

DECEMBER 2016

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001,
SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
**DECEMBER MONTHLY
MANAGEMENT REPORT**



To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report–(Appendix 1).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New Year's Eve (Morning) – Musical Recital and Reflection on the 1916 Commemoration Year – County Hall, John Street at 11.00 a.m.

Closing Date for Callan Part 8 – 10th February 2017

Closing Date for Greenway Part 8 – 10th February 2017

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

CLÁR Programme

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs advised in October 2016 that funding would be made available to Local Authorities under the CLÁR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais). Funding was to be targeted at small infrastructural projects in areas that have experienced significant depopulation in the past. Funding applications could be made under the following three categories:

- a) Safety packages for Schools/Community Facilities (100% CLÁR funding);
- b) Outdoor Play Facilities Enhancement Scheme / support for the development of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) (80% CLÁR funding matched with 20% Council funding);
- c) Local Access Roads (80% CLÁR funding matched with 20% Council funding).

The Council submitted a funding application to the Department on the 2nd November. The Council was informed of the outcome of this application on the 1st December 2016, details provided hereunder:-

DED ID & Name	Measure Works Proposals	Facility	Funding Approved
7095 Lisdowney	Provide public lighting along the public road between the Village and the Community Hall & Sports	Community Hall & Sports Ground	€30,000

	Ground.		
7012 Kilmanagh	Installation of signalised pedestrian crossing.	St Aidan's National School, Kilmanagh	€15,000
7036 Listerlin	Replace amber flashing lights and speed safety signs.	Listerlin Mixed National School	€25,000
7011 Kilmaganny	Installation of signalised pedestrian crossing and speed safety signs.	St. Eoghan's National School Kilmaganny	€30,000
7028 Clogharinka & 7018 Muckalee	Provision of footpaths and roadmarkings between Playschool and Crèche.	Muckalee Community Playschool and Community Crèche	€30,000
7086 Ullard	Upgrade of church / graveyard car park.	12th century Ullard Church (Ruin), Graveyard and Handball Alley	€20,000
7010 Kilamery	Safety improvements and pavement upgrade to provide safer connectivity between Community facilities .	Benefiting from proposals include Scoil San Nioclás (Windgap N.S., Windgap GAA Ground and the Community Playground	€30,000
7088 Balleen	Replace amber flashing lights and Install a signalised pedestrian crossing.	Scoil na Críon Coille (Gattabawn National School)	€29,000



7092 Galmoy	Replace amber flashing lights.	Scoil Mhichil Naofa (Galmoy National School)	€14,000
			€223,000

Phase Two - Location	No. of Shelters
Slieverue	1no. Shelter
Piltown	2no. Shelter
Mullinavat	1no. Shelter
Castlecomer	2 no. Shelters

**Rural Bus Pull-in Area / Shelter Programme-
2016-2018 Funding Provision.**

Under Phase One of this programme funding was provided for the provision of bus pull-in areas and shelters at the following locations:-

Phase Three - Location	No. of Shelters
Thomastown	1no. Shelter
Johnstown	2no. Shelter
Rockshire Road, Ferrybank	1no. Shelter

Phase One - Location	No. of Shelters	Status
Mooncoin	1no. Shelter	Installed
Castlecomer Rd, Kilkenny	1no. Shelter	Installed
Gowran	1no. Shelter	Installed
Paulstown	2 no. Shelters	Installed
Glenmore Hill	1 no. Shelter	Under construction

The cost to deliver Phase 1 of this Programme was €100,000 and funding was provided for same from the Council's own funds in 2013.

The Council has extended this Programme and funding will now be provided for the roll-out of Phases 2 and 3. The cost to undertake this work is estimated at €105,000 and monies will be set aside for same in the Council's Roadwork's Budget over the next three years.

The locations included in Phases 2 and 3 are provided hereunder in order of priority. It is anticipated that this Programme will be completed in its entirety in 2017.

PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to Nov. 2015	Total to Nov. 2016
Planning Applications Received	726	795
Planning Applications Granted	572	683
Planning Applications Refused	32	42
Complaints Received	100	91
Warning Letters Issued	80	68
Enforcements Notices Issued	22	31

Forward Planning:

- A Public Consultation Meeting was held on November 2nd in the Castlecomer Community Hall as part of the LAP preparation process, with 33 attendees. Pre-draft submissions were also invited until Friday 18th November 2016, and 4 submissions have been received.
- Work is continuing on the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Ferrybank/Belview area

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- Brewery site - an invitation to tender was published in November for “Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan”. Closing date for receipt of tenders is 21/12/2016.
- A number of development proposals have been forthcoming along the Hebron Road to redevelop former industrial zoned land. The 2014 Development Plan contains an objective to prepare an Urban Design Framework Plan. To facilitate development proposals, invitations to quote were issued in November for “Urban Design and public realm Guidelines – Hebron Road, Kilkenny City”. Closing date for receipt of tenders was 16/12/2016.
- 2 applications were made under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund for the Western Environs, Kilkenny City and the Park in Ferrybank.

Maintenance Calls for November 2016 **565**

Maintenance Calls year to date **4,408**

No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction) **30**

Amount of Loans Approved to 30th November , 2016 **€ 3,785,582**

Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015

Proposed Housing Scheme at Bolton, Callan

Kilkenny County Council proposes to develop a scheme of 38 houses at Bolton, Callan with an option to develop on a phased basis. Plans are on public display from 2nd December to 27th January 2017. Submissions can be made up to 10th February, 2017.

Kilkenny Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing Agency requested an update of our draft Disability Strategy submitted in 2015 to reflect the changes in the recent Housing Needs Assessment carried out by Kilkenny County Council in October 2016 and to reflect the outstanding data submitted by the HSE on Emerging Need. This updated draft strategy is now submitted to the Housing Agency for inclusion in the overarching National Disability Strategy.

The core goal of the Strategy is to meet the identified housing needs of people with disabilities locally whether they are currently living in the community and or in a congregated setting.

Pride of Place Awards for Kilkenny

At the annual Pride of Place Awards Ceremony on Saturday (26 November), three groups from Co Kilkenny represented the county. Stoneyford

HOUSING:

Number awaiting social housing support at 30th November, 2016 **2,042**

Number of assessment interviews carried out in November : **30**

LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made): **22**

Number of HAP tenancies to 30th November **702**

Number of LA tenancies surrendered: **9**

Anti social behaviour cases: **8**

New Homeless Presentations: **32**



Development Association took runner up place in category two, which is for areas with populations of between 300 and 1,000 while Piltown Community Enterprise took runner up place in category seven, which is for Community Business Enterprise Initiatives. The winners of the Pride of Place award, were announced at the special gala event in Belfast Waterfront Hall in front of an audience of approximately 1000 guests and VIPs. The Castlecomer Discovery Park also represented Kilkenny.

ABBEY CREATIVE QUARTER

Abbey Creative Quarter Update

Demolition works on the former Brewery site were completed in October 2016 and the agreement for the purchase of the site was completed in November, with Kilkenny County Council taking possession of the site on Friday 18th November, 2016.

Works have commenced on the Archaeological Assessment of the Masterplan Area. Whilst there are some concerns in relation to the suitability of the site for Geo Physical or Ground Penetrating Radar Survey, a trial section of GPR survey has been undertaken within the former Brewery site and the results of this trial are awaited. The success or otherwise of the trial survey will determine if the survey will be extended within the site.

Brewhouse Building

An Bord Pleanála made a decision in early November that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the Brewhouse Building.

Investigative Works have commenced within the Brewhouse Building, with site investigation and structural testing works currently in progress.

Mayfair Building

Work has commenced on the preparation of a conservation plan for the City Walls in the immediate area of the proposed redevelopment of the Mayfair Building. Work is also being progressed to facilitate the required archaeological test excavations for the Mayfair project.

A detailed update on the implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan will be provided to Members in the New-Year.

CORPORATE SERVICES

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kilkenny

The Council decided that the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kilkenny be a civic event, with a specific provision in Budget 2017. It is now proposed that 4 no. Councillors be members of the St. Patrick's Day Committee, together with the existing non elected members, reflecting the funding allocation. Whilst work will continue towards the organisation of the Parade, nominations will be sought at the January meeting.

Funding has also been approved for County parades, and applications for funding will be sought early in 2017 from organising committees.

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) 2016

Kilkenny County Council made a successful bid for REDZ funding for Inistioge Village and Woodstock House and Gardens, Co. Kilkenny, and a grant of €200,000 was notified to us on 29th November 2016.

Project Proposal: To restore and improve local economic resilience, using the stunning location,



natural and built heritage of the village of Inistioge, and adjacent Woodstock House, Gardens and Arboretum, by providing a mix of local infrastructure and the development of a coherent heritage and tourism destination which embraces the economic opportunity presented by Fáilte Ireland's tourism proposition: Ireland's Ancient East.

• Inistioge, Co Kilkenny - Heritage Village

- Public car parking to be provided in co-operation with the local G.A.A. Club, creating a "Visitor Arrival" area – with directional/location maps/interpretation.
- Riverside Walking Route interpretation and signposting etc, unifying Inistioge and the Woodstock Estate along the riverside trails of the Poyntz road and Nore Valley Walk towards Thomastown.
- Provide local community workshop/training and development of the Inistioge/ Woodstock story, facilitated by Fáilte Ireland, ensuring that storytelling, interpretation and signage, are all consistent with Ireland's Ancient East concepts.
- Involve local Woodstock neighbours who have potential business ideas complementary to proposed themes from a business plan

• Woodstock House, Gardens and Arboretum-

50 acres owned by Kilkenny County Council – a potential driver of economic development in Inistioge and surrounding area which is a significant untapped resource, with an annual commitment of €245K from the revenue budget of Kilkenny County Council, currently attracting circa 40,000 visitors per annum. The ambition is to develop Woodstock further, building on work done to date, including:

- Restoration of the feature Winter Garden to the front of Woodstock House

Signage/interpretation and improved paths and visitor facilities in Woodstock – in the area owned by Kilkenny County Council.

- Project Planning for the provision of an iconic tourism project at Woodstock House and Gardens.

The Council will work with the community and other partners to progress delivery of the plan.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The deadline for the first reporting period for actions within the Community element of the LECP was November 30th. Stakeholders have been asked to complete an online reporting template. Once all templates have been submitted a collective report will be compiled and will be presented to the LCDC in the first quarter of 2017. In total reporting is being sought on 84 actions across 22 agencies/groups/departments.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP monitoring subgroup met with the Programme Implementer during the month to review the draft 2017 Annual Plan. Recommendations from the subgroup will go before the LCDC at their December meeting. An indicative allocation of €607,813 has been identified for the SICAP programme for 2017.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Over the past 4 months membership of the PPN has increased by 13%. With its newly elected representatives in place a training programme for

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representatives and members has been developed for 2017. The PPN is currently undertaking a piece of research to ascertain the barriers to engagement for groups that are the most distant from engagement in the community. Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and the PPN are now working together to develop the Kilkenny Volunteer Information Service in line with the PPN action in the LECF. The social Inclusion Pillar of the PPN has developed a working group to strengthen the pillar and support the representatives; the plan is to create a model of best practice for replication within the other 2 pillars.

Other Community & Culture Projects:

Community, Sports, Arts & Youth Facilities Audit:

The questionnaire for this project was piloted during this month with 19 groups being invited to participate in this pilot. The aim of this pilot is to inform any changes needing to be made to the final questionnaire in terms of ambiguities, omissions, clarity and layout etc. NEXUS the consultants undertaking the audit will run a workshop with pilot participants to discuss and capture the groups' experiences with the questionnaire.

Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg:

In November, Kilkenny County Council issued a call for proposals from suitably qualified organisations / individuals for the Operation of Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of the Council for 2017 & 2018. The outcome of that process will be finalised in December.



Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC):

CYPSC organised a workshop in Hotel Kilkenny on November 30th for staff of agencies and organisations working in the area of children, youth and family service provision in the county. The purpose of this workshop was twofold – to allow the opportunity for agencies and organisations to network and secondly to discuss key issues / priorities to be included in the Children and Young Persons Plan currently being developed by CYPSC.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

UPDATE TO 08.12.16

€490,671 in grant aid was approved to 25 business projects. These projects combined will create at least 53 new full-time jobs at a cost per job of approximately €2,250 in addition to sustaining existing jobs. €50,000 of this grant aid came from Kilkenny County Council funding.

527 people have participated in **enterprise training and management development programmes** in 2016. These range from Start your own Business through to Sales & Marketing and Financial training programmes as well as our flagship Management Development Programme.

316 clients availed of **Business Advisory Sessions** with LEO staff. These are typically people thinking of setting up in business or those in the early stages of self-employment that need advice.

8 Outreach Clinics in the library network providing business advice took place throughout the county in 2016 aimed at those thinking of setting up in business or those in the early stages of self-employment that need advice.



117 businesses attended **one-to-one mentor clinics** to help them address issues they face in their business.

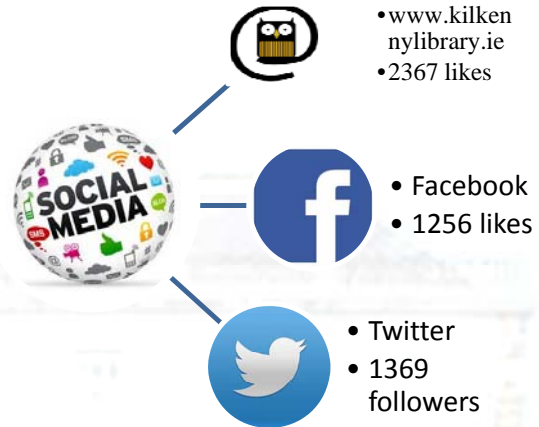
28 **Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs)** of up to €2,500 were awarded. The TOVs enable small businesses to develop an ecommerce strategy to sell their products and services online.

12 businesses were approved **Smart Option Business Loans** from St. Canice's Credit Union in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny.

287 businesses were approved **one-to-one mentoring support** to help them address issues they face in their business. LEO Kilkenny has an extensive panel of local mentors with specialist skills to call upon to assist business owners.

26 businesses were approved **Specialist Support Grants** (of 50% of eligible costs up to €1,000) to attend Trade Fairs and Market Visits Abroad.

13 schools and **649** students are currently involved in the **Student Enterprise Programme** in the secondary schools throughout the County



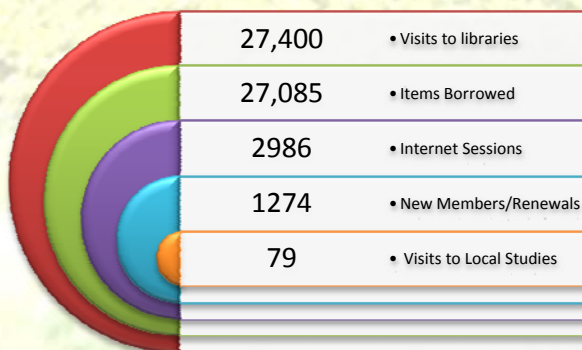
Facebook Top post: Ferrybank Library's Mannequin Challenge reached 7.1K people!

Top Tweet: Library's acting as Drop of points for Team Hope Shoebox appeal.



LIBRARY SERVICE

Statistics and Performance (Nov 2016)



Online Services

E-Books	• 314 e-books borrowed
E-Audiobooks	• 258 e-audiobooks borrowed
Zinio Magazines	• 473 magazines borrowed
Mango Languages	• 43 online language sessions
ProQuest online Newspapers	• 102 searches



Programming and Events

National Science Week

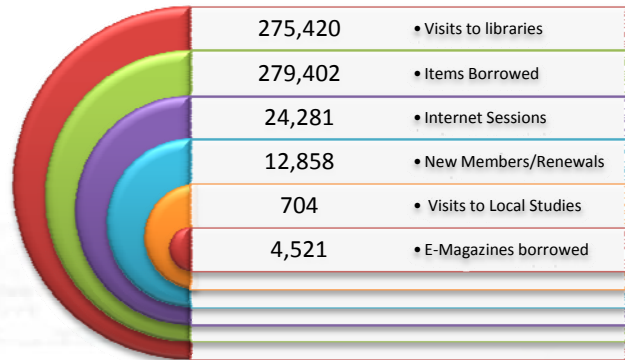
Kilkenny Library Service were delighted to be involved in National Science week, with a full programme of 10 demonstrations and interactive workshops for children in library branches throughout the county. Children were mesmerized with the mechanics of a solar powered wind Turbine made from Lego, a Knex solar-powered man & the intricacies of kite making and flying.



Mannequin Challenge

Ferrybank Library got to grips with the latest facebook craze - a 'mannequin challenge'. Staff organised a short video with St. Mary's Boys NS, to showcase all our library has to offer. The video was viewed 901 times and reached 7.1K people! Check out the video on our facebook page.

January-November Performance & Statistics



KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Announcement of Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership Club Development and Women in Sport Initiatives

KRSP gave out over €5,500 to clubs and organisations in Kilkenny for Women in Sport Initiatives and Club Development Grants on Tuesday the 13th of December in the Ormonde Hotel. This Sports Ireland funding will assist organisations and clubs across Kilkenny to organise initiatives to increase physical activity opportunities in local communities. KRSP were delighted to have Claire Grace as a guest on the night. In March of this year, Claire was ranked No.8 in the 69KG division in the World Rankings and Claire is an inspiration to young girls who dream of being the best in the world!



Men on the Move

Men on the Move are coming to a close in the four communities of Castlecomer, Thomastown, Clara



and The Watershed and so far results back are extremely promising. The aim of the activity programme was to increase the activity levels of men who were not very active. It seems to be doing that but it also seems to be delivering a lot more in the communities! From the results of the first setting, all men who completed the programme felt that their activity levels had increased, with 42% saying their activity levels increased a lot. All men surveyed agreed that they felt more confident doing physical activity, 31% of men felt like a more active member of their community and 100% of men agreed that they are more opportunities for physical activity as a result of the Men on the Move programme. We are looking forward to the results of the survey in the remaining communities and hope the same benefits will be evident!



Get Ireland Walking

There are new numbers joining the Monday Night City Walkers every week! This walking group caters for fast walkers who cover up to 7k on the night, all the way through to the complete beginner. Everyone goes at their own pace and the distance is greatly shorted by the chat on route! This walk is led by Margaret O Keefe who welcomes new participants at any stage and helps everyone get up to speed!

The group meets at Canal Square, Kilkenny City, and Mondays @ 7.00pm.



Supported Swim Lessons for Children with a Disability

Over 30 children with disabilities have taken part in swim lessons throughout the year under the guidance of our swim tutors, John Claffey and Daphne Coulter. Fifteen volunteers from the Presentation Secondary School and Loreto Secondary school have supported the swimmers during their lessons. A huge thank you to all those who have been involved in making this programme so worthwhile for the children and their parents. The progress of the groups is fantastic to see and we look forward to this programme starting again in 2018.

“Football For All” in Evergreen FC

Well Done to Evergreen FC on hosting the inaugural “Football for All” inter-provincial match on Saturday in Evergreen's facility on the Kells Road, Kilkenny. This is a great indication of the work that is happening on a weekly basis in Evergreen FC to promote inclusion in sport. Evergreen “Football For All” caters for all players with a disability who want to play football and training is every Saturday in Evergreen FC on the Kells Rd. There was a great turn out on the day and well done to all the players involved!

Sports Capital Funding

Clubs around the county should start preparing for the next round of Sports Capital. This funding is for capital projects such as dressing rooms, pitches, goal posts and non-personal equipment. The next round of funding in the Sports Capital Programme will be available early in 2017. See





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the links below for further information or contact
Caitriona on 087 9750501.

Tax Registration Form:

[http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/publications/
sport/english/guide-registering-
oscar/guidetoregisteringonoscar2016a.pdf](http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/publications/sport/english/guide-registering-oscar/guidetoregisteringonoscar2016a.pdf)

This link will be updated once the grant scheme is
announced:

[http://www.dttas.ie/sport/english/sports-capital-
programme](http://www.dttas.ie/sport/english/sports-capital-programme)

**Ormonde Leisure leads the way with Older
Adult Activity Programme**

Ormonde Leisure and KRSP have been working
together for the last five years to create a
programme of activities for Older Adults. This
has proved to be hugely successful over the years
and has grown from strength to strength with
close to 100 Older Adults taking part on a weekly
basis in specific older adult classes. Ormonde
Leisure will continue to run these classes into
2017 and KRSP look forward to working with
other facilities and leisure centres in Kilkenny to
extend their programmes to cater for the whole
community!





Appendix 1.
Finance Report – December 2016.

The expenditure by service division for the ten months to the end of October is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €64.49m compared with the annual budget of €67.18m.

Table 1	Actual YTD October 2016	Budget Full Year 2016
	€000's	€000's
Housing & Building	15,207	14,083
Road Transport & Safety	18,933	16,848
Water Services	5,744	7,603
Development Management	5,981	6,562
Environmental Services	7,322	8,628
Recreation & Amenity	5,106	6,024
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	520	761
Miscellaneous Services	5,675	6,673
Overall Total	64,488	67,182

Cash collection for the main income streams has increased by €715k from the total collected at end of November 2015. Collection levels for Commercial Rates have improved by 2% from the same period last year. Kilkenny County Council is on course to meet its performance indicator targets for cash collection in 2016.

The bank overdraft facility was utilized on 155 days to the end of November 2016 and the maximum overdrawn balance was €6.2m.

The term loan of €13.5m approved by Council in September has been drawn down in the week ending December 9th.

The Valuation Office has commenced the detailed work on the full revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny. It is important that all property owners respond promptly to any communications they receive from the Valuation Office. Ratepayers can obtain information on the process by contacting the Valuation Office at 01 8171199 or by sending an Email to ckReval2017@valoff.ie.