



**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**FEBRUARY 2020**  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

### February

Kilkenny Library Card Sign up month

### 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Mindfulness for Exams

11.00 a.m. Graiguenamanagh Library

2.00 p.m. City Library [25<sup>th</sup> February]

### 27<sup>th</sup> February

Retirement Readjustment Workshop

2.30 p.m. Urlingford Library

### 29<sup>th</sup> February

National Library Open Day

### 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

Last date for hedge cutting before bird nesting season begins

### 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March

Local Enterprise Week 2020 will take place.

## REPORT AT A GLANCE

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#### CORPORATE

The Corporate Plan is published and is available on the following link:

<https://multimedia.kilkennycoco.ie/publications/2019/corporate-plan-2019-2024/mobile/index.html>

#### ROADS

##### NON-NATIONAL ROADS

Kilkenny County Council received an allocation of € 14,948,195 for works on Non-National roads for 2020. The funding announced covers a wide variety of works and is an increase of almost €2 million on 2019's allocation.

Some of the works covered by the allocation are

- Restoration Improvement €7.8m,
- Surface dressing €2.2m,
- 17 no safety schemes costing €368k,
- 11 no bridge upgrades at a cost of 200k
- Drainage and Discretionary works totalling €3.3m covering local upgrades to footpath, local drainage issues etc.
- Increase in funding for the CIR scheme from €494k to almost €640k which covers Local Tertiary roads.

Each Municipal District will now prepare their local road works scheme which will form part of the 2020 road works scheme for Kilkenny.

##### OTHER PROJECTS:

##### Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure

Construction of the scheme commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Works are progressing well and are on programme to finish by the planned completion date of September 2020. The Circular Road is currently closed to facilitate construction of a new bridge over the River Breagagh. These works are expected to be completed in March 2020, allowing the Circular Road to reopen.

##### Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council applied for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála for the

Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The oral hearing took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Kilkenny County Council is waiting the outcome of the hearing which will take a number of weeks.

#### PLANNING

##### Development Management

Planning Summary	Total to January	
	2019	2020
Planning Applications Received	43	52
Planning Applications Granted	64	64
Planning Applications Refused	7	3
Complaints Received	12	12
Warning Letters Issued	4	6
Enforcements Notices Issued	4	0

#### FORWARD PLANNING

##### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) became operable from the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This plan will now be used to guide the review of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan.

##### City & County Development Plan:

The Review of the Kilkenny City and County Development is required by law to recommence within 13 weeks from the adoption of the RSES (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2020), and a target date for recommencement has been set for 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. Work on various plans and strategies required for the new plan continues to progress. Masterplans have also commenced for the Loughmacask, Fairgreen and St. Canice's hospital areas of the City. A public consultation meeting for the pre-draft stage of the Loughmacask Masterplan took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 and was attended by over 60 people. The closing date for submissions is the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.

Work on the retail strategy, housing needs demands assessment, renewable energy strategy, Strategic Environmental Assessment,



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Appropriate Assessment and other constituents of the new City and County Development Plan continues in the background.

### Graigueenamanagh Local Area Plan

The joint Local Area Plan for Graigueenamanagh and Tinnahinch continues. The period for public submissions to the issues paper has closed and the preparation of a report on the pre-draft consultation is nearing completion. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be published in March 2020 following consultation with the Thomastown Municipal District and Carlow County Council.

### Vacant sites

A total of 17 sites were added to the Register for 2020. Notices were issued to the relevant landowners in late December, giving notice that their sites are being included on the Register. Three owners have appealed these entries to An Bord Pleanála. We are currently in the process of establishing the market value of these new sites. Following correspondence with Irish Water in relation to the feasibility of connecting to the water supply in Castlecomer, a decision was taken to cancel 5 sites in the Castlecomer area.

There are currently 38 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 21 of these are now liable for the 7% levy. Payment demands will issue for these 21 sites shortly. Two sites have had their levy discharged to date.

An Bord Pleanála recently made their two decisions in relation to the payment demands issued in January 2019, and upheld one payment demand and cancelled the other.

The number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement now stands at 11 sites.

### CONSERVATION

#### Conservation Grants

All conservation grants are currently being assessed. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application as soon as the

Department of Culture, Heritage, and Gaeltacht comments on projects forwarded by Kilkenny County Council. The following number of applications have been received:

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme: 21 applications.
- Historic Structures Fund:
  - Stream 1: 8 applications;
  - Stream 2: 1 application

A Heritage Council Historic Towns Initiative 2020 application was submitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> February last for works to St. Mary's Church railings, and, the Abbey Footbridge, in Callan. Both projects adhere to the required heritage lead regeneration aspect of the Initiative.

Tender documents have been received for architectural heritage refurbishment works in Inistioge Square and Poyntz Lane in Inistioge.

### Taking in Charge

Work continues on 4 no. estates where the Taking In Charge (TIC) process was initiated in 2019 and it is anticipated that the TIC process will be concluded on these sites in Q1 2020:

- Glenvale, Ballyragget;
- Ard Glas, Ban Ard, Tuar Na mBlath, An Grianan, An Cuainin at Abbeylands Ferryback Kilkenny;
- Kingscourt, Callan; and
- The Greens, Jerpont West, Thomastown (The Realignment Section of L8203 Road only)

Tenders for required TIC works were concluded for 2 no. estates towards the end of 2019 and the initiation stage of the TIC process will commence on these in Q1 2020 upon completion of works:

- Banagher Court Piltown; and
- The Green, Ballyfoyle.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Public Consultation

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment consultation process on



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the development of Ireland's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy closes at 5pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 and can be accessed via <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/consultations/Pages/Public-Consultation-Waste-Action-Plan-for-a-Circular-Economy.aspx>.

Tidy Town Groups that engage with the Tidy Towns Forum have been encouraged to submit their views regarding the introduction of a Deposit-Refund Scheme for plastic bottles and drink cans to assist in curbing the volumes of roadside litter.

#### **Inistioge Nominated for Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition**

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has nominated Inistioge to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition under the Best Kept Village Award. This competition is an all island initiative organized jointly by the Department and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council. Judging takes place in May and the results will be announced in June.

#### **Educational Visits**

1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> year classes in Callan CBS were provided with an environmental talk (23<sup>rd</sup> January) to complement their current environmental programme to improve waste segregation in their school. At the end of each session, the students were asked to be responsible citizens and to pick up after their dogs and assist Callan in becoming litter free to support the local tidy towns group.



Other school visits completed in January included Scoil San Nioclás, Windgap & St. Senans NS Kilmacow. Scheduled February school visits include Clogh NS, Clara NS & St Johns Junior

School and an environmental talk is scheduled for the Adult Learning Service, Kilkenny City.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS SEEKING SUBMISSIONS**

##### **Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Community Grant**

Kilkenny County Council is offering community groups an opportunity this year to promote anti-litter and anti-graffiti awareness in their local community. The grant is to mobilise community groups to care for their local environment by decreasing the impact of litter by its removal and to promote a social message locally to encourage everyone to put litter in its rightful place – in a bin. The closing date for grant applications is the 13<sup>th</sup> of March and applications are available on the grant portal of [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie) or direct from the Environment Section in County Hall.

##### **Waste Prevention Grant Scheme 2020**

Kilkenny County Council is offering community groups an opportunity this year to promote waste prevention, creating an opportunity to look at waste differently and to determine if we can handle our resources better, to contribute to a zero waste society and encourage a circular economy. Preference will be given to projects that contribute to a zero waste lifestyle which by means of education, craft or innovation. The closing date for grant applications is the 13<sup>th</sup> of March and applications are available on the grant portal of [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie) or direct from the Environment Section in County Hall.

##### **Update on Bikes to Africa Project**

In January a delegation from Rotary Ireland, along with an Environment Section official, met with the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment with a view to exploring the possibility of getting government funding to sustain and develop the Bikes to Africa Project across other Local Authorities within the country.

The response was positive from the Department that they would back Rotary Ireland in its efforts



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to roll out the Kilkenny Bikes for Africa Model across the 14 largest towns in Ireland.

The Kilkenny Rotary Club noted this would not have happened if it were not for the support and collaboration of the Environment Section of Kilkenny County Council.

This is a major result for Rotary Ireland and it will mean that nationally they, in conjunction with other stakeholders, should be able to significantly multiply the impact of this great project into the future.



Handover / Storage Container at Dunmore Civic Amenity Centre

### CRM: Customer Relations Management System

In 2019 the Environment Section received 1066 complaints from members of the public. These complaints related to 688 litter, 216 illegal dumping 42 water/waste water, 62 air, 9 noise and 45 dead animals and 4 misc. Of the 1,066 complaints received 1,014 no. were investigated and the appropriate action taken, the remaining 52 are still under investigation.

### Ballyragget Historic Landfill Remediation Contract

The Ballyragget Historic Landfill site is approximately 6 acres and is located 1.5km south-east of Ballyragget town at Donaghmore. Works are currently 90% complete on the €1.4million Ballyragget Historic Landfill Remediation Contract. The works progressed to date includes, re-profiling of the existing landfill cap, provision of LLDPE liner, installation of a gas collection / venting system and the installation of perimeter drainage. Currently sub-soiling work is being progressed on-site as shown in the photograph. The project is scheduled for completion in

March/April 2020, subject to favourable weather conditions for the completion of sub-soiling, top-soiling and landscaping work. It is anticipated that the remediation contract will come in on budget.



### Christmas Tree Recycling

Approximately 10 tonnes of Christmas Trees were collected from free drop off locations around the county and brought to the Dunmore Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre for chipping:

Graigenamanagh:.....	0.6 tonnes
Thomastown:.....	5.7 tonnes
Callan: .....	0.5 tonnes
Urlingford & Freshford: .....	1.2 tonnes
Ballyragget & Castlecomer:.....	1 tonne
Dunmore:.....	8 tonnes

Another 8 tonnes approximately was delivered directly to Dunmore by the public. All trees were chipped on site at Dunmore with intention that the end product will be used for public amenity trails and walking routes.





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## PARKS

### South East Greenway

Works have commenced on some of the enabling contracts on the South East Greenway which runs from Ferrybank in Waterford to New Ross, terminating at Mount Elliot. The route covers a distance of 24km in total mainly through rural south Kilkenny.

To enable the detail designs to be completed for the project the track has been cleared of scrub vegetation allowing access for the first time in years. Detail site surveys have carried out along with bore hole investigations at sites where underpasses may be required for certain farming operations. In tandem with these works a team from Wexford and Kilkenny County Council are meeting with landowners along the route to discuss accommodation works.

Upon completion of this phase of works, the detail design can be completed and the tender documents finalised. Contract documents must then be sent to the Department of Tourism Transport and Sport for approval following which the project will go to Public Tender for the construction phase. It is anticipated works will commence on site in September 2020 with a completion date being set at December 2021.



*View of the recently opened Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge from the old railway line at Carrickcloney.*



*Examining the old bridge structures following vegetation clearance*

### Woodstock Gardens

Works are currently underway to upgrade paths damaged by heavy winter rain and to improve the surface where trees have fallen during recent storms. The stormy weather this winter has resulted in losses of some trees of significance. The age profile of the planting means the tree collection is more susceptible to winds and storms into the future presenting a need to constantly renew the tree collection to ensure there will always be a stock of young trees developing for future years. Trees of significance in the gardens have now been marked with a special plaque informing visitors of the origin of the tree and the significance of the species globally.



An application for funding has been made to the Department of Rural and Community Development to continue trail development in the wider estate through the woodland walks. If successful, this grant will fund the development of the walks as far as the little known Brownsford Stream Waterfall at the Red House. More funding of €17,634 has been awarded under the same ORIS grant scheme to prepare a



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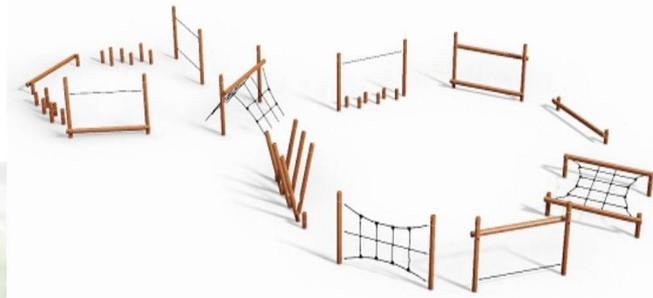
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communications and marketing strategy for Woodstock gardens in 2020. Woodstock now has over 5,000 followers on Facebook. Staff from Kilkenny Civic Trust will assist in running a social media campaign to build further on this and promote Woodstock on line.

Funding of €14,000 was received from the Sports Capital Grant through the Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport for the development of an outdoor exercise trail adjacent to the natural playground in Woodstock. Quotations have now been received for this and work will commence on site shortly.



*Above an example of the type of exercise trail to be added to Woodstock shortly*

#### **Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park**

Work is well advanced on the construction of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park. The path network is now in place along with the terraced area for the seating area and climbing wall being constructed currently. The playground equipment is currently being added with the facility expected to be open for Easter 2020.

The park is being jointly funded by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government (50%), Kilkenny County Council (25%), and Waterford City and County Council (25%). The project represents a practical manifestation of the two Local Authorities in the area working together for the benefit of Ferrybank, and the wider Waterford City area.

The construction of the park will create a much needed central amenity facility for Ferrybank, incorporating a children's playground, walking route, teenager meeting point, and playing pitch.



*Aerial view of Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park*

#### **Tree Planting**

The Parks Section has completed its programme of tree planting in the city and county commemorating a number of special anniversaries. The planting programme is the beginning of our commitment to increase tree planting county wide to assist in addressing Climate Change. The trees are all native and or pollinator friendly and were semi mature in size at planting. Sadly, some of the trees planted in Lintown Hall have been broken by persons unknown. These will be re-planted immediately in an effort to reinstate the avenue of trees which once stood here.



*Newly planted lime tree avenue Loughboy Park*

#### **Amenity Grants**

Over 163 groups received grant assistance under the Amenity Grant Scheme in 2019 amounting to



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a total of €127k in funding. All applicants who submitted their claims in 2019 have been paid their grant now. The Parks Department administers the amenity grants scheme, which is available to voluntary community organisations from all over the County.

The main objective of the scheme is to encourage and aid small-scale works to improve the local environment and encourage community involvement in the upkeep and maintenance of public amenities. The range of works funded includes landscaping, grass and meadow maintenance and development of open spaces, the provision of street and outdoor furniture and small-scale improvement works. In 2020 there will be more of an emphasis on supporting pollinators through projects which are funded.

Community groups will be encouraged to manage amenities in a more sustainable manner. An increase in the total budget of €13k will bring the total fund up to €140k for 2020. This increase in funding will further assist community groups in towns and villages maintain and upkeep their local neighbourhoods.

## TOURISM

### Festival Grants for 2020

Kilkenny County Council approved Tourism Festival grants in the sum of €89,000 for 2020 at the January Council Meeting.

The Festivals identified have or have potential to impact on Kilkenny's tourism industry, and in light of the Council's Climate Change commitments festivals will be encouraged to "green" their festivals and become local champions for our polície".

The Festival Grants were advertised in 2019, with a closing date of 13th December 2019.

Members approved grants as follows:

Event Name	2020 Grant €
The Kilkenny Cat Laughs	10,500
Kilkenny Roots Festival	5,776
Savour Kilkenny	25,000
Subtitle European Film Festival	9,500
Kilkenomics	7,200
Kilkenny Animated	6,300
Kilkenny Tradfest	9,774
JJ Reddy Danesfort Run	1,750
Graiguenamanagh Town of Books	4,000
Iverk Show	1,500
Gowran Festival of Speed	2,900
Kilkenny Craft Beer Festival 2018	500
Annual Castlecomer Wellie Race	2,450
Abhainn Rí Festival	1,850
	<b>89,000</b>

Community grants will be allocated later in the year and will be administered through the Council's Community Section.

### 2019 Festival & Event Grants Awards Evening

Kilkenny County Council hosted an event in the River Court Hotel on 20<sup>th</sup> January to recognise and acknowledge the tremendous work being done by local community groups and tourism festivals throughout Kilkenny during 2019.

Chief Executive, Colette Byrne, praised community representatives and informed the attendance of some significant projects being undertaken by Kilkenny County Council in the coming year, including the Abbey Quarter, The Kilkenny Greenway and the Butler Gallery at Evans' home which will shortly be open to the public.

Elected Members from all Municipal Districts, Castlecomer, Callan/Thomastown, Kilkenny and Piltown, attended and met and thanked the local groups.



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### Mount Juliet Estate to host 2020 Dubai Duty Free Irish Open

Kilkenny County Council will be heavily involved in the logistics for this international event. Kilkenny will be showcased during the event and it presents an opportunity for the entire County to create a memorable experience whilst giving television viewers a chance to appreciate all that Kilkenny has to offer the visitor.

It will have a very positive affect on tourism and business in the region, testament to the interest that the public have in this tournament. Mount Juliet Estate itself is a fantastic venue and is well known as an excellent 'spectator course' as it offers fans a second to none viewing experience. According to Tour Organisers: "We are looking forward to coming to Kilkenny and are looking forward to working with the team at the European Tour and Mount Juliet."

The European Tour is one of the world's leading golf organisations, with 47 tournaments across 29 countries and the tournament will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2020.

## LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Spring 2020 Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office has launched it's Spring 2020 Training Schedule for entrepreneurs and employees of micro-enterprises ranging from Start Your Own Business to Management Development Programmes. Twenty three training programmes are currently available for booking at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kilkenny/>

### Local Enterprise Week 2020

Local Enterprise Week 2020 will take place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March. The highlights of the week are as follows:

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

- Business Start Up Seminar – Learn, Network, Grow, 5pm – 7pm – Hotel Kilkenny

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

- Starting a Farm Food Business – from farm to fork, 11am – 1pm – Springhill Court Hotel
- Female Networking Business Event - 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. – Hoban Hotel

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

- Lean for Micro Breakfast Seminar - 8.15 a.m. – 09.30 a.m. – The Avalon Hotel, Castlecomer

### One to One Brexit Advisory Clinics

As a small business owner, it is imperative to prepare for the upcoming challenges arising from Brexit. The preparations should include a strategic look at possible opportunities presented. The Local Enterprise Office will host Brexit advisory clinics on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Appointments can be made by contacting the 056-7752662; email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie) or visit [www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny](http://www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny).

### Trading on Line Voucher Scheme

Applications are currently open for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to support small businesses enhance their trading on line presence. The amount of €2,500 is available for eligible businesses. The closing date for the next round of applications is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and every 6 weeks thereafter.

## HOUSING

### Housing Capital Delivery

This is the second year into the Rebuilding Ireland housing delivery programme. 599 units is the Council's target for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 190 units for 2019.



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	<b>Targets 2018-2021</b>	<b>2019 Targets</b>
Build		114
Acquisition		46
Leasing		30
Sub-Total	599	190
HAP/RAS		184
All Streams		374

- 2 Units at Shanganny, Jenkinstown
- 2 Units at Inchacarron, Mullinavat
- 2 Units at Old Fire Station, Graignamanagh

**Schemes at Planning Stage:**

- Development of 86 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, KK – An Bord Pleanala approved 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020
- 25 Units at Ladywell, Thomastown

**Schemes Completed in 2020**

Nil

**Schemes under Construction at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020:**

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 15 units Nuncio Road, KK (Respond Housing)
- 17 Units at Bregagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 6 Units at New Road and Chapel Street, Mooncoin
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- 40 units Margaretsfield, Callan Road, KK
- 4 units (Group home) at Cloghabrody, Thomastown



6 one bed apartments on Bridge Street, Callan



22 houses under construction at Station Road, Ballyragget

**Schemes at Tender Stage**

- 18 units at 'Broguemaker', Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny
- 5 units at Grennan Villa, Thomastown (Camphill)

**Schemes at Detailed Design Stage**

- 6 units at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny

**January Monthly Statistics**

Number awaiting social housing support at 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2020 ( <i>Gross Need</i> )	1973
Number of assessment interviews carried out in January:	31
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations in January ( <i>offers made</i> ):	4
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 <sup>st</sup> January:	868
Number of LA tenancies surrendered in January:	6
Anti-social behaviour cases in January:	64
New Homeless Presentations in January:	23
Maintenance Calls for January 2020	649
Maintenance Calls year to date	649
No. Housing Loans Approved to date ( <i>Annuity/Construction</i> )	2
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2020	€174,930



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### Housing List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 31<sup>st</sup> December is 1,988 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
January 2020	1,973
December 2019	1,988
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 <i>(Statutory Assessment 2016)</i>
December 2015	2,744

### Housing Loan Activity

	Annuity/ RI Home Loan	Reconstruction Loan	Caravan Loan
Received	2	0	0
Approved	2	0	0
Amount Approved	€174,930	0	0
No. Paid	4	0	0
Amt. Paid	€555,700	0	0

### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for January 2020 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 are set out below. There were 23 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations at 31/01/2020.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	37	29	37	27	23
February	30	26	32	14	
March	18	26	21	16	
April	26	25	18	20	
May	34	28	29	20	
June	31	24	20	16	
July	31	34	15	31	
August	32	27	26	28	
September	27	24	19	26	
October	30	27	27	25	
November	32	29	23	16	
December	21	19	6	17	

Total	349	318	273	256
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### New Rent Scheme and Rent Review 2020

Members are reminded of the pending rent review that is underway for all our tenants. It is hoped to have the new rents in place in the first quarter of 2020. Kilkenny County Council has harmonised both Rent schemes for 2020 to remove the current anomalies and inequity for current tenants in receipt of the same social welfare payments.

### COMMUNITY

#### 2020 Community Grants Booklet

Kilkenny County Council has developed its 3rd edition of the Community Grants Booklet. This is a follow on from the very popular 1st and 2nd editions that came out in 2018 and 2019. The 3rd edition was launched in the Parade Tower at the Community Awards Night on the 30th of January 2020. The new grants booklet once again gives a summary of the key elements of Kilkenny County Councils and other National Community Grants, relevant contacts and the types of works eligible for funding. This booklet is also available on line and can be accessed and downloaded to your mobile device

#### Community Awards 2019

On Thursday January 30th, Kilkenny County Council and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Cleere hosted the Kilkenny County Council Community Awards to acknowledge, congratulate and thank community groups for their dedication and hard work within their respective communities. 2019 was once again a very positive year for Kilkenny with many groups being recognised at national, regional & county level.





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TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### Bike Week

The Department of Transport have designated the 06<sup>th</sup> June to the 14<sup>th</sup> June as Bike Week 2020. Kilkenny County Council will be working with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership to deliver a programme of events for young and old involving cycling. KRSP are currently taking submissions of ideas and events from community groups who wish to take part in Bike Week 2020.

### World Wetlands Day at Newpark Marsh

65 people attended a birdwatching outing to Newpark Marsh to celebrate World Wetlands Day (Sat Feb 1<sup>st</sup>). The event was led by volunteers from Birdwatch Ireland, and supported by the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council. This event, one of thousands organised around the world, received a mention in the National Press (Irish Times, Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 2020). Participants received Kilkenny County Council pollinator themed bags and badges. This is an action in Kilkenny County Council Climate Adaptation Programme 2020.



**National Heritage Week 2020** will take place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August. If you need any advice on planning an event, feel free to contact the Heritage Office. [heritage@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:heritage@kilkennycoco.ie)

### Last chance to cut hedges this winter

Isn't there a great stretch in the evenings? ...and the mornings are getting brighter and birds are starting to sing....All this is a reminder that if you're planning to cut your hedges you must be finished by the last day in Feb. You can help support Kilkenny's biodiversity by never trimming hedges from March to September when

the birds are mating and nesting. The Heritage Office ran a series of adverts on local radio to highlight this message to the public (6<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> Feb).

## ARTS

### ARTIST SUPPORTS

#### Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary

Eight applications were received this year. Four bursaries were awarded to support artists in Literature, Screenwriting, Theatre and Dance.



*Tyrone Guthrie Centre*

#### Adult Intermediate Creative Writing Workshops with John MacKenna

Our spring programme of Adult Intermediate Creative Writing Workshops commenced in January and were fully booked.

#### Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet 2020

Broadsheet 2020 timeline has been drafted, potential editors researched with a final decision made. The Broadsheet launch is set to take place during the Kilkenny Arts Festival 2020.

#### School Subsidies

Kilkenny Primary Schools have been notified of the school subsidy available towards transport costs to go to Barnstorm Theatre's 'Alice and the Wolf' performance in March. To date 14 schools have notified us of their interest in this subsidy.

#### Open Circle Arts

Open Circle are familiarising themselves with their bright new home in the art building on the SOS campus. The two new groups, totalling 28



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women, have started their 18 month programme with drawing and mark making with artist Caroline Schofield.



#### Drawing and mark making January 2020

A total of 15 applications were received for the Emerging Curator in Residence Programme. The standard of applications was very high this year, with 6 candidates being called for interview. Kilkenny based practitioner Rachel Botha has accepted the offer and plans are being made for her to commence the residency.

#### Music Generation Kilkenny

Music generation commenced work in six schools in Castlecomer and Thomastown delivering performance music education to over 500 children in these areas. Since the launch of Music Generation in November, the development of the programme is gathering pace. Two music hubs will commence in March in Ferrybank and in the Drum, MacDonagh Junction. The early years programme will also commence in March in South Kilkenny. The programme will participate in Kilkenny Tradfest with a 'Try the pipes' taster on St. Patrick's Day.

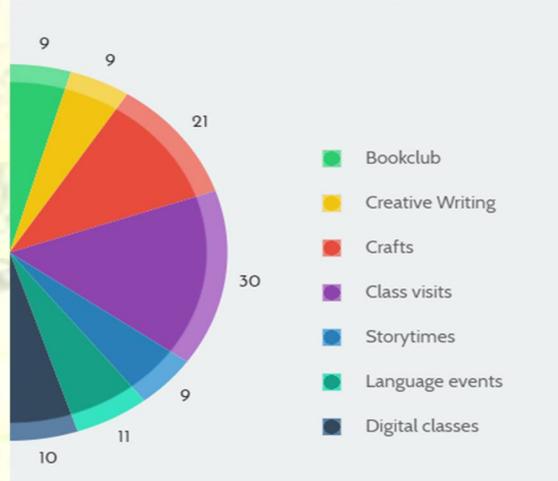
#### LIBRARY SERVICES



#### Promotional Video

As part of our Autism Friendly Initiative last year, we developed a short video to give people an insight into the facilities and resources a modern library provides. Filmed in Loughboy Library in November 2019, staff got on board to provide familiar faces, and showcase the welcoming, friendly service provided throughout the county. The video is being widely circulated, and is of particular interest to schools, groups and agencies assisting those with sensory needs, so they can prepare ahead of library visits to make the experience more comfortable and rewarding.

#### Events held this month in our libraries





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

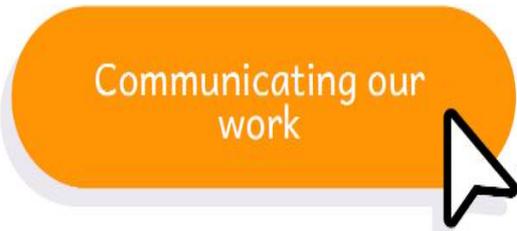
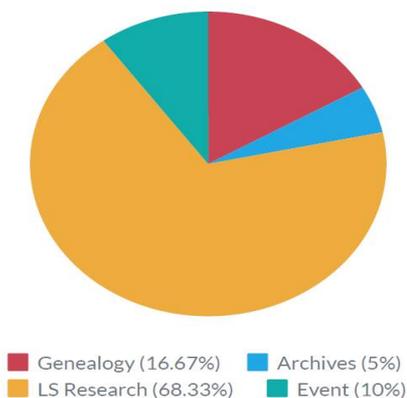
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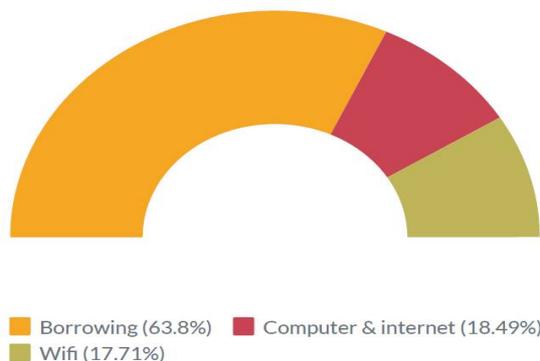
Local Studies Queries January



Followers: January 2020

Facebook: 3408  
Twitter: 2191  
Instagram: 1318

My Open Library Use January 2020



### Magic Table in Loughboy Library

The Magic Table recently installed was originally designed to help those on their dementia journey to enjoy interactive experiences. Its interactive, gentle games are appealing to those with sensory challenges and indeed, anyone that passes by it!

In January, we had 20 bookings for sessions, from families to local agencies such as Bluebird Care, SOS Kilkenny, HSE, Schools and Alzheimer Day care Centre



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### FINANCE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2020

The expenditure by service division to the end of January is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €5.2m compared with the annual budget of €83.6m.

Table 1	Actual YTD January 2020	Budget Full Year 2020
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	1,467	17,623
Road Transport & Safety	797	22,688
Water Services	473	6,576
Development Management	764	10,525
Environmental Services	425	11,463
Recreation & Amenity	419	6,425
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	21	639
Miscellaneous Services	857	7,623
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>5,223</b>	<b>83,562</b>

The bank overdraft facility was not utilized during the month of January 2020. An application has been made to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for approval of a new term loan of €5m to provide funding for the capital programme. This loan will be drawn down immediately on receipt of approval from the Department.

The final out turn on cash collections for 2019 is not available yet. It is expected that the results will be in line with the previous year. The final figures will be available for the March Council meeting.

Following the revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny in 2017 by the Valuation office, 196 property owners appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal. The total value of the rate demand under appeal is €4.5m representing 23% of the annual rate demand. A total of 133 appeals representing 47% of the rate demand appealed have been processed to date resulting in a reduction in annual rates income of almost €522k. If this trend continues the estimated loss in annual rates income could exceed €1.1m. Appeal decisions are backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018. It could take a number of months yet before all appeals are dealt with.