



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pippa Hackett".

**Senator Pippa Hackett**  
**Minister of State**