



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

To: **Each Member of Kilkenny County Council**

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring into Storytime Programme

22 story time sessions take place in Libraries all over Kilkenny during the month of April to promote literacy as part of Kilkenny's Right to Read Literacy Action Plan.

26th April

Closing date for receipt of applications for Waste Prevention Grant Scheme

28th April

Closing date for receipt of applications to be included on Special/Postal Voters List.

2nd May

An interactive Customs Training Workshop to assist small businesses post Brexit is being held in the Ormond Hotel.

3rd May

Closing date for receipt of application for Anti-Litter Awareness Grant.

May Bank Holiday Weekend

The national Community Event "The Big Hello".

7th May

Closing date for receipt of applications to be included in Supplementary Register.

May

Public Consultation upcoming in May for Climate Action Plan.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019

Kilkenny City's St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019, hosted and funded as a Civic Event by Kilkenny County Council and organised by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee was a great success. This year saw a change in the route of the Parade which contributed to this success. Our theme this year was "Bring back the Bees" and was appropriate following the adoption of the Bumble Bee as Kilkenny's County Emblem. The Grand Marshall was the inspiring Vicky Phelan and delegations from our Twinned Cities Formigine, Italy and Moret Sur Loing, France joined us in the celebrations this year. There was huge participation from Community Groups and the following were the winners of the category prizes:



Most Creative & Entertaining Float

Conahy Vintage Club

Best Young People's Float

The Growing Patch Afterschools, Newpark Close

Best Rural Float

Graigue Men's Shed

Best Interpretation of the Theme Float – School:

Moneenroe National School

Best Interpretation of the Theme Float – Community:

Filipino Community Group, Kilkenny

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

- 15th Kilkenny FortGrange Scout Group
- Coon Recyclers
- Gaelscoil Osraí
- The Tom Hayes Trust / Teach Tom & Spraóí



Cathaoirleach Receptions

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eamon Aylward, hosted a reception for the Mullinavat Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Eireann in recognition of their contribution to Irish Music, Dance, Culture and help and support to local community groups on Friday, 29th March, 2019, in the Council Chamber, County Hall.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eamon Aylward, hosted a reception for Dunnamaggin Junior Hurling Team on Monday, 25th March, 2019, in Council Chamber, County Hall, in recognition of their success in winning the All Ireland Club Junior Hurling Championship for 2018-19 and Ballyhale Shamrocks Senior Hurling Team in recognition of their success in winning the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship for 2018-19.





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ROADS

N25 New Ross Bypass

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is well over two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in Q2/3 2019.

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



A nighttime image of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge under construction

Pavement Schemes.

N25. The €2.2m N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is underway with completion expected towards the end of Q2 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 & the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme.

Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council has entered a Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council and

specifically the Bridge Design Office attached to Kildare RDO to progress this scheme. RPS consultants have been appointed consultants. It is expected that a planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanála during Q2 2019.

Public Lighting on National Road Network

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

WATER SERVICES

Inistioge Water Supply Scheme

Works (18.7 Km pipelines, 3 Reservoirs) are substantially complete. Drilling of the River Nore crossing commenced on 19th March following successful wayleave negotiations with an affected landowner. Drilling is expected to be completed in mid to late April. The new borehole (BH4) at Thomastown has been brought into operation, allowing an existing borehole (BH5) to be temporarily taken out of operation for upgrading. Commissioning of the various works elements continuing with scheme completion expected in mid-June 2019.

Mullinavat & Inistioge Waste Water Treatment Plants

Planning Permission granted for the Project. Site investigations complete. Land and Wayleave acquisitions substantially complete, negotiations ongoing with one landowner. Contractor (Glan Agua) appointed in Feb '19.

Kilkenny Drainage Area Plan

Consultant (Nicholas O'Dwyer) appointed, bundled with Wexford, Waterford & Dungarvan. The proposal is to map and model the existing sewerage network in the City and Environs for current and proposed population growth. Advanced survey of the 'Bregagh Valley Sewer



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& Branches' completed in mid-February 2019 with subsequent hydraulic modelling continuing. Contractor (RPS Ltd.) for Kilkenny DAP main contract surveys was appointed in March 2019 with survey works due to commence mid-April 2019. Survey works expected to be complete by end of December 2019.

Gowran Regional Water Supply Scheme

Pre-Planning meeting with KCC held Nov '18, project received positively. Site investigations completed in December 2018. CPO advertised during December 2018 & January 2019. Two objections to CPO received from affected landowners. An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing was held on 3rd April 2019. Following successful negotiations with the affected landowners the Oral Hearing was subsequently cancelled on withdrawal of objections on 2nd April '19. Submission of Planning Application expected early May '19. Preparation of documents ongoing with intention of procuring the works through a Design-Build contract.

Kilkenny City Water Supply Scheme

Kilkenny City WSS - Currently awaiting outcome of Planning Appeal and CPO Oral Hearing held on 29th May 2018. Further information requested by ABP on the 24th July 2018. RFI submitted on 24th December 2018. Tendering process was put on hold in October 2018 and was re-launched on 9th January 2019. Closing date for tenders is Wednesday 10th April 2019.

Mains Rehab works

- Kilkenny Street, Freshford, Upgrade works 90% complete.
- Dean Street - Upgrade works are 90% complete.
- James Street - Upgrade works have commenced on James Street, Kilkenny.
- Preliminary and Detailed designs currently being produced for other Mains rehab works in the City, also at Jerpoint Abbey and Knocktopher village.

PLANNING

Planning Applications Received	Total to March	
	2018	2019
Planning Applications Received	197	208
Planning Applications Granted	168	174
Planning Applications Refused	21	20
Complaints Received	34	25
Warning Letters Issued	48	14
Enforcements Notices Issued	14	13

City & County Development Plans:

All internal workshops have now taken place between the Planning Department and other Council Sections as part of the review process of the plan. Nexus Planning have been appointed to carry out a retail strategy for Kilkenny City and County and shopper surveys are now ongoing in Kilkenny City, Callan and Thomastown. Similar shopper surveys will be carried out in Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh and Ferrybank in June. Councillors and other stakeholders will be kept up to date on progress.

Tenders have been received for the completion of a new Masterplan for the Loughmacask area to replace the existing Local Area Plan that dates from 2008. The Masterplan, once completed, will be included in the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2020-2026. Tenders are being evaluated at present with a view to appointing consultants in the coming weeks.

Local Area Plans

The Chief Executive's reports on the material alterations for both the Thomastown and Callan Local Area Plans were brought before the Council at the March meeting. Both Plans were adopted and they come into effect on the 22nd April 2019. The Planning Section is in the process of compiling the adopted plans for publication.

Vacant Sites

- A total of 16 sites were liable for the levy for 2018, and the Finance Section has issued



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payment demands for the payment of the 3% levy on these.

- Four appeals to these payment demands were lodged with An Bord Pleanála, and the Council has made submissions to the Bord on these four.
- On December 31st a further 21 sites were added to the Register across Kilkenny City, Ferrybank, Castlecomer, Callan and Thomastown. The owners were notified of entry on the register in accordance with the legislation. The owners had a period of 28 days after the date of the notice to lodge an appeal against the notice of entry on the register.
- A total of 7 appeals were lodged with An Bord Pleanála against these notices of entry. Responses to all seven appeals have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- There are now a total of 36 sites on the Vacant Sites Register (15 remaining for 2018 and 21 added for 2019).
- The total number of sites cancelled due to activation is now 8.

Conservation Grants for 2019:

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019:** all grant recipients have been notified of their grant allocations, while consents for all works are now being processed
- Historic Structures Fund 2019:** 5 applications submitted to the DCHG for assessment, 4 projects will be funded. The total value for this grant is €165,000. The Conservation Office now awaits correspondence from applicants outlining their acceptance of the grant offer before proceeding.

Building Heritage Investment Schemes	Grant Aid
Kevin Brophy	€8,000
Michael Butler	€7,000
Louis Buggy	€9,250

Chris Ryan	€7,000
Michael & Antoinette Hickey	€8,000
Edel Quirke	€3,500
Ivan Powell & Polly Minett	€8,000
Amanda Benson	€6,500
Margaret O' Grady	€8,000
Colliery Christian Voluntary Housing Assn.	€7,500
Tom O'Neil	€7,000
Philip J.A. Cushen	€8,000
Anne Marie Dunphy	€2,500
Hilary Harney	€6,500

Historic Structures Fund	Grant Aid
Rothe House	€15,000
St. Canices Cathedral	€30,000
Nicolas Phelan Thatched House Clogh	€30,000
Bridge House John's Street	€90,000

Taking in Charge

Taking in Charge works are continuing at Brookfield, Ballyhale, Cois na Bearú, Graignamanagh, Ard Glass, Ferrybank, Chapel View, Stoneyford, King's Court, Callan, and Bellfield, Ferrybank.

ENVIRONMENT

Delivery Programme Up-date Report on RMCEI [Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan]

RMCEI	No. of Inspections undertaken March 2019	Yearly Target No. under RMCEI
WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken	86	421
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	178	550
Ambient Monitoring	58	192
Other SW/GW protection inspections	15	60
Inspections of existing planning permissions	150	550



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Ground water quality (Planning inspections)	40	80
Post Planning Inspections	10	100
Bring bank surveillance	68	150
Bring bank inspections	34	84

CRM – Customer Relations Management

83 complaints were received during March. All complaints have been investigated and appropriate action taken.

A total of 12 Enforcement Notices have been issued under the Waste Management Act in March:

- 4 - Section 55 Notices were issued in relation to the unauthorised dumping of Construction and Demolition Waste.
- 8 - Section 14 Directions were issued in relation to illegal dumping of litter, rubbish and Construction and Demolition Waste.

All enforcement notices issued will be followed up on in the coming weeks to ensure compliance.

Grants

Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant 2019 were advertised in Kilkenny People week ending 8th March 2019. Closing date for application is the 3rd May, 2019.

Waste Prevention Grant Scheme advertised in Kilkenny People week ending 15th March 2019. Closing date for applications is 26th April, 2019.

The closing date for the Graveyard Grant Scheme was 29th March and 36 applications have been received.

Climate Action Plan

The first draft of the Kilkenny County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) has been completed. The CCAS has been issued to the Climate Adaptation Regional Office (CARO) and the members of SPC 5 for review. SEA/AA consultants have been engaged by the CARO

team and Kilkenny County Council is currently liaising with them and reviewing the Kilkenny CCAS. The Council is also liaising with CARO regarding coordination of the public consultation stage upcoming in May.

National Spring Clean Launch



Sarah McGovern, Ambassador of An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward and students from Gaelscoil Osrai pictured at the launch of the National Spring Clean on 21st March 2019.

Model and ambassador of An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign, Sarah McGovern, visited Kilkenny to promote and encourage people to participate in National Spring Clean running from the 1st to the 30th April.

Sarah, assisted by An Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward and students from Gaelscoil Osrai undertook a mini clean up to encourage people to register with An Taisce and undertake a clean up or to volunteer with a group who are undertaking an organised clean up. All registered volunteers are provided with a clean up kit from An Taisce and registration could not be easier. Simply log on to nationalspringclean.org or phone 01-4002219.

Volunteers organising large community clean ups can avail of additional gloves, bags and litter pickers on loan from Kilkenny County Council's Environment Office or from their local Area Office from now to the end of April, subject to availability. Litter picking equipment is also available on loan through local library branches. Kilkenny County Council will also assist with litter disposal from organised clean ups and event organisers can arrange this by contacting the



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Environment Section on 056-7794470 in advance of their event.

This year for National Spring Clean, Kilkenny County Council is joining up with Carlow County Council and KCLR. We are inviting you to take part in the #trashtag competition which is running for the month of April. All you have to do is:

Find an area in your locality that could do with a "Spring Clean" and register with An Taisce Pick a date and organise a clean-up event in your area. Make sure to take lots of photos of your work. Post the Photos on social media (Facebook) using the #trashtag and tagging the Environmental Awareness Kilkenny CoCo page.

There are lots of great prizes to be won for your group or residents association and the winners from Kilkenny & Carlow will be announced on KCLR.

Don't forget to tune into KCLR during the month of April where the ever entertaining Betty Kehoe will be giving out daily tips and advice on how to save money by reducing your household waste.



Water Safety and Lifeguards

The Environment Section recently tendered for the provision of cabins at the 5 swimming areas in the county:

- The Meadows, Kilkenny City
- The Weir, Bleach Road, Kilkenny City
- Thomastown
- Inistioge
- Graiguenamanagh

Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Water Safety will be conducting interviews over the coming weeks to fill the positions of Lifeguards at these locations for the summer months.

Building Control Section

The Annual Building Control Team Plan was adopted by the Building Control Team during March 2019 along with a new risk based methodology for targeting Building Control Inspections. In summary inspections will be targeted towards riskier buildings having regard to building type and the vulnerability of the end user. 30 Commencement Notices were validated in March 2019 bringing the yearly total to 71. 4 applications for a Disability Access Certificate were received in March 2019 bringing the yearly total to 20.

Summary of Current Building Activity in the County:

Building Type Commenced	Total to March	
	2018	2019
New Building	58	199
Extension	16	12
Change of use	8	3
Material Alteration	1	4

County Kilkenny Waste Management Bye-laws, 2018 – Next Steps

The 31 Local Authorities in Ireland, in conjunction with the three Regional Waste Management Offices, have adopted new Waste Management & Presentation By-Laws. The Bye-laws govern a range of issues, including obliging consumers to participate in an authorised waste collection service (or provide documentary proof on what alternative means they use to dispose of their waste) and encouraging greater segregation of waste to reduce volumes of residual waste collected. Kilkenny County Council adopted its new Bye-laws in December 2018 which became effective on 15th January 2019.

Next Steps

From the 15th April 2019 a National awareness campaign on the Waste Bye-laws is to commence



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and the scope of the same provides for the following:

RADIO

National Radio Advert will commence and run through week beginning the 15th April 2019
Regional/Local Radio Adverts will commence on week beginning the 29th April 2018

HOUSEHOLD LEAFLET DROP

All households will receive a user friendly leaflet explaining the implications of the new Bye-laws.

NEWSPAPER

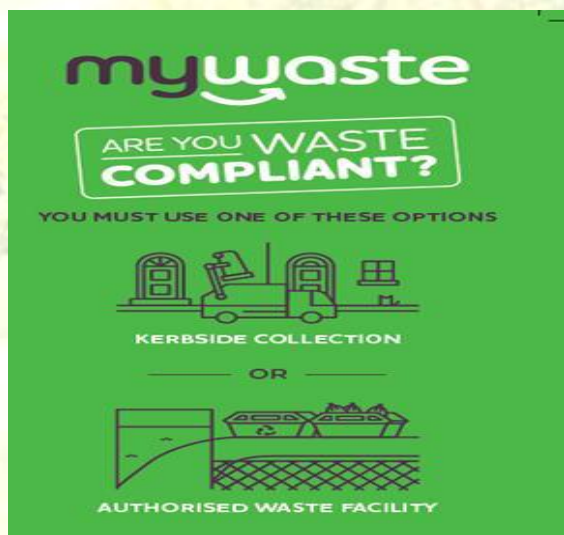
On the 25th April 2019 the DCCAE have funded the publication of the Waste Bye-laws advert to appear in the Irish Times Supplement on "Sustainable Energy".

Waste Bye-laws adverts will also be published in local newspapers during April/May.

SOCIAL & DIGITAL ASSETS

Facebook/Instagram and Twitter

In addition to the above the staff from the Environment Section have met with Service Providers operating in Kilkenny to outline their requirements under the new Bye-laws and the performance of each operator will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation, Bye-laws and Waste Collection Permit conditions.



PARKS

National Tree Week

National Tree Week took place from 31st March to 7th April and this year's theme was 'Planting for Our Planet'. With the support of the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte each Local Authority was offered trees for planting across Ireland, and the Council's Parks Department worked with Gael Scoil 4th Classes to plant 300 native sapling trees in Loughboy Park. We would like to acknowledge the involvement of the children who worked through heavy April showers to plant 300 trees. Each child was also given a tree to bring home to plant.



Playgrounds

A ball wall was installed in Bradóg Way in Gowran at the end of March using funds from a planning bond collected for the estate. This formed part of the taking in charge process of the estate and was agreed with the residents in advance. The new facility has been well received and is already in demand.



A meeting was held in Piltown with the community playground group to advance the development of a playground at a site behind the old Garda barracks off the Creamery Road.



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Fundraising has begun and the Parks and Community sections will be assisting the group to bring the proposal through planning and design to development stage.

In Bennettsbridge local people came together to organise a successful clean up of Bennettsbridge Playground. The success of many of the community playgrounds around the County is due to groups who support the Parks Department in on-going maintenance and have an active involvement in the upkeep of their playground. Many have also sponsored local employment schemes that are responsible for the day to day upkeep of playgrounds.



Woodstock Gardens

Work is almost 50% complete on the Woodstock Loop Trails with close to 2km of trails completed by the end of March. The trails will be marked with seating installed at strategic locations along the route, which connects Instioge village to Woodstock Gardens via the Woodstock estate. This project is being carried out with the support of Coillte who manage the Woodstock estate and woodlands. This project is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). Funding of €337,552 was received with €84,388 matching funding provided by the Local Authority.



*Woodstock Trails [before & After]
will now be accessible to the majority of users*

Riverside paths along the Point Road will be upgraded as part of the ORIS funded project. Some edge protection will be provided in steep riverside locations



Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Works to clear construction waste on the site has been finalised in preparation for the construction of the park. A large playground will be the focal point of this park which will serve the wider community of Ferrybank and surrounding environs. Tenders for this specialist contract have now been received and are being analysed, with a view to contract award before the end of April.

Amenity Grants

The 2019 grants were advertised at the end of January 2019 with closing date 15th March 2019. The amenity grants fund small scale maintenance of amenities by residents and community groups. Decision on funding allocations will be made by Members at the April Monthly Meeting.

Kilkenny Greenway

An application was prepared for funding under the National and Regional Greenways Fund 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. The estimated total project cost is c€13.3m. Preparations are now underway to facilitate a site visit by the Project Assessment Board in late April as part of the assessment of the application for funding.

In addition, the Parks Department is working closely with Wexford County Council and Malachy Walsh and Partners consultants in preparing the detailed design for the route. This process will involve consultation with



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landowners and other stakeholders to design accommodation works where lands or properties interface with the proposed Greenway

View from the route of the proposed Greenway to the New Ross By-Pass Bridge



In the Intermediate Category, Mark Ahern from Colaiste Eamann Rís, Callan was awarded first prize with his innovative business 'G Sock Ltd' – a sports sock that fits and secures a shin guard protector inside.



In the Junior category the winners were announced as Luca Harris and Pa Gibbs also from Colaiste Eamann Rís, Callan with their business 'Too Hot to Handle' – who make and sell coffee cup holders from cotton fabric which prevent your hands from getting burned when you are holding take away tea/coffee.



The three category winners will now prepare for the National Finals which will be held on Friday 3rd May in Croke Park.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Student Enterprise Programme

On Wednesday 6th March, Lyrath Estate Hotel Kilkenny hosted the Student Enterprise Programme County Final. 140 Students from 9 secondary schools across the County competed at the County Final as part of Local Enterprise Week.

In the senior category the first prize category winners were Liam Foot and Tom Donald, students from Kilkenny College with their project 'Tree Ring Coasters'. 'Tree Ring Coasters' offers customisable Wooden Beverage Coasters which are made from discarded wood and are lacquered to make them water and stain proof. The boys carried out market research and approached many potential customers and have sold to retailers, hospitality venues and drinks industries.



Brexit Customs Training

An interactive Customs Training Workshop to assist small businesses post Brexit is being held on Thursday 2nd May from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. in the Ormonde Hotel. This FREE event is open to all small businesses in the County. The objective of this Customs Export & Import Procedures workshop is to provide businesses with knowledge and understanding of the potential impacts, formalities and procedures to be adopted when trading with a Third Country. The



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workshop will highlight the Customs facilities available to importers and exporters, opportunities to minimise import duty payments and ensure compliance with customs procedures. The workshop is designed to embed best practice into businesses from across all industry sectors. Open to businesses from all sectors, this workshop will cover areas such as what export and import procedures apply, how tariffs work and how to correctly classify goods.

These workshops are fully funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation through Enterprise Ireland.

The aims of this workshop are to help Irish businesses understand:

- The administration process around import and export procedures.
- Customs formalities at borders.
- The Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) process
- Tariffs and the cost implications of tariffs
- Import procedures, such as the Electronic Declaration Process and Automated Entry Processing (AEP).

For further information contact the LEO at (056) 7752662 or visit www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition

Thirty applications were received for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneurs competition in County Kilkenny, following which an Enterprise Evening was held on 21st March in the Set Theatre alongside applicants from the Local Enterprise Office Carlow.



#shopkilkenny initiative

The Local Enterprise Office in conjunction with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce and Kilkenny retailers are currently rolling out a #shopkilkenny Easter Campaign in order to encourage shoppers to stay local. We are running with a combined radio and social media campaign with KCLR including prime positioned radio advertising and a 1-week competition, which kicked off on the 15th April whereby listeners will be asked to take photographs/video clips of the products they buy /services they use in Kilkenny and post them on social media using the hashtag #shopkilkenny.

The competition will be promoted via prime time shows and also via KCLR's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. The Competition Prize will be €500 worth of shopping vouchers kindly sponsored by: MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre - €200, Market Cross Shopping Centre - €100, Goods - €100, Lorimat Jewellers - €50 and Butterslip - €50. The winner will be selected by the #shopkilkenny committee. Please keep an eye out for #shopkilkenny and share as much as possible amongst your social media contacts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Abbey Quarter Development

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) application was successful in late 2018 with an allocation of €4.76m funding announced for spend in 2019. This funding has been secured for a number of public realm /park and supporting projects. These public realm works will be carried out in tandem with the Brewhouse & Mayfair Building Developments.

Centre for Design - C4D

Following the successful application in late 2018 led by IT Carlow where c€1.8m was secured under the Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) for the development



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of a National Design Innovation Hub t/a Centre for Design (C4D). A stakeholder meeting has taken place with potential customers of the Centre (including Glanbia and Cartoon Saloon) at which job descriptions for the Centre Manager and Technical Manager for the centre were agreed. It is envisaged that the C4D will be located within the Abbey Quarter.

Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards

The Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards 2019 will shortly be opening their application process. This awards scheme is designed to recognise and reward towns where small businesses and community groups come together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. The initiative is run across a number of categories based on population. Kilkenny County Council assists with this initiative through the identification of potential applicant towns and villages. They are currently in the process of meeting with a number of groups to ascertain their interest in participating. To date – Kilkenny City, Callan and Knocktopher /Ballyhale /Knockmoylan have expressed an interest in participating.

TOURISM

Destination Kilkenny Partnership

One of the four pillars of activity being pursued by the Destination Kilkenny Partnership is the development of a way finding and orientation strategy for the Medieval Mile, Kilkenny. Fáilte Ireland appointed consultants (Placemarque +) to develop a strategy which will address existing and future requirements, taking account of developments along the Medieval Mile and the Abbey Quarter. The strategy will be informed by policies in relation to parking, traffic management and pedestrian mobility. An initial meeting with the consultants took place on 12th March, and further meetings and consultation will take place over the next few months.

Rás na mBan 2019

Organisers of Rás na mBan made a presentation to the Council in March, and also met with the Tourism team on 25th March prior to the Council Meeting to discuss potential collaboration in the future. It was agreed that this event is of Regional importance to Kilkenny, and it can become a significant event in our Festivals calendar in the future. We intend to work closely with the organisers to develop the audience and local engagement.

Butler Gallery at Evan's Home

Visitor Experience

The construction of the new Butler Gallery is well underway, project managed by Simon Walton Senior Engineer. The tourism experience in the new facility is being developed in tandem and a number of meetings were held in March, most recently on 28th March, with Fáilte representatives to ensure that the interpretation element being undertaken by consultants *Makedot* will be in place for the opening in Spring 2020. The visitor experience will be both internal and external, and will seek to tell the stories of the building and the Butler Gallery collection, relying on the archaeological and architectural evidence found on site, and interpreted in the Garden area.

Stakeholder Engagement: Accommodation Members Experience a Ballykeefe Trip to Remember

Representatives from the accommodation sector of Kilkenny Tourism continued their knowledge upskilling tour on Thursday 28th March with a trip to Ballykeefe Distillery, facilitated by the Council's Tourism team. Morgan and Anne Ging hosted the evening event for members to showcase this award-winning distillery and its much-acclaimed award winning range of products, including: double and triple-distilled single pot still Irish whiskey; double and triple distilled single malt Irish whiskey; poitin; gin; and vodka.

The conversion of the stables to a visitor centre has proven to be a positive generating considerable attention and traffic.



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Kilkenny Tradfest 2019

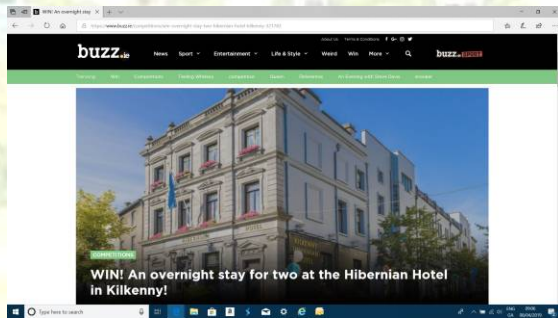
The annual Tradfest events kicked off the St. Patrick's Festival in Kilkenny. This is one of the most successful local festivals and is supported by Kilkenny County Council from the annual Festival Grants Fund. The organisers deserve our appreciation as Tradfest has developed over a few short years into one of Ireland's best traditional music festivals. Guests from Kilkenny's twin towns were treated to some exceptional Irish music in venues such as St. Canice's Cathedral and the Set Theatre.

Marketing & PR

The focus of Kilkenny Tourism's Marketing campaigns this month was Mother's Day with a 5 day give away of online competitions as well as an Easter competition.

Artwork is currently being revised for the 'Hidden Gems' series of marketing material.

Tourism's new website is being populated with Website updates from members and the suite of 'One Kilkenny' Videos.



HOUSING

Housing Capital Delivery

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 12th March 2019 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 190 units for 2019, an increase of 57 (43%) units compared to 2018. This

target of 190 is made up of construction, acquisition and leasing.

The Minster has also set a target for HAP and RAS delivery in 2019 of 184 units. In summary, an overall target of 276 units is to be delivered in 2019 covering all the streams of delivery. This is an increase of 36% on 2018 targets.

Rebuilding Ireland Targets

Kilkenny Revised Targets 2018-2021 12th March, 2019

Targets 2018 - 2021

Build, Acquisition & Leasing..... 599

2019 Targets	
Build	114
Acquisition	46
Leasing	30
HAP RAS	184
All Streams	374

Schemes under Construction at 31st March 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 54 units Ballybough Street, KK (Respond Housing)
- 27 units Walkin Street, KK (Oaklee Housing)
- 11 units Nuncio Road, KK (Respond Housing)
- 1 unit at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road, KK
- 17 Units at Breagagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan

Construction Schemes at Tender Stage:

- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- Group home at Cloghabrody, Thomastown

Schemes approved under Part 8

- 2 Houses at Inchacarron, Mullinavat
- 2 Houses at Shanganny, Jenkinstown
- Extension to a House at 5 Skeaghacloran, Callan



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March Monthly Statistics

MARCH 2019 HOUSING	
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st March, 2019	2101
Number of Assessment interviews carried out in March	34
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (<i>offers made</i>)	10
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 st March	866
Number of LA tenancies surrendered	3
Anti-Social Behaviour Cases	11
New Homeless Presentations	16
Maintenance Calls for March 2019	396
Maintenance Calls year to-date	1,163
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (<i>Annuity/Construction</i>)	2
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st March, 2019	€283,500

Housing List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 31st March is 2,101 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
31 st March 2019	2,101
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (<i>Statutory Assessment 2016</i>)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (<i>Statutory Assessment 2013</i>)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

Private Grants

Minister for Housing by letter dated 11th March notified Kilkenny County Council that it's allocations for the three grants is €1,922,638 in 2019. Kilkenny County Council is required to fund €384,528 i.e. 20%.

Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP) grant was advertised in late 2018 and 280 completed applications were received. The position on all three grants is as follows;

Grants Approved 31 st March 2019		
Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD Housing Adaptation Grant	18	€203,387
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	1	€6,000
HOP Housing Aid for Older Persons	80	€419,460
Total	99	€628,847

Grants Paid out to 31 st March 2019:		
Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	13	€134,331
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	11	€53,198
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	5	€24,559
Total	29	€212,088

Housing Loan Activity for Quarter 1 2019

Housing Loan Activity at 31 st March, 2019					
Loan Type	Applic R'cd	Applic App.	Amt App	No. Paid	Amt Paid
Annuity/RI Home Loan	5	2	283,500	4	349,675
Reconstruction Loan	0	0	0	0	0
Caravan Loan	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	2	283,500	4	349,675



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Housing Needs Assessment 2019

We have been informed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government that each Housing Authority is required to prepare a Summary of the Social Housing Assessments (s.21 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009) for its administrative area. This Summary is now carried out annually and the counting date this year is **10th June 2019**. Deadline for the return of summary to the Department is 28th June, 2019.

This Statutory Assessment will identify the number of qualified households on our Housing List whose housing need have not been met. This list does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP. Kilkenny County Council will contact all approved social housing clients being reviewed in the coming weeks. Advertisement will be placed in local papers and on our web-site to inform the public of the Assessment Process.

Private Rented Inspections

As outlined in a Department letter, a schedule of **targets is** set out up to 2021 as follows along with the number of inspections completed for first quarter of 2019.

	2019 (15%)	2020 (20%)	2021 (25%)
	698	930	11,163
Inspected Q1 2019	110 (16%)		

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2019 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are set out below. There were 53 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/03/2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	37	29	37	25
February	30	26	32	12
March	18	26	21	16
Total	85	81	90	53

Housing Repair Calls	2019 Q1	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total	1163	5,008	5,711	4,664	4,232

COMMUNITY

Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme

As part of this year's age friendly programme of work the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme was undertaken for Kilkenny City & County. The Programme is one of many initiatives of the Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme. It is an important initiative in that it aims to increase business and caters for older persons needs. It is supported by Chambers Ireland.

The Kilkenny City & County Age Friendly Programme is overseen by the Kilkenny Age Friendly Alliance. It was at the Age Friendly Alliance that the need for Age Friendly business's was identified and discussed and developed by a Committee.

It evolved into a formal presentation to 61 businesses in Kilkenny City and County on 27th March 2019. Each business had selected their age friendly champion from amongst their staff, undertook on-line dementia awareness training, attended a training workshop, identified a minimum of 3 age friendly measures with their older customers and committed to implementing them. Age Friendly Charters and DCALS (door/window stickers) were presented to each business.

All 61 businesses have been included in a promotional leaflet "WELCOME TO AGE FRIENDLY KILKENNY" which will be distributed to tourism and retail outlets, trade shows, retail events, etc.



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Kilkenny Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme Committee pictured with An Cathaoirleach Kilkenny County Council and with Mayor of Kilkenny City.

Thomastown Age Friendly Town

An Age Friendly Town is a town where the community understands and responds to the needs of older adults. It is a town in which older people are actively involved in social, economic and cultural life and in creating a better local environment for everybody's benefit. Age Friendly Towns respond to what the older community needs. It comes about when older people get together and work with other groups in the community, such as local authorities, health services, Garda Síochána, community groups, transport companies and local businesses, to transform where they live to benefit both themselves and the wider community.

The Age Friendly Towns initiative was implemented in Callan (Co Kilkenny) and across many other towns in Ireland. By enabling Thomastown to become An Age Friendly Town we will be joining a great movement in Ireland where larger towns, smaller towns and local neighbourhoods have already participated.

The Thomastown Age Friendly Town Plan Committee is a local working group that was formed from amongst older person's representatives and community groups in Thomastown, local health services, Garda Síochána, local businesses, local development company and Kilkenny County Council staff. It has undertaken several consultations with older persons in the town. It has undertaken walk

ability audits and it has finalised the preparation of the Thomastown Age Friendly Town Plan.

The Plan will set out the vision for the town alongside the actions to achieve that vision and address the key issues facing older people which have been identified by the older people of Thomastown. It will act to mobilise all communities in Thomastown, to share responsibility and to co-operate locally with identified Implementing Partners (and others) to implement feasible and achievable solutions. This plan will also serve to inform future applications for funding under various local and national schemes administered by various Government Departments, State Agencies and non government organisations (NGO's).

When these measures have been implemented **Age Friendly Ireland will identify Thomastown as an Age Friendly Town.** Arrangements to launch the plan will be made shortly.

COMMUNITY GRANTS & FUNDING

Community Enhancement Programme

The 2019 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) has been launched. Nationally the overall fund is €4.5m. Kilkenny LCDC's allocation is €136,319. The scheme is targeted at community groups and not for profit organisations.

Aim of the Scheme:

- To address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- LCDC Decision making at a local level to ensure that funding is targeted appropriately towards the areas that need it most.
- Complementary scheme to add value to other front-line schemes and programmes being operated in communities.
- The programme provides funding to communities to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas.
- The programme can fund or partially fund larger scale capital projects to address disadvantage.



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- Small scheme aimed at those with limited resources to receive some funding to get projects off the ground.

It is expected that application forms and guidelines together with closing dates will be made available by the Department of Rural and Community Development shortly.

Event Grant Scheme

The Council has received a total of 111 applications for funding under its Event Grants Scheme. A full report will be brought to the April meeting of Council.

Estate Management Grants

The 2019 Estate Management grants were advertised in February 2019 and 44 applications were received. These applications are presently being assessed.

National Community Event "The Big Hello"

The National Community Event, "The Big Hello" was launched. It is to be held for the first time over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 2019. Local communities are asked to come up with ideas for events in their areas and to apply for funding under the National Community Event Funding scheme. Events could be centred round food, sport, the environment or health and culture, including the Irish language. The event is a celebration of the great spirit of community that exists across the country and an effort to help people who share communities to come together, get to know each other and deepen the sense of community in their area.

Kilkenny LCDC has been allocated the sum of €10,000 to allocate to community groups in the form of small scale grants to fund events. The application forms and details have been made available from Wednesday 13th March. The closing date for receipt of completed applications was Friday 5th April. Decisions will be made by Kilkenny LCDC within 2 weeks of the closing date and all applicants communicated with by mid-April.

CLÁR Scheme

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local/Agency and other Departmental funding programmes and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

This year's scheme has several elements as follows:

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee held two meetings in Q1 2019.

January Meeting:

- the Committee welcomed new members Angela Hayes and Councillor Joe Malone,
- the LCDC adopted its annual report for 2018,
- the Local Economic Community Plan implementation report for 2018 was noted,
- LCDC work plan for 2019 was discussed and suggestions were made for its expansion to include an expansion of the number of Family Resource Centres and the need for new FRC's is a priority, SICAP – Progress reports during the year, Health Checks in towns – Socio Economic Plans, LGBTI – link in with HSE and ETB and Age Friendly programme,
- the end of year report on the contract for the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme was agreed and signed off,
- the LCDC established a sub-committee to assess and decide where necessary on the Community Weekend Grants Scheme (The Big Hello),
- The PPN report was noted- It was also noted that the Department of Rural and Community



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Development have allocated €25,700 for PPN Support Worker. Kilkenny County Council will also contribute €5,000 for a one year fixed term contract. Kilkenny County Council will be recruiting worker in conjunction with the Secretariat.

- The Committee was made aware of HSE initiatives (COPD, Flu and Age Friendly), an update on the Lone Parents Analysis, the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme and the Thomastown Age Friendly Plan.
- The Committee was informed that an interagency subgroup was formed to oversee research, needs analysis and action Plan for Lone Parents in Kilkenny – consultants engaged, research commenced.
- The development of a process and model for undertaking a socio- economic plan for Urlingford/ Johnstown was commenced. This will be undertaken in conjunction with Forward Planning and CKLP as well as local groups in the area.

March Meeting:

The LCDC heard on 4 initiatives funded through the LCDC's Healthy Ireland funding stream Very informative presentations were given as follows:

- Buddy Bench
- Foroige
- Castlecomer Discovery Park
- KRSP

The Committee was also given updates on the PPN Report, the Lone Parents Needs Analysis, Community Funding Report, "The Big Hello" - Community May Bank Holiday Weekend Grant 2019 and the CLÁR Scheme 2019

The Committee also agreed to a Presentation Request from the South East Family Support Network –presentation to be made to the May meeting.

Other Community Development Initiatives

Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group (KTIG)

The second Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group (KTIG) meeting was held and a review of

the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement was agreed to and in particular an examination of its role, membership and plan for any further KTIG meetings. A further meeting was held with CKLP and the PPN and it was agreed to apply for funding to the Department of Justice to undertake the review.

Helmet Safety Initiative – Joint Pilot Project- An Garda Síochána & Kilkenny County Council.

This pilot scheme is due to take place in Ballyhale at 08:30am on 12th June 2019. This project will involve providing free helmets to all students from 2nd class to 6th class in Ballyhale National School. The aim of the project is to provide education and awareness on the importance of children wearing helmets while riding bikes, using scooters, skateboards, flickers etc. This is a joint project led by An Garda Síochána and supported by the Parents Council, Ballyhale National School and Kilkenny County Council's Thomastown Office. The sum of €2,000 was secured in 2018 to purchase the helmets for the children. The teachers are currently working with the children on producing their individual designs for their helmets.

Community Awards Night.

On Wednesday January 16th 2019, Kilkenny County Council hosted a reception in the Parade Tower to acknowledge, congratulate and thank groups for their dedication and hard work within their respective communities.

Issue 13 of the Kilkenny County Council Community Information Newsletter was published on Wednesday 10th of April 2019.

CCTV Scheme (Urlingford).

The Urlingford Community Based CCTV scheme was endorsed by the Joint Policing Committee on March 27th.

Promotional Campaigns

A Kilkenny Alerts Campaign / Promotional Video was implemented and had over 33,000 views in County Kilkenny. A similar campaign



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promoting housing loans was also carried out and had over 1500 online social media engagements.

HERITAGE

Heritage 2030 Consultation

The Heritage Office ran a participatory workshop with Comhairle na n'Og (19th March) in the Drum Youth Cafe to get young people's views on their priorities to be addressed in Heritage 2030 - as the future managers and inheritors of our heritage.

Kilkenny County Council made a submission to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, on the new national Heritage Plan (Heritage 2030), addressing the issues of most concern from a local authority perspective.

Kilkenny Wildlife Detective Training

The Heritage Office, in partnership with Kilkenny Education Centre and the County Kilkenny Childcare Committee, ran Session 1 of a training course (26th March) for primary teachers, early childhood practitioners and Heritage-in-Schools experts, on the Kilkenny Wildlife Detective Programme. The aim of the training is to support teachers to encourage young children to explore, enjoy and record Kilkenny's biodiversity.

Heritage Radio Adverts

Commissioned and scripted a series of radio adverts on local radio (KCLR) to raise awareness about, and encourage people to get involved in, different aspects of Kilkenny's heritage, as follows: Record Kilkenny's Birds & Spring Flowers (30th Mar– 5th April); Pollinators (13th–21st Mar). More adverts will follow in the coming months. Co-funded by the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme.

Wildflowers of Kilkenny

The Heritage Office supported Birdwatch Ireland Kilkenny to run a talk (19th March) by author and wildflower expert, Zoe Devlin, on the wildflowers of Ireland, and rare flowers of Kilkenny.

Kilkenny County Council: First Local Authority to sign All Ireland Pollinator Plan

At a ceremony on Monday March 4th, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward and Chief Executive Colette Byrne signed a framework agreement with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to formalise Kilkenny County Council's long term commitment to support pollinators in County Kilkenny.



At the signing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eamon Aylward said "We are delighted to be the first Local Authority in the country to sign up to the Pollinator Plan. Last summer the Council adopted the garden bumblebee as our emblem, so this agreement is an obvious next step for us."

The **Local Authority Pollinator Award 2019** was launched on 28th March by Minister Ring, as part of the national Tidy Towns competition. 3 Tidy Towns groups from County Kilkenny took part in the award in 2018, and we hope to encourage more groups enter in 2019. To download an application form, and check out our newsletter from the 2018 competition, see <http://pollinators.ie/communities/tidytowns-pollinator-award/enter-the-2019-pollinator-award/>

Kilkenny City Walls

In partnership with the Kilkenny Area Office, the Heritage Office submitted an application to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding the conservation and repair of the City Wall at the Black Abbey car park. This follows on from recommendations from a Condition Report undertaken in 2018. Notification of grants is expected in April.

Decade of Centenaries Programme 2019

Kilkenny County Council has received an allocation of €10,000 for 2019 from the Commemorations Unit of the Department of



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Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to fund a programme commemorating the centenary of the struggle for Independence.

The programme will focus on a broad range of significant themes and events of this period including the military activity, the political context, social, economic and cultural aspects and legacies. It will be administered by the Cultural Services Team, in accordance with criteria issued by the Department.

ARTS

The Creative Ireland programme

The Creative Ireland and the Cruinniu na nÓg programme has been compiled and approved at Council and many projects are underway

Music Generation Kilkenny

Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB), together with Music Generation announced the appointment of Irish soprano, recording artist, vocal coach and music educator Sinéad Blanchfield to the role of Music Generation Development Officer for Kilkenny. In her new post Sinéad will develop and oversee an affordable, accessible programme of performance music education for children and young people ages 0 to 18 across the County.

This will include building partnerships with music and arts tuition services in the area and coordinating with schools, youth and community groups to create ensembles, choirs and other initiatives, embracing all musical genres and styles.

Literature Programme - Broadsheet 20

The closing date for submissions to Broadsheet 19 was 29th March. This year's editor, Jean O'Brien, will now review the 93 poems submitted and make her decisions for this year's publication

Rhyme Rag

Our online poetry journal for young people continues to critique poetry and publish professionally illustrated poems on a monthly basis

Rhyme Rag Ensemble

Our Rhyme Rag writers group took part in an exciting European project called **Borderlines** which involved young writers from ten European countries affected in the past or in the present by borders resulting in a Europe-wide performance event on 29th March streamed from the ten countries. Workshops facilitator Joelle Taylor was thrilled with the Kilkenny turn-out and commented that *'the two days have been breathtaking: the commitment from all, the passion with which the YP approached each exercise, the raw talent uncovered. This is how I'd envisaged each of the visits to be'*.

The Rhyme Rag members continue with their regular workshops enabling them to improve their writing.



Attendees at the Borderlines workshops at the BOI Workbench

Plans are also underway for a summer project which will be a collaboration between the Kilkenny Arts Festival, the Rhyme Rag Ensemble and Sarah Crossan, Ireland Poet Laureate as part of her #wearethepoets project

Literature workshops for beginner and emerging writers

We have just completed our Spring programme of Creative Writing workshops, suitable for both beginners and advanced writers. The feedback has been hugely positive and the group intend to continue to meet monthly, thus forming a new writers group in the City. This activity has also



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further strengthened our collaboration with the Bank of Ireland Workbench.

Siamsa – Children’s Programme

Caroline Busher’s nature and environment awareness themed creative writing workshops, as part of our Spring Siamsa programme, proved to be hugely successful. This programme was funded by the Arts Office and the Environmental Awareness Office.

Open Circle Community Arts Collective

Developing quality arts engagement for women in Kilkenny and supporting the next phase of the development of this programme.

Two new groups of women began their twelve-month engagement at Open Circle in January this year with an introduction to drawing with Visual Artist Julie Moorhouse. Both groups are now working with textile artist Carrie Lynam exploring the language of mark making over a series of seven weekly workshops at the Open Circle House.

February saw the continuation of a series of workshops with Open Circle at New Park Family Resource Centre, funded by the Environment Section of Kilkenny County Council. These workshops raise the awareness of the need to manage our waste by introducing participants to fun creative ways using waste paper.



To celebrate Spring and European Artistic Craft Days Open Circle ran two Felt Flower making workshops on the 1st of April. A total of twenty-two women participated, learning a new skill and taking home their own individual felt flower at the end of the workshop.



Felt making workshops on 1st April

School Subsidy Theatre Visit

Subsidies totalling €1143 provided to 13 city and county schools enabled 760 children to visit Barnstorm Theatre and see their new production *Boy with a Suitcase*.

ArtLinks

Professional development opportunities for emerging and professional artists in all disciplines is provided in partnership with Carlow, Wexford, Waterford Local Authorities.

Twelve ArtLinks Bursaries awarded totalling €12,900. All these grants enable practitioners continue in their chosen fields.

Each Local Authority Partner – Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford – is hosting a half-day Focus Group with a small selection of artists representing a range of artforms and cross practice areas, as well as different stages of career to ensure that the artists’ voice is included in future plans for the programme.

Artists Supports & Grants

18 Arts Act Grants awarded for 2019 totalling €15,817. 4 Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursaries were awarded to support artists working in Literature, theatre and the Visual Arts. Deirdre O’ Mahony has been awarded the CCI Paris Visual artists award for 2019. The Moth bursary for emerging artists has been advertised.

Curator in Residence

Leah Corbett has been awarded the Emerging Curator in Residence position and plans are afoot for three upcoming exhibitions and outreach / audience development activities over the coming months, thus supporting local and nationally based artists and audience development.



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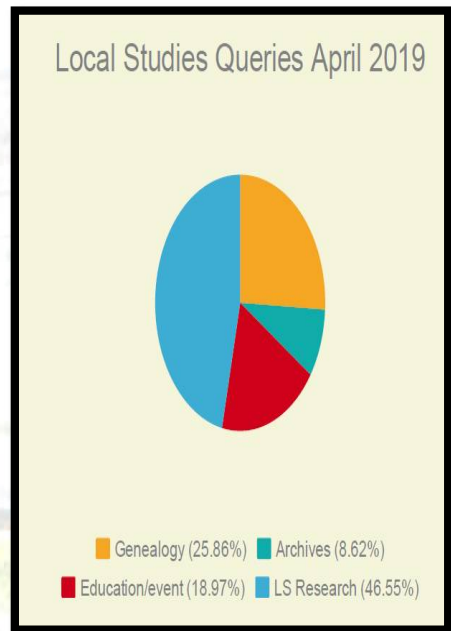
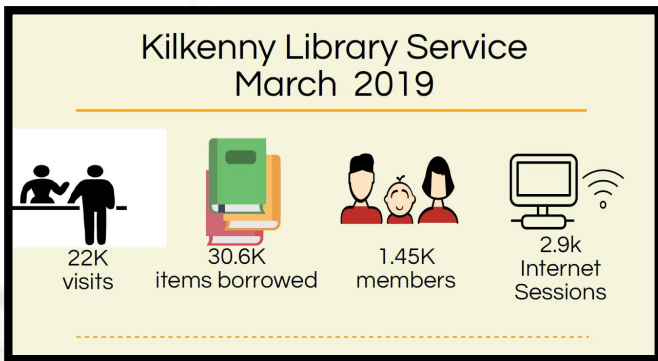
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

HerStory

The HerStory research and development programme has commenced. This project is an Arts Office and Cartoon Saloon partnership undertaking a community based R+D phase to identify Kilkenny women to celebrate as part of the HerStory national project.

Irish circles continue regularly in Loughboy, Ferrybank, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh with Creative Writing as Gaeilge in Loughboy Library also.

LIBRARY SERVICES



CATS - Library Age Friendly Programme Launched

Kilkenny Library Service are delighted to offer a new programme of free age friendly events to people across the county. Highlights will include Music Sing-along's, Art classes, wildlife gardening, safety talks with local Gardaí, dementia support events with HSE, theatre shows, and reflexology amongst others.

County Kilkenny is a designated Age Friendly County which aims to improve the lives of all older people in Kilkenny, with Graiguenamanagh Library designated as an Age Friendly Library.

This initiative delivers on the actions of the Kilkenny Age Friendly County Strategy 2017-2022 and aims to recognise and promote existing good practice across the county library network.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na nGaeilge was celebrated across the library service with Bingo as Gaeilge, Scéalta Gaeilge agus Ciorcal Comhrá Gaeilge.

Communicating our work

- kilkennylibrary.ie**
Pageviews: 12,124
- @kilkennylibrary** (Facebook)
Followers: 2,825
Engagement: 4,773
- @kilkennylibrary** (Twitter)
Followers: 1,930
- @kilkennylibrary** (Instagram)
Followers: 1,056



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT – APRIL 2019

The expenditure by service division to the end of March is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €18.3m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD March 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	4,158	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	3,968	22,328
Water Services	1,584	6,674
Development Management	2,086	9,718
Environmental Services	2,663	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	1,446	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	110	640
Miscellaneous Services	2,286	6,452
Overall Total	18,301	79,700

The bank overdraft facility was not utilized during the 3-month period to the end of March 2019.

The draft Annual Financial Statement for 2018 was approved by the Members at the March Council meeting. The Local Government Auditor has given notice that the annual audit will commence on April 22nd 2019.

The LGMA confirmed that Kilkenny County Council again performed above the national average for Commercial Rates collected in 2018. Preliminary results for the local authority sector show the average national collection levels for 2018 at 87.5%. Kilkenny County Council achieved a collection percentage of 93% for the year as outlined in the Annual Financial Statement presented to the Members in March.