



## KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT JUNE 2018

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.

### FINANCE:

**Chief Executive Financial Report [Appendix 1].**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Free Mattress Drop Off Day.
- 19<sup>th</sup> June:** Summer Stars Reading Challenge
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** National Cruinniú na nÓg takes places in libraries across the county for children and teenagers to celebrate creativity and culture
- 8<sup>th</sup> July:** National Commemoration Day Regional Ceremony, Kilkenny Castle.
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Graiguenamanagh Water Safety Week

## REPORT AT A GLANCE

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### CORPORATE SERVICES

*Cllr. Eamon Aylward* was appointed as Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council.

*Cllr. Ger Frisby* was appointed as Cathaoirleach of Piltown Municipal District.

*Cllr. Michael McCarthy* was appointed as Cathaoirleach of Castlecomer Municipal District.

#### County Hall Car Park

Significant problems have arisen with Car Parking Capacity in the County Hall car park. A number of complaints have been received in recent months from members of the public who have tried to access County Hall for official business purposes, only to find that there was no parking available with the result that they were unable to visit County Hall. Problems also exist for staff and elected members who have been unable to find parking for official business purposes.

Later this year it is proposed to install a new barrier system on the County Hall car park, similar to the systems currently in operation in the other public car parks in the city. The existing keycode system will be replaced with a ticketed system. It is intended that visitors to County Hall on official business will continue to have free access to the County Hall car park. The first period of parking will be free, but visitors staying longer than this free period will be charged an hourly rate. The proposed new barrier system will be monitored and managed remotely similar to other car parks in the city.

In addition, arrangements are currently being put in place to increase the number of parking spaces available in County Hall with a revised arrangement with the Rivercourt Hotel for the use of the area to the rear of the Hotel, with Kilkenny County Council having the use of a greater area from Monday to Friday.

### COMMUNITY, CULTURAL & HERITAGE

#### Village Health Checks

The Callan and Inistioge Town/Village Health Check reports are being finalised at present and will issue shortly. Village Health Check workshops were held in Ballyragget, Freshford and Ballyhale/Knocktopher and all were well attended with full participation by all. The Consultants are currently drafting the Health Check reports for these areas. Village Health Check workshops will be arranged in July in Gowran, Mooncoin and The Rower.

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018

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 30<sup>th</sup> June.

A schedule of all expressions of interest received and applications submitted will be made available to Members following the 30<sup>th</sup> June closing date.

#### Commercial Premises Paint Scheme

The Council received 35 applications under the 2018 Commercial Premises Paint Scheme. All 35 applications were approved and the approval letters have issued. The total budget is now fully committed.

#### Community Enhancement Programme.

A new Community Enhancement Programme has been announced. The programme replaces the Department's RAPID and Community Facilities Schemes. The programme is to be administered by LCDC's and is targeted at addressing disadvantage, as outlined in the Local Economic and Community Plan. Kilkenny LCDC has received an allocation of €136,319 for 2018.

The Scheme provides for two levels of funding:



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- Small Grants: €41,300 (30%) of the allocation is being allocated for small grants up to €3,000.
- Larger Grants: €95,000 (70%) is being allocated for grants up to €10,000.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Kilkenny LCDC will make its decisions at its meeting held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018

The Council has received 18 applications under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018 as follows:

- Kilfane Handball Club
- Johnstown Community Playground
- Callan Handball and Racquet Club
- Slieverue Linear Park
- Ferrybank AFC Soccer Club
- Mooncoin Celtic Soccer club
- Piltown GAA Club
- Black & Whites GAA
- Barrow Harriers Athletic Club
- Clogh Mooneenroe Racquetball Club
- Freshford Community Playground
- Galmoy Community Hall
- St Canices Community Action clg-Neighbourhood Hall
- Stoneyford Development Association Community Grounds
- Barnstorm Theatre-Provision of Facilities on Abbey Quarter
- KREE Kells-Walking/running track.
- Tullaroan Development Association Playground
- Camphill Community Callan-Moat Fields Nature and Heritage Trail

The applications will be evaluated and a report and recommendation brought to the July Council meeting for a decision.

#### TOURISM & MARKETING

##### Butler Gallery

On 30<sup>th</sup> May Fáilte Ireland announced that the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny will be one of the first visitor attractions in the country to be awarded major funding through its Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects, which is intended to help deliver world-class tourist experiences, boost overseas visitor growth and create jobs.

The Fáilte Ireland grant of €1.1m will help the relocation of the Butler Gallery from Kilkenny Castle to the Evan's Home, a protected structure and a former Alms House located in Kilkenny City centre. The Butler Gallery relocation will create an entirely new type of place for art in Ireland, which incorporates both the original Evan's Home, a large historic building which is currently derelict, and will be carefully conserved alongside a small new extension. It will support a range of art forms including the Butler Permanent Collection and a gallery for major temporary exhibitions.

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin T.D. visited Evan's Almshouse in Kilkenny in May to see first-hand how the grant will be used. Welcoming the funding, he said:

*"I'm delighted that awards are now being made under Fáilte Ireland's Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects, which will help to boost visitors to the country's regions, create jobs and growth, and help to develop local areas. This kind of investment is absolutely critical in ensuring that Ireland's tourist attractions are world-class and I know that the funding announced today will be a major boost for Kilkenny."*



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### Minister Michael Ring visits Inistioge and Woodstock House and Gardens

Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development, paid a courtesy visit to Inistioge and Woodstock House and Gardens on 24<sup>th</sup> May, and to mark his visit the Minister planted a tree in the famous Monkey Puzzle Walk at Woodstock, helping to repair some of the recent storm damage.

Minister Ring, accompanied by Minister John Paul Phelan, was met by Cllr Michael Doyle, Mayor of Kilkenny, and a native of Inistioge, together with Kilkenny County Council staff led by Chief Executive Colette Byrne. One of Inistioge's famous sons, Eddie Keher, dropped by to meet Minister Ring to show the Minister some of the walks which Eddie now enjoys on a daily basis. Minister Ring and the visiting party enjoyed light refreshments in the fantastic Tearooms at Woodstock. Mayor Doyle, welcoming the visit said "Inistioge and Woodstock are places where Government investment will bear fruit. I welcome Minister Ring to my home place and assure him that his Department's funding will be wisely invested in sustaining this community"

Minister Ring got to see firsthand some of the initiatives funded under his Department's Schemes. He viewed the newly developed car park at the Rower Inistioge Club grounds, and he was shown the Winter Gardens at Woodstock House which are currently being restored with funding being provided under the Minister's Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) funding.

The Minister was briefed on the potential of developments at Woodstock, particularly in relation to a partnership between the Council and Coillte Ltd, who manage almost 1,000 acres of forest, which has some existing tracks and trails capable of development. The positive impact of such developments on the village of

Inistioge was of particular interest to the Minister, who continues to promote the reinvigoration of rural life, in towns and villages across the entire country.

### Destination Kilkenny

The Destination Kilkenny Partnership group met on 30<sup>th</sup> April to make progress on the four pillars of activity, with lead members making individual presentation on their plans for their area of activity, as follows:

*Plans for the four pillar activities:*

- Medieval Mile Development - Lead: *Justine Carey/Gráinne Ward*
- Evening Economy Strategy - Lead: *Justine Carey/Gráinne Ward*
- Engagement with Contemporary Culture Partners - Lead: *Naoise Nunn*
- Experience Development Initiatives connecting visitors to both City & County- Lead: *Brian Tyrrell.*

The next workshop, on the evening economy theme, is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> June, to consider how to provide a suite of compelling evening hospitality and entertainment options to ensure visitors and locals spend time and money in the Kilkenny.

### Kilkenny Tourism AGM

The annual general meeting of Kilkenny Tourism will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm in the Parade Tower Kilkenny. Guest speaker will be Ciara Sugrue, Fáilte Ireland. Brian Tyrrell will also speak about the supports being provided by Kilkenny County Council.

### Visit by Armagh Destination Study Group

A multi disciplinary study group from County Armagh visited Kilkenny on 29<sup>th</sup> May to study recent and potential developments in Kilkenny, and which bear some similarities with issues currently being addressed in Armagh. The group visited the following buildings and areas of interest:



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**Medieval Mile Museum**

- **Slips and Lanes** - Public realm projects in the city centre including the route from the Castle to the Cathedral [Ireland's Medieval Mile] with Seamus Kavanagh
- **Rothe House and Gardens** - Brief visit to the only example of an early 17<sup>th</sup> century merchant's townhouse in Ireland along with the restored Tudor gardens.
- **Abbey Quarter** - Senior Planner, Denis Malone, displayed drawings and master plan for the mixed use area and six individual key plots within the overall site.
- The group then visited Highbank Orchard to compare the apple industry of Kilkenny and Armagh.

**Festivals and Event Grants 2018**

Members, at the May monthly meeting, agreed the allocation of €105,000 in festival and event grants for 2018, and agreed to a number of amendments to the operation of the grants schemes for 2019:

- i. Festivals and Events to be split into two separate funding streams ( Festivals, and Community Events)
- ii. Festival funding applications to be administered by Tourism Section of Economic Development
- iii. Community Event funding applications to be administered by the Municipal District Area Offices.
- iv. 80% of the Budget for Festivals and Events to be allocated to Festival funding
- v. 20% of the Budget for Festivals and Events to be allocated to Community Events funding.

**Kilkenny Tourism in sparkling form Ireland's biggest garden expo**

The sunny weather brought the crowds in their thousands to the 11th show of 'Bloom in the park ' hosted by Bord Bia. Bloom ran from 31st of May to 4th June Kilkenny was well represented by representatives from hotels, activity providers, restaurants etc.

They were in good company with Kilkenny craft designers and food producers nearby. The OPW and Bord Bia have developed a show with a greater diversity of content than traditional garden shows with fantastic showcasing of artisan products across food, drink and horticulture. Kilkenny Tourism with their vibrant display stand were right at home!



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**ROADS**

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**N25 New Ross Bypass**

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is approximately two-thirds through, and the scheme remains on programme to open in 2019.

On the Kilkenny side of the Barrow Bridge, the approach deck spans are nearing completion. On the Wexford side, the launching of the sequential deck segments by the form traveller system from both sides of pier 4 has commenced. The construction of the approach spans on the Wexford side also continue to progress with span 6 nearing completion.

The construction of mainline pavement works are progressing at various stages along the



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western part of the scheme, and earthworks and drainage operations are progressing towards completion along the western part of the scheme. The most recent phase of the works on the N25 at Glenmore became operational on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

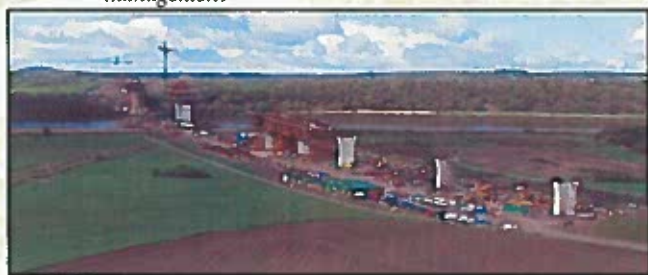
The full circulatory roundabout will be operational under temporary traffic management for this phase which is anticipated to be in place until July. The L7513 Ballyverneen Road will also re-open in the coming weeks. Also on the Kilkenny side, the bridge deck for Ballyverneen Overbridge is under construction and Glenmore Underbridge is nearing completion. Works on the railway overbridge to carry the disused Waterford to New Ross rail line is also progressing.



*Works at Glenmore Roundabout  
in preparation for full opening  
under temporary traffic  
management*



*Barrow Bridge – View from  
Kilkenny side.*



*Barrow Bridge – View from Wexford side.*

The ninth quarterly project newsletter will be published in June, and the project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic

management, road works, and contact details for the project. A further short progress video was released by Wexford County Council in May, and a longer information video will be completed shortly providing more detailed information on the project and the construction of the Barrow Bridge in particular. It is planned to present this at a Council Meeting. In addition, given the high level of public interest in the project, it is proposed to present this video to local stakeholders and interest groups, schools, chamber of commerce etc.

### N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme was officially opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 by Deputy John Paul Phelan T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform in the presence of Cllr. David FitzGerald, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council.

### TENNYPARK CROSS

*Before 2017*



*After 2018*



The contract to undertake the works was awarded to SIAC Construction Limited following a competitive tendering process and works commenced in early 2017.

The €9.5million funding required to deliver this project was provided by Transport Infrastructure Ireland under the Pavement Improvement and Minor Works Programme.

It is noted, that a significant number of landowners were affected with respect to the acquisition of lands and that residents along the route and the general public were



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inconvenienced during the construction phase of this Scheme. To this end, Kilkenny County Council wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and patience shown by all during this period.



The realigned road will improve the capacity, overall consistency and efficiency of the N76, providing more reliable journey times thereby enhancing the prospect for future development and growth within the City and region.

## WATER SERVICES

Irish Water has issued an update in relation to works on Patrick Street. The street has now reopened following significant works to replace old water mains which were the subject of constant leaks. Service connection work (approximately 30 service connections +4 offline hydrants) commenced Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and is due to be completed by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. A stop go system will be in place in order to minimise impact on traffic and local businesses. Road reinstatement is scheduled for w/c 25<sup>th</sup> June. This will require a lane closure on Patrick Street for the duration of the reinstatement works.

Later in the year Kilkenny County Council will recommence the upgrade of footpath works on the left hand side of the street as you approach the traffic lights.



Condition of  
old water main

## HOUSING

### Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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 133 units for 2018.

During the first five months of 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows;

- Construction underway on a rural house at Barna, Freshford. completion date July 2018.
- Construction in progress on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 self contained 1 bed units. Expected completion date August 2018.
- Purchase of 11 houses - sale agreed to date
- Part 8 planning permission was granted for 17 Units at Main St Piltown at the April Council meeting.
- A consultation evening was held in the Canon Malone Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> April for the Part 8 proposal for 22 Units at Station Avenue, Ballyragget.
- Stage 2 approval was received for 17 units at Piltown and 22 at Station Avenue, Ballyragget.
- Stage 4 approval was received for 38 Houses at Bolton, Callan. Pre-award discussions have commenced with the contractor.
- Tenders received for 1 house at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road.
- Construction work on 4 houses at Wetlands, Kilkenny was completed and the houses were allocated.
- A design team was appointed to work on 2 group homes at Blackstaff, Callan and Cloghabrody, Thomastown.
- 5 houses completed and allocated at Togher Way, Urlingford.
- 9 houses acquired and allocated at Abbeygate, Ferrybank.



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- 9 houses completed at Side Road, Moneenroe (Oaklee Housing) and will be allocated in late May.
- Stage 3 approval was received for 33 units at Donaguile.

### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 137 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/05/2018.

MONTH	2016	2017	2018
January	37	29	37
February	30	26	32
March	18	26	21
April	26	25	18
May	34	28	29
June	31	24	
July	31	34	
August	32	27	
September	27	24	
October	30	27	
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>137</b>

### May 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2018	2211
Number of assessment interviews carried out in May :	38
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations ( <i>offers made</i> ):	11
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 <sup>st</sup> May :	864
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	4
Anti social behaviour cases:	12
New Homeless Presentations:	29
Maintenance Calls for May 2018	344
Maintenance Calls year to date	2058
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	8
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2018	€1,040,145

### Housing List

The current Housing List at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 is 2,211 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
May 2018	2,211
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 <i>(Statutory Assessment 2016)</i>
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 <i>(Statutory Assessment 2013)</i>
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

### Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2018

The Housing Needs Assessment (Summary Report) is now underway with a number of reminders issued to applicants to renew and update their applications for social Housing Supports. The HNA will reflect the number of approved applicants on our Housing Waiting as at 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Deadline for the return of this summary report to the Department is 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Applicants who do not return completed application forms will be removed from the Housing Waiting List.

### Rent Review 2018

Tenants have been notified in writing of the rent review and completed income forms must be returned by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Tenants are required to complete the enclosed Differential Rent Form giving details of those residing in the dwelling together with the income details for all householders in receipt of any income and return to the Council in a the Freepost envelope provided on or before Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.





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**Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Scheme**

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness is the Repair & Leasing Scheme which was rolled out nationally in March 2017.

The Scheme targets owners of vacant properties as a possible source of social housing, enables funding to support necessary repairs to vacant properties and also provides the property owners with an income stream that may, otherwise, be unavailable.

A review of the scheme has been undertaken by the Dept of Housing Planning Community and Local Government wherein improvements to the Scheme have been made to improve uptake of the scheme and take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

Due to the low level of interest in the scheme, Kilkenny County Council has promoted again the scheme through the following means:

- Press Release.
- Advertisement in Kilkenny People & Munster Express.
- 2 week advertisement on KCLR
- Facebook promotion.
- Inclusion in Kilkenny County Council Community News Letter.
- Inclusion in PPN Newsletter.
- Direct link to Kilkenny County Council website from Rebuilding Ireland website.
- Designated member of staff and direct contact for scheme provided on all advertisements.

**Applications Received to Date**

To date Kilkenny County Council has received 19 Expressions of Interest:

- 1 Application is proceeding, Agreement to Lease signed
- 2 applications were deemed beyond the scope of the scheme due to the level of

finance required to bring the property to the relevant standards

- 6 applications have been inspected and request for itemisation and costing of works have issued to owners
- 2 applications were withdrawn as property for sale/sold
- 2 applications, owners decided to rent privately
- 1 application was incomplete and further information has been requested from the owner.
- 5 Applications, properties were deemed unsuitable for the scheme

**PLANNING**

Planning Summary	Total To May	
	2017	2018
Planning Applications Received	272	263
Planning Applications Granted	258	236
Planning Applications Refused	19	28
Complaints Received	35	38
Warning Letters Issued	42	27
Enforcement Notices Issued	14	14

**Forward Planning:**

**Local Area Plans:** The adopted Local Area Plan (LAP) for Castlecomer came into force on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2018.

Work has commenced on both the Local Area Plans for Callan and Thomastown. A briefing was given to the Municipal District members on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at which the commencement of both reviews was announced. A meeting with the Callan Town team to discuss the process of public consultation for the plan review also took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.



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The Callan LAP will be undertaken by consultants SLR and led by Nicolaas Louw SEE from the Planning Department

The Thomastown LAP will be completed in-house.

**County & City Development Plan:** The Council published the statutory notice on the 20<sup>th</sup> April signifying the commencement of the review of the County and City Development Plan. The Issues Paper published for the initial public consultation exercise will remain on display up until 17.00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and submissions can be made until the end of that period.

Three public meetings were held to highlight the consultation process and the commencement of the review process and the Issues Paper in particular. The first meeting was held in City Hall on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, the second in Mullinavat on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May and the third in Ballyragget on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Various presentations were made at the meetings and in general all meetings were well attended. There was also a meeting held (on 29<sup>th</sup> May) specifically on the subject matter of Retailing with a representative group from the Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce. All material is now available on our dedicated Development Plan website, [ourplan.kilkenny.ie](http://ourplan.kilkenny.ie). Submissions can be made on line through [consult.kilkenny.ie](http://consult.kilkenny.ie) by email through [ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie) or by post to the Senior Planner Planning Department County Hall Johns Street Kilkenny up to 5 pm on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

### ***NPF and RSES***

The Council held a workshop on the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) on 31<sup>st</sup> May last. Among the issues discussed was the necessity for the local authorities in the South East to agree the priority projects that will need

to be advanced to allow the region to fulfill its potential. These include:

- Deliver multi-campus Technological University of The South East
- Development of Ports
- Develop extended runway at Waterford Airport
- Improve Waterford to Dublin rail service, via Carlow and Kilkenny
- Upgrade N24 to motorway standard
- Improve N80 and N25 to appropriate national primary standard
- Redress the imbalance in FDI investment
- Prioritise key regional strengths in agric-food; life sciences; engineering; financial services and design
- Double tourism visitor numbers
- Upgrade broadband to international standards
- Develop key urban strategic regeneration sites (e.g. Abbey Quarter)
- Ensure key infrastructure outlined in the PLUTS is delivered
- Ensure that Health Services are developed appropriate to meet the needs of the region.

### ***Conservation***

#### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme Awards 2018 & Structures at Risk Fund awards 2018**

Work is continuing on the administration of both of these schemes and construction works are due to start by the end of June.

Repair and conservation of Mount Sandford Castle and the boundary wall at Woodstock has been completed in conjunction with Coillte. The archaeological survey is nearing completion and repair will commence by the end of June. This project is being funded through the town and village renewal scheme, with co-funding from Kilkenny County Council.

### ***Taking-in-Charge***

Aylesbury Estate is a residential development of 50 dwellings located in Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny.



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The process to take Aylesbury Estate in charge was initiated last April.

- Glenbaun/Glendine Woods housing schemes in Kilkenny City and Riverside Park, Urlingford taking in charge is placed on the June agenda for consideration by the members.
- Remedial works to Ardglass housing estate in Ferrybank will commence this month in advance of taking in charge.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Anti-Dumping Initiative

Funding of €40,000 has been allocated from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Kilkenny County Council will use some of this funding towards a "Free Mattress Drop-Off Day" on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 12.00noon to 4.00pm at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Site. Members of the public will be able to dispose of old mattresses for free.

#### Amenity Grants

At the May Council Meeting, a total of €127,000 was approved to 152 community groups and residents associations across the County under the Amenity Grants Scheme to help them maintain their recreational amenities. All applicants have now been notified.

#### Graveyard Grant Scheme

The Graveyard Grant Scheme was launched and publicised widely earlier this year. A total of 21 applications have been received. The budget allocation is €10,000. 17 of the applications received will be recommended (Round 1) for approval at the June Council Meeting.

The remaining applications are premature, as they require further liaison with either the Department of Arts, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA), the Conservation Officer and/or the Heritage Officer. These

applicants have been advised to seek the necessary information so that funding can be considered in Round 2.

#### Draft Noise Action Plan

The Draft Noise Action Plan 2019 -2023 is currently on public display until 11<sup>th</sup> July, and submissions may be made up to 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 as follows:

- online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or
- by e-mail to [noiseplan2019-2023@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:noiseplan2019-2023@kilkennycoco.ie) or
- in writing to the Environment Section, County Hall, Kilkenny.

#### Water Safety

A great night took place in Kilkenny County Council on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 when certificates were presented to the newly qualified Lifeguards by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Fitzgerald.

There were 20 new Lifeguards receiving their certificates along with 10 revalidations following a comprehensive training programme delivered by Kilkenny Water Safety Examiners, Instructors and Swim Teachers.

Cllr. Peter Cleere attended together with Kilkenny Water Safety Chairman and Members. Also in attendance were Catherine Millea and Joan McLoughlin from Kilkenny County Council.





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Presentation was made to Eoin Bolger from Graiguenamanagh in recognition of a courageous rescue he conducted on the River Barrow last year. He also received a Just In Time Award at Dublin Castle.



Photo from right: Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Eoin Bolger, Joan McLoughlin, WSDO and Gary Knox Chairman of Kilkenny Water Safety.

**Lifeguards On Duty - Rivers Nore & Barrow**

Lifeguards will be on duty from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. each day seven days per week from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at the following locations:-

- The Meadows, Kilkenny City
- The Weir, Bleach Road, Kilkenny City
- Thomastown
- Inistioge
- Graiguenamanagh

Lifeguards will be on duty at weekends only during month of June, 2018. (Sat/Sun/Bank Holiday only) from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

**WATER SAFETY SUMMER WEEKS**

*Graiguenamanagh Water Safety Week:*

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

- Registration at location on Sunday at 3 pm
- Monday to Friday commencing at 7 pm to 8.30 approx
- Time for Saturday will be advised to participants
- Swimming for children from aged 5 upwards

- Water Safety for teenagers from aged 12 upwards
- CPR Training for all suitable classes included
- Fee approx €15 per week per child/teenager
- Certificates will be awarded on successful completion
- Lifeguards will be on duty during lessons

*Thomastown Water Safety Week:  
Date to be confirmed shortly.*

**Update on RMCEI Plan**

Inspection Plant	Number of Inspections
CRM Complaints	114
Litter City Patrols	30
Litter County Patrols	45
Bottle Bank Surveillance	12
Bottle Bank Visits	28
Litter Fines Issued	2
Farm Inspections	3
Environmental Planning Recommendations	3
Environmental Planning Site Inspections	2
Nutrient Management Plan Assessments	2
Deco Paint Regulations	6
River Bank Walks	1
River Bank Walk Farm Inspections	3
WFD Monitoring	42
WFD Investigative Monitoring	16
Ambient Monitoring	18
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	54
Other SW/GW protection inspections	3

**PARKS**

**Playgrounds**

The Parks Department continue to maintain and upgrade playgrounds around the County. Upgrades are currently underway in Woodstock Gardens playground to develop a natural play area and outdoor classroom to support our



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**Forest School Programme.** A funding application has been made to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for funding under the National Play and Recreation scheme. Construction has also commenced on two new community led playgrounds at Clogh and Mullinavat. Following successful completion and certification Kilkenny County Council will take these playgrounds in charge for ongoing maintenance and include them on the weekly inspection regime.

#### Greenway

A funding call is expected very shortly for funding for the development of Greenways throughout the country. With this in mind efforts are underway to be 'shovel ready' when funding is announced for the Kilkenny Greenway. Planning permission is now in place and the procurement process for the detailed design will be undertaken shortly in conjunction with Wexford County Council. The aim is to develop the New Ross Redbridge Walking Trail at the same time so as the two projects will link directly to one another.

#### Woodstock Gardens

Preparations are well underway for the Entente Florale in Inistioge in July 2018. After a difficult Spring, ground conditions remained poor into May. However, new planting of shrubs and trees, removal of fallen trees and repair of grounds in Woodstock is now almost complete with planting of new beds and improvements to signage also underway. The tea shop in Woodstock is now open seven days per week and the busy tourist season is already evident with increases in visitor numbers to the gardens.



*Aerial view of the Walled Garden*

#### Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

An appointment for a consultant to advance the detailed design of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park has just been awarded with a final design expected in July 2018, to be followed by tendering and specification and appointment of contractors for the construction works. It is hoped that on site works will commence in Autumn, 2018. This Park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding with match funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities.

#### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

##### National Enterprise Awards

Eoin Treacy, Glanway Ltd, based in Belview port represented Kilkenny at the 2018 National Enterprise Awards, a competition organised by the network of Local Enterprise Offices, in the Mansion House, Dublin on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Eoin set up the company in 2015 to develop an innovative waste processing line which removes recyclables and organics from waste, transforming the remainder into Refuse Derived Fuels (RDF), which it exports to energy facilities in Europe. Present on the night was An Cathaoirleach, Cllr David Fitzgerald and Fiona Deegan, Head of Enterprise with the Local Enterprise Office.



The Local Enterprise Offices celebrated '20 Years of Winners' at this year's National Enterprise Awards, which was originally set up in 1998 to celebrate the achievements of Ireland's micro-enterprises and small businesses.



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**Brexit Breakfast**

Kilkenny County Council in conjunction with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, Kilkenny IFA and the Local Enterprise Office, with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network hosted a Brexit Seminar on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Newpark Hotel.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Fitzgerald welcomed An Tánaiste, Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Brexit to an audience of 240 attendees. The Tánaiste outlined the various milestones associated with Brexit negotiations and also the Government initiatives which are available to assist Irish businesses and the Irish economy to prepare for Brexit.



A panel discussion also took place, facilitated by economist Jim Power. The panel consisted of Kilkenny based entrepreneurs:

- Terry Clune, Founder & CEO, Taxback;
- Ann-Marie McSorley, Founder & CEO, VERI;
- Michael Collins, CFO, Connolly RED MILLS;
- Susan Maher, Agri. Development Manager, Bank of Ireland, and
- Damian McDonald, Director General, IFA.

The panel provided their opinions in relation to the challenges and possible opportunities that may arise from Brexit and also outlined their preparations in advance of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 when the UK is officially due to exit as an EU member state.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards 2018:**

A call for applications for the 2018 Bank of Irelands Enterprising Town Awards has resulted in 4 applications being submitted from Kilkenny. Kilkenny City submitted an application in the Large Town category (i.e. population of 10,000+) while Castlecomer, Piltown & Graiguenamangh made applications under the Small Town category (i.e. <5000 population.).

The total prize money is €157,000. Judging will commence in mid August. Winners will be announced at the national awards ceremony taking place this year at the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny in November.

**Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF):**

The Economic Development Unit are supporting the development of 2 project applications under the Enterprise Ireland REDF.

The first is supporting the establishment of a Precision Agriculture Centre of Excellence (PACE). The PACE project is being led by WIT and its objective is to deliver advanced ICT solutions that can be adapted for the agri-food sector.

The second project relates to supporting the establishment of a Centre for Design (C4D). This project is led by the Institute of Technology, Carlow and aims to build on the rich legacy and reputation created by the Kilkenny Design Workshops.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 25<sup>th</sup> June next.



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### LIBRARY SERVICES

#### Kilkenny Library Service May 2018



24K  
visits



30K  
items  
borrowed



925  
members



#### 667 attend Library events during Bealtaine Festival

667 people attended over 60 free events organised this year to celebrate creativity during the National Bealtaine Festival. "Be Our Guest" is this year's theme, so libraries were the perfect setting for social engagement and personal development in a welcoming space.

This year, we incorporated a new strand of outreach activities, to include events in day care centres and nursing homes so that the programme is inclusive of everyone. Highlights of our programme included:

- Alzheimer's Tea Day,
- Melodies, Music and Memories Singalongs,
- lunchtime guitar recitals,
- 2D Needle Felting Classes,
- Making a Will talk,
- Irish Heart Foundation mobile visits with free blood pressure checks, and
- "Where Old Ghosts Meet- Patrick Kavanagh through poetry, prose and song."

#### Coming in June:



Summer Stars Reading Challenge begins 19<sup>th</sup> June. Last year over 1,000 children participated.



National Cruinniú na nÓg takes places in libraries across the county on 23<sup>rd</sup> June for children & teenagers to celebrate creativity & culture



Kilkenny Library Service will be installing self service kiosks in each library branch over the coming weeks.



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

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## APPENDIX 1

### FINANCE REPORT - JUNE 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of May is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €30.7m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD May 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	6,762	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	8,722	20,108
Water Services	2,538	6,579
Development Management	3,429	8,693
Environmental Services	3,644	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	2,437	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	228	637
Miscellaneous Services	2,894	6,526
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>30,654</b>	<b>74,151</b>

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the five months to the end of May.

Collection rates on all the main income streams are slightly higher in comparison to last year. Commercial Rates collection levels are 2% up from the same period last year.

LPT Notice of Consideration of Setting a Local Adjustment Factor, will be advertised in the Kilkenny People / website on 6th July, for prescribed 30 days public consultancy period. Meeting to decide the adjustment factor will be held in September as part of the annual Budget process.

The Local Government Auditor commenced the annual audit on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and is due to close end of June.