



**TO: AN CATHAOIRLEACH
& EACH MEMBER OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

RE: FESTIVAL & EVENT GRANTS 2018

I attach report, including draft allocations of Festival and Event Grants for 2018, showing a draft distribution to the 102 applications received.

The number of applications and the variety of events is testament to the level of activity in communities around the County. However, the budget of €95,000 presents a challenge in allocating meaningful grants.

In order to maximise the allocations, a number of applications for Festival / Event funding, have been redirected to funding available under the Creative Ireland funding stream. The accompanying spreadsheets identify a number of events which qualify for Creative Ireland funding, which will be processed and funded under that heading.

In order to allocate the recommended funding in the attached report extra funding is required, amounting to €10,000 over and above the allocated budget, which could be achieved as follows:

1. The transfer of €3,500 from St. Patrick's Day Festival funding to Festivals and Events funding
2. The agreement of each of the four electoral areas, to allocate €1,500 per area to the Festivals and Events funding.

Such reallocation will ensure that all applicants will receive funding in 2018, and I recommend that some changes be considered in advance of Budget 2019.

Festivals impacting tourism.

As agreed previously I have carried out an exercise on the number and type of application received this year with a view to distinguishing those applications which have a tourism impact - "Festivals", from those which can be classified as "Community" events. The purpose in doing so is to

demonstrate the need for a further categorisation of grant types and the allocation of funding to each category.

The festival or tourism impact events, and recommended allocations for 2018, are as follows:

2018/F73	Savour Festival Food Kilkenny Ltd.	€ 26,000.00	Tier 1
2018/F39	Subtitle Limited	€ 9,000.00	Tier 1
2018/F58	The Kilkenny Cat Laughs	€ 8,850.00	Tier 1
2018/F72	Kilkenomics Ltd.	€ 7,500.00	Tier 1
2018/F2	Kilkenny Tradfest	€ 5,000.00	Tier 1
2018/F71	Kilkenny Animated Festival Ltd	€ 5,000.00	Tier 1
2018/F21	Kilkenny Roots Festival	€ 5,000.00	Tier 1
2018/F63	Gowran Festival of Speed	€ 3,000.00	Tier 2
2018/F1	Graiguenamanagh Town of Books	€ 3,000.00	Tier 2 (Creative Ireland)
2018/F45	Iverk Show Ltd.	€ 1,500.00	Tier 2
2018/F25	Reign of Terror	€ 2,000.00	Tier 2
2018/F42	JJ Reddy Danesfort Run Committee	€ 1,750.00	Tier 2
2018/F52	Abhainn Ri Festival / Callan Community Network	€ 1,500.00	Tier 3
2018/F99	Ireland Newfoundland Festival Committee	€ 4,500.00	Tier 3
2018/F46	Costellos Brewing Company	€ 500.00	Tier 3
2018/F47	Cartoon Saloon & Butler Gallery	€ -	Culture Ireland Allocation
2018/F49	Barnstorm Theatre Company	€ -	Culture Ireland Allocation

The fifteen (15) Festivals identified have or have potential to have an impact on Kilkenny's tourism industry. Categorisation is merely an indication of the level of impact, but provides a means of readily identifying those festivals which Kilkenny County Council can work with at a strategic level to assist the festivals in development and programming. The festivals represent a significant part of Kilkenny's attraction as a destination with a year round calendar of activity.

Recommendation:

I recommend the following changes to the current Festivals and Events process:

1. Festivals and Events to be split into two separate funding streams
2. Festival funding applications to be administered by Tourism Section of Economic Development
3. Community Event funding applications to be administered by the Municipal District Area Offices.
4. 80% of the Budget for Festivals and Events to be allocated to Festival funding
5. 20% of the Budget for Festivals and Events to be allocated to Community Events funding

Brian Tyrrell.

Brian Tyrrell,

Senior Executive Officer,

Kilkenny County Council.