



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

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

Household Bulky Goods Disposal Day at our Dunmore Civic Amenity Centre on the 19th and 20th July.

Sunday 21st July 2019 Fairytale Festival in Woodstock Gardens.

Monday 22nd July visit of Minister Jim Daly Age Friendly, St Lukes, MacDonagh Junction and Thomastown Age Friendly Plan Launch.

Creative Ireland 2019 Programme. Deadline for applications: 7th August at 5pm

Water Heritage Day 25th August 2019

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE

Local Elections 2019 - Statistics

Total Electorate	74,251
Total Poll	39,364
% Turnout	53%
Total Invalid Votes	700
% of Invalid Votes	1.7%
Total Valid Poll	38,664
No. of Seats to be filled	24

Results of Election

Fianna Fáil - 11 Seats	Cllr Eamon Aylward, Cllr Peter Cleere, Cllr John Coonan, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Michael Delaney, Cllr Matt Doran, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr Ger Frisby, Cllr Joe Malone, Cllr Michael McCarthy, Cllr Andrew McGuinness
Fine Gael - 9 Seats	Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Martin Brett, Cllr MH Cavanagh, Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Patrick O'Neill
Labour - 2 Seats	Cllr Tomás Breathnach, Cllr Denis Hynes
Green Party - 1 Seat	Cllr Malcolm Noonan
Independent - 1 Seat	Cllr Eugene McGuinness

NEW COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Meetings of Kilkenny County Council

Chairpersons Appointed

Kilkenny County Council	Cllr Peter Cleere
Callan-Thomastown Municipal District	Cllr Patrick O'Neill
Castlecomer Municipal District	Cllr John Brennan
Kilkenny City Municipal District	Cllr Martin Brett
Piltown Municipal District	Cllr Eamon Aylward

ROADS

National Roads

N25 New Ross Bypass

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

The very informative project website www.n25newross.ie is available for updates on progress.

A image of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy bridge under construction in late June 2019:



Pavement Schemes.



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1. **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 approximately 40% completed. It is expected to be completed towards the end of Q3 2019.
2. Other pavement schemes on the N76 Kilkenny to Callan Road are advancing through detailed design and contract preparation.

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. Documents are presently being prepared in respect of the CPO for that scheme.

The preparation of design and planning documents for the N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme and the N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme are advancing.

Kilkenny County Council signed contract documents with Atkins Consulting on the 26th June in respect of the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme. This is a major scheme of approx. 10km linking the new New Ross By-Pass and the existing Waterford By-Pass. Atkins are tasked with bringing this scheme through detailed design and statutory approval.

Kilkenny County Council has received approval from TII to proceed to engage consultants to advance the design and planning of the N24 Waterford to Cahir improvement scheme. This is another major scheme encompassing approximately 60km.

Kilkenny County Council shall act as Lead Authority and operate under a Section 85 agreement with Tipperary County Council in

relation to those areas in their jurisdiction within the scheme area.

Other Projects:

Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council has entered a Section 85 agreement with Kildare County Council and specifically the Bridge Design Office attached to Kildare RDO to progress this scheme. RPS consultants have been appointed consultants. It is expected that a planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanála during Q3 2019.

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.

Public Lighting on the Non-National Road Network.

Kilkenny County Council through Better Energy Communities 2019 (BEC) has been awarded funding for the retrofit of approximately 1,005 lanterns at a cost €209,000. 30% will be funded by SEAI and the remainder by Kilkenny County Council. This will be the third phase of the public lighting energy upgrade following on from 2017 (1,300 lanterns) & 2018 (2,240 lanterns) projects.

Thomastown Culvert.

The works on the Thomastown Culvert are approximately 90% complete. Minor outstanding works are required within the culvert and also some minor accommodation works.

Non-National roads

An allocation of €13.77m was received for the maintenance and improvement of regional & local roads throughout Kilkenny County & City for 2019. These monies contribute to the planned improvements of roads which have been



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identified as requiring strengthening, surface maintenance or other works such as drainage, Bridge Rehabilitation, and safety improvements. We have currently approximately 70% of the strengthening and surface maintenance works complete which are very weather dependent. Other works such as Bridge Rehabilitation and Safety Improvement schemes are progressing through design and tender.

Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure

SIAC Construction Limited were appointed by Kilkenny County Council as the successful contractor for the construction of the Western Environs enabling infrastructure on February 26th 2019. Construction works commenced on site on March 4th with an expected contract duration of 18 months (planned completion date September 2020).

WATER SERVICES

Inistioge Water Supply Scheme

Works (18.7 Km pipelines, 3 Reservoirs, 2 new boreholes) are substantially complete. Drilling of the River Nore crossing and installation of new mains is now complete. The new borehole (BH4) at Thomastown GAA Field has been brought into operation, allowing an existing borehole (BH5) at the Old Thomastown Creamery site to be taken out of operation for inspection. Upon inspection, the existing borehole (BH5) was found to have reached the end of its useful life. A new borehole will now be drilled, work commencing 08/07/19, at the same site in close proximity to the existing borehole (BH5). Commissioning of the various works elements continuing with scheme completion expected at the end of August '19.

Mullinavat and Inistioge Waste Water Treatment Plants

Planning Permission has been granted for the Project. Site investigations are complete. Land and Wayleave acquisitions substantially complete. CPO to be advertised mid-July '19 for the one remaining site in Mullinavat. Contractor (Glan Agua) appointed in Feb '19. Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) form of contract.

Kilkenny Drainage Area Plan

Consultant (Nicholas O'Dwyer) has been appointed. The proposal is to map and model the existing sewerage network in the City and Environs for current and proposed population growth. Advanced survey of the 'Bregagh Valley Sewer & Branches' completed in mid Feb'19 with subsequent hydraulic modelling continuing. Contractor (RPS Ltd.) appointed for Kilkenny DAP main contract. Surveys ongoing with works expected to be complete by end of Dec'19.

Gowran Regional Water Supply Scheme

Pre-Planning meeting with KCC held Nov '18. Site investigations completed in Dec '18. Submission of Planning Application is expected in early July '19. Preparation of documents ongoing with intention of procuring the works through a Design-Build contract.

Kilkenny City Water Supply Scheme

Kilkenny City WSS - Currently awaiting outcome of Planning Appeal. CPO Oral Hearing held on 29th May 2018. Further information requested by ABP on the 24th July 2018. RFI submitted on 24th December 2018. Tendering process was put on hold in October 2018 and was re-launched in Q1 2019. Still waiting decision from An Bord Pleanála



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Mains Rehab works

Kilkenny Tranche 5 Mains Rehabilitation

Discussions have commenced with Irish Water.

- It is proposed to carry out 5.6km of mains rehab work on the **Bennettsbridge WS** at Norelands/Knockanore, Bishopslough & Tullaherin)
- **Thomastown WS** at Newtown Terrace approx. 390m
- **Callan WS** at Collins Park approx. 350m

Construction works to commence late 2019/early 2020.

Water Conservation

- Leak detection and leak repair is currently ongoing in Bennettsbridge WS through the Find & Fix Water Network Programme. To date 79 leaks have been repaired on the water network within Bennettsbridge WS. This has provided an overall water production reduction of 224m³/day from January 2019 to May 2019.
- An initial leak detection sweep has been carried out within Castlecomer. Further water network infrastructure improvements are required within Castlecomer to assist the leak detection.

Rural Water

Kilkenny County Council has sought funding of €2.3m from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for the upcoming Capital Works Programme 2019-2021 and is awaiting confirmation of allocation. Works on a number of schemes will commence as soon as the funding is announced.

Taking In Charge

Molassy Public Group Water Scheme in Callan was officially taken in charge by Irish Water in March 2019.

Newtown Ballinearla No.2 Public Group Water Scheme in Kilmacow is in the process of being taken in charge for Q3 2019.

Rationalisation/ Amalgamation

Kilkenny County Council assisted by the National Federation of Group Water Schemes has been in contact with Private Group Water Schemes Committees regarding Rationalisation/ Amalgamation of Private Group Water Schemes in the County. This involves several neighbouring GWSs forming a single entity where the GWS organises as a Co-Operative and employs a Manager under a Contract to run each scheme. Where proximity and topography are favourable some GWSs can be physically linked and amalgamated. Approximately 20 Private Group Water Schemes have been contacted and the feedback is very positive. Further meetings will take place in late 2019/2020.

PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total To June	
	2018	2019
Planning Applications Received	441	456
Planning Applications Granted	360	362
Planning Applications Refused	35	38
Complaints Received	52	66
Warning Letters Issued	42	72
Enforcements Notices Issued	18	21
Cases Closed	37	67

There is a 3.4% increase in planning application up to end of June this year compared to the same period last year.



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The number of complaints received year to date in 2019 is up by 26 % and the number of cases closed by the Planning Enforcement has increased by over 80% from 37 to 67 compared to the same period last year.

Forward Planning:

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Regional Assembly is currently processing the proposed material amendments to the Draft RSES. The material amendments will be placed on public display before adoption of the RSES by the Assembly. It is anticipated that final adoption of the RSES will take place in Q4 of 2019.

City & County Development Plan:

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

All survey work and compilation of data for the retail strategy is now complete and an initial draft report is expected shortly. Briefing sessions will be arranged for the members along with further stakeholder engagement later in the summer. Consultants have been appointed for the preparation of a Masterplan for the Loughmacask area of the City which will replace the existing Local Area Plan in that area.

Vacant Sites

- There are now 33 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 13 of these are liable for the 3% levy.
- The Finance section has issued payment demands on all 13, and 2 sites have had their levy discharged to date.
- For the 21 sites added to the Register for 2018, valuations were carried out and the owners were notified of these valuations. The owners

have a period of 28 days after the date of the notice to lodge an appeal with the Valuation Tribunal, and two such appeals were lodged to date.

- The number of cancelled entries due to site activations now stands at 9 sites

Conservation

- The implementation of the two conservation grants, the Built Heritage and Investment Scheme, and the Historic Structures Fund, continues with works commencing on the approved projects.
- Conservation assistance is being provided on the Callan Residential Occupancy Pilot Scheme Project for Upper Bridge Street with a view to maximising the potential for regenerating the street.

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 are continuing at

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



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LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



Kilkenny entrepreneur heading for 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' National Final

John Duggan, Director and co-founder of Loanitt Ltd was announced as a National Finalist for the IBYE Best Idea category at an awards ceremony held in the Step House Hotel, Borris, Carlow on Wednesday 19th June. John along with his co-founder Pdraig Nolan recently formed a Fintech company that is currently at an advanced stage of development in providing a cutting-edge technology platform that streamlines the credit application process for all stakeholders. The company are currently in the process of recruiting an IT software developer.

At the IBYE Regional Final, three local business owners and new start-ups from Kilkenny, all under the age of 35, went head-to-head with other county winners from Carlow, Wicklow and Wexford. The three young entrepreneurs representing the county at the Regional Final were:

- Best Established Business; Rory Gannon, Cakeface

John now faces tough competition from 23 other finalists, emerging from eight regional finals. The €100,000 investment fund will be presented in Google Foundry, Dublin on Sunday 15th September. The investment fund is divided up across four prizes:

- Best New Idea (€15,000 investment)
- Best Start Up (€20,000 investment)
- Best Established Business (€20,000 investment)
- Overall Winner of 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' (an additional €20,000 investment)

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2019

€395,836 has been approved in 2019 to 20 businesses linked to the creation of 55 jobs over a 3-year period;

229 entrepreneurs received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business;

422 participants attended 27 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;

147 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO staff to discuss starting a business or growing an existing business;

74 participants attended 5 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;

12 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €26,092 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;

7 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets;

- Best Business Idea; John Duggan, Loanitt Ltd
- Best Business Start Up; Jens Kopke, Motoklik



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6 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;
23 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 - As follows	599	190
-Build		114
-Acquisition		46
- Leasing		30
		190
HAP/RAS		184
All Streams		374

Schemes completed during June 2019

- 16 Units at Friary Walk, Callan (Cluid AHB)
- 4 Apartments Love Lane, Castlecomer (Co-operative Housing)

Schemes under Construction at 30th June 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 54 units Ballybough Street, KK (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, KK
- 17 Units at Breagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan
- 6 Units at Mooncoin

Construction Schemes to start:

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

Schemes at Part 8 Stage:

- Development of 6 houses at Smithlands Kilkenny (Parcnagowan)
- Development of 2 Apartments at the Old Fire Station, Graigenamanagh
- Development of 6 houses at Golf Links Road, (Mulhall's Shop) Kilkenny

16 units completed at Park Avenue, Friary Walk, Callan, Kilkenny



17 units under construction at Breagh Place, Main Street, Piltown



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June Monthly Statistics

JUNE 2019 HOUSING	
Number awaiting social housing support at 26 th June (Gross Need)	1,907
Number of Assessment interviews carried out in June	41
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made)	8
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th June	883
Number of LA tenancies surrendered	0
Anti-Social Behaviour Cases	12
New Homeless Presentations	14
Maintenance Calls for March 2019	372
Maintenance Calls year to-date	2,382
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	8
Amount of Loans Approved to 30 th June, 2019	€1,157,920

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2019

The Housing Needs Assessment (Summary Report) is now completed and reflects the number of approved applicants (**Net Need**) on our Housing Waiting List as at **24th June 2019 i.e. 821**. The Net Need figure excludes transfers, RAS and HAP. There were 259 households removed from the Housing List of which 146 households did not reply.

Housing List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 26th June is 1,907 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
26 th June 2019	1,907
December 2018	2,067
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

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	APPLS	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
Ballyhale	13	4	6	2	1
Ballyragget	44	15	20	4	5
Bennettsbridge	49	18	21	8	2
Callan	108	34	45	26	3
Castlecomer	63	29	20	13	1
Clara	1	0	0	1	0
Clogh	5	1	3	1	0
Coon	6	1	2	3	0
Ferrybank	75	23	24	27	1
Fiddown	6	3	1	2	0
Freshford	30	9	9	10	2
Glenmore	8	2	5	1	0
Goresbridge	9	3	3	2	1
Gowran	20	7	8	3	2
Graiguenamanagh	45	21	16	7	1
Hugginstown	1	1	0	0	0
Inistiogue	18	9	7	2	0
Johnstown	19	7	5	3	4
Kells	7	3	1	2	1



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Kilkenny Both	1094	403	430	224	35
Kilmacow	29	7	13	8	1
Kilmanagh	4	2	0	2	0
Kilmoganny	7	4	2	1	0
Knocktopher	5	2	2	1	0
Moneenroe	17	4	8	4	1
Mooncoin	34	9	16	9	0
Mullinavat	4	1	3	0	0
New Ross Environs	10	5	1	4	0
Paulstown	13	6	5	2	0
Piltown	38	10	13	15	0
Skeoghvosteen	1	0	1	0	0
Slieverue	10	4	1	5	0
The Rower	1	1	0	0	0
Stoneyford	5	3	1	1	0
Thomastown	72	28	23	17	4
Tullaroan	1	1	0	0	0
Urlingford	32	8	15	5	4
Windgap	3	0	2	1	0
Total	1907	688	732	418	69

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%.

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;

Grants Approved 30 th June 2019		
Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD Housing Adaptation Grant	77	€902,792
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	20	€112,195
HOP Housing Aid for Older Persons	197	€1,034,227

Total	294	€2,049,214
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Grants Paid out to 30th June 2019:

Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	34	€387,958
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	12	€61,998
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	76	€364,473
Total	122	€814,429

Housing Loan Activity

Housing Loan Activity at 30 th June, 2019					
Loan Type	App lic R'cd	Appli c App.	Amt App	N o. Pa id	Amt Paid
Annuity/RI Home Loan	18	8	1,157,920	7	1,091,675
Reconstructi on Loan	1	0	0	0	0
Caravan Loan	1	1	6,160	1	6,160
Total	20	9	1,164,080	8	1,097,835

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.

	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	34	15	14
Total	176	168	152	103

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP):

Kilkenny County Council has, pursuant to the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, prepared a Draft



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Traveller Accommodation Programme for Kilkenny for the period July 1st 2019 to June 30th 2024. Copies of the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 are available for public inspection at:

- County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.
- Area Offices at Callan, Castlecomer, Ferrybank & Thomastown
- On the Council's Website - www.kilkennycoco.ie

Submissions on the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme can be made in writing before **Friday July 26th 2019** to: **Housing Section, Kilkenny County Council, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny.**

HERITAGE

Pollinator Surveys at County Hall & Dunmore Landfill

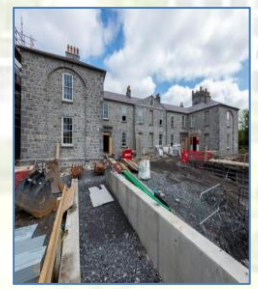
The Heritage Office, in partnership with the Parks Dept, has commissioned surveys of the flora & habitats at County Hall & Dunmore Landfill. The aim is to identify how the Council can best manage these areas to support pollinators such as bees. Both areas are rich in wildflowers. This project is part of Kilkenny County Council's support of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan* & supports Strategic Priority 1 of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategies (Arts, Heritage & Libraries 2018-2022).



Wildflowers, including the bee orchid (right), at Dunmore Landfill

Children re-discovering the history of Evan's Home

The Heritage Office, in partnership with Butler Gallery, ran children's workshops on Sat 15th June for Cruinnúí na N'Og (national day of culture & creativity) at Evan's Home, to teach children about the 800 years of history uncovered during archaeological investigations commissioned by Kilkenny County Council at the site and to highlight the restoration and re-development of Evan's Home as the new Butler Gallery. Funding was provided by Creative Ireland. This project supports Strategic Priority 4 of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategies (Arts, Heritage & Libraries 2018-2022)



Training the trainers - Biodiversity Training for Kilkenny's Primary School Teachers

The Heritage Office provided support and funding to the Kilkenny Education Centre to run a training course (1st - 5th July) for 20 primary teachers around the County to support them to teach their students about Kilkenny's biodiversity.

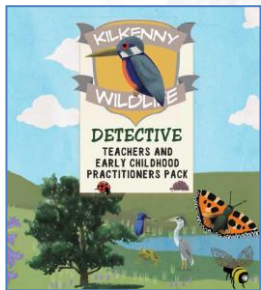
The course used the new *Kilkenny Wildlife Detective* teaching resource which has been specifically developed by the Heritage Office to highlight the plants, animals and habitats which teachers and students can easily find in County



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Kilkenny. The *Kilkenny Wildlife Detective pack* will be formally launched in the autumn.

Funding was received from the National Biodiversity Action Plan grant from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This project supports Strategic Priority 4 of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategies (Arts, Heritage & Libraries 2018-2022).



Woodstock Trails –The Riverside paths overlook the beautiful River Nore.



Above – a stunning view of the 10 arch bridge in Inistioge which is visible from Mount Sandford Castle, now accessible and signposted from the new Woodstock Trails.

PARKS

Woodstock Gardens

Work is now complete on the upgrade of the Woodstock Loop Walks with to 3.5 km of trails completed at the end of June. Seating has been installed at strategic locations along the route especially where views are open through the canopy to the river below. The trails connect Inistioge village to Woodstock Gardens via the Woodstock estate. This project is being carried out with the support of Coillte who manage the wider Woodstock estate and commercial woodlands.

This project is part funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Fund, the aim of which is to improve outdoor trail infrastructure across the country. Funding of €337,552 was received with €84,388 matching funding being provided by the Local Authority.





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Above some larger than life new residents of Woodstock, happy amongst the wildflowers and the trees.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Tenders have now been received for both the park's main civil works and the specialist playground equipment. Following this process, a meeting was held with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The Parks Department is awaiting final approval from the Department of the project to proceed. 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. It is anticipated that works will begin on site in early September.



Playgrounds

Works are underway to give the playground in the Fair Green in Callan a facelift. This playground is 13 years old. Some items are understandably showing wear and tear. The works will involve upgrading the safety surfacing, replacing fencing around the junior play area and painting of equipment. Two new pieces of equipment will be added shortly to provide more variety in the play offering. This work is being carried out as part of the overall Fair Green Regeneration scheme. Other works such as tree planting and seating areas will be added in the autumn months.

Pollinator Areas

The Parks section continues to manage several areas in the city and county in a sustainable way to support pollinators which are in decline nationally and internationally due mainly to habitat loss. One such project at the Peace Park is currently in full bloom and buzzing with insects attracted to the scented range of perennials.



Bombus hortorum, the bumble bee on some highly scented Cat mint in the peace Park

COMMUNITY

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019

The Council has submitted 12 applications for funding under the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme as follows:



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Location	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding applied for
Stoneyford	Pedestrian walkway form Stoneyford towards Ennisnag	165,000	€100,000
Turf Mkt Graig	Public Toilets and car parking	229,190	€100,000
Kilmanagh	Refurbish of old School house	95,890	€76,700
The Rover	Public realm and safety works	114,500	€91,600
Kilmacow	Phase 2 public realm and safety works	133,000	€100,000
Higginstown	Phase 2 public realm and safety works	125,000	€100,000
Slieverue	Looped walk, public lighting, public realm and safety works	250,150	€200,000
Urlingford & Johnstown	Health Check	25,000	€20,000
Thomastown	Health Check	25,000	€20,000
Mullinavat	Health Check	25,000	€20,000
Goresbridge	Health Check	25,000	€20,000
Castlecomer	Health Check	25,000	€20,000

It is expected that decisions will issue in October.

Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018.

The Council has received 16 applications under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2019. A report and recommendation will be brought to Council for consideration at its July meeting.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

In response to the 2nd call under the RRDF from the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding in respect of Category 1 proposals Kilkenny County Council is developing

applications for 2 areas Piltown and Graiguenamanagh. The deadline for submission of applications is Tuesday 6th August.

Callan Town Renewal Plan

The 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.



Kilkenny LCDC held its meeting on 3rd May 2019.

It heard from Breda Fell - South East Regional Family Support Network (SEFSN). The following topics were covered in the presentation:-

The role of the organisation is to offer peer family support groups for families affected by substance use of a relative. It was set up in 2004. The SEFSN offers listening and supports in a confidential and non-judgemental way and provide information on local treatment and community services in the various areas. Matters discussed included the issues affecting families in Kilkenny communities, isolation, resources, education, awareness, mental health and a drug related intimidation programme.

The LCDC also heard from the PPN as follows: The first Plenary of 2019 took place and 86 members attended on the night. A new PPN Support Worker commenced employment with the PPN. In connection with Biodiversity Week,



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Kilkenny PPN is undertaking two climate action workshops. The Access for all Committee will host two training programmes for interested businesses and organisations who have registered. Preparations are currently being undertaken for the forthcoming PPN Election process which will take place after the Local Elections.

The Big Hello Grants Allocated

27 grants between €200 and €400 were allocated to different community groups with events to take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Strategic Update/Issues - Kilkenny County Council

Colette Byrne Chief Executive Officer gave an update to the LCDC on strategic issues with Kilkenny County Council which included an update on Breagh Valley Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF), Abbey Quarter, Evans Home, The Tholsel, Woodstock, Town & Village Renewal and the challenges facing Kilkenny County Council

A short discussion took place following the Chief Executives presentation on the public need to be more aware of where Kilkenny County Council obtains its funding, the viability and vitality of High Street, parking costs and the possibility of a third level facility in Kilkenny.

LCDC Funding Schemes.

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 needs it most.

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

Men's/Women's Shed Funding

Additional funding of €0.5m has been allocated nationally to the Community Enhancement Programme. **This is ring-fenced for small capital grants for Men's and Women's Sheds.** Funding is allocated to each Local Authority based on the number of Men's Sheds affiliated to the Irish Men's Shed's Association in each area. Kilkenny LCDC's allocation is €11,780.

All Sheds in the County will be invited to apply for funding. It envisaged that this funding would, in general, be allocated in a relatively equal manner across Sheds that submit valid applications. Kilkenny LCDC will be in direct contact with each Shed in the City/County. It is envisaged that an application closing date will be early September.



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Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 3 will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021. **Kilkenny LCDC** has been allocated **€184,000** to recruit a Coordinator and implement a programme of work under HIF during the 2-year period. This consists of €107,000 in Year 1 and a further €77,000 in Year 2 subject to budget approval.

Projects must be approved by Pobail.

The LCDC is considering the scheme and it will decide on proposals to be submitted to Pobail which are in line with the LCDC's Healthy Ireland Plan which covers the following Strategic Areas:

Strategic Area 1- Cross-cutting actions requiring a multiple agencies to provide solutions to gaps

Strategic Area 2- Physical activity and the engagement of the whole population as well as targeted approaches to those that are hard to reach/engage

Strategic Area 3- Healthy eating and access to information, facilities and low-cost healthy options

Strategic Area 4- Tobacco-cessation programmes for whole population, young people, early school leavers, Traveller population

Strategic Area 5- Sexual Health – whole population, young people, men, LGBTI community

Strategic Area 6- Preventing Alcohol related harm – community supports

Strategic Area 7 – Mental Well-being-counselling and broader community engagement/positive well-being approaches



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.

The Plan was presented to the Age Friendly Alliance at its most recent meeting.

The Thomastown Age Friendly Plan will be formally launched by Minister Jim Daly,



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Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People, in Thomastown on Monday 22nd July 2019.

Age Friendly Business

A total of 61 business's in Kilkenny City and County joined the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme and all have been presented with their Charters at a ceremony held in Kilkenny Castle. There are a number of businesses interested in joining the programme. .

Minister Jim Daly will formally acknowledge the Age Friendly Business Programme at an event to be held at MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre on Monday 22nd July 2019.

Age Friendly Libraries.

All Local Authorities are implementing the Age Friendly County Programme by identifying (on a pilot basis) libraries that can be progressed to age friendly status. It is envisaged that most libraries can implement low cost/no cost measures. Currently age friendly measures are being implemented in Graiguenamanagh Library which will be Kilkenny's first Age Friendly Library.

St Luke's Hospital-Kilkenny First Age Friendly Hospital.

Since the St Luke's General Hospital Carlow-Kilkenny Age Friendly Hospitals Steering Group was established in June 2016, it has developed and implemented a number of age friendly improvements. Membership of the committee includes staff from the hospital and community and key groups including Kilkenny Seniors Forum, who share a common commitment to make St Luke's more accessible and welcoming for older people.

In addition to the audits and surveys carried out in 2016 and 2017, a Walkability Audit was carried out in April 2018 by people with disabilities and their carers.

The Action Plan was progressed in 2018 in relation to the physical environment and the following initiatives were completed relating to outdoor spaces and buildings. The following has now been completed:

- Two Age Friendly parking spaces have been introduced in the main hospital car park close to the North (main) Entrance.
- Electronic signage was installed at the hospital entrances.
- Internal electronic signage was installed in 2018.
- Additional beam seating has been provided along the corridors to accommodate older people who may find the new link corridors long.
- Two soft armchairs were installed in the Emergency Department for older people.
- Signage was re-done in the new part of the hospital.
- Plans commenced for the development of colour coded directional floor signage, which will be completed in 2019.
- St Luke's Hospital is committed to providing a bus stop close to the main (north) hospital entrance as part of the new Kilkenny City bus service,
- The hospital now has a drop off area for taxis and patients/visitors at the new hospital entrance.
- ZEN Café in At Luke's is one of the 61 businesses which joined the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme.



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In addition other health care age friendly measures have been implemented as follows:

- St Luke's was one of six acute hospitals nationally chosen to be a pilot site for the HSE's National Healthcare Communication Programme which focuses on improving on how staff communicate with patients, visitors and their colleagues. The programme will be rolled out to all acute hospitals in the country in 2019.
- In February 2017, the Geriatric Emergency Medicine Service (GEMS) team - an interdisciplinary team consisting of Consultant Geriatrician, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist and administrative support - was established.

All patients 75yrs and over, who attend the acute floor are screened upon triage for frailty. If a patient is screened as being GEMS positive, they receive a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment within 72 hours by the GEMS team. Such assessments have been shown to improve better outcomes for older people and are now seen as best practice for all hospitals.

Minister Jim Daly Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People will formally launch the GEMS service and will formally recognize St Luke's Hospital as an age friendly hospital at an even to be held on Monday 22nd July.

Pride of Place



A big congratulations from Kilkenny County Council to all the Kilkenny community groups who put on a great show during the Judging of the Pride of Place in Kilkenny on the 26th and the 27th of June. The four entries from Kilkenny taking part in this year's Pride of Place include Inistioge, Ballyhale, Graiguenamanagh 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 Council is honoured to have been selected to host the 17th Annual All-Ireland Pride of Place Gala Awards Ceremony which will take place in Kilkenny on Saturday 30th November 2019.

Children & Young people Services Committee (CYPSC)

Strategic Planning

The Interagency committee that is tasked with coordinating all services delivered to Children and Young People in the County is currently working on a strategic plan. As part of the process a series of workshops have been held with service providers, which is building upon the primary



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research and consultations carried out in 2018. The workshops have identified the priority areas and actions required for delivery over the next three years. The strategic plan is due to be published later in 2019.

Healthy Ireland Fund

The CYPSC committee was awarded funding under the Healthy Ireland programme. The 'Health Streets' project in conjunction with the Fr.McGrath and Newpark Close Family Resource Centres has recently received funding.

ENVIRONMENT

Up-date Report- Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan for 2019

RMCEI - Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan	Number of Inspections undertaken up to the end of June 2019
WFD Monitoring, op & surveys, samples taken	168
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	287
Ambient Monitoring	114
Other SW/GW protection inspections	40
Inspections of existing planning permissions	292
Ground water quality (Planning inspections)	74
Bring bank surveillance	138
Bring bank inspections	66
Inspections under solid fuel Regs	22
WCP AR Validation	30

Inspections under the tyre Regs - Retailers	8
Routine Litter Patrols - City	119
Routine Litter Patrols - County	156

County Kilkenny Waste Management Bye-Laws



A national awareness campaign for Local Authority Waste Management Bye-laws commenced on the 20th June with national radio and print adverts. This was followed by an ongoing regional and local radio campaign launched on the 27 June. Over the month of July each household in Kilkenny city and county will receive an

information brochure on the requirements of Kilkenny's Waste Management Bye-laws, which were adopted by the Council in December 2018. The brochure will provide answers to FAQ's and advise households to log onto www.mywaste.ie for additional information.

It is anticipated that the Environment Section's Enforcement Officers will commence targeted door to door inspections over the summer.



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Carlow Kilkenny Dog Shelter - Mid-term Review

The number of dogs in the Carlow Kilkenny Dog Shelter at 31/12/2019 was 12. The number of dogs taken in this year up to the end of June, across both counties was 237 animals giving a total figure of 249 dogs. The number of Dogs in the Shelter at the end of each month for the first six months of this year is provided hereunder.

January	February	March	April	May	June
14	14	12	7	10	5

Our services provider, in addition to rehoming the dogs with suitable members of the public, also continue to work with a large number of national rescues and charities to find homes for dogs that find their way into the shelter at Paulstown.



During this period the Environment Section also ran a very successful advertisement campaign on KCLR, reminding the public of our existence and that

all our dogs at the shelter are vaccinated and micro-chipped and that veterinary vouchers are provided for second vaccinations and toward neutering costs along with a free feed starter pack for new owners.

Water Safety and Lifeguards

Lifeguards were on duty every Saturday and Sunday for the month of June, during the peak hours of 2pm to 4.30pm and 5pm to 7.30pm at the following locations:



- [The Meadows, Kilkenny City](#)
- [The Weir, Bleach Road, Kilkenny City](#)
- [Thomastown](#)
- [Inistioge](#)
- [Graiguenamanagh](#)

Whilst the weather wasn't wonderful there was plenty of activity at the above locations and we are happy to report that no incidents occurred during this period.

During the months of July and August Lifeguards will be on-duty every day at the times and locations above detailed above.

Furthermore, at the end of June, the Graiguenamangh Swim Week commenced and ran until Saturday the 6th July. This will be followed by the Swim Week in Thomastown which will run from Sunday the 21st July to Friday the 26th July. These events are well attended and run by Irish Water Safety - Kilkenny in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council.

Gowran Historic Landfill Remediation Scheme

Following the recent contract awarding of the Gowran Historic Landfill Remediation Scheme to Priority Construction Limited,



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works commenced on site in mid-June. Works to-date have consisted of site clearance, stripping back of the existing capping layer and the installation of a gas collection system. The contract is progressing in line with the works programme and is expected to be completed in September.



Household Bulky Goods Disposal Day!!!

The Environment Section will be running a Household Bulky Goods Disposal Day at our Dunmore Civic Amenity Centre on the 19th and 20th July. Items that will be accepted are generally those that are too large to be accepted by the regular waste collection service and include tables, chairs, bedside lockers, cabinets, kitchen presses, couches, armchairs etc. The cost per household will be €5.00, but note mattresses are not included in this event and will be charged at current disposal rates. The event will also run for one day at the Civic Amenity Centre in Granny on the 19th of July. An awareness campaign will

be run in local media in advance of these events.

Waste Enforcement



In total 89 fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act for the first six months of this year by the Environment Section for a variety of offences including discarding cigarette butts from car

windows, erecting unauthorised signage and littering.

In addition to the above 11 Fixed Penalty Notices, 7 Section 55's and 20 Section 14 Directions were issued during the same period under the Waste Regulations.

The Environment Section is continuing to invest in smart technology such as remote CCTV camera's, trail camera's and Enforcement Staff are now fully trained to deploy the Council's Drone to combat and capture evidence of illegal littering and waste disposal activity.

LAWPRO Office & Community Water Officer Programme Update

LAWPRO is a national shared service, managed jointly by Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils. It has 60 staff based in 13 local authority offices across the country, including here in Kilkenny.



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Catchment Assessment

Nationally, LAWPRO staff have completed desk studies on over 100 of the 190 priority areas for action (PAAs) in which they are working to implement the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021 (RBMP). 80 information meetings have been held with local communities in these areas along with 61 farmer engagement events which focus on the needs and requirements of farmers as land managers. The Catchment Science Teams are out in 58 PAAs carrying out their fieldwork and assessments to better understand the reasons for substandard water quality. They are working with the various implementing bodies and specialist farm advisors in Teagasc and the diary co-ops to implement land management and other measures to protect and improve water quality.

The South East Region Management Committee, which is a key component of the RBMP governance structure met on 5th July to review progress in the region. The committee members are drawn from senior environment section staff in each of the South East Region's local authorities as well as the EPA.

In Kilkenny the focus is on the River Nuenna, the River Duiske and three water bodies of the Dinin River. One of the Dinin waterbodies, the Muckalee River, has a high-status objective and forms part of the Blue Dot Programme whose sites have exemplary biological and environmental quality. The protection of such high-status sites is a key component of the RBMP. Across Ireland, only

17% of water bodies have a high-status objective. This has dropped from 31% in 1990.

Community Water Officer Programme

Ann Phelan, the Community Water Officer covering Co. Kilkenny, promoted the special



award scheme sponsored by the LA Waters Programme at the Kilkenny Tidy Towns networking event earlier in the year. The Waters and Communities Award recognises communities who are taking positive steps towards raising awareness and showing appreciation of their local rivers and lakes. She held a workshop at the Regional Sustainability Conference organised by the PPN, held in Kilkenny. She also delivered a workshop on Riverbank Restoration with the Men's Shed in Thomastown and participated in Litter Survey along the River Barrow. Ann is working with community and other groups throughout the county to deliver on projects that have a positive impact on water quality.

Ann is currently planning events across the county for Water Heritage Day 25th August 2019, where the theme is Pastimes and Past Times. This is one of the most important days of the LAWPRO calendar with a national focus on water and its place in our heritage. It



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will be celebrated during the Town of Books Festival in Graiguenamanagh on 25th August with a bio-diversity walk led by Éanna Ní Lamhna.

Other upcoming events in which LAWPRO will be participating are the Fairytale Festival in Woodstock, Inistioge on 21st July, the Graiguenamanagh Regatta and River Festival on 4th / 5th August and the Iverk Show in Piltown on 24th August.

Irish Business Against Litter

Kilkenny topped the pole for a clean litter free environment for the 5th time in the Irish Business Against Litter league. Litter levels were assessed in 40 towns and cities across the country by An Taisce, who found 31 of them, or 77% to be clean.

Set up in 1996, Irish Business Against Litter is an alliance of companies sharing a belief that continued economic prosperity - notably in the areas of tourism, food and direct foreign investment - is contingent on a clean, litter-free environment. As part of the IBAL Anti-Litter League, An Taisce monitors towns

independently and in accordance with international grading standards.

An Taisce complimented Kilkenny on “returning to a place it has been many times - the top of the IBAL table and advised that the entire area was pristine.”

As noted in the IBAL National press release ‘today’s tourists demand high levels of cleanliness and these results indicate that’s what they will be getting this year when they

come to Ireland’.

Tourism is a critical economic driver in Kilkenny, playing a key role in job creation; supporting the rural economy; supporting small community businesses; showcasing local cultural heritage values; valuing the integrity of our biodiversity; and, enhancing community resilience and celebrating local pride in place therefore continued investment in public realm infrastructure improvements, street cleaning and landscaping is paramount.

To achieve exemplary and expected standards Kilkenny County Council spends circa. €2.0m annually on street cleaning and litter management which commences at 6.00 a.m. to ensure that the streets, public areas and amenities are presented in pristine condition for peak visiting hours and also for the benefit of our citizens.

WEEE Ireland

WEEE Ireland is a not for profit organisation which operates under the approval of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The organisation delivers

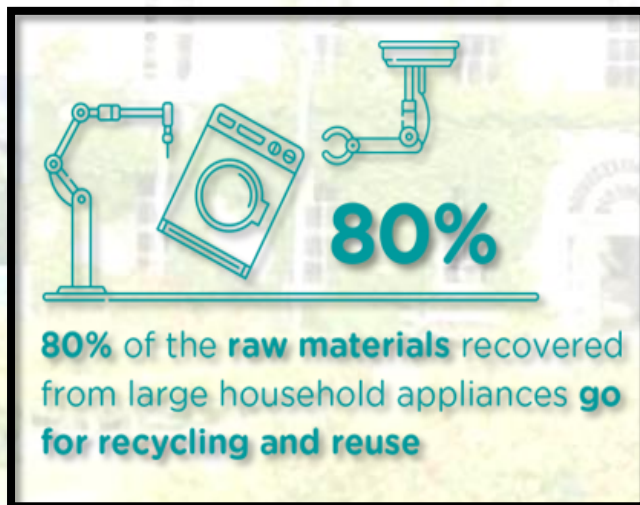


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cost effective compliance on behalf of Producer Members and represents 96% of the Irish battery industry and 74% of the household electrical and electronic industry who have a Producer responsibility under EU Directives to organise and finance the environmental management of their products at their end of life.

WEEE Ireland as part of its suite of campaigns provides 4 Free Electrical Recycling Days in Kilkenny on an annual basis and this campaign is supported by the Environment Section through local and social media and VMS road signage.



To date collections have been undertaken in Mooncoin on the 22nd June and Thomastown on the 29th June. In excess of 20 tonne was collected in Thomastown providing a 4 tonne increase on collection rates from 2018.

Further collections will take place in Castlecomer, Erins Own GAA Club Car Park on the 6th July and Johnstown, The Church Car Park, on the 13th July. Both collections run from 10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Day of Environmental workshops with Gaelscoil Osrai, 17th June 2019

Four one-hour workshops with a range of classes for art day where funded by the Environmental Awareness Officer through Education & Awareness Funding in conjunction with the Creative Arts Programme. Kilkenny County Council also provided single use plastic cups which are no longer used by Kilkenny County Council as part of the recycling initiative and the Artist, Mairead Holohan, provided a series of solutions to transform them into pieces of art with the students.

TOURISM

BLOOM 2019

The Tourism Team organised a stand for 'Kilkenny Tourism CLG' at Bloom 2019 which was held in the Phoenix Park over the June Bank Holiday weekend.

22 volunteers in total were recruited from a cross section of the tourism industry including Hotels, Distilleries, Smithwick's Experience, KLP, B&Bs, Walking Tours, and Kilkenny GAA Board. Our volunteer group engaged with an estimated 4,500 visitors to bloom and distributed Kilkenny Tourism collateral.



Some of our Kilkenny Tourism Volunteers at Bloom 2019.



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KILKENNY TOURISM CLG - AGM 2019

Kilkenny Tourism CLG held their annual AGM on 12th June, in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle. There was a large turnout from members representing different sectors including the Accommodation Sector, Attractions, Food & Drink, Festivals & Events, Distilleries, Heritage & Culture, Retail to name a few.

Marketing Consultants TL Marketing highlighted all activity in 2018 and campaigns planned for 2019. PR Consultants Purcell Masterson also outlined activity carried out on behalf of members in 2018.

Noting that Irish tourism hit new highs in 2018 with a record number of international visitors and the sector worth over €9 billion for the first time. Sustaining success in 2019 will be more challenging with the uncertainty of Brexit, the recent VAT hike, capacity concerns, and weakened competitiveness all posing difficulties for Ireland's largest indigenous industry.

Despite these challenges, Naoise Nunn, returned as Chairman for a third term reported that Kilkenny Tourism CLG is confident that Irish tourism can continue to grow next year and add employment and economic balance throughout the country, and that Kilkenny will continue to benefit.

FOODIE DESTINATION 2019

The Tourism team organised the launch of the Restaurants Association of Ireland's **Foodie Destinations 2019** on 13th June in **Kilkenny Castle**. Kilkenny who were the **winners of Foodie Destinations in 2018** were privileged to hold the title, and the benefits of winning the title were enormous to the City and County. The Restaurants Association of Ireland are behind the initiative, with FBD returning as the official sponsor for the third year running.



FAILTE IRELAND LOCAL EXPERTS WORKSHOP

Failte Ireland held a 'Local Experts Workshop' in the Newpark Hotel on 25th June. Members of the tourism team were in attendance, networking and building sector relationships.

The programme was aimed at stakeholders who engage directly with the tourist/visitors

Local Experts workshop included learning techniques to -

- become more aware of the power of tourism locally and your role in it.
- grow your pride and passion for all things in your local area.
- become better aware of the things that visitors ask about.
- have more confidence in informing and serving visitors.
- learn how to offer relevant and personalised recommendations to visitors.
- go on to make a renewed effort to explore your local area and to have first-hand visitor experience.

Greenway Funding announcement

South Kilkenny received a major boost with the recent announcement that the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport has confirmed



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funding of €8 million towards the development of the Kilkenny Greenway.

The 24 Kilometres Kilkenny Greenway, which will run on the disused railway line from Mount Elliott in New Ross to the North Quays in Waterford City, has the potential to transform the local economy of South Kilkenny in the same way that Greenways in other parts of the country have restored the economic fortunes of rural areas, most notably the Waterford Greenway.

Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Peter "Chap" Cleere, in welcoming the announcement said.

"We know how Greenways have transformed other regions in terms of the economic benefits they stimulate. I have no doubt this multimillion euro investment in the Kilkenny Greenway will do likewise. This is fantastic news and is a major game changer for the people of South Kilkenny in terms of the business and job opportunities that is now present."

The Kilkenny Greenway is one of 10 projects for which funding has been announced under the Government's National Greenway Fund. The project is a clear demonstration of Kilkenny County Council's commitment to regional development. The project which received planning from Kilkenny County Council last year is currently at detailed design stage and is expected to go to construction in early 2020. The total estimated cost to deliver the Greenway is €13.5million.

Cllr Eamon Aylward, Chairman of Piltown Municipal District commented:

"The Piltown Municipal District Members have been proactively supportive of this project over the last number of years since it was first mooted. I welcome today's confirmation of funding for the project. It is a major vote of confidence in the Greenway as a critical piece of economic

infrastructure for not only South Kilkenny but the entire region."

The project team will now proceed with final design and preparations for delivery of this significant investment in south Kilkenny.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Cruinniú na nÓg

Creativity was let loose in Kilkenny for Cruinniú na nÓg - the national day for creativity for children and young people on June 15th. Over 1,000 children and parents attended our Teach Rex events! The 4-meter dinosaur travelled from Liverpool to entertain and teach children about science and discovery in Loughboy Library and in MacDonagh Junction shopping centre.



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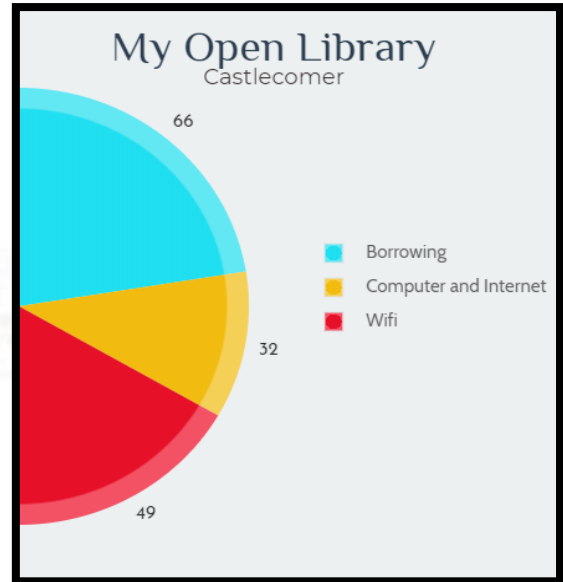
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Podcasting and Lego animation workshops ran by Create School in Castlecomer and Graiguenamanagh Libraries. Other events that took place include a mini craft village in National Design & Craft Gallery, The Big Dig event at Evans Home, Barnstorm Theatre's Information Overload and Tada Theatre held drama workshops & a showcase performance.



My Open Library - Castlecomer

My Open Library piloted in June of this year, offering members extended opening hours on a self service basis from 8am-10pm, 365 days of the year. Members can borrow and return items, print and photocopying, use the public PCs, Wifi and study space.

Running since 4th June, we now have 62 members registered for the My Open Library service with 34% visiting before 10am, and 66% visiting from 5-10pm.

Communicating our work

www.kilkennylibrary.ie
Pageviews: 69,607

Followers
Facebook: 3016
Twitter: 1973
Instagram: 1132



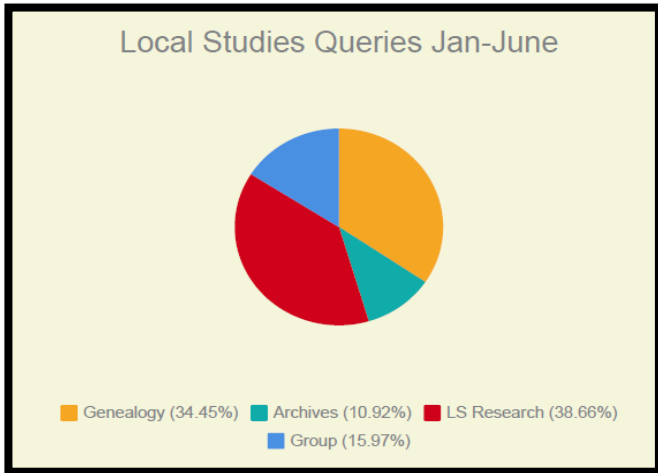
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Kilkenny County Council will award a limited number of grants to cultural projects in the county as part of the Creative Ireland 2019 Programme. The grant scheme will provide financial support to local and community groups and individuals, artistic and creative practitioners, event organisers and those involved in creative, cultural and heritage activities and projects, to encourage cultural participation throughout Kilkenny.

Application forms are available through www.kilkennylibrary.ie website or by contacting 056 7794997. **Deadline for applications:** 7th August at 5pm

Coming soon:

Summer Stars Reading Challenge: Continues in all libraries for Children until 31st August

Castlecomer Library: Lego Animation Workshops from 4th July

Loughboy Library: Hands Film screening: 19th July, 11am

Ferrybank Library: Podcasting for teenagers. 31st July

ARTS



Curator in Residence
Exhibition 1

11 may - 8 june

francis
casey
rory
mullen
jan mc-
cullough

the secret
to my
success

KILKENNY ARTS OFFICE GALLERY, DEAN STREET
OPENING EVENT: 11 MAY, 14:00PM - 18:30PM
GALLERY OPENING HOURS: THURS - SAT, 10:30AM - 17:30PM



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Kilkenny Arts Office presented the first exhibition of three as part of our Curator in residence programme in May. *The Secret to my Success* brought together works by artists Francis Casey, Jan McCullough and Rory Mullen. The title was drawn from Rory Mullen's *Cork Story*, which described a tale of success and great fortune imparted from a man on his deathbed. Through video, painting and text the artists explored ideas around the ideal self, success and the influence of pop culture. An insightful social commentary emerges, drawing on both real and fictional narratives, which form the stories that we tell ourselves.

This is the first in a series of exhibitions by curator in residence Leah Corbett, which will take place in the Kilkenny Arts Office Gallery from May - September 2019. This programme is funded by Kilkenny County Council Arts Office, Creative Ireland and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Exhibition 2



Things That Matter

Things That Matter, a sculptural exhibition of works by Sophie Behal opened in the Arts Office Gallery on 22nd June and will run till 20th July from Thursday to Saturday each week.

Listening Walk

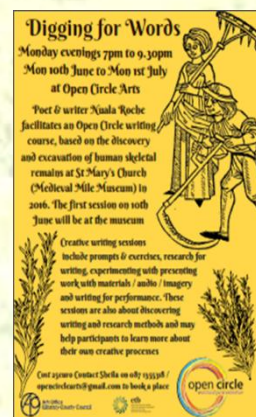
Artist Sophie Behal will lead a silent listening walk as part of her exhibition on Saturday 13th July from 2 - 4pm. Starting at the Arts Office Gallery, participants will be guided through the streets of Kilkenny and encouraged to listen to and reflect on their surroundings.

Open Circle Arts



DIGGING FOR WORDS

A new creative writing opportunity, titled Digging for Words, started at Open Circle on Monday 10th June with four sessions facilitated by writer and poet Nuala Roche. The opening night was in the Medieval Mile Museum with a talk by one of the original archaeologists Philip Kenny.



As part of its outreach programme, Open Circle Arts, co-funded by the Carlow Kilkenny



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Education Training Board, held a series of 5 feltmaking sessions on Monday mornings at Open Circle House starting on Monday 20th May from 10am - 12pm.

Arts Office as part of Kilkenny Festival

The Arts Office have three events during this year's Arts Festival.

Literature

Rhyme Rag Ensemble

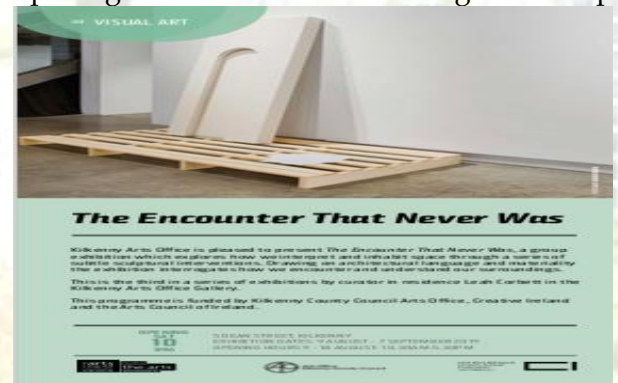
The Rhyme Rag Ensemble is one of Kilkenny County Council Arts Office's programmes and we will partner with Laureate na nÓg Sarah Crossan for her fantastic #WeAreThePoets project, to inspire young people to express themselves through poetry and verse and connect with a wider audience. This event, which will take place on Wednesday 14th August @2pm in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle, will be preceded by a full day masterclass of writing and performance with poet John Cummins. Being a part of #WeAreThePoets at Kilkenny Arts Festival is a huge honour for the Rhyme Rag Ensemble who were formed in 2017 and take part in monthly workshops with professional writers.

Paterson and Broadsheet Editor Jean O'Brien. The Broadsheet gives local writers a platform to showcase their work.

Visual arts

The Encounter That Never Was

Kilkenny Arts Office will present The Encounter That Never Was, a group exhibition which explores how we interpret and inhabit space through a series of subtle sculptural interventions. Exhibiting artists are Isabele English, Ali Kirby and Doireann Ni Ghrioghair. Drawing on architectural language and materiality the exhibition interrogates how we encounter and understand our surroundings. This exhibition will take place in the Arts Office Gallery, Dean Street, from 9th August - 7th September (official opening on 10th August 1pm).



RHYME RAG IN COLLABORATION WITH LAUREATE NA NÓG PRESENTS
We Are The Poets

Laureate na nÓg Sarah Crossan is on a mission to encourage teenagers to express themselves through poetry. Her project We Are The Poets inspires young people to perform with more confidence and helps them to connect them to a wider audience. For this special Festival edition of We Are The Poets, featuring MC John Cummins and guest poet Moley, Kilkenny's Rhyme Rag Collective performs work created during a masterclass for young writers.

Laureate na nÓg is an initiative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Poetry Ireland and is managed by Children's Books Ireland. The honour was established by the Arts Council to engage young people with high-quality literature and to underline the importance of children's literature in our cultural and imaginative lives.

John Cummins has been writing for over 20 years and performing since early 2010. He was Leitir Pádraig Poetry Slam Champion for three years running and the 2013/2014 All-Ireland Poetry Slam Champion. He is currently poet in residence at Bohemians Football Club.

WED 14 2PM PARADE TOWER ADMISSION FREE BUT TICKETED

Logos for Arts Council, Children's Books Ireland, and other partners are at the bottom.

Herstory



Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet

Broadsheet 19 will be celebrated in the Parade Tower on Friday 16th August @4pm with Kilkenny Arts Festival Writer in Residence Don

Phase 1 research and development phase

Herstory is a cultural movement that tells the life stories of historical, mythological and



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contemporary women. History censored women's stories in the past and its time to rewrite history and bring fascinating stories to life. Adopting a collaborative and experimental approach, Herstory incorporates the worlds of Music, comedy, theatre, fashion, dance photography, poetry, fine art, film and more.



Herstory Kilkenny

A varied list of historical Kilkenny women were brought into the light and their stories were told.

It is also clear that there is a strong interest in bringing this project to the next stage and actually celebrating the women who were chosen. There are already three projects planned as a direct result of this project; a talk as part of the Kilkenny Arts Festival Fringe, a flower arranging demonstration with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland for Heritage Week and an annual tennis tournament. And that is just the start.

FIRE SERVICE

1) Community engagement & education

- A number of community groups and schools visited our fire stations. The picture shows the chip pan demonstration unit by Thomastown Fire brigade.
- St Marys National School, Scoil Mhuire gan Smal, Graiguenamanagh Boys School, Thomastown Crèche, Fr. McGrath Centre, Graiguenamanagh preschool visited our fire stations and learned more about fire safety in the home.



- Fire Safety talks were given by fire-fighters to Gahan House Nursing Home, Kilmacow Active Retirement and Lourdes leaders.



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Talk to Kilmacow Active Retirement.

- A seminar was held on “Best practice in Early Years Centres- Ensuring compliance with regulations” This was a joint collaboration between Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service and Kilkenny County Childcare Committee.
- A lunchtime seminar was held by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with Lorient on the role and performance of fire and smoke resisting door assemblies. Participants from the local construction industry attended the seminar.
- Our latest figures show that a total of 1,804 primary school children have received the primary schools programme in the 2018/2019 school calendar year.

2) Influencing and regulating the built environment

- We have received 52 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to date, 43 have been granted and 9 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 1) Fire Safety Certificate invalidation and 2) Fire Safety certificate refusal rates.

- 31 fire safety inspections of premises have been carried out by senior fire officers
- To date 31 planning applications were dealt with from a fire safety point of view.

3) Fire Service Operations

Picture below shows staff on a recent 3-day pump operators course held at our new fire station in Graiguenamanagh.





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- Breathing Apparatus refresher training was held in Hackettstown Fire Training Centre. All Fire fighters are required to do a 2-day refresher course every 2 years to keep their skills up and remain competent in the use of Breathing Apparatus. Over half the brigade was trained earlier this year, the remainder will be refreshed in Q3 2019.

Kilkenny City Fire station hosted a very successful 8 day RSA -Emergency Services Driving Standards course. Training was provided by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service RSA approved Instructors to 3 students from various fire stations in the county.

4) Facilities and general news, new PPE, new equipment, new fire station approvals etc.

- The design team for the new fire station in Urlingford are in the process of drawing up plans to go to Part 8 in Q4 2019.
- New fire fighters were recruited for Thomastown, Castlecomer and Callan stations.



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT - JULY 2019

Finance Report - July 2019.

The expenditure by service division to the end of June is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €40.31m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD June 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	9,300	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	10,770	22,328
Water Services	3,280	6,674
Development Management	4,462	9,718
Environmental Services	5,379	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	3,227	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	253	640
Miscellaneous Services	3,643	6,452
Overall Total	40,314	79,700

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for 7 days in the six months to the end of June 2019. The maximum overdrawn balance was €843k.

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

A total of 80 of the 196 appeals by commercial rate payers to the valuation tribunal have been completed to date. This has resulted in a reduction in annual income of €354k. We are awaiting the outcome of the appeals on the remaining cases.

Under section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended by section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013, a Local Authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/-15%. Any decision by a Local Authority to vary the basic rate of tax of the LPT must be taken by the 30th of September each year in order that it can have effect from the 1st of November (the liability date) and therefore determine the LPT liability for taxpayers in that local authority area the following year.

Kilkenny County Council now invites interested members of the public to engage in this consultation process. The consultation process will run from Wednesday 3rd July 2019 to 5pm on Tuesday August 20th 2019.

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



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