



9th March, 2021.

**TO: AN CATHAOIRLEACH
& EACH MEMBER OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

RE: FESTIVAL GRANTS 2021

Dear Councillor,

A provision of €112,000 has been included in the Council's adopted Budget for 2021 for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme. Having regard to the potential impact of Covid 19 on our income streams and in keeping with the policy adopted last year, in similar uncertain times, it is proposed to defer allocation of €30,000 of overall budget until we have clearer visibility on income streams later in the year. This leaves a sum of €82,000 to be allocated to Festivals and Events.

In line with adopted Council policy - 80% of the Budget will be allocated to the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme (*managed and administered by the Tourism Section*) and the remaining 20% will be allocated to the Community Festival Grant Scheme (*managed and administered by the Community Section*). This report refers to the recommendations under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme only and there is €65,600 available for allocation at this time.

The Festivals recommended for approval in 2021 under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme will positively impact on Kilkenny's tourism industry, and Kilkenny County Council will work with these Festivals to assist them in their development and programming.

The Festivals represent an integral element of Kilkenny's attraction as a destination with a year-round calendar of activity, and they contribute to the overall tourism experience. The grant funding provided is also an investment in our local economy, resulting in commercial activity which will sustain local jobs.

The Tourism Festival Grant Scheme was advertised in the local press on 6th January, with a closing date for applications of 29th January, 2021. A total of 11 grant applications were received and have been assessed. I hereby recommend that 8 Festival Grants be awarded in accordance with the attached summary, in line with Budget 2021.

Yours sincerely,

**Sean McKeown,
Director of Services,
Kilkenny County Council.**

FESTIVAL & EVENT GRANT SCHEME 2021

The Kilkenny County Council Festivals and Events Grant Scheme aims to support the tremendous work being done by tourism festival organisers and local community groups throughout County Kilkenny. The Grant fund this year amounts to €112,000. This is split 80:20, as in previous years, between the *Tourism Festival Grant Scheme* and *Community Festival Grant Scheme*. this allocation equates to a fund of €89,600 in 2021 of which 30% is being held pending clearer visibility on our income streams leaving €65,600 to be allocated.

Applications

The 2021 Tourism Festival Grant Scheme was advertised on 6th January and the closing date for receipt of applications was 29th January. A total of 11 applications were received. 3 applications were deemed ineligible and were directed to alternate funding sources provided by the Council. The remaining 8 applications were evaluated and recommended for a Grant Award as per the Table attached.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme were assessed on their ability to:

- positively impact tourism;
- help deliver the Council's Tourism strategy; and
- improve the visitor experience in Kilkenny City and County.

In response to COVID-19, applicants this year were also asked to consider national public health guidelines and restrictions and to have clear risk assessment procedures in place. They were also asked to consider elements of their programme which can be delivered in such a way so as to mitigate the risk for example of cancellation.

A condition of all Grant Awards this year will be that should the festival/event not proceed as outlined in the application a maximum of 25% of the Grant Awarded will be paid unless a revised Festival Programme is agreed in advance with the Council.

Reserve

The total grant funding for the 8 festivals recommended for approval at this time amounts to €56,500.

It is recommended that the remainder of the available budget in the amount of €10,000 be ring-fenced to support at least 10 communities to avail of the Festival Kit to host a local community event. The mobile cinema/festival kit incorporates a 12m inflatable cinema screen with projector and a Marquee. This equipment provides the opportunity to support communities with the provision of infrastructure and equipment to help communities host an outdoor event, particularly having regard to Covid restrictions. The outdoor system will be made available by the County Council to festival organisers and community groups planning to host new events in towns and villages throughout the county later in the year. Funding for the purchase of this equipment was secured under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measures) in 2020 and was purchased in partnership with Kilkenny Animates/ Cartoon Saloon. It is envisaged that at least 10 local community-based events will avail of the Festival Kit in 2021.

TABLE: List of Tourism Festival Grant Scheme Applications and Awards 2021:

Event Name	Date of event	Overall Cost	Grant Sought	Recommended 2021 Grant Award
		€	€	€
The Cat Laughs	June 3-7th, 2021	€76,000	€10,000	€10,000
Kilkennomics	Nov 4-7th, 2021	€165,000	€15,000	€10,000
Castlecomer Wellie Race	January, 2022	€10,000	€3,000	€3,000
Iverk Show Ltd	28 th August, 2021	€225,000	€20,000	€1,500
Savour Festival	22 Oct - 5th Dec, 2021	€73,500	€40,000	€15,000
Tradfest	March 17-21 st , 2021	€71,000	€10,000	€5,000
Celebrating History of "The League House" in Windgap	August 20th, 2021	€350	€350	Ineligible - directed to Community Festival Grant Scheme
Kilkenny Animated	October 1-4 th , 2021	€85,000	€15,000	€10,000
Kilkenny Science Festival	November 7-14 th , 2021	€64,700	€15,000	Ineligible - directed to LEO for Support
Edmund Fitzpatrick Weekend	August 27-29 th , 2021	€3,370	€1,500	Ineligible - directed to Community Festival Grant Scheme
Abhainn Ri Festival	September 5-8 th , 2021	€13,500	€5,000	€2,000
TOTAL				€56,500