



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

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the June 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

28th June

Closing date for receipt of completed applications for Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019.

6th August

Closing date for receipt of submissions in respect of Graiguenamanagh & Piltown.

11th July

Launch of Callan Town Improvement Plan 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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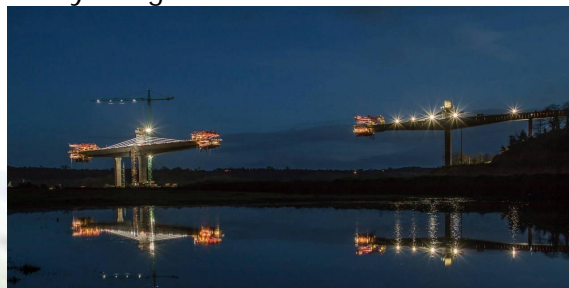
ROADS

N25 New Ross Bypass

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is well over two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in Q4 2019.

The very informative project website www.n25newross.ie is available for updates on progress and the elected members are encouraged to view this.

A nighttime image of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy bridge under construction:



Pavement Schemes.

N25. The €2.2m N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is underway with completion expected in July 2019.

Kilkenny Minor Schemes

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

These include the N24 Tower Road, N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme, N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme & the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme.

Kilkenny Western Environs

Phase 1 Infrastructure

Contract commenced on the 4th March 2019. Main contractor is SIAC Construction Ltd. Contract duration is approximately 18 months. The scheme extends from the Callan Road to Robertshill on the

Circular Road, realignment of the Circular Road from Robersthill to the Kilmanagh Road junction and realignment of the Kilmanagh Road. The scheme includes for the provision of footpaths, cycle ways and public lighting throughout.

Non National Roads

We are working through our non-national roads program. Approximately 50% of the works are carried out to date. These works include ordinary maintenance, drainage and road restoration on local roads which include the CIR and LIS schemes. The summer months will see most of the programme completed with surface dressing works well underway.

PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total To May	
	2018	2019
Planning Applications Received	362	385
Planning Applications Granted	300	301
Planning Applications Refused	32	33
Complaints Received	46	57
Warning Letters Issued	35	66
Enforcements Notices Issued	14	21
Cases Closed	29	59

The trend over the period April and May 2019 has seen an 6.4 % increase in planning applications over the same period in 2018.

The number of complaints received is up 2.4% and the number of cases closed by Planning Enforcement has increased from 29 to 59, more than doubled over the same period last year.

FORWARD PLANNING:

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy [RSES]

Following the Council's submission in April, the final RSES is expected to be adopted by Q4 2019.

The Regional Assembly is currently processing the proposed material amendments to the Draft RSES with a view to placing the amendments on public display later in the summer.



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City & County Development Plan:

Work on the City and County Development Plan is ongoing and various plans/studies are in progress.

The first round of IPSOS shopper surveys from Kilkenny City, Callan and Thomastown for the retail study have been completed. The second round of shopper surveys, covering the Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh and Ferrybank are underway and will be completed shortly. Further stakeholder engagement and briefing of Council Members will follow in early July.

Tenders for the Loughmacask Masterplan closed on the 31st of May 2019. The tenders will now be evaluated and it is anticipated that an appointment will be made by end of June 2019.

Vacant Sites

There are now 35 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 13 of these are liable for the 3% levy (i.e. have been on the register since 2018).

The Finance Section has issued payment demands on all 13, and 2 sites have had their levy discharged to date.

Conservation

Works are progressing on the projects approved under the conservation grants: Built Heritage & Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund. Works must commence by end of June 2019.

Discussions concerning the construction of the new foot bridge over the River Dinin in Castlecomer are continuing between TII, Kildare NRDO and Kilkenny County Council.

The tender for proposed works for the Tea House, Batemen Quay has been awarded, and work is due to commence later this year. The refurbishment project is part funded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

Taking in Charge

The following development was approved by members at the May meeting to commence the

statutory taking in charge process following completion of works:

Chapelview, Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny.

Taking in charge works were completed at the following developments in May:

- Ard Glas, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny
- King's Court, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

Taking in charge works are continuing at:

- Brookfield, Ballyhale,
- Bellfield, Ferrybank,
- Cois na Bearu, Graiguenamanagh and
- Glenvale, Ballyragget.
-

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

**MMS Ltd Wins
Best Export Business Award at National Finals**



Mechanical Modular Solutions in Castlecomer has won the 'Best Export Business' title at this year's National Enterprise Awards, organised by the Local Enterprise Offices to celebrate Ireland's best small businesses.

Set up by Michael McGuire & Alan Finan in 2017, Mechanical Modular Solutions (MMS) designs and manufactures pre-engineered and pre-fabricated modular solutions for large-scale projects such as data centres, retail outlets and office developments. Backed by Local Enterprise



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Office Kilkenny, the company has offices in Manchester and the Netherlands with plans to expand into Switzerland.

Pat Breen T.D., Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, made the announcement in front of 230 guests in the Mansion House in Dublin on 29th May. Previous winners of the National Enterprise Awards have included Irish Yogurts (in 1998), Obelisk (in 2000), Digiweb (in 2004) and Kilkenny based MyBio Ltd (in 2015).

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2019

- €219,381 has been approved in 2019 to 12 businesses linked to the creation of 38 jobs over a 3-year period;
- 203 entrepreneurs received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business;
- 390 participants attended 25 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;
- 122 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO staff to discuss starting a business or growing an existing business;
- 56 participants attended 4 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;
- 7 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €14,042 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;
- 6 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets;
- 5 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme and Microfinance Ireland Fund;
- 3 businesses participated on Lean for Micro in order to assist them to look at their competitiveness and innovation specifically in relation to Brexit;

- 2 businesses are currently participating in the Food Academy Programme;
- 17 businesses are currently participating in the Growth Mentor programme.

HOUSING

Housing Capital Delivery

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 12th March 2019 notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 190 units for 2019, an increase of 57 (43%) units compared to 2018. This target of 190 is made up of construction, acquisition and leasing.

The Minister has also set a target for HAP and RAS delivery in 2019 of 184 units.

Rebuilding Ireland Targets

Kilkenny Revised Targets @ 12/03/2019		
	2018 – 2021	2019
Build, Acquisition & Leasing	599	190
Build		114
Acquisition		46
Leasing		30
HAP/RAS		184
All Streams		374

Schemes under Construction at 31st March 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 54 units Ballybough Street, Kilkenny (*Respond Housing*)
- 27 units Walkin Street, KK (*Oaklee Housing*)
- 11 units Nuncio Road, KK (*Respond Housing*)
- 1 unit at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road, Kilkenny
- 17 Units at Breaghagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan
- 6 Units at Mooncoin
- 16 Units at Friary Walk, Callan



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6 Units in Mooncoin (Chapel Street & New Street) under construction



Phase 1 Nuncio Road, Kilkenny City



38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan

Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	4
Anti social behaviour cases:	13
New Homeless Presentations:	20
Maintenance Calls for May 2019	356
Maintenance Calls year to date	2,035
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	6
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st May, 2019	€838,420

Housing List

The current **gross** housing demand at 31st May is 2,120 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
31 st May 2019	2,120
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

Construction Schemes to start:

- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- Group home at Cloghabrody, Thomastown

May Monthly Statistics

MAY 2019 HOUSING	
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st May, 2019	2,120
Number of assessment interviews carried out in May:	30
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	18
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 st May:	870

Private Grants

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

Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP) grant was advertised in late 2018 and 280 completed applications were received. The position on all three grants is as follows;



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Grants Approved 31 st May 2019		
Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	18	€203,387.00
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	1	€6,000.00
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	80	€419,460.00
Total	99	€628,847.00

Grants Paid out to 31 st May 2019:		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	13	€134,331.00
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	11	€53,198.00
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	5	€24,559.00
Total	29	€212,088.00

Housing Loan Activity at 31st May 2019

Housing Loan Activity at 31 st May, 2019					
Loan Type	R'eived	Appr oved	Amt Approv ed	No Pai d	Amt Paid
Annuity/ RI Home Loan	14	6	€838,420	7	€1,076,675
Reconstruc tion Loan	1	0	€0.00	0	€0.00
Caravan Loan	1	1	€6,160	0	€0.00
Total	16	7	€844,580	7	€1,076,675

Incremental Purchase Scheme 2019

At the Council meeting held on 20th May 2019 the elected members approved the introduction of the Incremental Purchase Scheme for newly built units as provided under Part 3 Housing (*Miscellaneous Provisions*) Act 2009.

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 91 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/05/2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	37	29	37	25
February	30	26	32	15
March	18	26	21	16
April	26	25	18	21
May	34	28	29	20
Total	145	134	137	97

PARKS

Woodstock Gardens

Work is 85% complete on the Woodstock Loop Walks with close to 3.5 km of trails completed that the end of May. The trails will be way marked with seating installed at strategic locations along the route which connects Inistioge village to Woodstock Gardens via the Woodstock estate.

The trails open up heretofore overgrown paths and will become an integral part of the amenity offering in the wider Woodstock Estate. This project is being carried out with the support of Coillte, and the project is part funded under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure (ORIS) Fund.



Woodstock Trails – The Ladies Walk is completed. Work has now commenced on the Riverside paths.



A stunning view of the 10 arch bridge in Inistioge is now visible from Mount Sandford Castle, did accessible from the new Woodstock Trails.



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A date has been announced for the Fairytale Festival by BEAT Radio Station at a recent launch of the event in Woodstock Gardens. This year the family friendly festival will take place on the 21st of July.



Councillor Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council and Councillor Peter Cleere get acquainted with 'Eric The Boa Constrictor' at the launch of the Fairytale Festival by BEAT at Woodstock Gardens.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Tenders for this specialist play contract have been received for the Park and the successful tenderer is expected to be notified by end of June. The Park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding (Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund) with match funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities.



Ferrybank Park and Playground Proposed Layout

Kilkenny Greenway

Following submission of the application for funding and the visit by the project assessment board in April, a funding announcement is expected imminently. In the meantime, the Parks Department is working closely with Wexford County Council and Malachy Walsh and Partners Consultants in preparing the detailed design for the route. This process has commenced and consultation with landowners and other stakeholders to design accommodation works where lands or properties interface with the proposed Greenway has begun.



View from Carrickcloney of the route of the proposed Greenway to the New Ross By-Pass Bridge

COMMUNITY

CLÁR

The CLÁR scheme is a targeted programme for areas of rural population decline and offers funding under a number of measures. CLÁR areas are defined by DED boundaries of which there are 31 in Kilkenny.

The measures available for Kilkenny County Council to apply for are:

Measure 1:

Support for Schools/Community Safety Measure

Measure 2:

Play Areas (including MUGAs)

Measure 3c:

Community Wellbeing Support - Sensory Gardens.



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Area Engineers and the Community Department work with local schools and communities to develop applications for identified small scale infrastructure projects. The table below details the projects which have been applied for to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Community Group	Project Cost	Funding Requested	Project Details
Windgap National School	€55,000	€41,000	Pedestrian Crossing.
Muckalee Community Creché, St. Brendan's National School, Muckalee Parish Committee	€60,000	€50,000	Car park surfacing Phase 2 of 2 phase project.
Black & Whites GAA & Community Centre	€48,634	€43,770	Multi-Use Games Area.
St. Colemans, Conahy	€17,500	€15,000	Speed safety signs.
Scoil Naisiunta Bhrighde, Coon	€25,000	€22,500	Pedestrian Crossing.
Lisnafunchion National School	€17,500	€15,000	Speed safety signs.
Tullagher Rosbercon GAA Club	€55,000	€30,000	Car park surfacing.
St. Aiden's Kilmanagh	€20,000	€15,000	Speed safety signs.
Crosspatrick National School	€50,000	€41,000	Footpath & Speed safety signs.
Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Clontubrid	€20,000	€15,000	Speed safety signs.
St. Aiden's Kilmanagh	€17,814	€16,031	Sensory Garden.

It is anticipated that decisions will be made in July.

Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2019

The Department of Children & Youth Affairs has approved the sum of €7,500 for the refurbishment of Graiguenamagh Playground, €7,500 for Castlecomer Playground and €7,500 for

Thomastown Playground under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation 2019. The works to be undertaken include replacement of older pieces of equipment which are close to their end of life or have limited play value and will be coordinated by the Council's Parks Department.

National Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2019

The Council has obtained approval for the sum of €3,000 under the Department of Children and Youth Affairs National Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2019. Kilkenny Council will provide match funding of €3,000. Kilkenny County Council (KCC) and Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP) will work closely with Family Resource Centres (Droichead, Fr McGrath, Newpark and The Mill), Enable Ireland, Special Olympics and the traveller community to develop a range of inclusive games, the use of natural playscapes and family playtimes with parent engagement. Unstructured and free play will be encouraged through the provision of giant games, building elements, balance bikes and trikes, giant chalks, water games and inclusive sports equipment. The event will be branded under the Back to Basics Theme as part of National Recreation and Play Day Events.



Community Enhancement Programme.

The Community Enhancement Programme provides funding to communities across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. It provides **capital funding** to address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The administration of this scheme by LCDCs allows decision making at a local level to ensure that funding is targeted appropriately towards the areas that need it most.

The Community Enhancement Programme will operate in a complementary manner to add value to other front-line schemes and programmes



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being operated in communities. The programme can fund or partially fund larger scale capital projects to address disadvantage to a maximum of €10,000. Some funding is ring-fenced to provide medium capital grants of €3,000. This is aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground.

Kilkenny LCDC has been allocated the sum of €136,319 under the Community Enhancement Programme 2019, 30% (€41,319) of which will be for small grants and 70% (€95,000) for medium grants. The LCDC will make its decision in July.

It is expected that a separate allocation of funding targeted at Mens/Women's Shed will be made available shortly also. Details are awaited.

Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018 [CCFCS]

The Council has received 16 applications under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2019. The applications will be evaluated and a report and recommendation brought to the July Council meeting for a decision.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019

We are currently developing, with the relevant community groups, a number of applications for submission under this year's Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Completed applications have to be with the Department by 28th June, 2019. A schedule of all expressions of interest received and applications submitted will be made available to elected members.

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund [RRDF]

The Department of Rural and Community Development has issued its second call for applications for funding in respect of Category 1 proposals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in respect of settlements and rural areas with fewer than 10,000 people.

The capital investment supported by the Fund will seek to deliver key outcomes, amongst which are sustainable community and economic development in rural Ireland; the revitalisation

and regeneration of towns and villages; the encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovation; the development of key economic growth sectors such as tourism; improved community development and quality of life; the protection of the environment and our heritage assets; and the development of cultural life in rural areas.

The Fund will prioritise investments of scale which would not otherwise be delivered without the additionally provided by the Fund, and projects that are outside the scope of funding by existing schemes. In this context, projects are likely to be multi-annual and multi-faceted, involving a number of elements or phases as part of a broad strategic plan. The minimum award from the Fund is €500,000-being 75% of the estimated cost.

Category 1 projects are ready to commence, have the necessary consents (e.g. planning, environmental, wildlife, archaeological etc.) in place, are at an advanced stage of design, satisfy the requirements of the Public Spending Code, and are procurement-ready. This is a Pass/Fail requirement of all applications and if an application does not meet these criteria it will not progress to full assessment. The lead party to an application will be required to certify that the project proposed is at the required level of readiness at the time of submission. Any projects which are identified as still requiring planning or other consent(s) following the closing date for applications will not be considered.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive bid process, based on the extent to which applications deliver on the objectives of the Fund and the various requirements and criteria set out as part of this document. The Department, assisted by an independent Project Advisory Board, will consider projects for recommendations for funding to the Minister.

The Council is currently developing applications in respect of Graiguenamanagh and Piltown for



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submission before the closing date of 12 noon Tuesday 6th August.

Callan Town Improvement Plan

Kilkenny County Council has piloted the Framework for Town and Village Renewal in Callan. The key elements of the Framework included the establishment of a Town Team, commissioning a Health Check, the identification of local needs through extensive public consultation, the development of a community based Town Action Plan and the implementation of that Action Plan.

Callan Town Team will be launching its Callan Town Improvement Plan 2019 on Thursday 11th July 2019 in Fennelly's of Callan at 7.30pm. All elected members, community and business groups in Callan and the people of Callan are invited to attend.



Thomastown Age Friendly Town

An Age Friendly Town is a town where the community understands and responds to the needs of older adults. The Age Friendly Towns initiative was implemented in Callan (Co Kilkenny) and across many other towns in Ireland. It is proposed to implement it also in Thomastown. The Thomastown Age Friendly Town Plan Committee is a local working group that has finalised the preparation of the Thomastown Age Friendly Town Plan.

The Plan sets out the vision for the town alongside the actions to achieve that vision and address the key issues facing older people which have been identified by the older people of Thomastown.

It will act to mobilise all communities in Thomastown to share responsibility and co-operate locally and with the identified Implementing Partners (and others) to implement feasible and achievable solutions. This plan will also serve to inform future applications for funding under various local and national schemes

administered by various Government Departments, State Agencies and non-government organisations (NGO's).

When three measures have been implemented Age Friendly Ireland will confer Age Friendly Town status on Thomastown.

Arrangements to launch the plan in July will be finalised shortly.

ENVIRONMENT

Kilkenny County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy



Kilkenny County Council is taking the first step in better preparing the County to our changing climate and providing more effective responses to the threats posed by climate change.

The Kilkenny County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is currently on public consultation the 12th of July 2019. The core objectives of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy are to:

- Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of Kilkenny County Council.
- Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change
- Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner



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Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of mitigating the causes of, and adapting to, the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate.

Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities. Kilkenny County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy is designed to do just that.

Indeed, Kilkenny County Council is a frontrunner in effecting change in terms of mitigation and adaptation as demonstrated by the commitment over the past decade in terms of staff and budget resources to deliver on environmental and climate change initiatives across the organisation.

The Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy further builds on this commitment.

Submissions or observations may be made on the Strategy (preferably by one medium) at:

- <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/>
- In writing to Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer, Environment Section, County Hall, John St., Kilkenny
- By email to ccas@kilkennycoco.ie

Delivery Programme Up-date Report on RMCEI – Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan

RMCEI – Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan	Number of Inspections undertaken for May 2019
WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken	41
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	58
Ambient Monitoring	22
Other SW/GW protection inspections	8

Inspections of existing planning permissions	72
Ground water quality (Planning inspections)	14
Bring bank surveillance	24
Bring bank inspections	9
Inspections under solid fuel Regs	20
WCP AR Validation	15
Inspections under the tyre Regs – Retailers	3
ATM Surveys	10
Routine Litter Patrols – County	19

CRM – Customer Relations Management

81 complaints were received during May. All complaints have been investigated and appropriate action taken.

A total of 6 No Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued under the Waste Management Act 1996 in May.

A total of 2 No Section 14 Notices were issued.

In addition, a total of 5 litter fines were issued during May.

All enforcement notices issued will be followed up on in the coming weeks to ensure compliance.

Recycling Bring Centres

In addition to the new Urlingford Recycling Bring Centre provided in April, two further new Bring Centres were opened in May, one in the Aldi store carpark off the Belmont Rd in Ferrybank and the other in The Rower village. The Environment Section successfully negotiated an agreement with Repak Ireland that they would fund the cost to supply the receptacles, signage and associated fittings on the basis that the Council identify suitable new sites to accommodate same. It is noted that 4no. new Centres have been delivered under this new agreement to-date.



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For the period January to May across the 44 no. centres, excluding the two above, circa. 754 tonnes of glass, tin and aluminium were collected for recycling, with the month of May accounting for 154 tonnes of same.

Over the past number of years there has been an ongoing problem with textile collectors placing unauthorised textile banks at our Bring Centres. Up to May across the 44no. sites 65 textile banks are deployed of which only 24 banks are authorised. To address this issue, the provision and service of textile banks at Council Bring Centre locations was put out to tender in May. Once the tender process is complete only one service provider will be permitted to provide a service at Council Bring Centre sites. All other services providers will be required to remove their banks or the Council will remove same. The successful tenderer will also be required to make a contribution to the Council and a number of prescribed local charities on the basis of the tonnage collected per annum

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The Environment Section has successfully secured funding under the 2019 Anti-Dumping Initiative for the following projects:

- Reuse of bikes
- CCTV at Bring Centres
- Fairview Housing Estate – litter black spot into community amenity
- Bulky Furniture Day
- Outdoor Education/Awareness
- Litter black spot – Hebron Housing Estate
- Clean up of Amenity area at St Joseph's Community Centre

Gowran Historic Landfill Remediation Scheme



The contract for the Gowran Historic Landfill Remediation Scheme was awarded recently to Priority Construction Limited.

Early this year funding was secured by Kilkenny County Council from the Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment to advance to the remediation stage of the historic landfill site in Rockfield, Gowran. The remediation works tender was advertised in March and following a tender assessment the successful tenderer was subsequently engaged by the Council.

The site extends to circa. 0.4 hectares and the remediation works will be undertaken in accordance with the design referenced in the EPA Certificate of Authorisation (EPA Ref. No. H0235-01). The main elements of the works include the excavation of existing cap material, the placement of a gas collection system and the installation of an LLDPE liner along with a sub-surface drainage system and surface water filter drains. On completion of this element of the works, subsoil and topsoil will be imported to the site and placed as a final capping layer. The value of the project is in excess of €340,000 and works are due to commence in mid-June with an anticipated completion date in September 2019.

In conjunction with the above the Council's Parks Section is assessing the after-use potential of the site as a recreational community amenity area which incorporates pollinator friendly planting.

Presentation of Lifeguard Certificates

A warm friendly atmosphere set the tone for a great night for the presentation of Lifeguard Certificates on Friday evening the 3rd May.

The ceremony which was held in the foyer of County Hall was well attended by Lifeguards, parents, An Cathaoirleach Eamon Aylward, Mayor Peter "Chap" Cleere, Council Officials and members of Kilkenny Water Safety. An Cathaoirleach Eamon Aylward presented 24 new Lifeguard certificates and 17 revalidations. Three



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new swimming instructors were presented with certificates and four new assistant swimming instructors were presented with certificates. One newly qualified Water Safety Ireland Instructor certificate was presented and one Water Safety Awareness Course Tutor certificate was presented.

The successful winners of the Wexford lifesaving competition were also presented with their winning medals.



Green Schools Awards 2019

19 renewal visits were undertaken this year by the Environmental Awareness Officer to facilitate the An Táisce Green School Programme and all 19 schools attained their Green Flag status at the Awards Ceremony held in Hotel Kilkenny on the 23rd May.

The following is a table of the schools who achieved Green Flag Status and the theme they worked on: -



Stop Food Waste Challenge

School Name	Flag Awarded
Loreto S.S. Kilkenny	Energy
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál	Energy
St. Patrick's De La Salle BNS	Water
Goresbridge N.S	Biodiversity
Kilkenny City Voc. School	Biodiversity
Moneenroe N.S	Biodiversity

Scoil Bhride	Biodiversity
St. Leonard's N.S	Biodiversity
Templeorum N.S	Biodiversity
Bunscoil McAuley Rice	GC Litter & Waste
Church Hill N.S.	GC Litter & Waste
Piltown National School	GC Litter & Waste
Scoil an Chroi Ro-Naofa	GC Litter & Waste
St. Kieran's N.S	GC Litter & Waste
Burnchurch N.S.	GC Energy
Presentation Convent N.S	GC Energy
Kilkenny College	GC Marine
The Rower Preschool	GC Marine
St. Patrick's N.S	GC Marine

Windgap

Windgap Tidy Towns and ICA members successfully completed the EPA Stop Food Waste Challenge which commenced in April and finished in May. There was an average attendance of 16 people/night. Noreen Hayes, Windgap Tidy Towns advised that the group were delighted with the initiative and that there is clear sense of awareness amongst the community regarding food waste and waste streams.



Danesfort

15 members of The Danesfort ICA took part in our Stop Food Waste Challenge in April. Everyone engaged enthusiastically with the course and great results were achieved at the end of the course in terms of positive behavioural change towards food waste awareness.





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Inistioge Master Composting Course

The EPA Master Composting Course commenced in Inistioge last week with a turnout of over 30 participants. The Master Composting Course is run in conjunction with the Stop Food Waste Challenge. The course will culminate with the development of a master composting site in Inistioge which will be the first master composting site in Kilkenny.

Waste Prevention Grant 2019

This grant is funded by the Environment Section of Kilkenny County Council as part of its Waste Prevention Programme. This scheme aims to support communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas and encourage partnership between local businesses, schools, charities and voluntary groups.

12 applications were received this year and 11 were successful in receiving funding totalling €4070.00:

Name of Group	Grant Awarded	Name of Group	Grant Awarded
Gowran Dev. Association	€400	Deanview Inclusive Garden	€400
Thomstown Community Helpers	€450	Paulstown Development Association	€400
CBS Sec. Kilkenny Green Schools	€450	Castlecomer & District Men's Shed	€300
Slieverue Comm Resource Centre	€200	Task The Mews	€400
Ballyragget Dev Assoc.	€150	Kcat Arts Centre	€500
Keep Kilkenny Beautiful	€420		

LAPN Funding

The Local Authority Prevention Network has awarded €6,800 to successful applications by the

Environment Section for Savour Going Green 2019. This funding will be used to further enhance greening initiatives that were commenced in 2018.

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean is a national campaign run by An Taisce and supported by Kilkenny County Council. Run for the month of April the campaign strives to encourage people to litter pick individually or in groups. On registration with An Taisce individuals/groups receive a support pack containing Hi-Viz, gloves and other resources from An Taisce. Individuals/groups are further supported by Kilkenny County Council through the availability of litter picking equipment from the Environment Office, Municipal District Offices and Library branches. This year's campaign was promoted by the Environment Section through local and social media especially KCLR who facilitated the "Big Spring Clean".

The Litter Management Plan was adopted by Council in 2018 and Action LP10 requires Kilkenny County Council to support volunteers to litter pick locally and provide necessary supports and also sets a target to increase participation by 10% annually.

This year An Taisce registrations increased from 112 in 2018 to 136, an increase of 21.43%.

This year Kilkenny County Council registrations increased from 126 in 2018 to 153, an increase of 21.43% also.

The following is a list of supports provided by Kilkenny County Council for 2019:

Weight Collected	11.01 tons collected
Litter Pickers provided	201 given out
Disposable Gloved	15 boxes (100 in each box)
Durable Gloves	131 durable gloves
Recycling Bags	83 rolls (10 bags per roll)



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Refuse Bags	1 roll (10 bags per roll)
Hi Vis Vests	7
Cones	2
No. of groups supported	39
No. of waste collections undertaken by KCC	51

LIBRARY SERVICES



Single Use Plastics

In January 2019 Government Departments and Public Bodies were directed to lead the way in reducing generation of single use plastics and waste. This decision by government recognises that the public service must demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and use its influence to persuade others of the changes required to reduce our impact on the environment.

In response to this green initiative Kilkenny County Council has removed all single use plastic cups, cutlery and straws from KCC buildings. The removal of cups alone has removed the ordering, use and disposal of 23,000 plus single use plastic cups across all council buildings.

To address the ban on single use plastic cups and to encourage sustainability amongst staff Kilkenny County Council purchased a limited number of reusable cups which cater for hot and cold beverages which were made available to staff on the 3rd of May.



Creative Active Times Programme & Bealtaine Festival

Our inaugural Creative Active Times Programme has been a huge success this year, with over 60 events taking place from January. The programme culminated with our involvement in the National Bealtaine Festival this May. With a wide and varied programme, we worked with Kilkenny Carlow ETB, Gardaí, HSE, Irish Wildlife Trust, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and 3CEA. Our most popular events were The Six Mary's shows with Jean Farrell, Music singalongs, Art classes and flower arranging workshops. Our next programme will run from September to December 2019.



Loughboy Library Knitting Group recently donated hats and blankets to St. Luke's Neonatal Unit.

Communicating our work

www.kilkennylibrary.ie
Pageviews: 11,405

Followers
Facebook: 2941
Twitter: 1960
Instagram: 1110



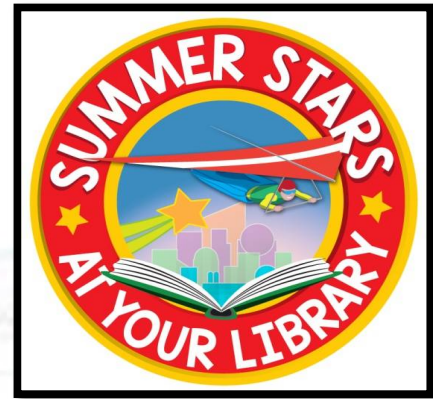
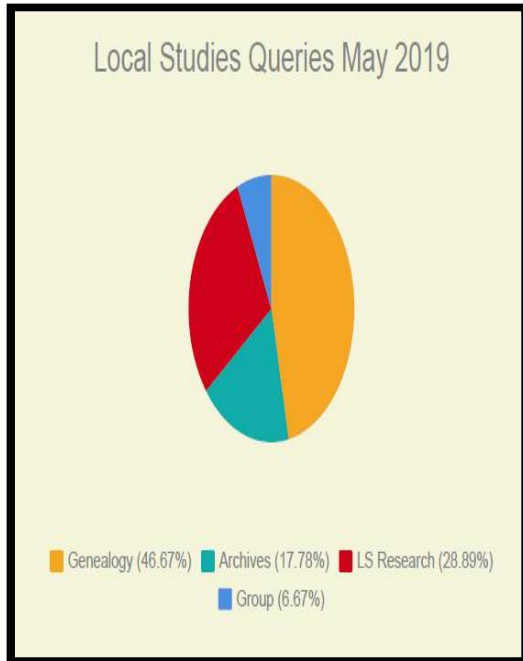
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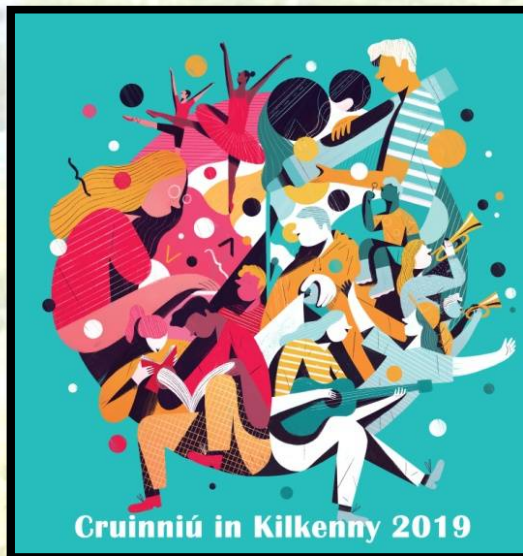
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National Right to Read Initiative "Summer Stars Reading Challenge" begins on 15th June. Last year over 1,260 children completed the challenge in Kilkenny



National Creative Ireland initiative "Cruinniú na nÓg" takes place on June 14th & 15th, celebrating creativity and culture for children and young people. 10 Library events have been organised in branches & MacDonagh Junction



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT – JUNE 2019

The expenditure by service division to the end of May is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €31.99m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD May 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	7,782	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	8,159	22,328
Water Services	2,773	6,674
Development Management	3,614	9,718
Environmental Services	3,838	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	2,578	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	205	640
Miscellaneous Services	3,041	6,452
Overall Total	31,990	79,700

The bank overdraft facility was not utilized in the five months to the end of May 2019.

The Local Government Auditor commenced the annual audit on 22nd April 2019.

A total of 77 of the 196 appeals to the valuation tribunal have been completed to date. This has resulted in a reduction in annual income of €300k. we are awaiting the outcome of the appeals on the remaining cases.