



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

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

### September to December

Creative Active Times Age Friendly Programme.

### 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September: Ploughing 2019

The Tourism Team will be exhibiting at this year's Ploughing championship, manning stand no. 645 at 'THE DOME' – Barrow Lifestyle & Tourism block 3 row 29.

### 20<sup>th</sup> September

Culture Night. Decade of Centenaries Autumn Lecture Series.

### 24<sup>th</sup> September

Green School co-ordinators have been invited to attend a green school's information evening.

### 26<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October

Exhibition in County Hall. 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Local Elections.

### 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

Closing date for submissions: Development of 86 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road.

### 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

The deadline for receipt of applications for Community Environment Action Fund.

### 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019

Closing date for receipt of RFA 1 Forms

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### CORPORATE

#### **National Day of Commemoration 2019: Regional Ceremony in Kilkenny**

Kilkenny was again the regional host of a National Day of Commemoration Ceremony on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 in the grounds of Kilkenny Castle.

The event itself was a simple and dignified ceremony commemorating all Irish men and Irish women who died in wars or on active service with the United Nations. Participants included Defence Forces, Gardaí, Clergy, local and regional elected representatives and Oireachtas Members and other invited dignitaries including ex-servicemen.

The format of the event followed the template for the National Ceremony at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham consisting of service, wreath laying, prayers/reflection and appropriate music. Participation by the Gardaí, Army and clergy complemented a wreath laying ceremony by the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council.



#### **Draft Register 2020/2021**

The Draft Register of Electors for 2020/2021 is currently being compiled.

Please ensure that RFA 1 forms are completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs before the **1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019**. These forms are available from [checktheregister.ie](http://checktheregister.ie) and in all Council Offices.

### ROADS

#### **Pavement Schemes**

**N25.** The €2.2m N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is underway with approximately 75% completed. It is expected to be completed Q4 2019.

Other pavement schemes on the N76 Kilkenny to Callan Road are advancing through detailed design and contract preparation. Tenders are expected to be ready by the end of September.

#### **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 will shortly be finalised 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 on-going.

#### **Kilkenny Major Schemes:**

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



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Pass and the existing Waterford By-Pass. Atkins are tasked with bringing this scheme through phases 1 to 4 right through detailed design and statutory approval.

#### OTHER PROJECTS:

##### Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council applied for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála for the Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The application is open for submission until the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

An information event was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Castlecomer in relation to the project.

##### Public Lighting on National Road Network

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

##### Public Lighting on the Non National Road Network.

Kilkenny County Council through Better Energy Communities 2019 (BEC) was awarded funding for the retrofit of approximately 1,005 lanterns at a cost €209,000. which 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. The 2019 project is now approximately 80% complete.

##### Thomastown Culvert.

The works on the Thomastown Culvert are approximately 95% complete with some snagging works the outstanding items.

#### PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total August		%
	2018	2019	Change
Planning Applics. Received	578	621	↑ 7%
Planning Applics. Granted	482	504	↑ 5%
Planning Applic. Refused	43	50	↑ 16%
Complaints Received	66	83	↑ 26%
Warning Letters Issued	48	97	↑ 102%
Enforcements Notices Issued	34	25	↓ 26%
Cases Closed	49	76	↑ 55%

There is a 7% increase in planning applications up to end of August, year on year. The number of complaints received is up 26%; and the number of cases closed by Planning Enforcement has increased over the same period by 55%.

#### 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 soon 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:

The City and County Development Plan is still paused and the process will recommence following the adoption of the RSES. Work on various plans/studies is however still in progress.

A preliminary draft of the Kilkenny Retail Strategy has been received and comments by the Planning Authority has been returned to the consultant. A stakeholder meeting is planned for October to consider survey results and preliminary findings. Invitations to the meeting will issue soon to elected members, retailers and other interested parties.



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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. Tenders have closed for consultants to compile a Fair Green Masterplan and an appointment for this is imminent.

Following consultation with the HSEW, a plan making process for St. Canice's Hospital lands at Lacken has commenced. The Masterplan will be drafted by the Planning Department and the HSE has given approval for initial background surveys to be undertaken and data to be collected to assist in the preparation of the Masterplan. Appointments for these surveys will soon be made.

#### Vacant Sites

There are now 29 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 14 of these were liable for the 3% levy. Two sites have had their levy discharged to date.

A total of 7 appeals were lodged with An Bord Pleanála against the notices of entry for 2019 and six determinations have been made by the Bord to date; one to uphold a site entry, and five to cancel the site entries.

The number of sites activated as a result of the Vacant Sites Levy now stands at 10, so there is no doubt that the legislation is having a positive effect.

An article will be published on the Council page in the Kilkenny People in the near future, outlining the progress on the Vacant Sites Register to date.

#### 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;
- Cois na Bearu, Graiguenamanagh;
- Glenvale, Ballyragget; and
- Jerpoint West, Thomastown (*Developer Dependent*)

Works are scheduled to commence shortly at the following Estates:

- Clonkil, Callan; and
- Friars Hill, Graiguenamanagh.

Works are completed at the following estates:

- Bellfield, Ferrybank; and
- Ard Glas, Ferrybank.

## LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Taoiseach Leo Varadkar launches the Redevelopment to former home of Smithwick's Brewery in the heart of Kilkenny City**



An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar launched the redevelopment of The Brewhouse on The Abbey



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Quarter, site of the former Smithwick's Brewery on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Launching the redevelopment works, An Taoiseach, said *"over €6 million had been granted to Kilkenny County Council to help achieve the vision for the Abbey Quarter, with the 800-year-old Abbey as its stunning centerpiece, a new linear park running along the banks of the River Nore, and a new Public Realm works around the iconic Brewhouse and Mayfair buildings and the renovation of two 19th century teahouses. The Government has a vision and it is to invest in more compact, sustainable and community-centered developments. We want homes, workplaces, schools and amenities to be built in sensible, sustainable ways that improve the quality of life for families, workers and local communities. We want new developments to be climate friendly. With Project Ireland 2040 our investment matches the quality of the plans"*.

Also speaking at the launch, Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government said that *"this project is the very essence of what the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) was established to deliver. It is a spend from the public purse leveraging private sector investment to deliver redevelopment of a city centre brownfield site for mixed use development. I am delighted that my Department was in a position to support the project to the tune of €6m"*.

#### **Judges positively overwhelmed during National Enterprise Town Award Visits**



#### **National Enterprise Town Competition**

The National Enterprise Town Awards judging delegation of Eileen Collery, Bank of Ireland; John Fitzgerald, retired Chief Executive Dublin City Council and Eddie Sheehy, retired Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council were positively overwhelmed by their visit to County Kilkenny on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August when they visited Kilkenny City, Knocktopher/Ballyhale/ Knockmoylan and Callan. The judges spent 3 hours visiting each of the nominated areas. Each location pulled out all the stops to ensure that the judges were showcased with the very best of the collaboration between community and enterprise.

The Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards is designed to recognise and reward towns where businesses and the community come together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. Speaking at the event, Eileen Collery commented that *"they were positively overwhelmed with what all areas had to offer from both a community and enterprise perspective"*. The winners will be announced at the national final which will take place in Lyrath Estate Hotel on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Autumn Training Programme 2019 Available to Book Online Now**

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has launched the Autumn 2019 training programme schedule for entrepreneurs, owner/managers and employees of micro-enterprises.

As Brexit looms, the onus is on business owners to be aware of how it could significantly impact on their current economic activity. To help prepare and inform businesses, the LEO will host a number of events including "Brexit Business Advisory Clinic" on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September which involves one-to-one meetings with our Brexit Advisor Denis Casey. We also welcome back Lorna Kelly to deliver another "Prepare for Customs Workshop" on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October followed by "David McWilliams talking all things Economic" on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. All of



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these events are free but pre-registration is required.

In the run-up to Savour Kilkenny, the Local Enterprise Office is hosting a seminar aimed at people who are considering setting up a food/beverage business. "Foodpreneurs - Top Tips to Starting a Business" will provide information first hand from successful entrepreneurs from around the country who initially started out small in their kitchens/farms and have grown successfully over time. Learn from guest speakers James Burke, Ireland's leading advisor in the food sector, Helen Gee of G's Gourmet Jams, award winning live yoghurt producer, Nicholas Dunne of Killowen Farm and Margaret Hocht of Killmullen Lamb. There will also be Q&A and group mentoring sessions with speakers.

### Training

In 2019 to date, over 420 participants have attended training programmes organised by the LEO, ranging from Start your Own Business Courses, Social Media Marketing Courses to Management Development Programmes. The Autumn training schedule is designed to support small businesses and start-ups in our local communities. From training programmes that help businesses to prepare and plan for the future and events that provide an opportunity for people to network with other entrepreneurs, the LEO continues to help small business to start-up and grow.

The full training programme schedule is now available to view on [www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny](http://www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny)

### Key Statistics for 2019

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

**243** entrepreneurs have 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;

**175** 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;

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

**8** businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme and Microfinance Ireland Fund;

**4** 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;

**27** businesses are currently participating in the Growth Mentor programme.

### TOURISM

#### PLOUGHING 2019

The Tourism Team will be exhibiting at this year's Ploughing championship, manning stand no. 645 at 'THE DOME' – Barrow Lifestyle & Tourism block 3 row 29. Stop by and say hello! The GAA, KLP, Civic Trust, Ballykeefe and others from the hotel sector will be on duty over the 5-day festival. show. With fantastic competitions to enter and giveaways, call in for a chat. You never know who'll meet.

#### NEW PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Four new promotional fliers have been designed and produced by TL Marketing to be distributed at trade shows. These will assist the marketing of Kilkenny in new markets, promoting design, food experience, activity, attractions retail and



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heritage. Striking visuals are used in the newly designed calendar highlighting festivals endorsing Kilkenny as the capital of festivals.

#### FOODIE DESTINATION 2019

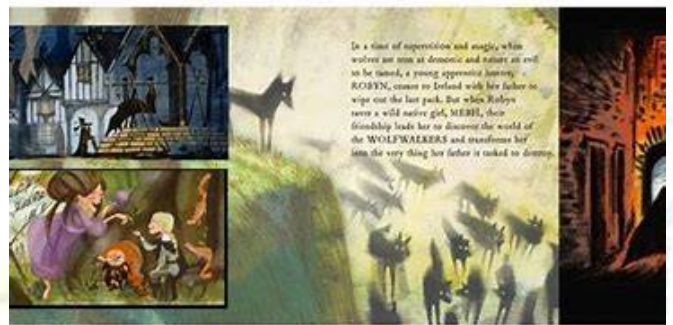
Kilkenny Tourism organised and hosted the launch of the Restaurants Association of Ireland's Foodie Destinations 2019 on August 28<sup>th</sup> in Mount Juliet Estate. Kilkenny who were the winners of Foodie Destinations in 2018 were privileged to hold the title, and the benefits of winning the title were significant to the City and County.

The Restaurants Association of Ireland with FBD returning as the official sponsor for the third year running praised Kilkenny's engagement with the competition and complimented the team on being worthy champions. The crown has now passed to Waterford City who were announced as winners for 2019.



#### Kilkenny Animated

Kilkenny Animated returns for a second year, running from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Multi winning animator and game creator David O'Reilly will host the premier in Castlecomer Discovery Park Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. A fantastic program is scheduled including a screening of Wolf walkers, yet another academy award nominated feature. Kilkenny continues to develop and promote animation in Kilkenny and this event endorses Kilkenny as a world class animation hub.



Visit Kilkenny PR Update and Kilkenny Social Media Report.

Media Coverage was published in the following media:

- Release issued 27<sup>th</sup> June: Top things to do with Kids in Kilkenny this summer
- 28<sup>th</sup> June Kilkenny People: Full Page
- July 9<sup>th</sup> RSVP Live: Castlecomer Feature
- The Daily Star – Ormonde Hotel & Castlecomer Half page feature
- RTE Guide – June 13<sup>th</sup> Full Page Pembroke Hotel (*plus competition giveaway*)

#### HOUSING

##### Housing Capital Delivery

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021



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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 2018-2021 at 12.03.2019

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

### Schemes Completed at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

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

### Schemes under Construction at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 27 units Walkin Street, KK (Oaklee Housing)
- 14 units Nuncio Road, KK (Respond Housing)
- 17 units at Bregagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan
- 6 units at New Road and Chapel Street, Mooncoin
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- Group home at Cloghabrody, Thomastown
- 6 units at Bridge Street, Callan (GSC)
- 40 units at Margaretsfield, Callan Road, KK (Respond)

### Schemes at Part 8/10 Stage:

- Development of 86 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, KK – closing date for submissions Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- Development of 2 Apartments at the Old Fire Station, Graiguenamanagh – approved at Council meeting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- Development of 6 houses at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny - approved at Council meeting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### 27 units under construction at Walkin Street, Kilkenny (Oaklee AHB)



### 54 units at completion stage at Ballybough Street, Kilkenny



### August Monthly Statistics

August 2019 Housing	
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 <sup>th</sup> August, 2019 (Gross Need)	1,955
Number of assessment interviews carried out in August :	32





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LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	9
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 <sup>st</sup> August:	873
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	7
Anti-Social Behaviour cases:	77
New Homeless Presentations:	28
Maintenance Calls for August 2019	378
Maintenance Calls year to-date	3,191
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	10
Amount of Loans Approved to 31st August, 2019	€1,537,920

#### Housing List

The current gross Housing demand at 31<sup>st</sup> August is 1,955 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	1,955
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

#### Private Grants

Minister for Housing by letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> 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 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019		
Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	96	€1,101,156
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	21	€104,755
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	219	€1,105,017
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>€2,310,928</b>

Grants Paid out to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019:		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	59	€670,783.15
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	14	€68,323.15
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	141	€699,966.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>€1,439,072.44</b>

#### Housing Loan Activity

Housing Loan Activity at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019					
Loan Type	Rec	App	Amt. App.	No. Paid	Amt Paid
Annuity/RI Home Loan	24	10		13	
Reconstruction Loan	1	1	€10,000	1	€10,000
Caravan Loan	1	1	€6,160.00	1	€6,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>€1,554,080</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>€2,029,155</b>



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### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2019 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are set out below. There were 161 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/08/2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	37	29	37	25
Feb	30	26	32	12
Mar	18	26	21	16
April	26	25	18	16
May	34	28	29	20
June	31	24	20	14
July	31	34	15	30
August	32	27	26	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>161</b>



### Rhyme Rag Ensemble

We Are The Poets, short video piece: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa6meKZJIIU>

### #WeAreThePoets. Partnership with the Laureate na nÓg, and Kilkenny Arts Festival

Our Rhyme Rag Ensemble, in collaboration with Laureate Na nÓg, presented #WeAreThePoets in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August as part of the Kilkenny Arts Festival programme. For this special festival edition of #WeAreThePoets, the Rhyme Rag ensemble attended a full day masterclass with poet and performer John Cummins and poet and musician Micheál O Suilleabhán. They hosted a performance as part of a Kilkenny Arts Festival featuring John Cummins and guest poet Micheál O Suilleabhán (Moley) and their own amazing performances.

## ARTS

### Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet 2019

Broadsheet, short video piece: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSRqbfWxv-I>

Thirteen poems by twelve poets selected for publication BY editor Jean O'Brien for the 2019 Broadsheet. The Broadsheet launch took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle to an audience of 120. Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Andrew McGuinness officially launched the broadsheet followed by an introduction by the Arts Officer, Mary Butler and Don Paterson, Poet-in-Residence Kilkenny Arts festival. Broadsheet Editor, Jean O'Brien then introduced each of the poets who read their poem.





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#### Curator in Residence

ISABEL ENGLISH

DOIREANN NÍ  
GHRIOGHAIR

ALI KIRBY

9 AUG - 7 SEPT



T E T H N  
H N H E V  
E C A O T R  
O U N T W  
T E R W A  
S

We presented our final exhibition as part of our inaugural Emerging Curator in Residence programme - *The Encounter That Never Was*. This exhibition brought together works by artists Isabel English, Doireann Ní Ghrioghair and Ali Kirby. Adopting architectural language, the exhibition explores how we encounter and understand our surroundings in relation to the built environment.

#### Open Circle Arts

**Two new outreach workshops takes place this Autumn.**

**NATURAL INDIGO DYEING** - This intensive, hands on, one-day workshop introduced participants to the basics of Natural Indigo Dyeing, a plant dye which gives beautiful, vibrant blue.

**ECO PRINTING** - a one-day intensive workshop using materials from the garden and hedgerow participants created beautiful prints on paper and fabric

#### Autumn Literature Programme

Our Autumn literature programme has been advertised offering an eight-week course with John McKenna, a weekend course as Gaeilge with Bríd Ní Mhoráin and a one-day masterclass, with Jessica Traynor.

### COMMUNITY

#### CLÁR

The Council has been notified of 3 successful applications under the 2019 CLÁR Scheme. The Department of Rural and Community

Development has indicated that it was not possible to fund all projects which were submitted under CLÁR Measure 1 and 2 as the Measures were significantly oversubscribed. The level of funding sought in the applications far exceeded the available budget. The number of projects selected was determined with reference to the relative size of the CLÁR area within each County. The selection of the individual projects was based on the scheme criteria, particularly the range, mix, quality and impact of the submitted projects.

The table below details the projects which have been approved by the Department:

Community Group	Project Cost	Funding Requested	Project Details	Status
Windgap National School	€55,000	€41,000	Pedestrian Crossing	A
Black & Whites GAA & Community Centre	€48,634	€43,770	Multi-Use Games Area	A
Tullagher Rosbercon GAA Club	€55,000	€30,000	Car park surfacing	A

#### Thomastown Age Friendly Town

The **Thomastown Age Friendly Town Plan** was presented to the Age Friendly Alliance.

The Plan was formally launched by Minister Jim Daly, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Older People, in Thomastown on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

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

At that event the gathering was updated on some progress made in implementing the Plan-Seating, Public Lighting, Chair Based Exercises for 20 – completed-KRSP (GAA) will be running another session in the Autumn, 3 Age Friendly Businesses, Age Friendly Car Park spaces (2) and Disabled



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Persons Car Park spaces, and the Directory of Services available in Thomastown for Older People was also launched. Future work will include upgrading of public footpaths at Logan Street, Lowe Street and at the Quay Car Park as part of the Rural Regeneration Fund Scheme.

#### **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 formally acknowledged the Age Friendly Business Programme at an event held at MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

A list of the 3 measures for each of the 61 businesses has been sent to the Seniors Forum who will undertake a visit and survey to see if the commitments are being implemented. The approach will be of a supportive nature.

The Collaborative approach on the Age Friendly Business Programme "Collaboration in Kilkenny-The Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme" was submitted to the Business Category of the National Age Friendly Recognition Awards and it is one of 3 projects that have been shortlisted in that category. The judges will be visiting us in September prior to their final selection which will be made known at the Awards ceremony in Croke Park in November.

"Welcome to Kilkenny – Please take a Seat' (The Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme)" has also been shortlisted in the Excellence in Local Government Awards-Results to be announced in November.

#### **Age Friendly Libraries.**

All Local Authorities Library Services 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.

All Pilot Age Friendly Libraries will be acknowledged at a forthcoming event.

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

St Luke's Hospital is Ireland's first Age Friendly Hospital which has come about of many years of hard work.

Minister Jim Daly Minister of State at the Department of Health formally acknowledged this on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. He also launched the Geriatric Emergency Medicine Service (GEMS), the Age Friendly Hospital Guidelines and also presented ZEN café with their Age Friendly Business Certificate.

#### **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 have been 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. To provide guidance on what this equates to, the total of €0.5m is approximately €1,300 per existing Men's/Women's Shed.

Kilkenny LCDC has been in direct contact with each Shed in the City/County.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Large scale remediation works to commence at historic landfill outside Ballyragget

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



This former landfill is located 1.5km south-east of Ballyragget in the townland of Donaghmore. The site extents for circa.6 acres and was previously a sand and gravel quarry prior to its use as a municipal waste landfill by Kilkenny County Council in the 1980's.

Earlier this year funding was secured by Kilkenny County Council from the Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment to advance to the remediation stage of this site. Following a tender process, consulting engineers, Fehily Timoney & Company were engaged by the Council to advance the remediation design, tender documents and contract administration. The remediation works tender was advertised in May 2019 and following a tender assessment the successful tenderer was recently appointed by the Council.

The remediation works will be undertaken in accordance with the design referenced in the EPA Certificate of Authorisation (EPA Ref. No. H0233-01). The main elements of the works include the

excavation of existing cap material, the placement of a gas collection system and the installation of an LLDPE liner along with a sub-surface drainage system. On completion of this element of the works subsoil and topsoil will be imported to the site and placed as a final capping layer. The value of the project is in the region of €1.4million and works are due to commence early in September with a completion date in Quarter 1 of 2020.

#### Community Environment Action Fund

Minister Richard Bruton announced the Community Environment Action Fund (formally the LA 21 Environment Partnership Fund) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. Eligible projects should support and complement national environmental policies, however, Climate Change and Biodiversity projects will be given priority this year. The total fund for County Kilkenny is €21,850, therefore Kilkenny County Council welcomes small to medium size community project proposals from schools, tidy town groups, community development associations, youth groups or any group with an interest in completing an environment themed project or activity. The deadline for applications is the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 and application forms are available from [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie).

#### Iverk Show

The Environment Tent at the Iverk Show on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August was a great success. The Environment Tent had diverse range of environmental talks together with interesting information stands were a big hit with the public. The show affords the Council the perfect platform to engage with the public as it attracts visitors in the region 20,000. Kilkenny County Council would like to acknowledge our collaborative partners Refill Ireland, the **Southern Region Waste Management Office**, the EPA Stop Food Waste Programme, 3CEA, Kilkenny PPN & the Local Authority Water Programme. Hannah Hamilton, Irish Times Science Columnist, the keynote speaker was well received as she presented how farmers and householders can



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assist biodiversity by creating simple habitats to halt species loss. Kilkenny County Council intends to continue with a presence at the show next year in a bid to build on levels of engagement with the public on environmental issues that affect all.



#### Latest IBAL Results

Kilkenny City received high praise on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August from the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) as they found the River Nore "Clean to European Norms", it was only one of seven locations out of forty-two areas to receive this accolade nationally. At the time of the survey, it was reported that there was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area and the adjudicators witnessed a clean-up in operation. This excellent result is a tribute to the works undertaken on a daily basis along the River Nore by the Council's street cleaning staff, gardening staff and landscape maintenance staff. Additionally, recent investments by Kilkenny County Council on riverside attractions such as the War Memorial and the Ossory Pedestrian Bridge ensure that the River Nore Linear Walk is a very prominent local amenity that can be enjoyed by everyone. Kilkenny County Council also recognises the huge voluntary effort by Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, the tidy town group from Kilkenny City who with their community partners like Kilkenny Sub Aqua Club, Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club and the Nore Dragon Paddlers clear debris regularly from within the river channel.

#### Green Schools Programme

Kilkenny County Council supports An Taisce's Green School Programme annually. Over 70 schools across the county have received a green flag. Schools awarded a flag then commence a two-year renewal cycle programme working on a different environmental theme each time. On Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, green school co-ordinators have been invited to attend a green school's information evening which comprises of hourly sessions focusing on different environment themes. Elected Members wishing to become more informed about the programme are welcome to attend the "Introduction to Green Schools session", please contact the Environmental Awareness Officer, Bernadette Moloney for further information. To keep up to date with environmental awareness activities follow us on face book via [www.facebook.com/kkcoenvironment](http://www.facebook.com/kkcoenvironment)

#### Household Bulky Goods Disposal Event

The Environment Section held a hugely successful Household Bulky Goods Disposal Event at our Dunmore Civic Amenity Centre on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July and a one-day event on 19<sup>th</sup> July at the Civic Amenity Centre in Granny. An extensive local media campaign was run in advance of this event to raise public awareness. The items collected were generally those that are too large to be accepted by the regular waste collection service and included tables, chairs, bedside lockers, cabinets, kitchen presses, couches, armchairs etc. The cost per household was €5.00 and a total of 39 tons of bulky waste was collected over the two days.





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#### Water Safety and Lifeguards

Lifeguards were on duty every Saturday and Sunday for the month of June and every day for July and August 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 was mixed over the summer there was plenty of activity at the above traditional bathing areas and we are happy to report that due to the presence, actions and professionalism of our lifeguards there was no serious incidents during this period. A summary of the season rescue data is provided hereunder: -

#### Beach Lifeguard

##### 2019 Season Rescue Statistic Sheet June to August 2019: Kilkenny

Approx. No. of Swimmers	4,377
Rescue Without Craft	8
Rescue Using Craft	1
First Aid	5
Lost Child	
Advice Given	389
Accident Prevented	70
Other	1

#### Veterinary Service

Activities for the first six months of 2019:

- Supervised 19 food businesses consisting of slaughterhouses, meat manufacturing premises, meat distribution centres and meat vehicles.
- One slaughterhouse in construction phase in the Carlow Area to which pre approval guidance is given on a regular basis.

- Ante- mortem and post- mortem inspections conducted on 2,219 Cattle, 7,501 Sheep and 71,619 Poultry in the above period by the service.
- 90 Inspections /Audits done on these businesses and 41 Official Control samples taken.
- During this period the service worked in collaboration with other public health professionals on the South East Zoonosis Committee, National Zoonosis Committee, FSAI Working Groups i.e. Meat Manufacturing Premises Compliance and Local Authority Veterinary Service (LAVS) Executive e.g. commentary on the Consultation Paper on the review of the Control of Dogs Act etc.

#### Up-date Report- RMCEI 2019 (*Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan*)

RMCEI 2019	Number of Inspections undertaken up to the end of August 2019
WFD Monitoring, op & surveys, samples taken	287
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	427
Ambient Monitoring	154
Other SW/GW protection inspections	64
Inspections of existing planning permissions	429
Ground water quality (Planning inspections)	99
Bring bank surveillance	160
Bring bank inspections	117
WEEE Inspections	9
Battery Inspections	24
Inspections under plastic bag levy	24



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Inspections of sites under 2012 Deco Paints Regs	5
Inspections under the 2012 Solvents Regs	2
Routine Litter Patrols – City	144
Routine Litter Patrols – County	194

#### CRM – Customer Relations Management

70 complaints were received during August. All complaints have been investigated and appropriate action taken.

4 No Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued under the Food Regulations

1 No prosecution issued under the Waste Management Act

1 No Section 55 Notice issued under Waste Management Act

1 No Section 14 Notice issued under the Waste Management Act

#### LAWPRO Office & Community Water Officer Programme Update

##### Crayfish Plague in River Catchments

Crayfish Plague is now confirmed to be in the River Nore catchment at Kilkenny City. It has previously been found in the Barrow and Suir catchments along with a further five catchments across the country (see map below).

The disease can wipe out the population of our native White Clawed Crayfish (a protected species) very quickly once a stream or river is contaminated with it. The disease organism (a water-mould) is microscopic and invisible to the naked eye and is only viable in water. Crayfish affected with the disease have a 100% mortality rate.

All river water users should take measures to ensure that they do not unknowingly spread the plague to other rivers and streams. It is transferred by using equipment (angling equipment, water-sampling equipment, boats, wetsuits etc.) in a plague infested area and then

moving that equipment to an uninfected area while still wet.

The single most effective action to reduce the spread of the disease is to use the **Check, Clean, Dry** protocol. This should be done routinely after entering a stream or river.

**CHECK, CLEAN** and allow all equipment to thoroughly **DRY**-out, then dry for a further 48 hours.

If drying out equipment is not feasible, then equipment should be EITHER: Power Steam washed at a suitably high temperature (at least above 65 degrees).

Disinfected using an approved disinfectant such as Milton (follow product label), Virkon Aquatic (3mg/L), Proxitane (30mg/L) or an iodine-based product for 15 minutes. Items difficult to soak can be sprayed or wiped down with disinfectant. Engine coolant water or residual water in boats/kayaks should be drained and where possible flushed out with disinfectant.

Please be aware of the locations of the plague and avoid entering water unless necessary. If you do enter water, please ensure that you take the correct action to prevent the spread of the disease.

Further information is available from the National Biodiversity Data Centre at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/crayfish-plague/>





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#### LIBRARY SERVICES



Phenomenal success with 57% increase in children completing our Summer Stars Reading Challenge – that's 1,988 children

We were blown away with the success of this year's Summer Reading Challenge for children. The challenge was completed by 1,988 children in Kilkenny - an increase of 57% on last year's initiative. The national summer reading challenge ran in libraries across Ireland, with children challenged to read 8 books each over the holidays to help maintain and improve reading skills. We ran Storytimes and craft workshops throughout the summer also, to encourage children to make return visits to our libraries, and help keep up momentum.

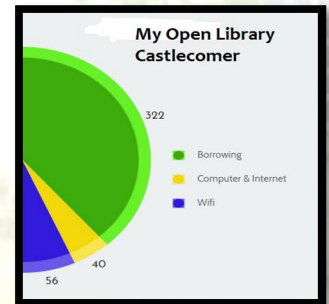
Over the past 5 years, numbers completing the challenge have increased by 201% and with this year being our biggest ever success! This initiative is part of a national Right to Read Campaign, which actively supports & helps improve literacy.



#### Heritage Week 2019

140 people attended our events during heritage week, with a reading by Seamus Walsh from *Coal in the Blood* and a presentation by Anne-Karoline Distel demonstrating the process of Digitising Graveyard Inscriptions.

Staff also ran talks and workshops on Researching your Family Tree, Using online resources for Genealogy research & one to one Genealogy Master classes. We ran a Round Tower Lego workshop and storytime & crafts for children of all ages.



Communicating our work

[www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie)  
Pageviews: 22,743

Followers

Facebook: 3138  
Twitter: 2025  
Instagram: 1183



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# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2019

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### FINANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019

The expenditure by service division to the end of August is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €55.3m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD August 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	12,871	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	16,134	22,328
Water Services	4,336	6,674
Development Management	6,097	9,718
Environmental Services	6,731	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	4,347	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	347	640
Miscellaneous Services	4,486	6,452
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>55,349</b>	<b>79,700</b>

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for 48 days in the eight-month period to the end of August 2019. The maximum overdrawn balance was €3,467k.

The Local Government Auditor has completed the annual audit for 2018 and the audit report will be presented to the Elected Members at the September meeting. There are no adjustments to the Annual Financial Statements for 2018 following the audit.

Following the revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny in 2017 by the Valuation office 196 property owners appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal. The total value of the rate demand under appeal is €4.5m representing 23% of the annual rate demand. A total of 101 appeals have been processed to date resulting in a reduction in annual rates income of €374k. If this trend continues the estimated loss in annual rates income could exceed €1.1m. Appeal decisions are backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018. It could take a number of months yet before all appeals are dealt with.

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 (LPT) 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 30<sup>th</sup> of September each year in order that it can have effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November (the liability date) and therefore determine the LPT liability for taxpayers in that local authority area the following year. The LPT consultation process with the public ran from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 to 5pm on Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2019. One submission was received advocating no change to the basic rate.

A full report on LPT will be presented to the Elected Members at the September Council meeting seeking a 15% increase in LPT for 2020. This increase will yield extra income of €1.1m for the Council in 2020 which is essential to ensure funding will be available in 2020 for a number of discretionary expenditure items such as community grants, amenity grants, festival grants, Municipal District general allocations, match funding for national grant allocations, playground upgrades and the Library book fund.