Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny

KILKENNY

Council Meeting

19th May, 2025

KILKENNY
COUNTY COUNCIL

where medieval meets modern

Kilkenny Age Friendly Strategy 2025-2028

Presentation to Council Meeting

19th May, 2025

Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme and National Best Practice

- 3rd Kilkenny Age Friendly Strategy
- St. Luke's General Hospital
- MacDonagh Train Station
- Age Friendly Businesses
- Age Friendly Parking & Public Realm
- Age Friendly Libraries

- Dementia Friendly Initiative
- Local Bus Service Provision
- Having Your Say Community Gatherings 2022
- National Older Peoples Council Convention 2024

Context and Demographics

- Ireland is experiencing a significant increase in its ageing population

- There were 15,843 people aged 65 and over living in Kilkenny in 2022. Of these 3,815 were living alone. This was an 19% increase in those aged 65 and over living alone from the previous Census.

- The number of people aged 65 years and over set to increase significantly in Ireland, the number of people in this age category set to reach over 1 million by 2030 and reaching 1.6 million by 2051

- This increase in the older population is having a significant impact on various aspects of Irish society, including health, social services, and the economy.

Developing the Strategy

Community Consultations

- Mayfair Library Kilkenny City

- Loughboy Community Centre Kilkenny City

- Thomastown Community Centre

- Castlecomer Community Hall

- Mullinavat Community Centre

95 attendees / 62 Surveys Completed

Stakeholders Consultations

o Kilkenny County Council

o Kilkenny Older People's Council

o HSE

o Age Friendly Ireland

o Kilkenny PPN

o Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

o An Garda Siochana

o Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board

o Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership

o Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce

o Kilkenny Volunteer Centre

o ALONE

Background and Process

Best Practice and Policy Context

- **Age Friendly Ireland – guidelines, toolkits and other publications**

- **WHO Resources**

- **National Positive Ageing Strategy**

- **Kilkenny LECP**

- **Having Your Say Report (OPC 2022)**

Strategic Framework for the New Strategy

8 World Health Organisation Age Friendly Themes

1. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Respect & Social Inclusion
5. Social Participation
6. Communication & Information
7. Civic Participation & Employment
8. Community Support & Health Services

Main Findings

Main Issues and Challenges Facing Older People

- **Isolation and Loneliness**

- **Accessing Services**

- **Digitalisation**

- **Public Transport**

- **Access to Information**

- **Housing**

- **Accessible Environments**

Strategic Framework for the New Strategy

Strategic Priorities for Kilkenny Age Friendly Strategy

Accessible Services

Ensuring that public services are fully accessible to older people and that in-person customer service is available when required

Diversity & Inclusion

Supporting greater engagement and participation of older people from minority and marginalised communities in Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme

City & County Focus

Ensuring an equitable and balanced spread of Age Friendly activities and resources across Kilkenny city and county

27 Key Strategic Actions identified across the 8 WHO Age Friendly Themes

Sample Actions

Theme 1: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation & Supporting Partners**
Action 1.3 Promoting Age Friendly Towns	Continuation of the roll out of the Age Friendly Towns model in selected towns around the county. This will involve walkability audits with local older people and collaborative planning with the local authority and other stakeholder organisations to agree specific actions and improvements in the relevant towns.	**Lead:** **Kilkenny County Council** **Supporting Partner:** Older People's Council

Sample Actions

Theme 2: Transportation		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation & Supporting Partners**
Action 2.1 Improving Access to Public Transport in Rural Areas	Focus on improving public transport services in towns, villages and rural areas. The first step in this action will be to facilitate consultations with local transport providers to identify areas of greatest demand and need for improved transport services and to examine the feasibility of expanding existing services and introducing new services.	**Lead:** **Kilkenny County Council** **Supporting Partners:** National Transport Authority Transport for Ireland Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

Sample Actions

Theme 3: Housing		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation & Supporting Partners**
Action 3.1 Support Age Friendly Housing Provision	Kilkenny County Council will continue to strive to include an appropriate number of Age Friendly housing units in all new housing developments in the city and county and in line with national policy *Housing Options for our Ageing Population*. This action will focus on exploring the scope and capacity to provide dedicated Age Friendly housing developments in Kilkenny based on best practice models from elsewhere in Ireland and overseas.	**Lead:** **Kilkenny County Council** **Supporting Partner:** Approved Housing Bodies

Sample Actions

Theme 4: Respect & Social Inclusion		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation & Supporting Partners**
Action 4.1 Supporting Engagement with Older People from All Communities	Greater inclusion of older people from minority and disadvantaged communities is a priority for the Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme. This action will see an increased focus on engagement and outreach activities with minority and disadvantaged communities in partnership with community development and social inclusion organisations and groups.	**Lead:** **Kilkenny PPN** **Supporting Partners:** Kilkenny County Council Kilkenny LEADER Partnership Older People's Council

Sample Actions

Theme 5: Social Participation		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation & Supporting Partners**
Action 5.1 Reducing Isolation and Loneliness	Isolation and loneliness are widespread issues for older people and this action will focus on directly addressing this through increasing social contact with those who need it most. This will be done through ALONE's Support and Befriending service and Community Connector service and other initiatives that are well positioned to provide direct contact to isolated older people.	**Lead:** **ALONE** **Supporting Partners:** Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Kilkenny Older People's Council

Sample Actions

Theme 6: Communication & Information		
Action	**Description**	**Lead Organisation**
Action 6.1 Hosting Age Friendly Information Events	Information provision is key to ensuring that older people are aware of the wide range of support services and activities that are available to them locally. This action will undertake a series of open information events across the county bringing all service providers together to present the range of supports available to local older people.	**Kilkenny Age Friendly Alliance**

Sample Actions

Theme 7: Civic Participation & Employment		
Action	**Description**	**Lead & Supporting Partners**
Action 7.1 Promoting Kilkenny Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme	This action will see the ongoing development and promotion of the Kilkenny Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme across the city and county. This will include supporting local businesses to integrate Age Friendly supports and services into their businesses and also the continued inclusion of an Age Friendly category in the annual Chamber awards programme.	**Lead:** **Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce** **Supporting Partners:** Kilkenny County Council Older People's Council

Sample Actions

Theme 8: Community Support & Health Services		
Action	**Description**	**Lead organisation and supporting partners**
Action 8.1 Promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Focus on the continued supports for older people across the city and county in relation to exercise, recreation and healthy lifestyles. This will include a wide range of classes, programmes, activity groups and other supports aimed at supporting older peoples physical and mental health.	**Lead:** Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership **Supporting Partners:** Healthy Kilkenny HSE Health Promotion

Next Steps

- **Launch New Age Friendly Strategy 2025-2028**
- **Implement Action Plan over the Strategy period through annual work plans overseen by the Age Friendly Alliance.**

Thank You

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny County Council