
- Progression of project to Tender also in February 2022, subject to Council Decision on the Part 8 Planning.

River Basin Management Planning (RBMP)

The draft RBMP is now on

public consultation and sets out the proposed measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in over 4,000 water bodies throughout the country to good status. The draft Plan will be subject to a period of public consultation until the end of next March. Carol McCarthy from the Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO) presented to SPC4 on the draft RBMP which will assist Kilkenny County Council in making a submission. The consultation document can be viewed on <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2bda0-public-consultation-on-the-draft-river-basin-management-plan-for-ireland-2022-2027/>

PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The official opening of Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park and Playground took place on Thursday the 21st of October. Developed by Kilkenny County Council with assistance from the LIHAF fund and match funding by both Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities, the park has been open to the public since 2020 but the official opening could not take place due to Covid restrictions. The event was well attended by Elected Members, Council officials, invited guests from the local community and most importantly children from the nearby St. Mary's Boys primary school. The park has proven a hit with the local community providing a much needed green space for outdoor activity both passive and active. The playground is particularly popular and is busy every day.

In advance of the opening some minor repairs were carried out and a new pollinator planting bed was planted. Plants were provided by our neighbours in Parkside Nursery which is operated by the Brothers of Charity as an employment facility for adults with special needs



Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr., Fidelis Doherty and Mayor of Waterford City and County Council, Cllr. Joe Kelly at the official opening of Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park



Children from the local primary school at the official opening of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park



Children from the local primary school and Elected Members at the official opening of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

A second playground was also officially opened in late October. This time it was the turn of the local community in Piltown to officially declare their new playground open. This is a community playground, developed thanks to the immense effort of the local community who spent many years fund raising and seeking the ideal site. Kilkenny County Council also provided technical and funding supports to make this community vision a reality. The playground is located to the rear of the old Garda Station on Main street in Piltown in a scenic location on the banks of the River Pil. This playground has a wide range of play equipment but a large focus of the committee was to provide a sensory area to support the needs of local children with special needs, in particular those with autism. Sand and water play, musical chimes and plants which children are encouraged to touch and feel are all part of this element of the playground.



Elsewhere in the county our annual programme of playground repairs has been completed and the total budget allocated for 2021 has now been utilised. Annual playground inspections will take place in December which will inform our programme of works for next year.

PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

South East Greenway

Construction of the South East Greenway is commenced with works progressing well from Rosbercon to Glenmore and in the Raheen and Ferrybank urban areas. The project is being carried out in a number of sections or 'Lots' to break the project down into more manageable segments.

Construction:

Lots 1 – 3 are progressing well and are on schedule for completion before end January next year. Works to apply the final wearing course along Lot 3, Raheen to Glenmore, are advancing and this element of the works, some 6km's, is scheduled for completion weekending 12th November. Thereafter the surfacing works will continue on Lots 1 and 2 with same expected to be completed before the end of the month.

Tackling Invasive Species at Silaire Woods and Woodstock

Kilkenny County Council have commissioned 2 plans to tackle invasive species at Silaire Wood (Graigueenamanagh) and Woodstock Estate (Inistioge). Invas Biosecurity and Flynn Furney will map the problem species (Himalayan balsam at Silaire Wood; Cherry laurel at Woodstock) and propose long term management and control measures. Co-operation with other agencies such as Waterways Ireland, Coillte and neighbouring local authorities will be the key to success. The plans are funded by the

Detail Design: Landowner agreements on the accommodation works for Lots 4 – 7 continue to progress and it is hoped that the detailed design on Lot 4 (New Ross to Mount Elliott) and Lot 5 (Ferrybank to Aylwardstown) will be finalised by the end of the year and construction tenders will issue shortly thereafter.

Railway Abandonment: Kilkenny Council's Road Section continue to prepare



National Parks and Wildlife Service (Dept. Housing, Local Government & Heritage), National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund 2021.

Pollinator and wildlife friendly projects

As partners to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, the Parks Department is working to manage open spaces in a more sustainable way. Mowing is being reduced where practical across the county in an effort to increase the biodiversity of grass areas in parklands and playgrounds. Where new planting is carried out it is chosen for its pollinator

detailed mapping to facilitate the transfer of the railway lands from CIE to the Local Authority.

Links to Slieverue and Glenmore:

Roadplan Consulting continue to investigate the potential route options identified during the preliminary assessment and have commenced engagement with landowners.

The revised expected date for the full completion of the Greenway advised to TII is now Autumn 2023.

friendly characteristics . The two large meadows at Dukesmeadows and Bishopsmeadows which have been managed for wildlife for some years now, have received their annual cut. Many other areas are now being maintained using this approach and with the support of the public. These small measures provide a valuable source of food and habitat for insects, in particular our pollinators.



PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

2021 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Announcement of 2021 ORIS Measure 1 Funding Applications

In April, the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) announced that Measure 1 applications under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 would be accepted from Local Authorities and that each Local Authority could submit up to a maximum of 7 separate applications.

We are delighted to advise that all 7 applications were successful and works will commence on same once the funding agreement is in place between the DRCD and the Local Authority. A condition of this agreement stipulates 10% match funded must be provided for by the applicants.

Measure 1 Projected – Funding Approved

Project Name	Description	Funding Approved
Community Loop Walk Network	The establishment of a countywide network of community walks. This application includes 4 proposed routes ranging from 2kms to 5kms in length in the villages of Johnstown, Stoneyford and Skeoughvasteen.	€19,800
Kells – King's River Walk Enhancement	Rehabilitation of a 200m section of walking trail along the King's River and repairs to the pedestrian bridge over the river which connects the walk to the Kells Augustine Priory.	€19,125
Tory Hill Looped Walk Enhancement Works	Sections of the trail have deteriorated and are in need of significant rehabilitation particularly along the approaches to the summit. The proposal also includes for the supply and installation of interpretative signage to give an enhanced visitor experience by providing walkers with a better understanding of the surrounding landscape.	€19,800
The Bishops Meadows – River Nore Swimming Area	Enhancements to the traditional open water swimming area located on the Nore Valley Park in Kilkenny City. Improvements include facilities for smarter travel, enhanced amenity space and the installation of interpretative signage.	€19,350
Woodstock Estate - Promotion & Marketing	Further development and continuation of the promotion and marketing campaign for Woodstock Estate	€13,500
Outdoor Kilkenny - Promotion & Marketing	Continuation/development of the promotion and marketing campaign for 'Outdoor Kilkenny' a new brand and website that promotes all outdoor attractions that Kilkenny city and county has to offer.	€18,000
Silaire Wood – Walking Trail Extension	Extend the existing walking trail by 500m, giving a total trail length of 1.5km. This will make this section of the walk available for use all year round and more accessible for all users	€19,800

PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

2020 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Works on 2020 funded ORIS Measure 1 projects has now been completed and a grant claim to drawdown the funding from the DRCD was submitted recently. Some detail and images of the works completed around the county are provided hereunder.

Brandon Hill Summit Walk –The works consisted on the installation of trailhead mapboards and directional markers from both the Deerpark and Raheendanore carpark

As part of the project Coillte agreed to undertake significant works to improve the capacity of their car parks that are used by trail visitors.



Goresbridge - Cois Bearbha riverside looped walk upgrade. – The works provided for the restoration of walkways, new seating, picnic benches and tree planting.

Nore Valley Walk Upgrade – The works undertaken included the replacement and renewal of all waymarkers and signage, upgrade of trail furniture and repairs to fencing / stiles along this very popular 20km trail.



Freshford Loop Walk Upgrade - Works consisted of the rehabilitation of a 500m section of trail along with the provision of a small parking area.



PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Woodstock Estate Promotional and Marketing Campaign – A greater emphasis to promote and market Woodstock Gardens and Trails commenced in 2018 having secured funds under the ORIS to develop same. In the intervening period, a strong social media presence has been developed promoting this amenity and some notable results are listed below:

- Increased our Facebook following by 3k since January 2021.
- Set-up an Instagram Page and achieved a following of 1.7k to date.
- Set-up a Twitter Profile and achieved a following of 170 to date and 616 engagements.
- Achieved a Facebook Reach of 396k, 6.3k engagements and an Instagram reach of 38k and 2k engagements.

Under this campaign a minimum of 3 posts are issued weekly across all channels, same post provided hereunder:-

Date	Content	Image	Platform
11/05/2021	Did you know that there is an Outdoor Playground at Woodstock Gardens? The Playground is suitable for children under the age of 14, and parents are asked to supervise their children at all times. Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines. <u>#MoreToExplore</u> <u>#KilkennyAwaits</u> <u>#MakeABreakForIt</u> <u>#IrelandsAncientEast</u> <u>#FillYourHeartWithIreland</u> <u>#LoveIreland</u> <u>#KeepDiscovering</u>		Facebook / Instagram & Twitter

2020 ORIS Measure 2

–In addition to the above the Woodstock ORIS Measure 2 project is progressing well and some of the high lights include the restoration of 1.8km of the 2.7km Victorian pathways identified under this application for improvement. The removal of a significant amount of invasive plants in the vicinity of the waterfall. This clearance work has opened up a whole network of historic paths dating to the Victorian era which will soon be sympathetically surfaced ensuring we maintain

the character of the local area. This clearance has allowed parts of the estate, including views of Brownsford Stream waterfall that were previously hidden under laurel to be revealed. When opened up to



the public we believe this will be one of the finest walks in the County.



COMMUNITY

Bike Week 2021

A very successful Bike Week took place from 12th – 18th September, 2021. Bike Week events were delivered by Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership in conjunction with Cycle Kilkenny. Some of the events held included:

- Kilkenny Pedallers Introductory Spin
- Schools Programme with 11 schools in Kilkenny City & County
- Bike Maintenance Workshops in Kilmacow, Stoneyford and Kilkenny City
- Cycle Right Courses for Adults
- Cycling for Irish Wheelchair Association & Cycle Right for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities – Bike Week funding allowed for the delivery of the Learn to Cycle programmes for people with intellectual and physical disabilities.
- E-Bike Trials
- Cargo Bike Trials
- Workplace Roadshows were offered to encourage employers to support employees to make the shift to commuting by bike
- Slow Roll through the streets of Kilkenny City – The Slow Roll on Sunday 19th September brought together a number of groups to deliver a participation event for all in Kilkenny City.

The groups involved included the local cycling advocacy group; Kilkenny Cycling & Walking Campaign Group and the two cycling clubs based

in Kilkenny City - Marble City Cyclers and Kilkenny Pedallers. This event was a great success with approximately 150 people of all ages taking part and a parade of wonderful bikes through the streets of Kilkenny City.

Pride of Place

It has been confirmed that the National Pride of Place awards is scheduled for the 12th of February 2022. The event will be guided by COVID-19 government guidelines and prioritise the safety of those attending. Therefore, the agreed number of attendees at the awards ceremony will be 300 and this will allow an allocation of 2 tickets per entry. The awards ceremony will also be live streamed from Killarney for those viewing in their communities across the island. We will issue further guidelines on tickets over the coming weeks.

Project updates/IN FOCUS Magazines (Callan)

The first of four IN FOCUS interactive magazines was published in October 2021. The first edition gave an update on Urban and Rural Regeneration, Town & Village Renewal, ORIS and other related projects in Callan.

Link to Callan In Focus Newsletter

<https://multimedia.kilkennycoco.ie/2021/newsletters/callan/mobile/index.html>

Kilkenny County Council will be releasing similar magazines that will focus on projects in Thomastown,

Graiguenamanagh and Castlecomer. The first edition was widely read with a general reach of approx. 17,000.

LCDC – Social Enterprise Grants

Kilkenny LCDC were allocated €23,592 under the above scheme. 13 applications were received for grants of up to €1,000 or €5,000. The applications were assessed by the LCDC sub-group and have been forwarded to the Department for approval. Approval is expected by 12th November.

Age Friendly

The Kilkenny Age Friendly Annual Report for 2020 has been produced and is available on the Council website <https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/publications/annual-reports/age-friendly-annual-report-2020.html>

T&V Health Checks and Town Plans

Town health checks are complete and the Town Plans for Castlecomer, Goresbridge, Mullinavat, Thomastown, Urlingford/Johnstown are available on the Council's website.

LEO / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

National Women's Enterprise Day

A virtual conference took place on Thursday 7th October to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day with over 1,000 entrepreneurs in attendance nationally. The theme for this year's event was 'Build the Future' with MC Aine Kerr, co-founder of Kinzen and former RTE broadcaster; along with 16 other inspiring speakers including Kilkenny based entrepreneur Kay Lyng, K Kajoux Jewels. Kay represented the Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny as their "Leading Light" and launched her new autumn/winter collection in the run-up to the event.



LEO Statistics

- A total of €680,245 in direct financial assistance was approved for 31 manufacturing /export service businesses located throughout the county. This assistance is linked to the projected creation of 149 jobs over the next three years.
- €220,285 in Business Expansion Grant assistance was awarded to 12 existing businesses with a forecasted job creation of 33 jobs. Business Expansion grants assist businesses trading greater than 18 months to make investment in growing their businesses and employment numbers.
- €240,375 awarded in Priming grant assistance to 3 start-up businesses with a forecasted job creation of 113 jobs. Priming grants assist qualifying businesses with start-up investment costs.
- €56,111 awarded in feasibility study grants to 4 businesses.
- 6 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter grants were awarded totalling €13,900. This scheme supports businesses to explore their export market opportunities.
- 3 Grad Start Grants were awarded of €90,000, assisting LEO businesses to take on graduates to work within their business.
- 6 Green for Micro Grants were awarded totalling €12,870. This scheme supports businesses to becoming Greener and environmentally friendly.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Careers Kilkenny

The biggest issue facing businesses at present is the skills shortage and to this end, we intend organising Careers Kilkenny 2021. The event will be held on 28th December 2021 in The Medieval Mile Museum, showcasing jobs from Kilkenny businesses who are currently trying to attract talent back to Kilkenny. The aim is to target employees who are home for Christmas and who wish to come back home to Kilkenny to live and work. Further details will follow.

South East - Green for Micro Conference

Fifty businesses from across the South East logged into the virtual 'Green for Micro' Conference which took place on Friday 15th of October. The aim of the conference was to support small businesses in the South East to engage with environmental and sustainability challenges for their business. Key note speaker, Duncan Stewart shared his insights with the group on how vital it is for businesses to address environmental issues within their business. This Conference marked the conclusion of the South East Green for Micro pilot programme, funded under the LEO Competitive Fund, and from which the national Green for Micro programme was developed.

LEO / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Shop Kilkenny

In order to continue to promote the Shop Kilkenny message and to encourage shoppers to continue to shop locally both physically and online, we are running a series of Outside Broadcasts in conjunction with KCLR96FM, throughout the County in the run up to Christmas to showcase the great businesses we have around the City and County. The Outside Broadcasts will take place in the following locations:

- 18th November - Kilkenny City
- 25th November - Castlecomer
- 2nd December - Mooncoin/ Piltown (on air feature)
- 9th December - Thomastown
- 16th December - Kilkenny City



TOURISM

Kilkenny Day took place on Sunday 10th October and consisted of a packed programme of events that ran across the city and county, showcasing the very best the county has to offer.

The Tourism Department took a stand on the parade, and volunteers from the 'Kilkenny



Welcome Team' manned the stand and engaged with visitors to the City to answer all their queries on tourism, outdoor activities, must see attractions and much more.

Stakeholder's leaflets were distributed on the day and we also ran a very popular competition with over 600 entries. Prizes were donated by local businesses such as Paris Texas, The Brewery Corner, Cake Face and the Kilford Arms Hotel.

Kilkenny Welcome Team Presentation

On the 8th October, the Mayor of Kilkenny Cllr. Andrew McGuinness took time out of his schedule to say a sincere “Thank You” to the Kilkenny Welcome Team for all their hard work and efforts over the summer months. Twenty volunteers gave generously of their time every weekend – rain or sunshine, on behalf of promoting tourism and welcoming visitors to Kilkenny. They also took part in PR initiatives, radio and print media interviews.



Kilkenny Catwalk

The Kilkenny Catwalk trail launched on 10th of October on Kilkenny Day in Butler House Gardens. The launch was a great success and received very positive feedback from both our local communities as well as local and national media. We will continue to encourage visitors to come to Kilkenny as the cats will remain on display until Easter 2022 when they will be auctioned and will find their “forever homes”.



Kilkenny Catwalk website: kilkennycatwalk.ie

Kilkenny Catwalk Social Media:

- Facebook: /Kilkenny-Cat-Walk
- Twitter: /WalkKilkenny
- Instagram: KilkennyCatWalk

Kilkenny Catwalk App: available both in Android and iOS.



#taste *Kilkenny*
— savour the experience —

Follow the Road Trip of Jacqui Hurley and Jackie Tyrell when they got to
#tastekilkenny at www.tastekilkenny.ie

HOUSING

Housing Capital Delivery 2021

145 new build units have been delivered to date in 2021, the full list of capital schemes programmed for delivery in 2021 are outlined in the table below: -

	Scheme Type	Project Name	Units	Project Status
1	AHB TURNKEY	Cois Na Bearu, Graignamanagh [Cooperative Housing]	14	Completed January 2021
2	AHB TURNKEY	Margaret's Field, Callan Road, Kilkenny City [Respond]	40	Completed April 2021
3	KCC BUILD	Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer	33	Completed June 2021
4	KCC TURNKEY	Blackwater Grove, Lower Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	16	Completed June 2021
5	KCC BUILD	Pairc Nua [The Broguemaker], Kilkenny	18	Completed July 2021
6	KCC BUILD	Station Avenue Phase 2, Ballyragget	22	Completed July 2021
8	KCC BUILD	Ayrfield, Kilkenny City	8	6 units completed. 2 due for completion by year end.
9	KCC TURNKEY	Pennefeather Court Hebron Road Site 2, Kilkenny City	8	On site - due for completion Q4 2021
11	CAS CONSTRUCTION	Kingsriver, Ennisnag	2	Completed - September 2021

Other Units 'Under Construction' as at 31st October 2021 – 139 units

- 58 units at Pennefeather Green, Hebron Road, Kilkenny (Turnkey)
- 2 Units at Shanganny, Jenkinstown (KCC Direct Build)
- 23 Units at New Orchard, Kilkenny City [AHB Calf Turnkey – Cluid]
- 12 Units Brother Thomas Place, Church Lane, Kilkenny GSC
- 17 Units at Limegrove, Belmont, Ferrybank
- Reconfiguration of 1 apt to 2 units- Ayrfield, Granges Road
- 25 Units at Ladywell, Thomastown (KCC direct build)

KCC Projects due to start in Q3/Q4 2021 [10 Units]

- 6 units at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny (KCC direct build)
- 2 Units at Inchacarron, Mullinavat (KCC direct build)
- 2 Units at Old Fire Station, Graignamanagh (KCC direct build)

Tender Stage [90 units]

- 88 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road,

Kilkenny (KCC direct build)

- 1 Accessible bungalow, Circular Road, Kilkenny (KCC direct build)
- 1 Accessible bungalow, Haggardsgreen, Callan (KCC direct build)



Construction of rural houses at Shanganny, Jenkinstown



Construction at Pennefeather Green, Hebron Road. 3 bed duplex apartments, ground and first floor. 2 bed apartments on second floor. All own door units.



Construction at Limegrove, Belmont. 3 bed houses.

HOMELESS SERVICES SUMMARY OCTOBER 2021	
Homeless Presentations	42
Homeless Assessment Outcomes	
Prevention & Interventions	18
Emergency Service	15
Not eligible / Did not avail of service	9
HAP Place Finder Service	
No of Homeless HAP tenancies @ 1 st day of month	93
No of Homeless HAP tenancies created during month	1
No of Homeless HAP tenancies in place @ last day of month	94
Number of Homeless HAP tenancy breakdowns	0
Other Social Housing Tenancies supported /created during month	3
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B accommodation	5
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B accommodation with families	1
Households in Transition Emergency Accommodation (Own Front Door)	14
Households in Transition Emergency Accommodation (OFD) with families	2

SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT APPLICATION SUMMARY OCTOBER 2021	
Number awaiting Social Housing Support at Oct 31 st (Gross Need)	1,804
Number awaiting Social Housing Support at Oct 31 st (Net Need)	837
No. of Social Housing Applications received in Oct 31 st	87
No. of applications incomplete / awaiting further information / clarification	64
No. of applications validated and ready for assessment during the month	28
No. of applications assessed during October	24
No. of applications awaiting assessment as at Oct 31 st	71

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT SUMMARY UP TO OCTOBER 31st 2021

Number of active HAP tenancies to Oct 31 st	790
New HAP tenancies set up	123
HAP tenants allocated Social Housing	120
Closed HAP Tenancies	69
HAP Rent Reviews	166
Other tenancy amendments	463
HAP Calls Received 2021 year to date	4,115
HAP Calls Received October	318

Monthly Statistics

October 2021	
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations up to end of October (offers made):	15
Number of LA tenancies surrendered in:	8
Tenant Liaison Officer cases in October:	36
Maintenance Calls for October:	483
Maintenance Calls year to date	4,681

Grants Approved & Committed up to 31st October 2021

Scheme	No.	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	127	€1,195,833
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	30	€125,429
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	151	€889,688
Total	308	€2,210,950

Grants Paid out up to 31st October 2021

Scheme	No.	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	65	€525,011
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	19	€74,528
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	94	€545,308
Total	178	€1,144,847

FIRE SERVICES

Capital Projects

Request for tenders for the construction of a new Fire Station in Urlingford is currently on the eTenders website. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 1st December, 2021.

Identifying and sourcing a new site for Kilkenny City Fire is still ongoing.

Funding for three 4-wheel drive jeeps was approved by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). These jeeps will be located in Castlecomer, Urlingford and Graiguenamanagh fire stations in Q2 2022.

Fire Safety Certificates

82 applications for fire safety certificates were received to 2nd November 2021.

101 were received for the same period last year.

Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

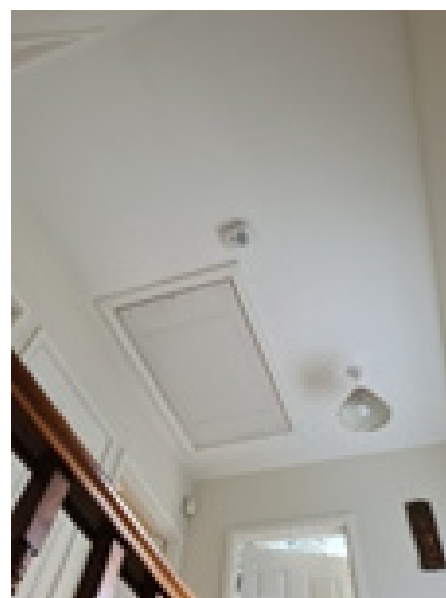
- Fire Prevention staff made targeted inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation.
- 70 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.
- 7 Dangerous Substance licence applications were received and assessed to date.
- 58 Fire safety inspections of premises have been carried out to date during the pandemic.



Community Fire Safety

A number of Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out by Kilkenny City Fire Brigade personnel during October. Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSVs) are a significant element of our Community Fire Safety strategy. Fire service personnel call to houses by appointment and give fire safety advice to the occupants. A HFSV is usually carried out by two uniformed operational fire service personnel. They use a checklist to ask questions, try to identify the fire safety hazards in the house and recommend solutions. Fire safety advice is given, fire safety leaflets handed out and smoke detectors may be provided and fitted, where necessary. They also discuss the occupant's response should a fire occur in their home. The fire fighters leave the occupier with further advice and information, to also make available to other members of the household. The primary aim of these HFSVs is to reduce the numbers of fires, deaths and injuries in the home by firstly preventing fires occurring and to ensure that when fires do occur, the occupiers are given early warning, and they know how to react quickly and safely.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service participated in this years National Fire Safety Week. Activities included radio interviews, in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council's Social Club a fire safety competition was run, home fire safety visits were carried out in a number of homes, increased use of social media.



FIRE SERVICES



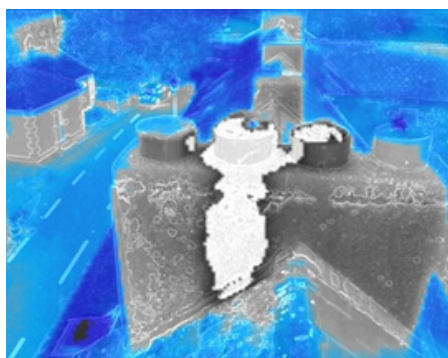
Training

6 fire brigade personnel received Drone Operator training. This course is an Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) approved ground training course with an IAA approved Small Unmanned aircraft flight exam.

Thermal imaging camera showing the hot spots of a recent chimney fire – Drone footage

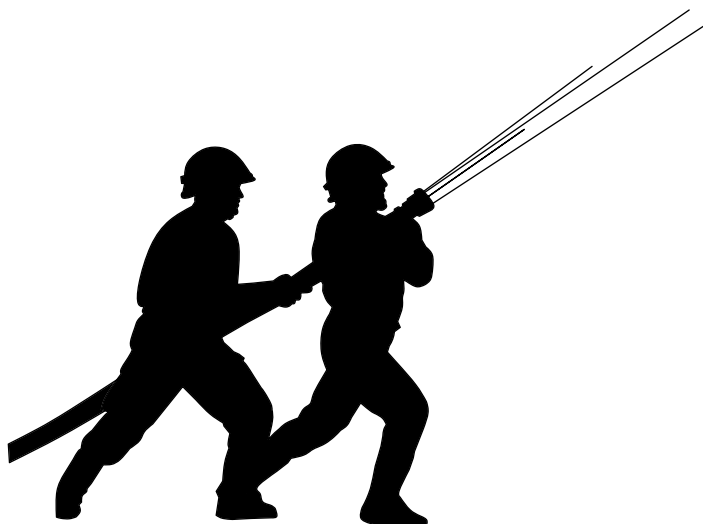
Recruit Fire fighters for Freshford and Castlecomer fire brigades successfully completed their QQI level 6 Fire Fighting Skills training in Bunclody Fire Station, Co. Wexford.

Training in 'CAFS- compressed air foam systems' in Castlecomer.



Operations

Fire Brigades responded to 590 turnouts up to the 17th October 2021. The same period last year we responded to 664 turnouts.



ARTS

Literature

Your Voice Matters

The Arts Office works to develop, co-ordinate, motivate, inspire and empower artistic activity through the City and County. As we emerge from COVID-19 and look ahead to 2022, we want to ensure that our adult literature programmes and activities are continuing to meet evolving needs and to this end we hosted two workshops for Kilkenny writers. The first session was held online on 21st Oct and the second session, in person, was facilitated on 27th October with the intention of hearing the writer's voices regarding our future plans for the programme. Anne Tannam, writer and creative coach facilitated these workshops.



Local Writers selected for Words Ireland's National Mentoring Programme



WORDS IRELAND Local writers, Eimear Lawlor and Darren Caffrey have been selected by Words Ireland to receive professional literary mentoring over the next eight months from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choice. After a national call out, over 40 writers were selected from a total of 339 applicants. The Arts Office funded the literary mentorship with the Arts Council of Ireland to guarantee that the best applicants from the county would be selected. Their support will ensure that the chosen mentees receives this potentially life-changing support free of charge. It is also an investment in the long-term literary reputation of the county.

The mentoring process involves four meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen professional writer. The mentor reads up to 10,000 words of the awarded mentee's writing in advance of each, then shares their critical feedback and advice. The hope is that the chosen mentees will go on to become published writers or indeed write great works of literature to match or beat the quality of their mentors. It's a form of peer to peer teaching that is increasingly popular in literature, formalising the process whereby masters pass on their craft to students.

BOOKVILLE

A FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Bookville Festival for families and children age 0 to 12 years is a multi-disciplinary festival with events including reading, writing, storytelling, comedy, illustration, music and the visual arts. The Arts Office and Library Service worked together again for the 5th year to celebrate books, writing, animation, illustration, comedy and all those magical things that come together to create a good story!

The festival supports further engagement in the Arts for families, children and young people. This year's Festival once again featured some of the best contemporary children's authors and illustrators from Ireland and around the world. 12,400 Bookville activity books, were distributed to every primary school age child in Kilkenny County and surrounds and to every library branch within Kilkenny County. The Festival featured in the windows of St. Canices Credit Union, the Book Centre, High St, Khan Books, James St, Meubles window, John Street.

New for 2021 are our fifteen free online events for primary schools and the general public, including storytelling, creative writing, illustration and music. The festival also presented an interactive exhibition in the Arts Office Window Gallery space in Johns Green House. The festival will be evaluated in the coming weeks in partnership with Kilkenny Education Centre



Kilkenny Skate Park Makeover

The painting of the Park was completed in line with our original schedule and it has made an enormous difference to the aesthetic of the park and feedback to date has been extremely positive.

FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of October is set out in Table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €84.08m compared with the annual budget of €89.9m.

Table 1	Actual YTD October 2021	Budget Full Year 2021
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	18,327	20,085
Road Transport & Safety	23,308	25,500
Water Services	6,102	7,115
Development Management	8,880	10,679
Environmental Services	9,578	11,748
Recreation & Amenity	5,784	6,647
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	511	672
Miscellaneous Services	11,592	7,516
Overall Total	84,082	89,962

Finance Update

The Covid-19 restrictions in place for the first six months of 2021 have had a serious impact on the Council's income streams to date, especially commercial rates and car parking income. A significant number of businesses had to close due to Covid. The Government announced an extension of the commercial rates waiver for the nine months to the end of September for businesses impacted. The value of this waiver amounted to €5.2m and compensation will be provided by Government for this amount. The cost of the waiver is included under miscellaneous services in the October Accounts. A more targeted commercial rates waiver for quarter 4 was announced by Government on October 12th last to support certain sectors. This 3-month waiver has modified criteria and accordingly is a separate, standalone waiver scheme from previous schemes.

The waiver (October to December) will apply to eligible businesses and will take the form of a credit in lieu of rates. The value of the waiver is the equivalent value of 25% of the annual rate bill for 2021 and applies to the following broad list of business categories: -

- Hospitality, including restaurants and cafes;
- Leisure;

FINANCE

- Miscellaneous entertainment;
- Certain tourism related categories; and
- Airports.

Over the coming weeks the Rates Section will automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for a three-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category.

Further information and F.A.Q's are available at www.Kilkennycoco.ie. Queries can be e-mailed to rateswaiver@kilkennycoco.ie or by phoning the Rates Office on 056-7794209.

Income from car parking is also significantly below budget with only 55% of the annual budget figure received to the end of October. The forecast shortfall for the full year is between €700k and €800k. A submission has been made by the sector to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking compensation for the shortfall. Confirmation of this support has not yet been provided.

As previously advised to Members a number of discretionary expenditure items in the 2021 Budget totalling €2m have been deferred until more clarity is available on the projected outcome for the year.

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised in the ten month period to the end of October 2021.

Budget 2022

Work has commenced on the preparation of the Council budget for 2022. A number of meetings have been held with Elected Members during October and November to date. The statutory budget meeting is scheduled to take place on November 26th at 3pm.

Rates Revaluation

Following the full revaluation of all commercial properties carried out by the Valuation office in 2017, 197 customers with a total rate demand value of €4.5m appealed their new valuation to the Valuation Tribunal. To date 187 appeals have been completed. 147 of the 187 appeals have resulted in a decrease in rates. The total income lost to date stands at €836k. If this trend continues the total loss of income may be in excess of €1m once all appeal decisions have been completed by the Tribunal.



Tullahought Scoops County Heritage Week Award

Congratulations to Tullahought Community Development on winning the "County Heritage Week Award" for County Kilkenny at the National Heritage Week awards organised by the Heritage Council, with their film "Tullahought Church Inside Out and Upside Down". The film, created and produced by the community, is available at <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/tullahought-church-inside-out-upside-down-1>

Kilkenny's Native Small Mammals

The native wood mouse and pygmy shrew once common in the Kilkenny countryside are in decline and appear to have been replaced by non-native invasive species like the bank vole and the greater white toothed shrew. Funding for this research project is provided by the Heritage Office under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant 2021. Public engagement with the citizen science element of the project was very successful and provided invaluable data. The project will help inform future projects to protect our native biodiversity, including keystone species such as the Barn Owl.



"The First Puck": new radio drama about Danesfort GAA

Tune in to the fascinating drama celebrating the history and stories of 100 years of Danesfort GAA Club on Community Radio Kilkenny City on Sat 27th Nov at 1pm. This newly commissioned community drama was funded under the Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland Programme 2021.

Song for All Seasons: Concerts for Care Homes

The students and families of Kilkenny Steiner School with Music Therapist John Clarke created a unique concert for residents of nursing homes in Kilkenny with funding from the Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland Programme 2021. The first concert was performed in St. Columba's, Thomastown in October. Two more performances will take place at Strathmore and Mount Carmel, Callan in November and December.

History Talks

Don't miss the final 2 online history talks of 2021 organised by the South Kilkenny Historical Society with funding from the Kilkenny County Council Decade of Centenaries Programme:

- Nov 11th: Arming the IRA - Running Guns into Waterford Harbour (Speaker, Pat McCarthy)
 - Nov 25th: The Kilkenny Jail Break of 1921 (Speaker, Noel Delahunty).
- Contact SKHS for details
https://directory.kilkenny.ie/history/south_kilkenny_historical_society

LIBRARY

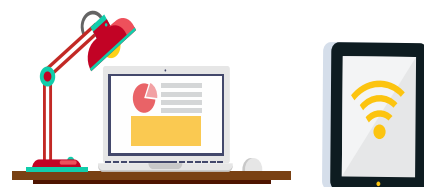
October 2021



22,057
Items borrowed



8376
visitors



791
Internet and Wifi sessions

Bookville Kilkenny



Bookville Kilkenny was a huge success again this year, with 13,000 activity books delivered to each and every child in the city and county.

Now in its 5th year, the festival developed by Kilkenny Library and Kilkenny Arts Office showcases a selection of local, national and even international literary and artistic talents, and offers children a unique and fun experience.

This year, we supported the activity book with a selection of 15 workshops covering a range of topics relating to the curriculum, from illustration workshops to reptiles and Irish authors and family comedy.



BOOKVILLE
A FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
KILKENNY

Family Comedy Show
with Reuben the Entertainer

Age suitability: All the Family
Duration: 33 minutes

Door to Door Library Service

We are delighted to further our current Door to Door service, with a new callout to our older library members. We posted letters to each library member over 65 years of age, inviting them to be included in our Door to Door service this winter. This allows people to continue to receive books, audiobooks and dvds without having to travel out to their local library.



LIBRARY

Sensory Toy and Book Collection launched



We were delighted to launch our Sensory Toy and Book Collection recently with Cathaoirleach, Cllr Fidelis Doherty in Ferrybank Library and also in Loughboy Library with Mayor, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

Our Sensory collection has been developed further with new toys and resources added for children, parents, teachers and SNAs, and now consists of:

- over 150 toys to develop motor play and life skills.
- An autism friendly book collection of over 300 titles
- Social stories for libraries, so children know what to expect on their visit.
- Sensory boxes in each library with a selection of calming toys and ear defenders.

Online Services usage:



2,018

eAudiobooks borrowed
▲ 23% on 2020



4,849

eNewspapers borrowed
▼ 8% on 2020



1,254

eBooks borrowed
▼ 5% on 2020



809

Online Course sessions
Same as 2020



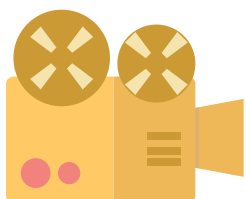
889

eMagazines borrowed
▼ 12% on 2020



235

Songs accessed
▼ 75% on 2020



Digital Engagement

Our staff have prepared, recorded, edited and published **406** posts on our social media platforms in September. Our videos views were **8,353**.

