



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2019
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

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

November

- Autism Friendly Events & Talks
- Battle of Wits TY Library Table Quiz
- Family Time at Your Library

25th November

Check Draft Register of Electors to ensure you are registered to vote.

22nd November

Submissions on Joint Gaignamanagh LAP can be made to Kilkenny County Council.

29th November

Meeting to adopt the RSES.

30th of November

National Pride of Place Awards takes place in Lyrath Hotel.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE

Are You Registered to Vote?



Check The Draft Register of Electors by **25th November 2019**

The Draft Register of Electors is on display in Kilkenny County Council's offices in John Street, High Street, all Area Offices, all Libraries, in the Garda Station, Dominic Street and the Post Office, High Street and online at www.checktheregister.ie until 25th November 2019.

Any person who is aged 18 or over by 15th February, 2020 should check that their name, address and other details are present and correct on the Draft Register now. If any of the details are incorrect on the draft register, please contact Corporate Section in County Hall on 056 7794187 before the 25th of November 2019.

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CIVIC RECEPTION MARKING 80 YEARS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA.



ROADS

Pavement Schemes:

The N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is at snagging\final account. Total cost €2.5m

Kilkenny to Callan Road pavement scheme is advancing through detailed design and contract preparation. Tenders are expected to be ready in Q4 2019. A number of sections will be overlaid between Brownstown and the Callan Bypass totalling 6km at a cost of €3 million.

Kilkenny Ring Road: 8 roundabouts are to be resurfaced. They are currently advancing through detailed design and contract preparation. Tenders are expected to be ready in Q4 2019.

Kilkenny Minor Schemes:

Several schemes are progressing through various stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network.

The N24 Tower Road Junction improvement scheme received planning approval in April 2019. The CPO is published and gone to An Bord Pleanála for adjudication.

The preparation of design and planning documents for the N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme are on-going.

N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme- A preferred route for the scheme will be available in the coming weeks.

Kilkenny Major Schemes:

The New Ross bypass is nearing completion. The scheme target opening date is late Q4 2019\Q1 2020.

The Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility on the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme is finalised. This is a major scheme of approx. 10km linking the soon to be opened New Ross By-Pass and the existing Waterford By-Pass.

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme. Kilkenny will be the lead authority on this scheme. The plan is to appoint consultants before the end of Q1 2020.



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OTHER PROJECTS:

Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure

Construction of the scheme commenced on March 4th. Works are progressing well and are on programme to finish by the planned completion date of September 2020. The Circular Road is currently closed to facilitate construction of a new bridge over the River Breagagh. These works are expected to be completed in January 2020, allowing the Circular Road to reopen.

Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council applied for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála for the Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge on the 9th August 2019. It will be early 2020 before we receive a decision on the project.

Public Lighting on National Road Network

Kilkenny County Council has been approved by TII for the completion of a number of public lighting retro-fits as part of energy efficiency improvements on the national Road network. Locations to be addressed include Ballyragget, Castlecomer, Mooncoin, Kilkenny City (Ring Road) and Callan.

RURAL WATER

Kilkenny County Council has recently been notified of its approval of schemes/projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019–2021. Kilkenny County Council received a total allocation of €1,828,691 for upgrades under a number of measures which is outlined below.

Multi-Annual Rural Water Prog. 2019-2021

Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector)

An allocation of €45,000 was approved under this measure. This will provide essential funding for works on 5 Group Water Schemes. This work includes well head protection works and source protection works including fencing etc.

Measure 2 - Public Health Compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector)

An allocation of €1,245,000 was approved under this measure. This will provide essential funding for works on 13 Group Water Schemes. This work will include water treatment upgrades, pumphouse upgrades and amalgamation of various group water schemes.

Measure 3 - Enhancement of existing schemes including Water Conservation

An allocation of €528,255 was approved under this measure. This will provide essential funding for works on 10 Group Water Schemes. This work will include defective distribution line replacement, bulk meter and residential meter installation and the provision of telemetry.

Measure 5 - Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes

An allocation of €10,436 was approved under this measure. This will provide essential funding for works at 1 Group Water Scheme. This funding is allocated to schemes wishing to be taken in Charge by Irish Water.

PLANNING

Summary	Total to October		% Change
	2018	2019	
Planning Applications Received	724	821	+ 12%
Planning Applications Granted	576	622	+ 7%
Planning Applications Refused	53	62	+ 15%
Complaints Received	90	100	+ 10%
Warning Letters Issued	66	108	+ 39%
Enforcements Notices Issued	42	34	- 23%
Cases Closed	64	96	+ 33%

- There is a 12% increase in planning applications up to end of September, year on year.



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- The number of warning letters issued is up 39%.
- The number of cases closed by Planning Enforcement has increased over the same period by 33%.

FORWARD PLANNING

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) is nearing completion. It is anticipated that a meeting to adopt the RSES will take place on the 29th November.

City & County Development Plan

The formal process of progressing the City and County remains paused until the work on the RSES is completed but work on various plans and strategies required for the new plan continues to progress such as the Loughmacask & Fairgreen Masterplans, retail strategy, housing needs demands assessment etc. A formal decision on the re-commencement of the City & County Plan will be made following the adoption of the RSES.

In conjunction with the HSE a steering committee has been established for the St. Canice's Hospital Framework Plan and an inception meeting has taken place. An issues paper has been drafted and a public consultation is expected to take place in November 2019. Background surveys including an Ecological and Habitats survey are nearing completion.

Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan

The joint Local Area Plan for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch commenced in September. Following on from the publication of an issues paper, a public meeting was held at The Hub in Graiguenamanagh on the 7th of November 2019 and both Kilkenny and Carlow Local Authorities were represented. The meeting was attended by 38 members of the public and a wide range of issues were raised and noted by Council officials. Submissions to the issues paper can still be made until the 22nd of November.

Vacant sites

There are now 28 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 14 of these were liable for the 3% levy. Two sites have had their levy discharged to-date:

- The number of cancelled entries due to site activation now stands at 10 sites.
- Work will commence on adding sites to the Register for 2020 shortly. Notices will issue to relevant landowners in the coming weeks. A public awareness campaign will be launched to coincide with these notices.

Conservation

Conservation Grants: Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund are nearing completion and final sign-off

Energy Retrofit of Traditional Building Seminar was held in Butler House on the 22nd October and was attended by 80 people. The attendees included homeowners, agents who all availed of the experience of speakers from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, and National and International Energy and Conservation consultants. The feedback has been overwhelming positive, with a knowledge gap in the industry and information sources being identified.

Living City Initiative extended to 31st December 2022.

Taking in Charge

Hunters Wood, Newmarket is in the formal statutory process for taking in charge and it is anticipated that it will be brought to the December meeting for formal taking in charge.

Works have been completed on the following estates and formal bond claims have recently been submitted to the bond holder:

- Brookfield Ballyhale;
- Bellfield, Ferrybank;
- Ard Glas, Ban Ard, Ferrybank; and
- Kingscourt Callan.



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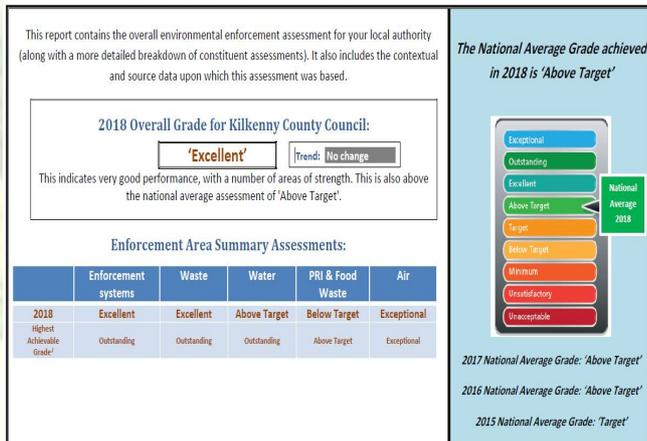
Works are scheduled to commence shortly at the following estates:

- The Greens Ballyfoyle;
- Banagher Court Piltown; and
- Clonkil Callan.

ENVIRONMENT

RMCEI Plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan)

Results were recently announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following its evaluation of all local authority RMCEI Plans. Kilkenny County Council achieved an overall grade of 'Excellent' for the 2018 Return element of the Plan, which was ahead of the national average result of 'Above Target'. Equally in the 2019 RMCEI Enforcement element of the Plan the Council was awarded the overall Plan rating of 'High' from a score range of High, Medium or Low.



2019 RMCEI Enforcement Plan Evaluation

Summary of Evaluation:	
1. Environmental Priorities	High
2. Environmental Outcomes	High
3. Enforcement Resourcing & Plan Review	High
Overall Plan Rating	High

Waste Enforcement Prosecutions

In a successful prosecution brought by the Council a local man was convicted in his absence at Kilkenny District Court on 22 October 2019 for

the illegal disposal of waste in a manner that was likely to cause environmental pollution. Evidence was provided by the Council that the defendant damaged the lock on the gate of private land to gain entry and a significant volume of waste was dumped. A bench warrant was issued for his arrest pending sentence, the Judge commenting that this was most inexcusable behaviour and that she was treating the matter extremely seriously."

Separately, in another successful prosecution brought by Environment Section under the Litter Pollution Act, a man pleaded guilty at Kilkenny District Court to depositing two black bags at the Bring Centre on the R693 outside Freshford. The Court ordered the man to pay a €750 fine, €709 in Council costs and a further €1,160 for council legal fees

Ballyragget Landfill Remediation Project

Works are progressing on the €1.4million Ballyragget Historic Landfill Remediation Scheme. This site circa .6 acres was previously a sand and gravel quarry prior to its use as a municipal waste landfill by Kilkenny County Council in the 1980's. The contract for the remediation of the site was awarded in September to Priority Construction Limited. Works to-date have included the excavation of existing cap material and the commencement of the placement of a gas collection system and the installation of an LLDPE liner. Work will also be undertaken on the sub-surface drainage system. On completion of these works, subsoil and topsoil will be placed as a final capping layer. The project will be completed in Quarter 1 of 2020.



Ballyragget Historic Landfill Site – existing land cap material removed to just above waste matter



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Dog Licence Inspection Unit

Under the Control of *Dogs* Act all *dog* owners are required to have a *dog licence*. Since 2009 there has been a steady decline in the number of dog licences purchased year on year with just 4,630 licences issued across the City and County last year. To reverse this trend, the Environment Section recently procured additional resources which are now dedicated solely to ensure dog owners are compliant with this legal requirement. In conjunction with a media awareness campaign, the Dog Licence Inspection Unit commenced door to door inspections in October and already the up-take in licences sought has significantly increased compared to base-line figures.

Dog licences are available for purchase at local Post Offices or on line at licences.ie for a fee of €20 per dog or a lifetime dog licence is also available for €140.

Failure to produce a valid licence for your dog could result in an on the spot fine of €100 and/or prosecution with fines up to €1,270.

Environmental Education

As part of Reuse Month, three recycling talks were provided to educational facilities to highlight the importance of proper waste segregation. Two primary and two secondary schools will receive environmental workshops to support their green school activities as part of the EU Waste Reduction Week (18th - 22nd November). These activities are linked with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan (*Policy Action B.2.3*).

Keep Kilkenny Beautiful (KKB) Awards

The Environment Section was present at the KKB Awards night and hosted a biodiversity stand in association with the Heritage Officer. Materials and advice were given to encourage residents to develop pollinator friendly gardens. This activity reflects the Council's commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Tidy Towns Forum

The final tidy towns forum for 2019 was held in the Newpark Hotel on the 22nd of October with over 30 attendees from 12 different tidy town groups. Catherine Keena from Teagasc presented "Hedgerows – Fit for Birds and Bees". This meeting was open to the public as it was advertised by Teagasc as part of National Hedgerow Week. After refreshments, the most recent Tidy Town adjudication reports were deliberated and the forum members suggested activities and workshops appropriate for their needs from the Forum in 2020. These are now being considered and a plan is being prepared for 2020. The forum links in with the Council's Litter Management Plan (Action PEA 8).

In-House Staff Training

As part of Safety Week, the Environmental Awareness Officer collaborated with the Health & Safety Department as they were highlighting the dangers of chemicals in the home. A section of the briefing demonstrated the benefits of using environmentally friendly cleaning products which are less toxic and cheaper than commercial cleaners and by using them, it decreases the volume of plastic packaging and chemicals in the home. This links directly to objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan (*Policy Action B.4.1*).

To raise awareness of waste management practices in County Hall, the Environmental Awareness Officer is collaborating with the Facilities Department to run an awareness campaign to inform staff how to properly use the waste management system in County Hall. This campaign will also include an update of the Council's Energy Map Programme. The campaign will coincide with EU Waste Reduction Week (18th-22nd of Nov.). This awareness initiative is directly linked with the objectives of the Council's Climate Change Adaption Strategy (Action 6 - Resource Management).



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PARKS

Woodstock Gardens

Work is complete on the construction of the Woodstock Loop Walks funded by the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The aim of this project was to physically connect the gardens to the village of Inistioge, creating stronger links between the two areas. This project was carried out with the support of Coillte who manage the wider Woodstock Estate and commercial woodlands.

An application for funding has been made to the Department of Rural and Community Development to continue the works into a second phase which would see the development of the walks as far as the waterfall at the Red House, further downstream, and to upgrade further the internal network of paths again returning to the gardens and the village. These grants will be announced in the New Year.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

The construction of this park will create a much needed central amenity facility for Ferrybank, incorporating a children's playground, walking route, teenager meeting point, and playing pitch.

Work has commenced on the development of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park. The path network is being developed with planting to follow this winter. The playground will be added in the Spring with the aim to have the facility open for Easter 2020.



The park is being jointly funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government (50%), Kilkenny County Council (25%), and Waterford City and County Council (25%). The project represents a practical manifestation of the two Local Authorities in the area working together for the benefit of Ferrybank, and the wider Waterford City area.

Playgrounds

Works on the Fair Green Regeneration Project in Callan are now almost complete which include upgrades to the play equipment along with the installation of new components including a wheelchair accessible roundabout. This playground is now over 13 years old. Some components are understandably showing signs of wear and tear. The works involved the upgrading of the safety surfacing, replacing the fencing around the junior play area and painting of equipment. In consultation with local residents' tree planting and seating areas will be added upon completion of the civil works being carried out in the wider Fair Green area.



Newly refurbished play equipment in the Fair Green Callan

A new playground at Johnstown is almost complete and approved by play inspectors will be taken under the Council's inspection and weekly maintenance regime. Developed by the community with the assistance of grant aid from Kilkenny County Council this will bring to 30 the number of playgrounds in the County serving the needs of the communities. Parks staff will continue to maintain and upgrade existing playgrounds paying particular attention to the older playgrounds where refurbishment is required as budgets permit.



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Tree Planting

The Parks Section is planning a programme of tree planting in the City and County commencing in November to commemorate a number of special anniversaries. The planting programme is the beginning of our commitment to increase tree planting county wide which is identified as one of the key actions in the recently adopted Kilkenny County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.



*Wonderful autumn colour in Garringreen
(previous Parks Section planting)*

Amenity Grants

The Parks Department administers the amenity grants scheme, which is available to voluntary community organisations from all over the County. The main objective of the scheme is to encourage and aid small-scale works to improve the local environment and community involvement in the upkeep, maintenance and enjoyment of public amenities. Over 163 groups received grant assistance in 2019 amounting to a total of €127k in funding with 90% of this drawn down to date.

The range of works funded includes landscaping, grass and meadow maintenance and development of open spaces, the provision of street and outdoor furniture and small-scale improvement works. These works will help to continue to contribute to the overall amenity of County Kilkenny, and help enhance the County's reputation as a quality place to live.

LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promising Future for Kilkenny's Food Sector

The 13th annual Savour Kilkenny Food Festival kicked-off on Tuesday 22nd October with a special event for people interested in starting a food business - 'Foodpreneurs – Top Tips To Starting A Food Business' with 54 people in attendance, organized by the LEO, to give people the opportunity to learn from industry leaders and gain insightful information into the sector.

Guest speakers on the day included James Burke, Ireland's leading advisor in the food sector, Helen Gee of G's Gourmet Jams, award-winning live yoghurt producer, Nicholas Dunne of Killowen Farm and Margaret Hctor of Killmullen Lamb. There were people there from such diverse backgrounds and interests and the future for the food sector in the City & County is looking bright.

During Savour weekend, Kilkenny Food Vision 2020- 2025 was launched. This vision will look to make Kilkenny Ireland's strongest local food economy and food culture hub and to increase the amount of local food and beverages on menus and retail shelves in the county. This strategy is a collaboration between the Local Enterprise Office and Kilkenny Leader Partnership.



Kilkenny celebrates biggest ever National Women's Enterprise Day

The largest-ever programme of events for National Women's Enterprise Day took place across the country on October 17th. An annual initiative of the LEOs, the theme for this year's event was "Making It Happen" with the aim of



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inspiring more women in Ireland to start and grow their own business.

The Kilkenny networking event for entrepreneurs took place in Kilkenny River Court Hotel in partnership with the Network Ireland Kilkenny Group. 80 local entrepreneurs and businesswomen participated and speakers included: Dr Ciara Kelly TV and Radio Broadcaster/Columnist; National Women's Day Ambassador for Kilkenny Margaret Kirwan, Goatsbridge Trout along with her sister Miriam Donohue, Senior Communications Manager with GOAL. Also on the panel were mother and daughter duos; Marion and Melissa O'Gorman, Kilkenny Group who recently acquired Kilkenny Design Centre together with Rita Shanahan & Teresa Brennan, Lorimat Jewellers.

The aim of the event was to engage, empower and inspire businesswomen and aspiring entrepreneurs. The panel did achieve this with their open and honest discussion; sharing their experiences, both the opportunities and the challenges and provided great inspiration to those in attendance. Dr Ciara Kelly in her keynote address outlined her career history to date, anecdotes on her career progression and shared her tips for #makingithappen.



Flagship 'Management Development Programme'

The Local Enterprise Office flagship 'Management Development Programme' (MDP) presentation of certificates took place in Kilkenny with over 20 business promoters from across Carlow and Kilkenny receiving same. The MDP is aimed at business promoters who are successfully trading for three years and wish to develop the future strategic direction of their businesses.



On the day, a further MDP commenced with a new group of 20 business promoters. This programme takes place over a 6 month period and includes training and one-to-one mentoring. This is a joint initiative between Carlow and Kilkenny LEO and is delivered by Blaise Brosnan of the Management Resource Institute.

#shopkilkenny initiative

The LEO in collaboration with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce and Kilkenny retailers will launch the #shopkilkenny Christmas campaign in November, in order to encourage Kilkenny shoppers to support local businesses and shops in County Kilkenny this Christmas:

Supported by Kilkenny County Council and promote the use of the 'Shop Kilkenny' term and #shopkilkenny hashtag and this is a countywide initiative.

In conjunction with KCLR96FM's Outside Broadcast unit, the #shopkilkenny campaign will visit the following locations over the course of same:

- November 12th Graigueenamanagh
- November 15th The Parade Kilkenny (half day)
- November 19th Urlingford
- November 21st Piltown / Mooncoin
- November 26th Callan
- December 3rd Thomastown
- December 5th Castlecomer
- December 10th Kilkenny City (half day)

50 new jobs for Kilkenny as Entegro launches a new Centre of Excellence in the City

An Irish telecoms company connecting 30,000 homes and businesses a month in the UK and Ireland plans to create 50 jobs over the next 18 months at its new headquarters in Kilkenny. The office was officially opened by EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan recently. [Entegro](#),



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which designs and deploys fibre and hybrid networks, is planning a multi-million euro expansion. Over the next two years, it will expand its operations in Europe and the US from the Kilkenny base, and expects combined revenues for 2020 to exceed €12m. The company has immediate vacancies for planning and design, fibre planning, GIS and other engineers, adding to its current 100-strong workforce.

LEO Key Statistics for 2019

- €450,588 approved to 26 businesses linked to the creation of 66 over a 3-year period (including TAME);
- 292 entrepreneurs have received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business;
- 569 participants attended 38 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;
- 199 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO staff to discuss starting a business or growing an existing business;
- 110 participants attended 7 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;
- 16 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €36,035 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;
- 11 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets, value €17,996.10 with 21 jobs associated.
- 8 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme and Microfinance Ireland Fund;
- 5 businesses 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 transferred to/from Enterprise Ireland in order to avail of relevant supports;

- 28 businesses are currently participating in the Growth Mentor programme.

HOUSING

Housing Capital Delivery

This is the second year into the Rebuilding Ireland housing delivery programme. The Minister for Housing notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 190 units for 2019.

	Targets 2018-2021	2019 Targets
Build		114
Acquisition		46
Leasing		30
Sub-Total	599	190
HAP/RAS		184
All Streams		374

Schemes completed in 2019 to date

- 16 Units at Friary Walk, Callan (*Cluid AHB*)
- 4 Apartments Love Lane, Castlecomer (*Co-operative Housing*)
- 54 units Ballybough Street, Kilkenny (*Respond Housing*)
- 1 house at St Mary's Group Housing Scheme, Hebron, Kilkenny

Schemes under Construction @ 31st October 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 27 units Walkin Street, KK (*Oaklee Housing*)
- 15 units Nuncio Road, KK (*Respond Housing*)
- 17 Units at Bregagh Pl., Main Street, Piltown



33 units under construction at Glebeside, Donaguile

- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer



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4 Units under construction at Blackstaff, Callan

- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan
- 6 Units at New Road and Chapel Street, Mooncoin
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- 4 units (*Group home*) at Cloghabrody, Thomastown
- 6 units at Bridge St, Callan (GSC)

Schemes at Tender Stage

- 18 units at 'Broguemaker', Castlecomer Road.
- 5 units at Grennan Villa, Thomastown (*Camphill*)

Schemes at Detailed Design Stage

- 6 units at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny

Schemes at Planning Stage:

- Development of 86 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny.

Turnkeys

Kilkenny County Council sought expressions of interest from interested parties to deliver completed units of accommodation by way of 'turnkey'. The closing date was 13th September. Eighteen (18) submissions were received and they are currently being reviewed. Housing Capital Staff will be in contact with the relevant parties in the coming weeks.

October Monthly Statistics

October 2019	
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st October, 2019 (<i>Gross Need</i>)	1,981
Number of assessment interviews carried out in October:	24
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations in October (<i>offers made</i>):	12

Number of HAP tenancies to 31 st October:	875
Number of LA tenancies surrendered in October:	3
Anti-social behaviour cases in October:	52
New Homeless Presentations in October:	22
Maintenance Calls October 2019	588
Maintenance Calls year to-date	4271
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (<i>Annuity/Construction</i>)	16
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st October, 2019	€2,072,580

Housing List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 31st October is 1,981 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
October 2019	1,981
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (<i>Statutory Assessment 2016</i>)
December 2015	2,744

Private Grants

Minister for Housing by letter dated 11th May notified Kilkenny County Council that it's allocations for the three grants is €1,922,638 in 2019. Kilkenny County Council is required to fund €384,528 i.e. 20%.

The Council had advertised the '*Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Scheme*' for a restricted period in previous years but no restriction applies for 2020 The Council approved 367 private grants amounting to a €2.5ml and paid out €1.7ml. The position on all three grants at end October is as follows:



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Grants Approved 31 st October, 2019		
Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD: Housing Adaptation Grant	115	€1,255,651
MAG: Mobility Aid Grant	23	€108,789
HOP: Housing Aid for Older Persons	229	€1,184,380
Total	367	€2,548,820
Grants Paid out to 31 st October 2019:		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD: Housing Adaptation Grant	71	€765,698
MAG: Mobility Aid Grant	16	€81,448
HOP: Housing Aid for Older Persons	177	€872,896
Total	264	€1,720,042

Housing Loan Activity at 31st October, 2019

	Annuity/ RI Home Loan	Reconstruction Loan	Caravan Loan
Received	33	1	1
Approved	14	1	1
Amount Approved	€2,056,420	€10,000	€6,160
No. Paid	15	1	1
Amount Paid	€2,437,495	€10,000	€6,160

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2019 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are set out below. There were 209 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/10/2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	37	29	37	25
February	30	26	32	12
March	18	26	21	16
April	26	25	18	16
May	34	28	29	20
June	31	24	20	14
July	31	34	15	30

August	32	27	26	28
September	27	24	19	26
October	30	27	27	22
Total	296	270	244	209

New Rent Scheme & Rent Review 2020

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in early 2020 for all our tenants. It is hoped to have the new rents in place by April 2020.

Kilkenny County Council has harmonised both Rent Schemes for 2020 to remove the current anomalies and inequity for current tenants in receipt of the same social welfare payments.

The main changes are:

- Minimum rents set at €28.00
- Single OAP in receipt of state pension calculated at minimum rent
- Two OAP's in household each in receipt of state pension calculated at minimum rent subject to max rent of €45 (harmonisation clause)
- Non Return of rent forms: increase current weekly rent by €100 instead of 25% penalty

COMMUNITY

Rural Regeneration

Kilkenny County Council submitted three RRDF projects in 2019 Kilkenny Greenway, Graiguenamanagh and Piltown. None of these applications were successful. We will review the applications having obtained feedback from Department with a view to reapplying.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019

7 rural communities have benefitted from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in 2019 with a total amount of €391,600 being allocated.

Kilkenny Submitted 12 applications for funding:



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TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Project Area & Summary	Grant Awarded
Stoneyford Provision of pedestrian walkway from Stoneyford to Ennisnag	€0
Graigueanamanagh & Kilmanagh Provision of public toilets and car parking including disabled and age friendly car parking at Turfmarket. Refurbishment of old school house into Naomh Aodhán Community Centre.	€0
The Rower The provision of public realm and safety improvement works	€91,600
Kilmacow The provision of Phase 2 of public realm and safety improvement works	€0
Hugginstown The provision of Phase 2 of public realm and safety improvement works	€0
Slieverue The provision of a looped walk, public lighting, public realm and safety improvement works in Slieverue.	€200,000
Urlingford-Johnstown To undertake a Health Check for both connected villages.	€20,000
Mullinavat To undertake a Health Check	€20,000
Goresbridge To undertake a Health Check.	€20,000
Castlecomer To undertake a Health Check.	€20,000
Thomastown To undertake a Health Check.	€20,000
Total	€391,600

Healthy Ireland

Additional funding under the Healthy Ireland Fund for Community Mental Health actions. The Department of Health's Mental Health Unit has designed a once-off programme in recent months to support local level initiatives that promote and enhance mental health and well-being. The Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) has an allocation of €2.79m and is being made available to support actions to improve the mental health and well-being of people in the community and to tackle loneliness and isolation. In addition, the

Fund seeks to support innovative actions that promote collaboration and partnership with formal mental health and suicide prevention services and to co-ordinate and implement related activities in local community settings.

As mental health is one of 6 themes under the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 3, and the CMHF is closely aligned to HIF, a decision has been made to channel CMHF funding to each local authority (and CYPSC) via the HIF Round 3 programme framework. Under this fund **Kilkenny County Council** has been allocated an additional **€62,050** for ring-fenced activity under the HIF mental health theme. Each CYPSC will receive a separate allocation of **€32,050**.

Of the €62,050 allocation, €30,000 must be made available to local community, voluntary and sporting organisations via a small grants scheme, with the balance of €32,050 to be used to support innovative actions that promote collaboration and partnership with formal mental health and suicide prevention services and to co-ordinate and implement activities in local community settings. Regional actions are particularly welcomed under the Fund. Kilkenny LCDC will fund 7 organisations under the small grant scheme and has also looked to pilot a social prescribing coordinator for the county.

Kilkenny LCDC allocated Men's Shed Funding

In July 2019 additional funding of €0.5m was allocated nationally to the Community Enhancement Programme. The funding was ring-fenced for small capital grants for Men's Sheds. The funding was allocated to each local authority area through the LCDC's.

Kilkenny was allocated a total of €11,780. The calculation was based on the number of Men's Sheds affiliated to the Irish Men's Shed's Association in the County. Applications were dispersed to the 9 affiliated Men's Sheds in Kilkenny. Seven applications were received and funding was allocated as per the table below:



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Purpose of Grant	Amount Allocated
Callan Men's Shed Windows for shed building & security System	€650
Graigenamanagh Men's Shed Establish indoor bowls for Recreation of members	€2,500
Castlecomer Men's Shed Purchase of workshop equipment, dust extractor, table saw etc.	€880
Kilkenny Men's Shed Re-shelve existing men's shed, build an outdoor lean to store materials, enhance & replace work equipment	€1,500
Fen Men's Shed (Newpark Close) Storage cabinets & Equipment	€2,000
Thomastown Men's Shed Upgrade existing fire detection system, fire proof internal accommodation	€2,900
Mooncoin Men's Shed To purchase a 35ftx12 steel container to facilitate a workshop space for Mooncoin's Men Shed	€1,350
TOTAL	€11,780

Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg

The Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting was held in the Springhill Hotel on the 17th October. The event is attended by post-primary students throughout Kilkenny, who receive presentations and participate in workshops regarding social matters that affect young people living in Kilkenny.

The event had over 110 students in attendance for the day. The topics for discussion were 'Self expression' and 'Climate Change'. The workshops focus on the topics selected and generate outcomes which will become the work programme of the Comhairle for 2020.

Comhairle is the recognised national body for consultation with young people and are a key stakeholder group in the development of plans both nationally and locally.

Pride of Place Awards

The National Pride of Place Awards takes place in Kilkenny on the 30th of November. It is a tremendous honour for Kilkenny to be asked to host this event and a great opportunity to showcase Kilkenny from a community, cultural and tourism perspective.

The four entries from Kilkenny taking part in this year's Pride of Place include Inistioge, Ballyhale, Graigenamanagh and Kilmacow. Pride of Place is an all-island competition that acknowledges the work that communities are doing across the island of Ireland. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and improve daily lives in their communities. Kilkenny County Councils wishes the groups the best of luck on the night.

Community Grants Booklet and One Stop Shop for Funding

Kilkenny County Council will be launching the 3rd Edition of the Community Grants booklet in January 2020. The Grant Booklet summarises the key elements of Kilkenny County Council and other National Community Grants, relevant contacts and the types of works eligible for funding.

ARTS

Siamsa

Our Halloween themed Siamsa workshops took place during October midterm on 30th & 31st October and 1st November. The children joined Peter Baxter from Create School and learned how to make a spooky set, create a zombie invasion and then had their favourite Lego character save the day! As always the workshops are focused on a combination of simple demonstration with plenty of hands on learning. All children get to bring home a copy of their videos.

Autumn Literature Programme

October saw the start of our **Intermediate Creative Writing Workshops with John MacKenna** on 1st October in Butler House. This



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eight-week course of workshops will look at several aspects of writing i.e. description, character, landscape, making a story and experiencing the self. Our tutor, John McKenna, is the author of nineteen books, a dozen stage plays and a number of radio plays. He has worked in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, memoir, biography and poetry.

Two local writers selected for Words Ireland's National Mentoring Programme

Local writers, Orla Mackey and Billy Fenton, have been selected by Words Ireland to receive professional literary mentoring over the next eight months from an acclaimed Irish writer of their choice.



LIBRARY SERVICES



Bookville

Our third Bookville Festival was a phenomenal success, reaching 2,294 children from all corners of our county over the 8 days of the festival. This year, 22 authors, comedians, illustrators storytellers, Mindfulness teachers, Artists and an Aeronautical Engineer captivated audiences from babies to 12 year olds with a wide range of exciting events. Our schools Programme gives children from schools all over the county the opportunity to meet and learn from a range of quality cultural and literary facilitators.

Decade of Centenaries Schools Outreach Project

As part of our Decade of Centenaries Programme, Kilkenny Library's Local Studies Department is running a series of Workshops for 150 second level students, focusing on primary source materials from the 1919-1923 period, in line with the *Decade of Centenaries* national programme, and Kilkenny's autumn lecture programme. The project is being facilitated by local Historian, author and creator of the *Irish History Podcast* series, Finbar Dwyer. The workshops continue in Kilkenny library branches and Local Studies at John's Green House.





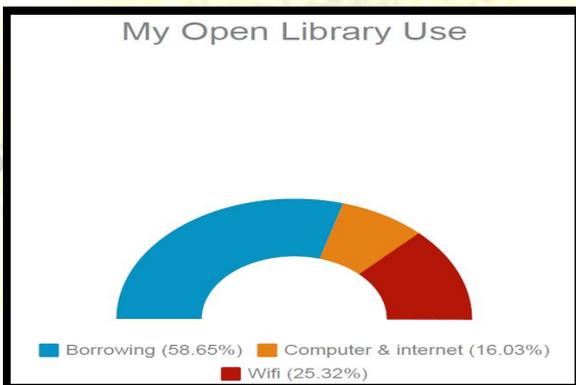
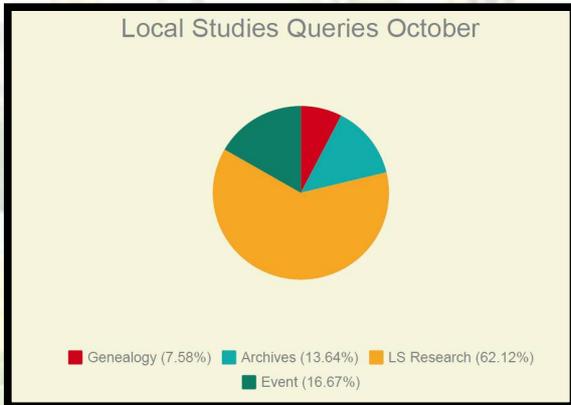
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TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL



HERITAGE

Minister asks Farmers, Contractors & Local Authorities to Manage Hedges "Fit for birds & bees"

The Heritage Officer & Environmental Awareness Officer attended the launch of National Hedgerow Week at Teagasc, Kildalton Agriculture & Horticulture College (21st Oct). The message from Minister of State Andrew Doyle to farmers, contractors and local authorities is to manage hedges "fit for birds & bees".

To find out how to do this, view a 3 minute Teagasc video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=zDuctV1DI84



Andrew Doyle TD, Minister of State, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, with staff from Teagasc, Kilkenny County Council & Waterford County Council at Kildalton College

Identifying Kilkenny's Archaeological Landscapes

The Council has commissioned a preliminary assessment to identify significant archaeological landscapes in Co. Kilkenny. The report, which will be completed in Q1 2020, will be used to inform the review of the Kilkenny County Development Plan.

Training teachers on Kilkenny's Biodiversity

The Heritage Office, in partnership with the Kilkenny Education Centre and the Co. Childcare Committee, ran "Kilkenny Wildlife Detective" training courses for primary school teachers and early childhood practitioners on 7th & 21st Oct in the Kilkenny Education Centre, to support them in teaching children about Kilkenny's biodiversity.



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FIRE SERVICES

Community Engagement & Education

Castlecomer Fire Brigade held an open day in their fire station. Fire Brigades attended community events such as, The Mens Shed, Age Friendly Seniors Forum. A number of group visits to the Fire Stations were also facilitated. Brigades carried out home fire safety visits to a number of people in their communities.



A home fire safety visit in Callan

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service held a very successful lunch and learn seminar with Ansell Emergency Lighting. Personnel from the local construction industry in particular electrical designers and contractors and Local Authority engineering staff attended this seminar in Kilkenny City Fire Station.



Lunch and Learn Kilkenny County Council Fire and Rescue Service/Ansell Emergency Lighting seminar.

Thomastown fire brigade participated in an information day of Men's Sheds in Kilkenny.

Influencing and regulating the built environment

We have received 86 Fire Safety Certificate applications to-date, 69 have been granted and 17 are being assessed.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers held fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has aided greatly in reducing:

- our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation, and
- our Fire Safety certificate refusal rates.

To date 75 licensing applications were processed by the Fire Service through the licensing court system.



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FINANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

The expenditure by service division to the end of October is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €71.9m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD October 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	16,321	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	20,787	22,328
Water Services	5,590	6,674
Development Management	7,910	9,718
Environmental Services	9,256	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	5,472	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	443	640
Miscellaneous Services	6,130	6,452
OVERALL TOTAL	71,909	79,700

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for 96 days in the ten-month period to the end of October 2019. The maximum overdrawn balance was €5,703k.

Kilkenny County Council collection figures for the main income groups to the end of October 2019 are consistent with the corresponding period for last year and we are expecting to meet our targets for 2019. The appeals on commercial properties to the Valuation Tribunal will have a negative impact on arrears at the end of 2019. Following the revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny in 2017 by the Valuation office 196 property owners appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal. The total value of the rate demand under appeal is €4.5m representing 23% of the annual rate demand. A total of 113 appeals representing 42% of the rate demand appealed have been processed to date resulting in a reduction in annual rates income of almost €500k. If this trend continues the estimated loss in annual rates income could exceed €1.1m. Appeal decisions are backdated to the 1st of January 2018. It could take a number of months yet before all appeals are dealt with.

The process of preparing the annual budget for 2020 is underway. The proposed date for the plenary budget meeting is November 25th. Despite the decision taken by Council in September to vary the base rate of Local Property Tax there remain significant challenges to achieving a balanced budget for 2020. The additional income from the Local Property Tax will enable Council to continue to provide discretionary funding similar to the levels allocated for 2019. It has also facilitated the restoration of the general municipal allocation.th