



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2018
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

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

Information Evenings will be take place on City & County Development Plans and Local Area Plans on:

- **Tuesday 20th November** [4.00 - 8.00pm]
Thomastown Community Hall.
- **Wednesday, 21st November** [4.00 to 8.00 p.m.]
Callan Community Hall

25th November

The Draft Register of Electors is on display in Kilkenny County Council's Offices

27th November

Information Day N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme in Community Centre Mooncoin from 2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

16th January, 2019

Community Awards Ceremony in Parade Tower.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE

Are You Registered to Vote?



Check The Draft Register Of Electors By 25th November 2018

The Draft Register of Electors is on display in Kilkenny County Council's offices in John Street, High Street, all Area Offices, all Libraries, in the Garda Station, Dominic Street and the Post Office, High Street and online at www.checktheregister.ie until 25th November 2018.

Anyone who is aged 18 or over should check that their name, address and other details are added and correct on the Draft Register. If any of the details are incorrect on the draft register please contact Corporate Section in County Hall on 056 7794027 before the 25th of November 2018.

HOUSING

Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 18th April 2018 notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 133 units for 2018.

Up to end October 2018 a number of Schemes advanced as follows:

- On Monday, 15th October Minister John Paul Phelan, officially opened Kilkenny County Council's newest social housing units at Greensbridge near the centre of the City. These 5 housing units are one bedroom homes to be used as



short term accommodation for people with urgent housing need, as a valuable alternative to the use of hotel room accommodation.

- Kilkenny County Council acquired 42 houses - 21 sales completed and 21 at sale agreed stage.
- AHB purchase of 77 houses /apartments - 38 completed and 39 at sale agreed stage.
- 4 units at Smyth's Road, Ballyragget were completed and occupied in October 2018 (Oaklee AHB).
- 'Broguemaker' site, Castlecomer Road (18 units)- Information meeting held on Wednesday 7th November in the Newpark Hotel on the Part 8 Statutory Process, which commenced 19th October. Closing date for submissions is November 30th 2018.
- 4 Units at Cloghabrody, Thomastown – Part 8 approved at September Council Meeting.
- Department funding secured for 9 units in Ogenty, Gowran. Works continuing on site
- 18 units at Togher Way, Urlingford nearing completion.
- 50 units, Nuncio Road commenced construction in October as a 3 phased development (Respond AHB).
- Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer (33 units) – tender report received and being reviewed.
- Breaghagh Place, Main St, Piltown (17 units) – to commence on site before end of 2018.
- Blackstaff House, Callan - tenders received and under review.
- Station Avenue, Ballyragget (22 units) expected to go to tender in November 2018.
- Crokershill development – pre planning stage.



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Opening of 5 Units at Greensbridge House – 15th
October

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 244 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/10/2018.

	2016	2017	2018
Jan	37	29	37
Feb	30	26	32
Mar	18	26	21
April	26	25	18
May	34	28	29
June	31	24	20
July	31	34	15
August	32	27	26
September	27	24	19
October	30	27	27
Sub-total	296	270	244
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
Total	349	319	

Rent Review 2018

As previously advised the Housing Department sought income and household details from tenants and the rent review is now complete. Based on details submitted by households the rent was calculated in accordance with the Council's Differential Rent Scheme 2018.

Letters were issued to tenants on Friday 26th Oct advising that the new rent is payable from week

ending 10th November 2018. If tenants wish to query their new rent they can contact the Housing Department at 056-7794900 or by e-mail at housing@kilkennycoco.ie.

All queries will be dealt with as quickly as possible. Tenants were advised of the appeal process on exceptional hardship grounds, and should be submitted on or before 23rd November 2018, setting out the grounds for the appeal together with any supporting documentation.

Housing Policy

At the Council meeting held on 15th October 2018 the elected members approved the following Policies:

- Homeless Services Policy
- Anti Social Behaviour Policy

October 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st October, 2018	2,052
Number of assessment interviews carried out in October :	18
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	15
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 st October:	780
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	2
Anti social behaviour cases:	9
New Homeless Presentations:	27
Maintenance Calls for October 2018	497
Maintenance Calls year to-date	4141
No. Housing Loans Approved to-date (Annuity/Construction)	17
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st October, 2018	€2,003,930



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PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total to October	
	2017	2018
Planning Applications Received	720	724
Planning Applications Granted	626	576
Planning Applications Refused	43	53
Complaints Received	100	90
Warning Letters Issued	70	66
Enforcements Notices Issued	34	42

FORWARD PLANNING:

City & County Development Plans

A special meeting of the Council was held on the 22nd October to consider the Chief Executive's report on the first public consultation phase of the City & County Development Plan. Members accepted the recommendations of the Chief Executive and highlighted a number of issues of concern including rural housing policy and regeneration of towns and villages

Section 12 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 was commenced by Ministerial Order on the 18th Oct 2018. This requires Local Authorities to suspend the process of making the plan until not later than 13 weeks after the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies by the Regional Assembly.

The Regional Assembly is preparing the Regional Spatial Strategy and it is expected to be published in the coming weeks.

In the meantime the background survey and analysis work on the City & County Development will continue.

A series of workshops will take place over the next 6 weeks between the Planning Department and other Council Sections as part of the review process of the plan.

Local Area Plans

Draft local area plans for Callan and Thomastown have been placed on public display for a period of 6 weeks from the 8th November to the 20th December inclusive.

Copies of both plans and their associated environmental reports can be viewed at their respective area offices and branch libraries. The plans can also be viewed at the main planning office in County Hall.

The Plans are available for inspection on the Council's portal at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie> Submissions or observations are encouraged to be made:

- online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or
- by e-mail to ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie or
- in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning Department, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.

Information Evenings will take place for both plans on:

- **Tuesday 20th of November 2018 from 4 - 8pm** in Thomastown Community Hall.
- **Wednesday November 21st from 4- 8pm** in Callan Community Hall and

The purpose of the Information Evenings is to provide an opportunity for the public to view the Plans and to discuss the document and associated maps and reports with a member of the planning team in advance of making a formal submission. All are welcome, no appointment is necessary.

Vacant Sites

As of the 30th September 2018 there were 18 sites on the Vacant Sites register. A total 5 sites have been activated since the register was established.

The Council is currently in the process of updating the Register for 2019. As part of that review, sites are being examined in Kilkenny City, Ferrybank and Castlecomer, and sites in Callan and Thomastown are also being included.



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Before the end of November, the Council will be sending out the first notifications (Section 7(1) Notice) under the legislation. This notifies any relevant owners that their site is being considered for inclusion on the Vacant Sites Register. The owners have an opportunity to make a written submission to the Council within a period of 28 days after the date of the notice.

A briefing session was held with Councillors on the 22nd October, 2018.

Conservation

Works under the Conservation Grants, Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund, have recently been completed. Works involved remedial works to protected structures in Kilkenny City and County, ranging from structural repairs, re-roofing, lime plaster works and window repair.

The Building Heritage Investment Scheme provided financial assistance to the value of €97,650 for 11 projects. Owners contributed €113,580 resulting a total spend for the projects of €211,230.

The Structures at Risk Fund provided financial assistance to the value of €47,000 for two projects. Owners contributed €62,054 resulting in a total spend of €109,054.

Both Schemes combined, provided 800 days employment for local professionals ranging from conservation consultants, roofers, joiners, limes works, masons and thatchers.

Taking in Charge

- Contractor appointed to commence works at Chapel View, Stoneyford. Works to commence in November.
- Works at Bellfield, Ferrybank to commence in November.
- Works substantially complete at Ard Glas, Ferrybank.

- Works completed at Lios na Si, Johnstown (public consultation stage now complete).
- Works completed at Aylesbury, Ferrybank (public consultation stage now complete).
- Works complete at Nore Terrace, Kilkenny (public consultation stage now complete).
- Works substantially complete at The Weir View, Kilkenny (public consultation stage now complete).
- Works substantially complete at Cois na Bearu, Graiguenamanagh (public consultation stage now complete).
- Works substantially complete at Bradóg Way, Gowran (public consultation stage now complete).

Bridge House

Fire Brigades from Kilkenny City, Freshford, Callan and Castlecomer were involved in dealing with a major fire at the Bridge House, John Street, Kilkenny during October.

This was a very challenging incident with a huge public interest, however we can be very proud of our Fire Service in their efforts in preventing loss of life, containing the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings, saving the building from total collapse and preserving some of the buildings unique heritage features.

Following the fire the Council took possession of the building initially under the provisions of the Fire Services Acts and subsequently under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964. The Council undertook works to make the building safe and to secure the ornate ceiling in the building before returning the site to the owners. The owners have been directed to maintain these works, as appropriate, to prevent any further deterioration to the building and the Council continues to proactively engage with the owners to secure the building. The owners are to revert with a methodology for the insertion of a new waterproof deck and platform to reconstruct the roof in the coming days.



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ENVIRONMENT

Carlow – Kilkenny Dog Shelter

Quotations have been sought to undertake essential maintenance and improvement works at the Carlow Kilkenny Dog Shelter in Paulstown, and works are expected to be completed before the end of the year. So far in 2018 (to the end of October), a total of 220 dogs have been re-homed through the shelter, with the average stay being seven days.



Savour Going Green

Kilkenny County Council and the Clean Technology Centre in conjunction with Savour Kilkenny were delighted to be involved in Savour Kilkenny going green this year. The Savour Festival took on green initiatives this year including waste minimisation and environmental awareness measures for stall holders and the many visitors attending the festival. The Environment Section supported these measures through the Local Authority Prevention Network fund.

Savour also introduced a green charter for stall holders who pledge to minimise waste and reduce water and energy consumption amongst a variety of other environmentally friendly pledges. The Festival also provided food waste bins, in addition to general waste bins this year, to cater for cooked or raw food, compostable packaging, cardboard and newspaper.

This helped divert food waste from landfill and instead the waste was composted. Kilkenny County Council and the Savour Committee encouraged festival goers to separate their waste

into compostable and general waste, to refill their water bottles at water points that will be provided thus reducing the need for plastic bottled water and to walk, cycle, car pool to get to events.

Stook 10

The Environment Section of Kilkenny County Council is funding the greening of the Stook 10 Road Race through the Local Authority Prevention Network fund. This race event will take place in Dungarvan Village on the 18th November and will attract approximately 800 competitors. The Stook 10 Committee have prepared a Waste Management Plan for the event in order to lower the events impacts on the environment and have pledged to:

- organise pre and post race litter picks along the route,
- reuse signage from previous years,
- use reusable cups to provide hydration along the race route and compostable cups for hot drinks post race,
- have clearly signed waste bins to promote correct segregation of waste,
- clear sign “throw areas” along the route where runners can dispose of their water cups,
- donate leftover food to local homeless shelters,
- provide access to potable water for people to refill their own bottles,
- use alternatives to balloons for race pacers and decoration.

The Committee will also be encouraging competitors and supporters to:

- bring their own reusable bottle/ cup
- use throw areas along the route
- cycle to the event
- carpool to the event
- pack refreshments in tupperware containers
- donate old runners to charity on the day.

Refill Ireland, a voluntary environmental project, who promote the prevention of single use



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drinking water bottles in Ireland will provide reusable water cups for competitors preventing the need for bottled water which is used at most running events.

The reusable cups provided can be used going forward by other event organisers in Kilkenny for free subject to conditions, and this can be organised by contacting Refill.ie. This initiative to prevent single use bottled water has been supported by Kilkenny County Council through the LAPN.

#Poop off Our Pavements

The Environment Section will shortly launch an Anti Dog Fouling Campaign in Kilkenny. The theme of the campaign will be #Poop off Our Pavements. The official launch is on 16th November.

The campaign will include the installation of four audio posts at various locations around the City which will advise people to pick up after their dogs, a social media and radio campaign. It is hoped that by drawing attention to this issue in a fun manner we can build on educating people that responsible dog ownership includes keeping #Poop off our Pavements.

RMCEI <i>Recommended Min. Criteria Environ. Inspection Plan</i>	No. of Inspections undertaken up to end October '18	Yearly Target No. Under RMCEI	% of Yearly Target Achieved to-date
Discharge Licensed Premises	18	24	75%
WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken	379	435	87%
WFD Investigative monitoring, samples & analysis	60	94	64%
Bathing Waters (Non- designated)	20	20	100%
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems under NIP	27	27	100%
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	22	22	100%
Ambient Monitoring	166	160	104%
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services Section	460	550	84%

Planning Assessment (written report to planning)	442	561	79%
Waste Permitted facilities – Inspections	12	15	80%
Bring Bank Surveillance	140	150	93%
Historic Landfills – risk investigation & remediation	5	7	71%
Historic Landfill monitoring	18	24	75%
Routine Litter Patrols City	302	200	151%
Routine Litter Patrols County	174	175	99%

PARKS

Playgrounds

A new community led playground at Clogh opened in October. The playground committee put in many long hours of work to deliver this playground for the community. It was part funded by Kilkenny Council with match funding by the local community.

Following successful certification Kilkenny County Council have taken over this playground in charge and will work in tandem with the local community on its upkeep. The Council will be jointly responsible for ongoing maintenance and the playground will be added to our weekly inspection regimes. This will bring to 29 the number of playgrounds in the County maintained by the Council in conjunction with local community groups.

Consultation is underway with residents in Bellfield estate in Ferrybank and in Bradóg Way in Gowran with a view to providing small 'door step' play spaces for younger children from bonds collected by the Planning Section.



The new playground in Clogh which opened in October



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Woodstock Gardens

Two new Woodstock Loop Walks with associated signage were developed connecting the village of Inistioge to the Woodstock gardens by means of the riverside walk along the River Nore. User information is provided at the trailhead in both Woodstock Gardens and at the new car park in Inistioge. An application has been made to the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Fund for the further development of these walks, in particular the surfacing and the drainage which are an issue in the winter months.

The planting of topiary in the Winter gardens is being finalised having been postponed during the drought. Locally the Fleming family have donated some garden ornaments to the gardens which were from the original 19th Century layout. We are very grateful for these original Victorian pieces which will go back to their old home and intend to put a call out for other pieces of garden ornamentation in the area which originated in Woodstock. Local historian John Kirwan will be assisting in this regard.



Great autumn colour in Woodstock Arboretum

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

The detail design has been finalised and detailed specifications are being drawn up for tendering. Works to the boundary to install pedestrian gates for greater access will commence shortly as will site clearance of old construction debris remaining on the site. This park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding with match funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities. The current budget for this park is

€623,000. However other avenues of potential funding such as under the Sports Capital Programme have been applied for to supplement the budget.



Copy of plan for Ferrybank Park and Playground

Amenity Grants

The amenity grants are currently being processed with approximately 80% of the grant aid being draw down by community groups to date, with the balance of claims expected before year end.

Kilkenny Greenway

A funding application is currently being prepared for funding for the development of the proposed Kilkenny Greenway from Waterford to New Ross including the Redbridge Walking Trail from Rosbercon to Mount Elliot by means of the Redbridge and Mount Elliot Tunnel. The total length of the combined routes is 24.3km. Wexford County Council as lead authority are being assisted by the Parks Department to collate all the necessary material to make the application to the Department of Tourism Transport and Sport for the upcoming deadline at the end of November 2018. The estimated total project cost is c€8m.

ROADS

National Roads

The N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme

Kilkenny County Council has commenced Route Selection studies to identify a Preferred Route Corridor for the N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme near Mooncoin Village.



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Three new Route Corridor Options have been developed as part of this process. The need and objectives for the project have previously been established within a Project Appraisal Plan (PAP) Report.

A public information drop in day will be arranged for Mooncoin.

The public are invited to make Submissions and complete Questionnaires.

Closing Date: 10th December, 2018.

N25 New Ross Bypass

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

The very informative project website www.n25newross.ie is available for updates on progress and the elected members are encouraged to view this.

Pavement Schemes.

N78: The N78 pavement overlay scheme with a contract value in excess of €2million is approximately 95% complete and will be completed before the end of November. This scheme involves repairs to the existing pavement, a structural overlay, road markings, drainage and footpath works over an extent of approximately 6.0 km between Castlecomer and Crettyard. The works are being completed by LAGAN.

N25: The N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graigenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is within tender award stage with a contract value of approximately €2million. This scheme is expected to commence in Q1 2019.

Kilkenny Minor Schemes

Several schemes are progressing through various stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network.

These include the N24 Tower Road, N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme, N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme, N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme.

OTHER PROJECTS:

B12 Maintenance

The Municipal District Offices log defects on the national roads via the NRA Geo App. Kilkenny County Council was successful in obtaining funding of a total of €208,681 from TII to address defects identified at 7 defects locations on the N24, N78 and N77. The Municipal District Offices are progressively addressing these defects with all complete by the end of November.

HD28

HD28 locations are where TII have identified issues with skid resistance. Once identified immediate interim solutions are implemented pending full works. 15 locations were identified as having issues in 2018. Full works involving retexturing or pavement renewals at 10 of those sites are now complete with the final sites to be completed before the end of November. The total funds for this work in 2018 is €258,619.

NON NATIONAL ROADS

CLAR Works:

Overall grant value: €300,000.

Works at Kilmaganny, Kilmanagh, Tiscofin, Listerlin, Windgap (Kilamery), Kilmacar (Conahy), Knockroe (Kilamery), Muckalee and Crosspatrick are on going. The works are being completed through the local Municipal District Offices. The works at each location are varied and include provision for car parking, footpaths, driver feedback signs and public lighting.

Low Cost Safety:

Total Value: €282,000

There are 10 locations listed for works as per Roadworks Scheme 2018. These works are being completed through the local Municipal District



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Offices principally but some works will be undertaken by contractors. The works are low cost interventions to address specific road safety issues or hazards. The works involved are varied involving signage, road markings, footpaths etc. This work should be completed by the end of November.

Restoration Improvement

Grant allocation: €6,334,000

All works completed.

Restoration Maintenance

Grant allocation: €1,584,500 [includes supplementary grant]

60.1 km of road maintenance schemes are completed to date at a total cost of €1,523,167.

Discretionary Works

Grant allocation: €3,326,703.

A substantial number of Discretionary road improvement works have been undertaken to date and will continue to progress. A total of €3.0 of expenditure has been incurred to date.

Community Involvement Scheme

Grant allocation: €400,000

A total of eight schemes were completed in 2018.

Local Improvement Scheme

Grant allocation of €660,000.

A total of nine schemes were completed to date with a further six to be completed by the end of November.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

In September Issue 10 of the Quarterly Community Interactive E-Newsletter was issued and Issue 11 will be published in December 2018. The newsletter covers relevant community information on grants, community activities and news from around the County.

The National IPB Pride of Place Awards will take place in Cork on the 17th of November. This is an all-Ireland competition which celebrates

community group contributions to local society and the creation of civic pride throughout Kilkenny. It focuses on local people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area, Four community groups will represent Kilkenny at the 2018 awards, they include Thomastown, Slieverue, the Open Circle project and Kells.

The second Kilkenny County Council grants booklet highlighting all Kilkenny County Council and other grants relevant to Community groups will be printed early in 2019. This grant booklet will also be made available on line on the Kilkenny County Council website.

A community awards ceremony has been scheduled for the 16th of January in the Parade Tower.

Health Checks

Town & Village Health Checks continued in October with public meetings held in Ballyhale, Inistioge and Mooncoin to present the reports of the consultants to the communities and form local development committees to progress the recommendations.

A new Health Check process began in The Rower in October, with a report due before year end.

Ecology Audit

The Heritage and community section have teamed up to fund an ecology audit for Glenmore. The ecology audit will assist the development of a tidy towns plan for the village and access funding for same.

Comhairle na nÓg

The AGM of the Comhairle AGM took place on 24th October, 2018. The AGM is a full day event and was attended by young people throughout Kilkenny representing their schools or community groups. The AGM is used to discuss the work of Comhairle, recruit new members and identify issues for young people living in Kilkenny and select an issue for the Comhairle



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na nÓg to work on in 2019. Comhairle na nÓg are the national representative body and consultation group for young people.

Children & Young people Services Committee

The Kilkenny CYPSC has been successful in obtaining funding through the Healthy Ireland Fund for two health improvement projects; €30,419 Newpark Family Resource Centre and €5,865 for Ossory youth.

Streetscape Paint Scheme

The scheme has paid grants to 23 out of 36 businesses to repaint the exterior of their buildings by October, receipts verification is underway for the remaining 13 approved applicants. The scheme will be open again in early 2019.

HERITAGE

Kilkenny Hosts Global Biodiversity Conference

The Heritage Office exhibited Kilkenny County Council's biodiversity projects at the recent Global Biodiversity Information Forum which took place in Kilkenny City in October. Over 200 delegates from Asia, Africa and Europe were represented at the Forum which was organised by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eamon Aylward welcomed the delegates to Kilkenny at an official ceremony in the Medieval Mile Museum. Kilkenny County Council co-sponsored the event.



Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Pat Reid, Heritage Council; Dr. Ciaran O'Keeffe, Head of Science & Biodiversity, National Parks and Wildlife Service, at the Global Biodiversity Information Forum in the Ormonde Hotel 18th October

Lisdowney Film Launch

"The Whispering Fields", a short film by the Kilkenny Field Name Recording Project was premiered in Scoil Bhríde, Lisdowney on Friday 2nd November to a packed room. Helen Carroll of RTE's *Ear to the Ground*, who has strong family connections to Lisdowney, was the guest speaker and praised all the participants for the beautiful film. Speaking at the launch, Cllr. Mary Hilda Kavanagh thanked all the volunteers commenting that the film would not have been possible without the hundreds of voluntary hours provided by them.

The film, made by local cinematographer Kevin Hughes, was commissioned by the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council, with co-funding from the Heritage Council and Creative Ireland. It celebrates the recording of field names in the areas of Clontubrid, Gathabawn and Lisdowney by local volunteers for the Kilkenny Field Name Recording Project.

The film is available for viewing at www.kilkennyheritage.ie and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdCEI8-geNM>



Dearbhala Ledwidge, Cllr. Mary Hilda Kavanagh, Eilís Costelloe, Kevin Hughes, Cllr. Maurice Shortall and Alan Counihan at the film premiere of "The Whispering Fields" in Lisdowney.



Young musicians Holly Moore, Shane Grace and Jack Grace who performed live music at the film premiere of *The Whispering Fields* in Lisdowney



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A Field Names training and support workshop for volunteers was held in Dunamaggan Old Schoolhouse on 22nd October. 15 new volunteers received training.

The Project Co-ordinator Alan Counihan, and Heritage Officer, gave a public talk about the Field Names Project on 26th October in St. Canice's Cathedral as part of the series of lunchtime talks hosted by the Cathedral.



Paddy Neary, Volunteer; Elizabeth Keyes, Administrator St. Canice's Cathedral; Dearbhala Ledwidge; Alan Counihan, St. Canice's Cathedral 26th October

Heritage in Local Area Plans

The Heritage Office made submissions on heritage policies in the Draft Callan & Thomastown Local Area Plans.

South East Region Tidy Towns Awards

The Heritage Officer attended the South East Region Tidy Towns awards ceremony at the Springhill Hotel on 6th Nov and co-presented, with Minister Michael Ring, the SE regional pollinator award to Tullahought Tidy Towns.

The Kilkenny Tourism website – www.visitkilkenny.ie – was updated over the summer period, with a soft launch of the new site on 22nd October. The new content is being tested and Kilkenny Tourism members have been asked to comment and ensure that the details are correct etc.

The revamped website is an important milestone in delivering on the objectives agreed by Council in the Statement of Tourism Strategy and work programme 2017 – 2022.

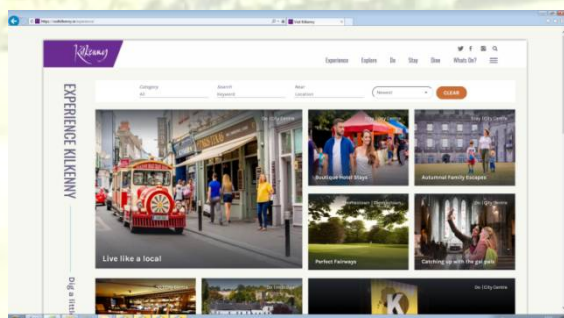
Ref: Foodie Destination 2018



Posters were designed & distributed promoting Kilkenny as Foodie Destination Winner for 2018.

TOURISM

WEBSITE LAUNCH:



Foodie Destination: Neven Maguire RTE Christmas Special

Following on from Kilkenny's win in the Foodie Destination awards, the **Neven Maguire Christmas Special** will be filmed in Kilkenny in early November in Kilkenny. The show goes out over 2 nights (2 X 26 mins). Date & Time – TBC. Audience Reach – over 300,000. Our tourism staff worked closely with the production team to ensure that the programme could be filmed here



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ONE KILKENNY:

The ONE KILKENNY theme is continued in October with the focus on Thomastown, under the heading “360° Kilkenny”

Thomastown – “360° Kilkenny”



FÁILTE IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST AUTUMN CAMPAIGN:

'Jerpoint Glass' and 'The Hole in the Wall' highlighted in national campaign

Two Kilkenny Companies feature in Fáilte Ireland's latest marketing campaign encouraging Irish people to take a short break in Ireland's Ancient East this Autumn.

Rory Leadbetter of Jerpoint Glass and Dr Michael Conway of The Hole in the Wall pub are at the forefront in the campaign, being two out of just four tourist attractions chosen to promote Ireland's Ancient East as a domestic staycation destination. In 2017, Irish residents took 4.9 million holiday trips in Ireland, spending €1.1 billion nationwide.

The campaign is set to feature across national and local radio stations and it is sure to gain a strong online presence with the production of

two stunning videos, check them out, [Jerpoint Glass Video](#) and [The Hole in the Wall Video](#).

Coverage in RSVP Magazine



Savour Kilkenny: Our International Festival of Food



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

On 18th October over 90 female entrepreneurs came together for a networking event in Mount Juliet Estate, Thomastown to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day. Organised by the Local Enterprise Offices in Carlow and Kilkenny, it was one of sixteen events organised around the Country with over 1,200 entrepreneurs participating.

“From local to global” was the theme for this year's National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED). Networking was the key element at this event as the attendees participated in break out activities that involved unlocking challenges and team participation.

Special guests included Dr. Sinead Kane, acclaimed double Guinness world record holder,



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visually impaired athlete, & qualified lawyer and also actress/comedian and TV presenter Deirdre O'Kane.



Mary Lynch Enterprise Ireland, Colette Byrne CEO Kilkenny Co. Council, Catherine Roycroft Cartoon Saloon, Fiona Deegan Head of Enterprise LEO Kilkenny, Kathleen Holohan CEO Carlow Co. Council, Guest Speaker Dr. Sinead Kane, Marion Acreman President Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, Aileen McGrath LEO Carlow, Catherine Hennessy LEO Kilkenny

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2018

€313,419 has been approved to 15 businesses linked to the creation of 85 jobs over a 3 year period.

341 participants attended 4 Seminars ranging from GDPR Compliance to Brexit.

382 entrepreneurs received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business.

308 participants attended 26 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes.

274 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO executives to discuss starting a business or growing an existing business.

122 participants attended 7 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business.

35 clients attended 6 Mentor Clinics to seek assistance in relation to issues within their business.

34 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €66,702 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line.

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

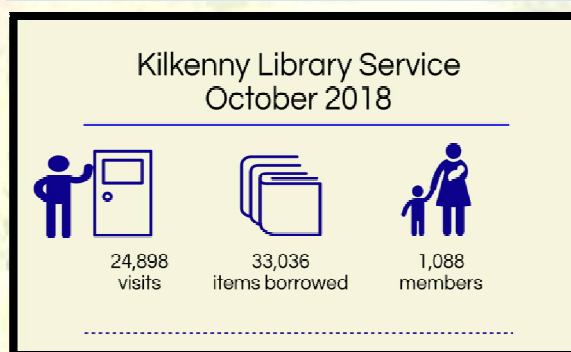
8 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme;

4 businesses were assisted to make applications to Microfinance Ireland Loan Fund.

3 businesses participated on Lean for Micro in order to assist them to look at their competitiveness and innovation specifically in relation to Brexit.

2 businesses are participating on the pilot Design for Growth programme in the South East. In August they were both approved Design Vouchers to assist them apply design principles to their business.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Bookville Kilkenny 2018

Our second Bookville festival was a phenomenal success, reaching over 2,600 children from all corners of our County over the 8 days of the festival. This year, 30 authors, storytellers, yoga teachers, musicians, illustrators and artists captivated audiences from babies to 12 year olds



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with a wide range of exciting events. Our schools strand of the festival brought a range of cultural and literary facilitators to libraries all over the County, offering a more accessible festival to all. Despite only being in its infancy, it made No.1 on RTE.ie's top 11 Things to do in Ireland in October 12th to 14th.



An interactive exhibition was completed in the Arts Office gallery by Dan Leo. This exhibition was set to fuel the imagination and engage the public. Mythical animals and Irish nature combined and this space came alive as the walls themselves were painted for an exciting immersive experience. This exhibition was supported by an education pack for the schools and is part of the schools programme. A copy of the pack was sent to the class teacher so that he/she could decide for themselves what aspects best suited their pupils; the engagement can continue back in the classroom.

Mental Health Week

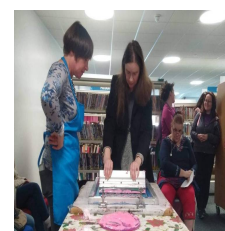
Kilkenny Library Service were delighted to be involved in Craic'd again this year, with events to promote positive mental health held in each of our libraries across the County. From Creative Mindfulness for Children to the High Hopes choir, and Teac Tom talks to Sound therapy, there was something for all ages. Our mobile library delivered Buddy Benches to 5 schools in Kilkenny.



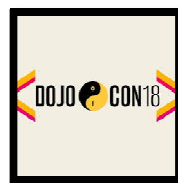
Savour Kilkenny

We held 4 events leading into Savour Kilkenny this year. City Library hosted local lady, Frances Wash discussing The Honest Project, and Caitriona Kelly from GIY ran a workshop on planting for wellbeing.

Loughboy Library hosted Tea Towel printing of Safe Food Recipes with the National Design and Craft gallery & Kilkenny native, Ciara Attwell discussed her book and blog, My Fussy Eater with both parents and children.



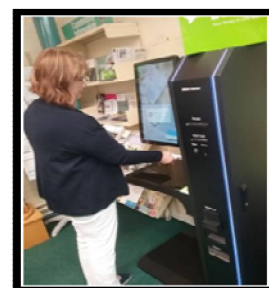
CoderDojo



Library staff members attended DojoCon 18 recently with a promotional stand. Along with attending training sessions on coding, they also promoted our stock and facilities to all.

New RFID Self Service Machines

Self service machines are now available in all library branches, allowing members to issue and return books, check their library account, renew items, books PCs and pay for printing.



ARTS

Rhyme Rag Ensemble

Wednesday 17th October was the launch date of *Mark My Words*, a collection of poems by the Rhyme Rag Ensemble which took place in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle. It was officially launched by Colm Keegan. This publication was borne out of a residency programme which



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deepened this groups experience and strengthened the dynamics and overall confidence. This was a hugely rewarding experience for everyone involved. The book will be on sale in the Kilkenny City bookshops and in the library network.

We also made a beautiful video. Filmed in the Castle Park it features the group reading their collective poem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-yQB9O0kHY>

Culture Night

Once more Culture Night in Kilkenny saw a large number of people visiting the 11 venues hosting 26 events for the night. World War I films were shown in the Butler Gallery. Blackstack Studio invited visitors to get some ink and using different printing techniques on offer you could print your own tote bag. Comhaltas gave us a selection of Irish music, song, dancing and storytelling in Rothe House. Rothe House brought some unique artifacts out of storage to be viewed and the curator was on hand to speak about the collection.

The Arts Office Gig on the Parade included the Unity Singers, the Rhyme Rag Ensemble reciting their original compositions, Kairen Caine with friends sang a selection of her original songs and this was rounded off with the se7en inch collective who brought their special blend of vinyl only singles to the street, spinning everything from soul, hip hop, dub, ska, punk and more – all tastes were catered for. 3359 people engaged with Culture Night this year.



Open Circle

Open Circle rolled out two literature courses during September/October. Their Creative Writing 6 week course with Tara Heavey started in September. This course covered such topics as creating compelling characters and devising dynamic dialogue. They explored memoir, poetry and the short story and why we feel compelled to write in the first place.

Their second literature course, Wonky Lines – Poetry for Beginners with Nuala Roche commenced in October. Participants will learn techniques to find inspiration for their writing, get an overview of poetry techniques and ways to critique their own and others' writing; the course is also about nurturing the enjoyment and fun in writing, reading and sharing their poetry.

Both core groups have completed sessions with artist / printmaker Maeve Coulter and have commenced working with Carrie Lynam who will undertake a series of textile workshops with the groups. This method of working will give both groups the tools to continue independently in January in whatever medium they choose.



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Artlinks

As part of our programme of Continuing Professional Development, Kilkenny Arts Office and the ArtLinks partners, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford delivered a workshop in Managing Cultural Projects. This one day workshop was for individuals who deliver cultural projects as curators, project managers or producers.

The workshop explored planning, communication, meeting deadlines, securing funding + venues, contingency planning and the importance of leaving a good impression.

- Kilkenny Fire & Rescue Service Fire Prevention Officers held fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ.
- To-date 113 licensing applications were processed by the Fire Service through the licensing court system.
- We have carried out 63 inspections of premises to-date.

FIRE SERVICES

Community Engagement & Education

National Fire Safety Week was held in October. Open days were facilitated in Kilkenny City Fire Station, Castlecomer, Freshford, Urlingford and Callan Fire Stations. Fire Safety information stands were in The Market Cross Shopping Centre and MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre.



Influencing & Regulating the Built Environment

- We have received 73 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to-date, 62 have been granted and 11 are being assessed.



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of October is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €68.66m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD October 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	15,299	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	19,738	20,108
Water Services	5,701	6,579
Development Management	7,392	8,693
Environmental Services	8,865	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	5,469	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	469	637
Miscellaneous Services	5,729	6,526
Overall Total	68,662	74,151

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for twenty six days during the ten months to the end of October 2018 and the maximum overdrawn balance was €2.311m.

Collection levels for Kilkenny County Councils major income streams to October are approximately 2% higher than the comparable period at the end of October 2017.

Following the valuation of all commercial properties completed by the Valuation Office in 2017 a total of 196 rate payers appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal. 15 % of these appeals have now been heard and have resulted in a reduction in income for the Council. It is difficult to estimate at this stage what the final outcome of the appeals will be.

The Statutory Budget meeting for Kilkenny Council is fixed for 3.00 p.m. on November 23rd.