

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2017



November 2017

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

17th November, 2017: Closing date for submissions on Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan.

10th to 19th November, 2017: Eigse Sliabh Rua in Slieverue.

20th November, 2017: Closing date for four night intensive course in Irish aimed at intermediate and advanced by Irish Conversation Group in Education Centre, Seville Lodge, Callan Road.

24th November, 2017: Graiguenamanagh Historical Society – Kevin Kenny of The Shackleton Museum Committee speaking on the topic “Get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton” – Graiguenamanagh Library.

31st January, 2018: Closing date for receipt of applications for Waterways Ireland Heritage Community Grant Scheme, 2018.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Web Site Statistics

Total Page Views	Year 2016	To date 2017
kilkennycoco.ie	1,108,658	1,104,515
visitkilkenny.ie	1,032,563	913,608
kilkenny.ie	155,373	148,119
kilkennylibrary.ie	122,892	120,335
kilkennycity.ie	37,653	24,372
consult.kilkenny.ie		14,887
kilkennyheritage.ie	15,470	8,950
investkilkenny.ie	9,131	9,639
kilkennyagefriendlycounty.ie	4,486	3,366
kmhp.ie	5,202	1,342
rhymereg.net	1,235	1,125
Total	2,492,663	2,350,258

Storm Ophelia Social Media Summary

The Information System Department worked closely with the Crisis Management Team during the Storm Ophelia Emergency Situation to communicate the Council's messages to the public via our social media channels. In advance of the storm, the Kilkenny Alerts System, Facebook, Twitter and the Council's website were used to communicate the status orange and status red alerts.

Between Sunday 15th October and Tue 17th October the Council:

- tweeted 67 times which got 122,000 impressions.
- Posted 51 times on Facebook and got 164,448 impressions. Top post was in relation to the Status Orange Alert issued on the 15th October.
- Issued 20 alerts via Kilkenny Alerts which in turn sent over 12,600 SMS messages and 13,000 emails to the public.

- Had over 45,000 page views on its web site during the 3 days.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017

Kilkenny County Council has been successful in obtaining approval to 11 projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017. The total amount of funding secured is €873,364. Contact has been made with all communities and funding agreements are in place for the 6 projects being led by the local community. The Council will lead on four of the remaining five projects and is examining options in regard to securing funding for the fifth project.

An extension has been sought and approved for the drawdown of funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The extension was sought to allow for Part 8 planning, procurement, other planning issues and seasonal issues with regards to river works. The extension is conditional that the projects will be fully completed and all funding to be drawn down by the end June 2018.

Community projects have been allocated a community liaison officer from the community section who will work with the groups to mobilise the projects.

Tidy Estates

Kilkenny County Council hosted an event in the Parade Tower in Kilkenny Castle on Wednesday the 25th of October to congratulate the winners of the 2017 Kilkenny County Council Tidy Estates awards. The aim of this competition is to encourage residents to take an active role in improving the physical appearance of their estates and the valuable role of the many volunteers was acknowledged in this event. Nineteen estates took part in the competition this year over three

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categories with 16 groups represented at the event.



Pride of Place

Kilkenny County Council wishes the best of luck to the Community projects that will represent Kilkenny at the 2017 National Pride of Place Awards. The participating community groups from Kilkenny include Tullahought, Kells, Newpark Close and the Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre. The IPB Pride of Place Awards in Association with Co-Operation Ireland will be taking place on the 2nd December, 2017, in Letterkenny in County Donegal.

Comhairle na nÓg

A very successful 2017 Comhairle na nÓg AGM was held on the 26th October in Lyrath Estate. The event was well attended by secondary school students throughout the County and focused on themes of safe socialising and civic engagement with the Local Authority. The organisers and steering committee were delighted with the attendance, organisation and involvement of the Council.

Rapid Funding

An allocation of €64,500 has been announced by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, for the RAPID programme which is specifically targeted at capital works in urban areas of high disadvantage and at disadvantaged groups. Projects must be aligned to the LECP high level goals.

The funding is additional to the Council's RAPID funding (which is targeted at the Kilkenny City RAPID areas). The LCDC has oversight of the funding and its recommendations will be brought to the relevant Municipal Districts for approval as soon as possible.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

The current SICAP ends on 31st December, 2017 and the tender process is currently underway for a new programme which will run from 1st January, 2018 for a period of 5 years. The value of the tender is €632,126 per year.

Kilkenny Resettlement Projects

An Interagency Resettlement Committee has been established and have accessed a resettlement budget of €338,000 through the European Union under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The programme is co-financed by the Department of Justice and Equality for the implementation of the resettlement programme for 140 refugees from Syria under the Humanitarian Protection Programme. The programme has been tendered out to Respond Support which will employ a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Worker as well as develop appropriate programmes.

TOURISM & MARKETING

Festival Grants Presentation Night

Kilkenny County Council hosted a successful presentation night in the Rivercourt Hotel on Monday 23rd October, acknowledging those communities and festivals which were allocated financial support by the Council under the Festivals and Events Grants Scheme for 2017. Communities from all Municipal Districts were presented with grant certificates and the recipients were thanked personally by Cathaoirleach David Fitzgerald, and were given

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an overview of the range of Council projects and services being delivered city and countywide.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cathaoirleach of the Piltown Municipal District, presented certificates to those festivals and events in the Piltown area, whilst Cllr. John Brennan, Cathaoirleach of the Castlecomer Municipal District, did likewise for events in the Castlecomer district. Cllr Michael Doyle, Mayor of the Municipal District of Kilkenny City did the honours for the City District, and Cathaoirleach David Fitzgerald presented certificates to a selection of events from around the County.



The night finished with light refreshments and a promise to make 2018 bigger and better for all Kilkenny communities, and a wish that Kilkenny's calendar of festivals will continue to grow and prosper.

Carrickfergus group visit to Kilkenny:

Representatives from the Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) visited Kilkenny and Waterford on 12th October to learn more about ongoing work here and how we are maximising our heritage offerings to boost their economies. The THI is a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) regeneration programme for towns with conservation areas that aims to preserve and enhance buildings through targeted grant assistance, raise local awareness of built heritage and skills, and generally stimulate and support wider economic regeneration.

Councillor Billy Ashe, who is chair of the THI Board, said: "Representatives from the THI and Council's museums service were shown first-hand how Kilkenny and Waterford have successfully capitalised on their heritage to promote tourism and stimulate wider economic regeneration".

He noted that the Local Authorities in both Kilkenny and Waterford were aware of the value of their significant heritage assets and over recent years have invested heavily in their arts and heritage offer and branding. Cllr Ashe said: "For example, the 'Medieval Mile' branding and investment that includes a new museum facility in a former church. The medieval mile which links Kilkenny Castle with nearly 400,000 visitors a year to the impressive Saint Canice's Church of Ireland Cathedral through the city centre has reinforced the overall heritage offer.

Deputy Mayor and Carrickfergus THI Project Board Member, Cllr. Cheryl Johnston, found the study visit of benefit and noted "In Kilkenny we

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witnessed several complimentary areas of activity ranging from festivals and events to a popular farmers' market, that have helped place it as a top tourist heritage destinations in the Republic of Ireland.”



Photograph: Carrickfergus delegation pictured in Kilkenny with Michael Starrett, Chief Executive Heritage Council, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cathoirleach Kilkenny County Council, Cllr Malcolm Noonan, Chairman Kilkenny Heritage Forum, Martina Moloney, Chair Irish Walled Towns Network and Colette Byrne, CEO Kilkenny County Council

Tourism supporting Mental Health Conference

Kilkenny Tourism supported the Carlow/Kilkenny Mental Health Service executive who hosted the Mental Health Service Managers Conference in Kilkenny



CEDRA Funding

Kilkenny Tourism, Kilkenny County Council, the Local Enterprise Office were successful in securing €50k in CEDRA funding for phase 2 of their

#tastekilkenny food Tourism initiative. #tastekilkenny has worked extensively on promoting the origin and quality of the food offering in Kilkenny and the voluntary input and engagement of various producers and community groups to enrich Kilkenny's food credentials.

Stakeholders have worked together in refining the food experience and destination proposition, promoting the origin and quality of the food offering in Kilkenny. Phase 2 will deliver on developing the brand with marketing initiatives and online engagement, and consolidating the producer group offering.



YULEFEST PR – SAVOUR Kilkenny

During October the Yulefest promotional mill increased activities to maximise PR Opportunities. Yulefest secured a prominent stand at Savour Kilkenny 2017 Food Festival which was the biggest and best festival to date and attended by an estimated 25, 000 people over the bank holiday weekend. Flyers and competitions generated great engagement with the public.



“Happy Pear”



November 2017

With an even bigger programme of events to promote, the Yulefest team took every opportunity to share the Christmas message.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE:

SOME OF THE NUMBERS 2017:

- The Local Enterprise Office has approved (net) €466,118 to 24 projects, 4 of which are Feasibility/Innovation Study Grants, 7 Priming Grants targeted at start-up businesses and 13 Business Expansion Grants targeted at businesses trading more than 18 months, contributing to the direct creation of 38 jobs with the associated business projecting the creation of 91 jobs in the next 3 years;
- 25 Trading Online Vouchers have been approved totalling €52,440, aimed at encouraging business to develop their online presence;
- Nine businesses have been assisted with applications for the Smart Options Loan Scheme, a partnership between St. Canice's Credit Union and the Local Enterprise Office;
- Nine businesses have been assisted with applications to Micro Finance Ireland;
- 298 business promoters have availed of one-to-one mentoring assistance to address particular issues within their businesses;
- 368 people have availed of one-to-one business advisory sessions with LEO Executive;
- Nine business have been approved Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter Grants enabling them to increase their export sales;
- Two businesses have been transferred to the Enterprise Ireland portfolio and 1 business has received an offer of Competitive Start Funding;

- Three outreach clinics have taken place at Graiguenamanagh Library and at Ferrybank Library, ensuring that the services of the Local Enterprise Office are accessible County wide.

IRELAND'S BEST YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR BOOTCAMP

The Finalists in Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition (IBYE), under the age of 35 from both Carlow and Kilkenny, attended a Bootcamp in Butler House over the course of 2 days on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st October. Now in its' 4th year, the IBYE enterprise initiative from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and Enterprise Ireland is co-ordinated by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices nationally and commences with a nationwide competition across three categories at County level:

1. Best Idea;
2. Best Start-Up Business; and
3. Best Established Business.

Butler House in Kilkenny, was the venue and provided a source of inspiration to participants over the course of the weekend. The Bootcamp was delivered by the South East Business and Innovation Centre (South East BIC) www.southeastbic.ie – Aidan Shine and Rosemary Ward. Guest speakers included Jennifer O'Connell, Irish Times journalist & Silicon Valley trained digital communications professional.



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NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY
 Organised by the Local Enterprise Offices in Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford, the National Women's Enterprise Day Conference was held in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel Carlow recently. Over 100 female entrepreneurs from across the region attended the event. The Local Enterprise Offices invited successful female entrepreneurs, including Kilkenny based entrepreneur Caroline Wafer, Director of EASE, based in Knocktopher; Wexford entrepreneurs Karen Keane and Maura Bell and Dr. Xuemei Germaine, MicroGen Biotech based in Carlow to share their business stories with MC Sonya Lennon and the delegates in attendance.



R704/L7497 Rosbercon, New Ross.	Junction Improvements to improve visibility splay and turning radius.	€58,000	Land acquired works to commence shortly.
R426 Deerpark, Castlecomer to Clogh Road.	Traffic Calming Measures - Provision of driver feedback signs and improved road markings.	€13,000	Completed.
R448 Ballyhale.	Provision of signalised pedestrian crossing to cater for Scoil Phádraig, Ballyhale National School.	€25,000	Completed.
R435 Johnstown.	Provision of Driver Feedback Signs and improved road markings at Johnstown National School.	€15,000	To commence shortly.
R697/L1029 Rogerstown Cross, Dunnamaggin	Junction Improvements to improve visibility splay	€20,000	Completed.

ROADS:

Safety Improvement Programme

Under the 2017 Safety Improvement Programme the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport allocated funding in the amount €249,000 for low cost safety measures on the Regional and Local Road Network. The table provided hereunder provides a status to date on same:-

Location / Townland	Proposed Works	Allocation	Status
R700 Inistioge	Provision of footpath and signalised pedestrian crossing.	€48,000	Substantially completed
R693 Freshford Road, Kilkenny City	Traffic Calming Route Treatment from Talbots Inch to the junction of the Freshford & Granges Road - Phase 1	€70,000	Works ongoing.

N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme extends from the N76 Ring Road Callan Road Roundabout to the Brownstown Junction. The Scheme provides for the introduction of on-line footpaths/cycle tracks and public lighting from the Ring Road to Tennypark Cross and an off-line road realignment between Tennypark Cross and Brownstown. The works contract commenced in early 2017 and progress on site has been steady. It is expected that the project will be completed in Quarter 1 2018, possibly ahead of programme. During the month of October the realigned section of the road was opened to traffic, under a roadwork's speed limit, in order to facilitate the removal of the old N76 road and the construction of junction tie-ins.



November 2017



N76 Callan Road Realignment – New Road Construction

Non- National Bridge Rehabilitation Programme

On foot of a principal inspection of the Council's Bridge Stock, the Council received an allocation under the Non-National Bridge Rehabilitation Programme to undertake remedial works on a number of structures within the County. The table provided hereunder provides a up to date status on same:-

Bridge Location	Expenditure	Remedial Work Status
Shankill Tld. Bridge, Shankill, Paulstown.	€13,746	Complete.
Tullowbrin Tld. Bridge, Johnswell.	€15,000	Works ongoing – to be completed before end of Nov.
Monarche Commons Tld. Bridge & 1767 - Baunta Commons Tld Bridge, Callan.	€25,547	Complete.
Talbotshill Bridge, Gowran.	€15,938	Complete.
Owning Tld. Bridge, Piltown.	€5,387	Complete.
Curraghkehoe Tld. Bridge, Barrackhill, Tullaroan.	€20,000	Works ongoing – to be completed before end of Nov.

Doonane Tld. Bridge, Doonane, Clooneen.	€16,237	Complete.
Tullaheerin Tld. Bridge, Dungarven, Gowran.	€25,000	Works ongoing – to be completed before end of Nov.
Newtown Bridge.	€10,181	Complete.
Cregg Bridge, Piltown.	€15,447	Complete.
Kanes Bridge, Castlewarren.	€4,393	To commence next week
Ballyhendricken Bridge, Ballycallan Road.	€10,618	Works ongoing – to be completed before end of Nov.
Garrydague Bridge, Gattabawn, Kilkenny	€10,000	Works ongoing – to be completed before end of Nov
River Nore Bridge, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny	€3,500	Complete.
Thomastown Culvert (Pipe St, Market St)	€117,000	Special Inspection & Recommendation Report Completed – Specific Improvement Application issued to DTTAS.

HOUSING:

Private Grants

The total amount in grants approved (275) at 1st November is €1,924,328 of which 20%

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(€384,866) is being provided from the Council's own revenue resources.

Opening of Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018: The Housing Aid for Older Persons is a grant to assist older people over 66 years living in poor housing conditions. The grant mainly covers rewiring and re-roofing and is assessed in-house by technical staff. Due to limited funding and increasing numbers of applications the Council has decided again to advertise the scheme giving a 6 week period for receipt of applications from 30th October 2017 to **Friday 11th December 2017**. The other two grant schemes based on medical need remain open.

Tenant Handbook

The Tenant Handbook is now updated and a copy of the Tenant Handbook will be circulated to all members and tenants and can be accessed on our website. This handbook outlines in greater detail the responsibility of both the tenant and landlord (Kilkenny County Council) in relation to housing maintenance. This will assist members when dealing with queries from tenants and making representations.

The benefits of updating the report and restating clearly both tenant and landlord responsibility for maintenance will contribute to greater efficiencies and result in additional monies becoming available for planned maintenance. This in turn will benefit the tenant.

October 2017 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 31st October, 2017	2204
Number of assessment interviews carried out in October:	34
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	12
Number of HAP tenancies to	811

31st October 2017:

Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	3
Anti social behaviour cases:	10
New Homeless Presentations:	27
Maintenance Calls for October 2017	642
Maintenance Calls year to date	4566
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	35
Amount of Loans Approved to 31st October, 2017	€3,876,842

Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in 2018 for all our tenants.

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month of 2017 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 are set out below. There were 271 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/10/2017.

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	28
June	31	June	24
July	31	July	34
August	32	August	27
September	27	September	24
October	30	October	27
Total	296	Total	271

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PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to October, 2016	Total to October, 2017
Planning Applications Received	724	720
Planning Applications Granted	630	626
Planning Applications Refused	43	42
Complaints Received	84	100
Warning Letters Issued	52	70
Enforcements Notices Issued	27	40

Forward Planning:

- Having considered the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received to the Draft Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan, the Council published material alterations to the Draft Plan. The material alterations were on public display from Friday, 6th October to Friday, 3rd November, 2017. A total of 9 submissions were received and the Chief Executive's report will issue shortly.
- The Hebron Road Urban Design Strategy was approved by the Council at the October Council meeting.
- A Draft Local Area Plan for Castlecomer was published in October and is currently undergoing its statutory public consultation. As part of this, an Information Evening was held on Tuesday 17th of October in the Castlecomer library, and this was very well attended. Submissions can be made up until Friday 17th November in writing or online through <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or by e-mail to ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie
- Variation No. 4 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan and Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan were adopted by the Council at the October

meeting. These Variations will facilitate the implementation of the vacant sites levy.

- Notices issued to owners of vacant sites in Kilkenny City, Castlecomer and Ferrybank, notifying them of our intention to place the sites on the Vacant Sites Register. The owners now have 28 days to make a submission to us.
- The Draft National Planning Framework was published by the Government in October 2017 for public consultation. The closing date for submissions was the 10th November. The Council's Chief Executive made a submission to this process, as did the Piltown Municipal District Members.

ENVIRONMENT:

Education & Awareness

"Preparation of the Litter Management Plan"

The 2018-2020 Litter Management Plan is currently being prepared and will be advertised for public consultation in early 2018. Elected members will be provided with a draft plan prior to the public consultation period and will receive advanced notification of the public consultation activities which will include a workshop with the Tidy Town Forum members, a representative voice of tidy town volunteers throughout the county.

Civic Amenity Site in South Kilkenny

The Council following a competitive tendering process has recently awarded a contract to Crystalhill Inns Ltd, t/a CHI to provide, operate, maintain and manage a Civic Amenity, recycling and waste disposal centre in South Kilkenny. Kilkenny County Council will be contributing towards the costs of operating this facility. This facility is located at Grannagh and will open in mid November.

Draft River Basin Management Plan

The Environment Section gave a presentation to the Elected Members on the Proposed Areas for Action, 2nd Cycle, River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021, Co. Kilkenny. A public consultation was also held for members of the public.



November 2017

This is a new approach – a collaboration between public bodies, private sector and Irish citizens to improve and protect our waters for all.

October Statistics - Environment

Inspection Type	
Complaints Investigated	121
Litter Patrols	44
Waste Facility inspections	6
Discharge Licenses Premises	1
Farm Inspections	7
Septic Tank Inspections	2
River Bank Inspections	11
Litter Pollution Surveys	Completed
ATM Surveys	Completed
Regulation	
Planning Reports	50
Planning Inspections	4
Tyre Regulations	83
Household Food Waste Survey	21
Monitoring	
Historic Landfill monitoring	2
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	24
Priority Site Monitoring	15
Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	44
Groundwater Monitoring	3
Monitoring for Water Services	60



Outdoor exercise equipment at The River Nore Linear Park

Woodstock Gardens

Woodstock Gardens was closed for a short period following Storm Ophelia to allow staff to clean up and make the area safe again for the public. Extensive damage was done, in particular many important specimen trees were lost. Meanwhile work is continuing on the development of the four parterres in an area of the garden known as the Winter Garden, to the front of Woodstock House. Funded with the assistance of the REDZ scheme this project aims to restore some of the historic plantings to this significant part of the garden. A significant amount of drainage, edging of paths and turfing of the four parterres has taken place to date.



Fallen Cedar after Storm Ophelia

PARKS:

Sports Capital Projects

The Parks Department were successful in their application for grants for the provision of outdoor gym equipment at locations across the city. This exercise equipment is proving very popular particularly when sited adjacent to existing facilities. Following formal approval by the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme, the outdoor gyms are almost completed and have recently been installed at Pocke Valley and Riverside Drive (River Nore Linear Park).

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The Winter Garden in circa 1890

Outdoor Recreation Grants

Work is underway on the upgrade of trails across the County funded by the Outdoor Recreation Grant. Trails in Freshford, The South Leinster Way, City River Walks and Castlecomer Discovery Park will benefit from improvements to trails, signage and other facilities. 20% of match funding will be provided by Kilkenny County Council.

HERITAGE

Pop Up Gaeltacht

The Irish Conversation Group based in Loughboy Library, in association with the Education Centre, are holding a four-night intensive course in Irish aimed at **intermediate** and **advanced** levels from **27th – 30th November, 2017** from 7.00p.m.-9.30p.m. each night in the Education Centre, Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny. Ring Dan 086/8527400 before **20th November, 2017**. Cost €20

Eigse Sliabh Rua – Ui Dea

Eigse Sliabh Rua will take place in Slieverue from **10th – 19th November**. Historical tours, film screenings and Viking adventures are just some of the events in this festival. To find out more about these events go to http://www.slieverue.com/eigse_2017.html

Plough and the Stars

A co-production from Barnstorm Theatre Company and the Watergate Theatre of Sean O'Casey's **The Plough** and the **Stars** will take place from **29th November – 2nd December** nightly at 8.00p.m. Sean O'Casey was an Irish dramatist and memoirist. A committed socialist, he was the first Irish playwright of note to write about the Dublin working classes. For further details go to <http://barnstorm.ie/> or <http://watergatetheatre.com/shows/>

“Get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton”

Graiguenamanagh Historical Society have Kevin Kenny of The Shackleton Museum Committee to speak on the topic “Get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton” on **Friday 24th November @ 8.00p.m.** in Graiguenamanagh Library. All are welcome. Non Members €3.

Waterways Ireland Heritage Community Grant Scheme 2018

Waterways Ireland has allocated a fund of €20,000 to assist community based heritage projects which compliment or fulfil the delivery of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan, including along the River Barrow. Only one grant up to €1,500 per organisation is permitted. Communities, individuals and organisations can apply. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is **31st January 2018**. Email cormack.mccarthy@waterwaysireland.org for any queries relating to this grant scheme.

LIBRARY SERVICES

A total of €126,582 in grant funding has been allocated to Kilkenny County Council Library Service by the Department of Rural and Community Development to support the implementation of the national library strategy. Investment will be focused on the provision of self issue and self service technology in all

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branches, supporting literacy development among children and families and implementing the Right To Read programme and finally developing the potential of the library service to provide spaces to support people who seek work, wish to up skill, avail of online training or set up a business as part of the Work Matters Programme.

primary school classes from all over the County, from Bilboa to Ferrybank and School of the Holy Spirit to Poulacapple were entertained by authors & illustrators such as Tom McCaughren, Judi Curtin, Liz Weir, Chris Judge, Cartoon Saloon, Alan Nolan and Carol Ann Treacy.

Kilkenny Library Service
October 2017



SOCIAL MEDIA

- www.kilkennylibrary.ie
- 25k hits
- Facebook
- 37k reached
- Twitter
- 21.8k reached

International Mental Health Week

Kilkenny Library Service hosted 7 events countywide to promote positive mental health with 217 participants. Our highlights were Enda O'Doherty's motivational talk on his walk from Belfast to Waterford with a 25kg washing machine on his back really engaged a large crowd of teenagers and adults in Graiguenamanagh Library, and the talented High Hopes Choir from Waterford, who give a voice to those affected by homelessness in Ferrybank Library.



Bookville Festival

Bookville Festival was a phenomenal success, with over 2,000 children attending the wide range of events on offer over the 5 day festival. 58



Appendix 1.

Kilkenny County Council Finance Report

Finance Report – November 2017.

The expenditure by service division for the ten months to the end of October 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €62.5m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

Table 1	Actual YTD Oct 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	14,423	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	16,527	17,093
Water Services	5,258	6,778
Development Management	6,879	7,894
Environmental Services	7,566	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	4,999	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	505	798
Miscellaneous Services	6,404	6,661
Overall Total	62,561	70,165

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilised during the ten months to the end of October.

The total Commercial Rates collected is up by 2% compared with the ten months to October 2016. This would indicate that more account holders are availing of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets.

The full revaluation of all commercial properties by the Valuation Office has now been completed. The process has not resulted in any additional Income for the Council. A total of 1,988 (62%) accounts will have a reduced rate demand for 2018 while 1,121 (35%) will have an increase in their demand. The final comparable rate multiplier (ARV) for each former rating authority is .196 for the former County rating authority and .213 for the former Borough rating authority. The indicative ARV provided during the revaluation process was .21. Detailed proposals on the harmonization of the multipliers of both former rating authorities will be considered by Council at the upcoming 2018 budget meeting.

The preparation of the detailed budget for 2018 is currently underway and the draft budget book will be circulated to Members on 15th October 2017.