An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



22 February 2024

Ms. Brenda Kelly Assistant Staff Officer Corporate Services Department Kilkenny County Council

Ms. Brenda Kelly

By email: Brenda.Kelly@kilkennycoco.ie Reference No: DAFM-MHA-00612-2023

Dear Ms Kelly,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of regarding Kilkenny County Council's support for community gardens and allotments. I welcome wholeheartedly the Council's position, which is very much in line with my Department's commitment under the National Strategy for Horticulture to work with local authorities to implement and support community gardens and allotments, so that we can encourage enthusiasm for gardening and growing and promote fresh produce consumption and healthy eating.

My officials are currently preparing a circular to issue to all Chief Executives of Local Authorities with details of a survey which should elicit the challenges and opportunities in this area. My officials would welcome a technical discussion with Kilkenny County Council representatives to better understand these issues, and they will be in touch directly in that regard.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Pippa Hackett Minister of State

Senator Pippa Hackett Aire Stáit *Minister of State* **Áras Talmhaíochta, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WK12** Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12 T +353 1 607 2846 | minister.hackett@agriculture.gov.ie www.agriculture.gov.ie