

# Kilkenny County Council & Kilkenny Borough Council

## Annual Report 2012

THE COUNCILS OF THE COUNTY & CITY OF KILKENNY



# Mission Statement

“Kilkenny Local Authorities aim to work in partnership with the people of Kilkenny and relevant agencies to deliver quality services and to promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development for current and future generations”.



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County Library: **+353 (0)56 7794160**

Fire Service: **112**



# Joint Statement of An Cathaoirleach and of the Mayor



Cllr. Marie Fitzpatrick,  
Cathaoirleach,  
Kilkenny County Council



Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin,  
Mayor,  
Kilkenny Borough Council

As Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council and Mayor of Kilkenny Borough Council it gives us great pleasure to welcome the publication of the 2012 Annual Report. The annual report provides the public with an opportunity to evaluate the progress of the Councils on a yearly basis.

During 2012 both Authorities were involved in many important projects. These projects included the opening of Ferrybank Library, the announcement of the Medieval Mile project and the proposed pedestrian bridge in Kilkenny City, the official visit to Suzhou in China, the completion of houses at Ossary Park & Nuncio Road, provision of playgrounds at Bennettsbridge, Kilmacow and Ballyragget, development of the Lacken Linear Walk, a comprehensive arts programme of events, the Kilkenny Food Festival, the launch of Connect Ireland and continued financial and other supports for Tidy Estates and Community Groups.

We commend the great work being undertaken by tidy towns groups, community groups and Local Authority staff who between them have made a significant contribution to improved markings in the national Tidy Towns competition in which Kilkenny City won a gold medal in its category and also where it secured 1<sup>st</sup> place in the IBAL litter survey. It is noted that the Local Authorities were nominated for Chambers Ireland awards in respect of three initiatives; the Kilkenny Agri-Food Group, Dunmore Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre and Greening the Iverk Show.

We also wish to extend our thanks to the County Manager, Joe Crockett and the staff of Kilkenny County and Borough Councils for their work and co-operation during the year and we look forward to further developments during 2013.

Finally, we wish to thank our fellow Councillors for their support throughout the year.

# Statement of County Manager



Mr Joe Crocket,  
County Manager.

I am pleased to be associated with the presentation of this report for the year 2012.

This report is being presented in extremely challenging times for Kilkenny County and Borough Councils given the national downturn in economic performance and its implications for the services provided for citizens.

Given this background, and the stringent financial restrictions under which the Council's operate, the need for the development of the county and city is even more important. With this in mind Kilkenny County and Borough Councils in conjunction with many partners continued to progress the key economic drivers for the county and city namely education and innovation, agri-food, tourism, life sciences and manufacturing.

Initiatives included:-

- The opening of the TSSG Research and Innovation Centre which will enhance research and academic capability to support industry and enterprise.
- High level food and science groups to focus on preparations for Harvest 2020, particularly the dairy sector.
- The opening of Belview Strategic Water Supply a joint IDA and Kilkenny County Council project to support life sciences and manufacturing.
- The launching of Connect Ireland.
- The announcement of the Medieval Mile tourism application.

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Peoples Government of Suzhou China & the Councils of the County and City of Kilkenny.
- The commencement of the review of the County Development Plan & the City and Environs Development Plan.

This developmental role has to be balanced with prudent financial control and careful decision making as we seek to maintain levels of services in the light of reducing incomes.

Both Authorities continue to seek new means to do more with less through shared services, procurement initiatives, partnering with other agencies, and the more productive and effective use of resources.

I wish to pay tribute to the work being undertaken by local communities and by strategic policy committees. These committees are invaluable in assisting the full County Council in pursuing its objectives and getting through business. There is strong commitment by the councillors and external members who have been well served by successive chairs over the years.

I would like to express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Cathaoirleach Cllr. Marie Fitzpatrick, Mayor Cllr. Seán Ó' hArgáin and all of the elected members, all of the staff of Kilkenny County and Borough Councils and the groups, sectors, committees and individuals who work with us to progress the development and well being of the people of the county and city of Kilkenny.

# Notable Achievements in 2012



## Roads and Transportation

- Following successful planning and land purchase in 2011 the Council awarded a works contract for the construction of a new roundabout at Hennebry's Cross in the summer of 2012
- Kilkenny County Council noted that there were over 300 successive days in which not a single fatal road accident was recorded in the county
- In late 2012 Fáilte Ireland approved a funding package for the Medieval Mile project in Kilkenny City
- Completion of the final phase of cycleways, footpaths and new public lighting along the full length of the Kilkenny Ring Road
- The completion of a major amenity and traffic management scheme in Johns Green Kilkenny



## Planning and Housing

- Kilkenny Local Authorities secured €4m and successfully expended its allocation on the completion of 31 units and Community Centre in Ossory Park along with the 20 units in Rosehill, Kells Road. The balance of monies was used to acquire 6 unsold affordable houses into stock at Graiguenamanagh.
- Completion of 15 units at Nuncio Road by S.O.S. costing €1.6m
- 12 units of accommodation provided to Traveller families
- 44 LA houses adapted in 2012 to meet the needs of the disabled
- €1.8m allocation expended in full on 258 applications
- €6,000 support for LA Tidy Estates Competition
- 80 active community committees supported in 2012



## Library Services

- The proposed plans for the new City Library beside County Hall, John Street were unveiled to elected members
- 27,686 visits were made to library branches
- A new building was purchased In Ferrybank County Kilkenny for use as a branch library



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## Parks and Amenities

- The pitch at Garringreen was extensively improved by sanding and re-seeding in the summer of 2012 to make it
- Over ninety groups were in receipt of grant assistance in 2012
- Woodstock Gardens continues to be an attractive visitor centre



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## Fire Services and Civil Defence

- The 2012 Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme was provided by Fire Services personnel
- In 2012, 20 volunteers were presented with Civil Defence certificates
- Kilkenny Civil Defence participated in the Civil Defence Regional Response to Exercise RailRoad in Carlow



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## Waste and Environment

- Dunmore Recycling Centre celebrated Repak Recycling Week by running a Recycling Hits marketing promotion with KCLR96FM
- Dunmore Recycling Centre was a finalist in the National Recycling Centre Repak Awards giving it national recognition as one of the top three recycling facilities in the country
- The Environment Section operates more than forty bring centres throughout the county in addition to the Dunmore facility
- Over 85% of schools participate in the green school programme
- 119 local community groups registered with An Taisce to participate in the National Spring Clean in April. Additional clean up supplies were provided to groups who required assistance and the collection of litter from large community clean ups was organized by the Environment Section.
- Greening the Iverk Show was arranged by Kilkenny County Council. Iverk Show is one of the oldest agricultural shows in the country and is partnered with Kilkenny County Council and Environments Awareness Officers in the South East to improve the shows environmental performance. The project was supported financially by the EPA. The project was nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence award.



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## Arts and Heritage

- Over 10,000 people engaged or participated in Arts office supported programmes in 2012
- The Arts Office supported the Duske Concert Series and the Kilkenny Arts Festival New Music Initiative in bringing the arts to new audiences and into local communities.
- National Drawing Day; this event is a partnership between the Butler Gallery, the Office of Public Works and the Kilkenny Arts Office. A total of 389 people across all age groups participated.



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## Water Services

- In 2011 the Authority produced over 9.4million cubic meters of quality drinking water directly to a population of over 61,000 across the county.
- The repair of a 1 million gallon reservoir at Radestown was completed in 2012 at a cost of €276,000
- For the second consecutive year there was no increase in water and waste water charges. Rates for non-domestic users were €0.96 per cubic metre for drinking water and €1.93 per cubic metre for waste water (a combined rate of €2.89)
- Kilkenny County Council was one of only six Local Authorities in the country to achieve a 100% mark when the EPA assessed the publication of water quality results on line.



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## Economic Development & Tourism

- Relations with China have been built with town twinning, an official delegate visit to Suzhou in China and the running of a Chinese Culture six week course
- A number of high profile events were hosted in 2012 to raise Kilkenny's profile as a business location, develop linkages with the existing business community, and to market the city and county to new potential investors
- Kilkenny Tourism contracted new marketing and P.R. consultants and a new tourism marketing strategy was developed, with a new brand launched ('Kilkenny – living history, loving culture') targeting increased domestic and international business through social media channels including Flickr, Youtube and specific web SEO campaigns
- A project on "Supporting the Economic Development of the Agri-food Industry in the South East" was shortlisted in the Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards under the 'Partnership with Business' Category

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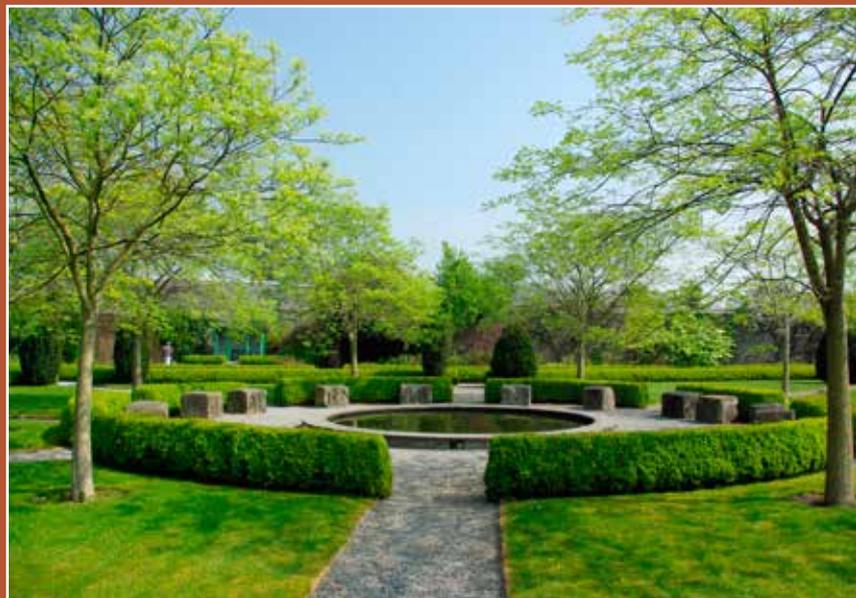
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# Kilkenny's Local Authorities



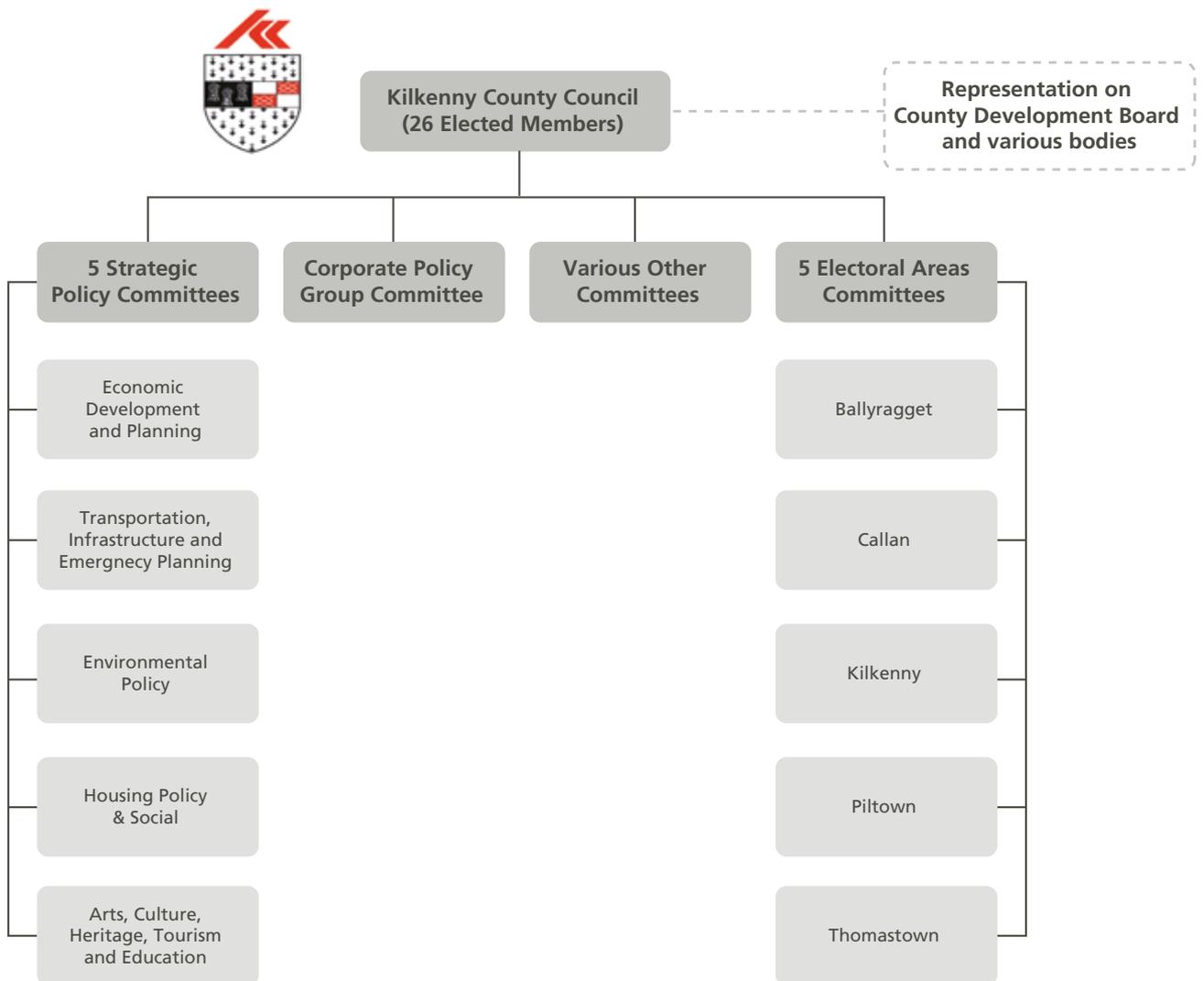
## Kilkenny's Local Authorities

### 1.1. Structure of Kilkenny County Council

#### Elected Membership

Kilkenny County Council comprises twenty six members, elected for a five year term of office. The current Council was elected in June 2009 and membership at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 is shown in Appendix II. A number of former members of the Council have been elected to Dail and Seanad Eireann and to the European Parliament and their contact details are included.

#### Kilkenny County Council Elected Members Structure



## Kilkenny County Council Management Structure

Within Kilkenny County Council's management structure, four Director of Services report to the County Manager. The four directorates and their key areas of responsibility are as follows.

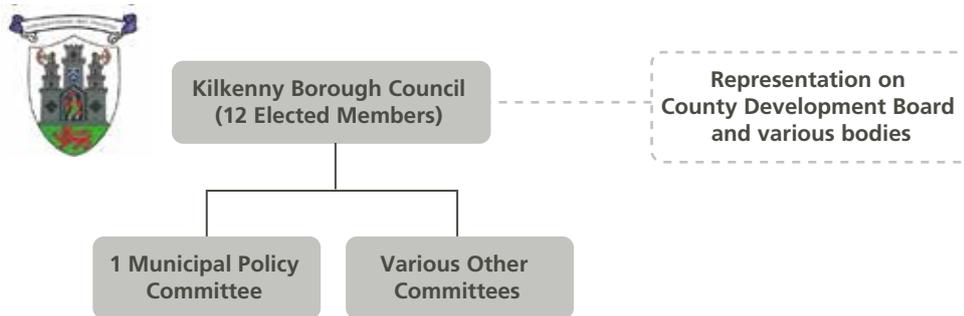


## 1.2 Structure of Kilkenny Borough Council

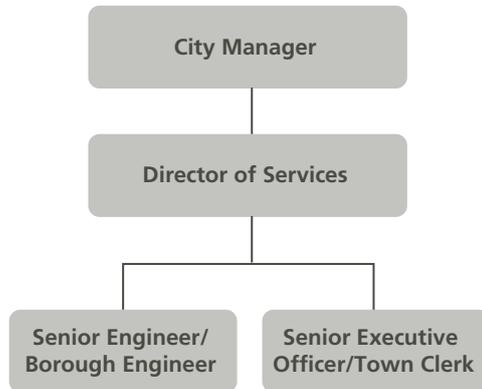
### Elected Membership

Kilkenny Borough Council comprises twelve members, elected for a five year term of office. The current Council was elected in June 2009 and membership at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 is as shown below. A number of members of the Borough Council have also been elected to Kilkenny County Council and represent the Kilkenny Electoral Area on the County Council.

### Kilkenny Borough Council Membership Structure



### Kilkenny Borough Council Management Structure



## 1.3 Members of Committees and Subsidiary Bodies

There is a legal obligation on Local Authorities to establish certain Committees such as Strategic Policy Committees. Local Authorities have discretionary authority to establish other committees so as to assist them in performing their roles as elected members.

### Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)

Kilkenny County Council has established 5 Strategic Policy Committees to assist the elected Council in the formation of policy.

These five strategic policy committees are:

1. Forward Planning and Development Policy
2. Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Services and Other
3. Environmental Policy, Fire Services and Emergency Planning
4. Housing and Social Policy
5. Community & Social Policy, Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Education

The Committee representation and reports for 2012 are as follows:

1	Forward Planning and Development Policy	5 meetings in 2012
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>		<p><b>Cllr Maurice Shortall</b> 42 Maryville, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny</p>
<b>MEMBERS</b>	<p>Cllr Pat Dunphy, Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny            Cllr Anne-Maria Irish, Nicholastown, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny            Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny            Cllr Jane Moran, Rathcusack, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny            Cllr Michael O'Brien, Friarhill, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny            Cllr Sean Treacy, Coolroebeeg, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny</p> <p><b>Borough Council Member</b> - Cllr Seán O'Hargáin  <b>Business/Commercial</b> - Alison McGrath, Kilkenny Chamber  <b>Construction and Industry</b> - Denis Guilfoyle, Construction Industry Federation  <b>Environmental</b> - Cólín Ó Drisceoil, Kilkenny Archeology  <b>Community and Voluntary</b> - John Burke Turkstown, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny  <b>Agriculture</b> - Kevin Connolly, Coolmore, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny</p>	
<b>REPORT SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Retail Strategy/Draft Retail Guidelines</li> <li>• The 2014-2020 County Development Plan</li> <li>• Wind Energy Strategy</li> <li>• Local Area Plans Update</li> <li>• Unfinished Housing Developments and Taking in Charge</li> <li>• Quarries: Section 261A of the Planning &amp; Development Act 2000–2010</li> </ul>	

## CHAIRPERSON

**Cllr Matt Doran**

Shrughawaddy,  
Kilmoganny,  
Co. Kilkenny.  
051 648220

## MEMBERS

Cllr John Brennan, Crutt, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny 056 4442319  
Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny 051 880310  
Cllr Jane Moran, Rathcusack, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny 086 3655314  
Cllr Malcolm Noonan, 35 Fr. Murphy Square, Kilkenny 056 7723276  
Cllr Pat Millea, Gaulstown, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny 056 7769182

**Business & Employers** - Cormac O' Sullivan, Haggard Road, Kells, Co Kilkenny

**Trade Union** - Denis Hynes, SIPTU, Patrick Street, Kilkenny.

**Environmental Pillar** - Ann Gibbons, Kilree House, Kilkenny.

**Community and Voluntary** - Paul Corcoran, Ballyfoyle Co Kilkenny.

**Agriculture** - Michael Rice, Greenridge, Kilkenny.

## REPORT SUMMARY

- Winter Maintenance Plan
- Class 3 Local Roads (local tertiaries)
- Appropriate Assessment Process-Overview
- Presentation on Irish Water Implications for Water Services Infrastructure in Kilkenny
- Traffic Calming Pilot Schemes
- Rural Broadband Scheme
- Rural Bus Stops
- Flood Risk Review and Areas for further Assessment
- Smarter Travel
- Regional Road Condition Survey
- Grid Link Project update
- Road Safety Plan 2013-2020
- Putting People First

## CHAIRPERSON

**Cllr Martin Brett**

Derdimus,  
Tennypark,  
Kilkenny  
056 7761116

## MEMBERS

Cllr Paul Cuddihy, Granges Road, Kilkenny 087 9931484  
 Cllr Tom Maher, Broadmore, Callan, Co. Kilkenny 056 7725234  
 Cllr Anne Maria Irish, Nicholastown, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny 051 851483  
 Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Whiteswall, Crosspatrick, Co. Kilkenny 0505 46419  
 Cllr Eamonn Aylward, Ballynooney, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny 051 898975

**Business/Commercial** - Vacant

**Environmental Pillar** - Pat Durkan, 5 Riverview, Kilkenny.

**Community & Voluntary** - Sean Fitzpatrick, Ballynamanna Road,  
Rathmoyle, Kilkenny

**Agriculture** - John Bambrick, Mallardstown, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

REPORT SUMMARY **Waste Management**

- National Waste Policy
- Litter Management Plan
- Smoky Coal Ban
- National Environmental & Repak Trends
- Education & Awareness
- Dunmore Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre
- South East Region Waste Management Plan

**Water Quality**

- River Water Quality – River Water Quality Report for Kilkenny 2011
- Coastal Pollution Plan
- Reform of the Water Sector in Ireland

**Kilkenny Fire Rescue Service**

- Capital projects
- Major Emergency Management
- Fire Prevention

**Other**

- Climate Change – European Climate Change Information Campaign
- Lifeguard service update
- Veterinary services
- Civil Defence
- Graveyards
- Carlow/Kilkenny Energy Agency

## CHAIRPERSON



**Cllr Marie Fitzpatrick**  
 64 Bishop Birch Place,  
 Kilkenny  
 056 7764438

## MEMBERS

Cllr David FitzGerald, 24 Patrick Street, Kilkenny 056 7770888  
 Cllr Catherine Connery, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny 056 7767692  
 Cllr William Ireland, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny 056 7727668  
 Cllr Cora Long, Ballygriffin, Carrigeen, Via Waterford 051 897894  
 Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road 056 7770672

**Construction and Industry** - Ivan Shannon, CIF  
**Community and Voluntary** - Sheila Donnelly  
**Trade Union** - Yvonne Moriarity  
**Agriculture** - Elizabeth Regan

## REPORT SUMMARY

- Housing Assessment and Allocations
- Maintenance, retrofitting, Vacant units
- Social Housing Investment Programme
- RAS Scheme
- Mortgage to Rent Scheme
- Mortgage Arrears – Local Authority loans
- Capital Programme 2012
- Housing Grants
- New Differential Rent Scheme
- Traveller Initiatives

5

**Community & Social Policy, Arts,  
Culture, Heritage, Tourism  
and Education**

5 meetings in 2012

**CHAIRPERSON**



**Cllr John Brennan**

Crutt, Clogh,  
Castlecomer,  
Co. Kilkenny  
056 4442319

**MEMBERS**

Cllr Paul Cuddihy, Granges Road, Kilkenny 087 9931484  
Cllr Tommy Prendergast, 3 St Oliver Plunkett Avenue Tinnahinch, 059 9724770  
Cllr Pat Crowley, Kilmoganny County Kilkenny, 056 772831  
Cllr Tomas Breathnach, Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, 051 885483  
Cllr John Coonan, 17 Willow Close, Ardmore, Kilkenny 056 7762398

**Borough Council Rep** - Cllr. David FitzGerald

**Business and Employers** - Roisin McQuillan, Kilkenny Business Women's

**Network Environmental Pillar** – Darren Donohue, Lower Grange, Goresbridge,  
Co. Kilkenny

**Community and Voluntary** - Breda McDonald, Ballintleg, Mullinavat,  
Co. Kilkenny

**REPORT SUMMARY**

- Updates by Heritage Officer on 2012 projects
- Updates by Arts Officer on 2012 projects
- Junior Achievements Programme
- Library Updates
- Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme
- Age Friendly County Programme
- Traveller Programme & Traveller Culture
- Integration Forum
- Youth Programmes
- National Campaign for Arts
- Kilkenny Recreational Sports Partnership
- Ireland Wales INTERREG Programme 2007 - 2013

## City Of Kilkenny Municipal Policy Committee (MPC)

Kilkenny Borough Council has established a Municipal Policy Committee. Its membership & report for 2012 is as follows:

	City Of Kilkenny Municipal Policy Committee (MPC)	1 meeting in 2012
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	 <b>Cllr Joe Reidy</b> Parliament House Parliament Street Kilkenny	
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Cllr David FitzGerald, 24, Patrick Street, Kilkenny <b>Elected Member</b> Cllr Paul Cuddihy, Granges Road, Kilkenny <b>Elected Member</b> Cllr Kathleen Funchion, 28, Whitescastle, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny <b>Elected Member</b> Cllr Seán Ó hArgáin, Sceilg, Greenshill, Kilkenny <b>Elected Member</b> Fr. Nicholas Flavin, Kilkenny Community and Voluntary Forum, Millennium Court, Hebron Road, Kilkenny <b>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum Representative</b> Mr. Pat Henderson, Talbots Inch Village, Freshford Road, <b>Kilkenny Sports Representative</b> Mr. Eamon Langton, Sion Road, Kilkenny. <b>Tourism Representative</b> Mr. Joe Ledwidge, Old Bekwai, Dunningstown Road, <b>Kilkenny Heritage Representative</b> Mr. Jim Flynn, Kilkenny Café, Market Cross, Kilkenny <b>Kilkenny Business Representative</b>	
<b>REPORT SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Destination Kilkenny/Medieval Mile</li><li>• Casual Trading – Review of Bye Laws</li><li>• Development Plan Review Process including Retail Strategy</li><li>• Christmas in Kilkenny</li><li>• Work Programme 2013</li><li>• Hurling Monument</li></ul>	

## Kilkenny County Joint Policing Committee

Kilkenny County Council has established a Joint Policing Committee. Its membership and report for 2012 is as follows:

	<b>Kilkenny County Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>4 meetings in 2012</b>
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### CHAIRPERSON



**Cllr. Paul Cuddihy,**  
Granges Road,  
Kilkenny

### MEMBERS

Cllr Maurice Shortall, 42 Maryville, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Catherine Connery, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Marie Fitzpatrick, 64 Bishop Birch Place, Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Matt Doran, Shrugawadda, Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr William Ireland, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Tom Maher, Broadmore, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Senator Pat O' Neill, Ballyredding, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Tommy Prendergast, 3 St. Oliver Plunkett Road, Tinnahinch, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Michael O' Brien, Friarshill, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Sean Treacy, Coolroebeag, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Cora Long, Ballygriffin, Carrigeen, Via Waterford, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Pat Dunphy, Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Anne Maria Irish, Nicholastown, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Eamon Aylward, Ballynooney, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Cllr Tomas Breathnach, Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Superintendent Kevin Dolan, Thomastown Garda Station, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Chief Superintendent M. McGarry, Thomastown Garda Station, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny  
 Mr. John Burke, Turkstown, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny  
 Ms. Mary Egan, Tullahought, Windgap, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Mr. Gerard Ferris, Ardra, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Mr. Phil Hogan, TD, Constituency Office, New Street, Kilkenny.  
 Mr. John McGuinness, TD, Constituency Office, O' Loughlin Road, Kilkenny. Ms  
 Mrs. Ann Phelan, TD, Brandondale, Graignamanagh, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Mr. John Paul Phelan, TD, Smithstown, Tullogher, Co. Kilkenny.  
 Mr. Pat Deering, TD, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.  
 Cllr Jane Moran, Rathcusack, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny

### REPORT SUMMARY

- Crime, Drugs and Public Order
- Safety of people in their homes
- Drug Awareness Week/Alcohol Bye Laws
- Role of the Joint Policing Committee in assisting the Drugs Task Force
- Neighbourhood Watch & Community Alert Scheme
- Community Engagement
- 2 Public Meetings held – Ballyraggett/Callan
- "Victim Assist" Programme
- Closure of Rural Garda Stations
- Traffic
- Road Safety Issues
- Statistics in relation to drink driving, speeding and seat belt offences

## Kilkenny Borough Council Joint Policing Committee.

Kilkenny Borough Council has established a Joint Policing Committee. Its membership & report for 2012 is as follows:

	<b>Kilkenny City Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>3 meetings in 2012</b>
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### CHAIRPERSON



**Cllr. Paul Cuddihy,**  
Granges Road,  
Kilkenny

### MEMBERS

Cllr David FitzGerald, 24, Patrick Street, Kilkenny  
Cllr Martin Brett, Derdimus, Tennypark, Kilkenny  
Cllr Andrew McGuinness, Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny  
Cllr Joe Reidy, Parliament House, Parliament Street, Kilkenny  
Cllr John Coonan, 17 Willow Close, Kilkenny  
Cllr Joe Malone 11, Maiden Hill Estate, Kilkenny  
Cllr Kathleen Funchion, 28, Whitescastle, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny  
Cllr Malcolm Noonan, 35, Fr. Murphy Square, Kilkenny,  
Cllr Marie Fitzpatrick, 64, Bishop Birch Place, Kilkenny  
Cllr Seán Ó hArgáin "Sceilg", Greenshill, Kilkenny  
Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D. Constituency Office, New Street, Kilkenny  
Mrs. Ann Phelan, T.D. Brandondale, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny  
Mr. John McGuinness T.D, Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny  
Mr. Patrick Deering, T.D. Ballyoliver, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow  
Chief Superintendent Michael McGarry, Thomastown Garda Station, Thomastown  
Superintendent Padraig Dunne, Kilkenny Garda Station, Dominic Street, Kilkenny  
Inspector Liam Connolly, Kilkenny Garda Station, Dominic Street, Kilkenny  
Mr. Pat McAuley, 40, Connolly Street, Kilkenny  
Ms. Enya Kennedy, Wolfe Tone House, Wolfe Tone Street, Kilkenny  
Mr. Joseph Mguni, 14 Oakwood Court, Parcnagown, Kilkenny  
Ms. Martina Comerford, Rapid Co-Coordinator C & E Dept

### REPORT SUMMARY

#### **Crime, Drugs and Public Order:**

- Drug Problems in Kilkenny City
- Safety of people in their homes
- Drug Awareness Week

#### **Community Engagement:**

- Community Watch and Alert Schemes
- Turnaround time of Local Authority Houses
- Statistics in relation to domestic violence
- "Victim Assist" Programme

#### **Traffic:**

- Road Safety Issues
- Inter Schools Quiz
- Statistics in relation to drink driving, speeding and seat belt offences
- Provision and use of cycle lanes within the City

## Electoral Area Committees

Five Area Committees have been established. Members elected to Kilkenny County Council from the 5 Electoral Areas are members of their respective Area Committee.

### **The Area Committees are;**

- Ballyragget Electoral Area Committee
- Callan Electoral Area Committee
- Kilkenny Electoral Area Committee
- Thomastown Electoral Area Committee
- Piltown Electoral Area Committee

### **A number of other committees have also been established;**

- Traveller Accommodation Committee
- Woodstock Restoration Committee
- Rural Water Monitoring Committee

### **Both Authorities are also represented on numerous bodies and external committees;**

- County Development Board
- Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance
- Goul Joint Drainage Committee
- County Enterprise Board
- Leader Partnership
- Local Authorities Members Association
- Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
- South East Regional Authority
- RAPID Area Implementation Team
- Vocational Educational Committee
- Kilkenny Tourism Committee
- Watergate Theatre
- Irish Water Safety Association
- Regional Health Forum-South
- Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

# 2

## Divisional Services



## 2.1 Transportation, Emergency Planning, Corporate Services & Kilkenny Borough Council.

Services provided under this Directorate;

- Roads and Transportation
- Road Safety
- Parks and Amenities
- Fire Services
- Emergency Management
- Civil Defence
- Corporate Services
- Human Resources
- Health and Safety
- Internal Audit
- Information Technology
- A broad range of services provided by Kilkenny Borough Council



## Roads and Transportation

### Kilkenny Central Access Scheme

A Bord Pleanala approved the Central Access Scheme proposals in December 2011. Site investigation by way of borehole drilling on each side of the river bank and ground condition investigations got underway in 2012. Detailed design of the bridge and approach roads progressed significantly. Notices of entry were served on property owners early in the year. The current programme is aimed at main contract tendering in late 2013 with a view towards construction start up in mid 2014.



### N10/N76 Ring Road Improvement Scheme

2012 saw the completion of pavement reconstruction, road resurfacing and broadband ducting between the Callan Road Roundabout and the Bohernatounish Road Roundabout. Two lane entry and exits have now been introduced on the full length of the Ring Road thereby increasing its traffic carrying capacity and road safety characteristics. The works commenced in Q4, 2011 and were completed in August 2012. Kilkenny County Council is now providing footpaths/cycle tracks and new public lighting along the reconstructed section thereby realising a footpath and cycle track along the entire 8km length of the Ring Road. A new signage scheme was also put in place along the full length of the ring road, a feature being the unique identification numbers on each of the 10 roundabouts.



### N77/N78 Hennebry's Cross

Following successful planning and land purchase in 2011 the Council awarded a works contract for the construction of a new roundabout in the summer of 2012. Site works commenced in September 2012 and continue until the spring of 2013. The scheme includes drainage, new energy efficient public lighting and inclusion of bus bays to cater for local school children.

### N24 Tower Road Piltown Overbridge

Preliminary Design and land take details advanced for the provision of an over bridge and revised road layout at the Tower Road and Ink Bottle junctions on the N24. A cost to benefit analysis in relation to a number of design options was completed and the report was sent for peer review to NRA regional office in Kerry.



Two-lane roundabout entry and exit points were provided on the full length of the N10/N76 ring road

### Northern Ring Road Extension and Nore River Crossing

(N77 Castlecomer Road to R693 Freshford Road). This scheme involves an extension of the Kilkenny Ring Road to connect to the Freshford Road via a new bridge and 1.5km of new roadway. In 2012 An Bord Pleanala confirmed the requirement to carry out an Environmental Impact Statement on the Scheme. To this end Consultants were commissioned to carry out the EIS, Natura Impact Statement and CPO mapping. A route selection report has now been prepared and a draft EIS has been substantially completed. It is now a matter for Kilkenny County Council to decide whether or not to advance the scheme further and to proceed through the statutory process.

### R697 Kells Road Improvement Scheme

This connection to Kilkenny City from the Ring Road is the only radial road route into the City which is un-realigned. 2012 witnessed the conclusion of negotiations with landowners and the early construction of accommodation works. The full scheme was tendered in late 2012 and is planned to proceed to construction in the spring of 2013.



*Following successful planning and land purchase in 2011 the Council awarded a works contract for the construction of a new roundabout at Hennebry's Cross in the summer of 2012.*

### **N25 Waterford to Glenmore Road Realignment Scheme**

Following the completion of archaeological and ground investigation works in 2011 there was further work on route selection, traffic analysis and cost to benefit assessment in 2012. The scheme is now in abeyance as directed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

### **N77 Ballinaslee**

Grant assistance provided by the DoTTS enabled the successful purchase of land in late 2012. Contract documents for the construction stage were also prepared. The Council will continue to liaise with the NRA as to the further progression of the scheme.

### **High Street Improvement Scheme**

In late 2012 Fáilte Ireland approved a funding package for the 'Medieval Mile' project in Kilkenny City. This approval includes financial assistance towards the upgrading of High Street to be carried out over a number of phases to 2014. Work commenced on the street in late 2012 on underground services and broadband ducting to business clusters.



*In late 2012 Fáilte Ireland approved a funding package for the Medieval Mile project in Kilkenny City.*

### **The Grange Bridge Widening Scheme**

The bridge is located 2 miles from Ballyragget on the Ballyragget to Freshford Road. The scheme involved the widening of an existing single arch masonry structure which was deficient from a road safety perspective and also acted as an impediment to flood flows in the river below. The works provided for the widening of the bridge to cater for two-way traffic flow and for flood relief works locally. The contract was commenced in May 2012 and the scheme was officially opened in November 2012.

### **City Pedestrian Bridge**

The draft design and statutory report for the new pedestrian bridge at Johns Quay, Kilkenny was finalized in 2012. The public consultation phase commenced towards the end of the year and was finalized in early 2013. The scheme will proceed to construction in mid 2013.

### **Regional Road Sign Posting Contract**

Signage strategy, detail design contract documents and signage erection was completed on a number of Regional Routes within the County in 2012. The old N9/N10 network was retrofitted with new signs. The scheme, initiated in 2006, has now reached a conclusion.

### **Active Travel Towns**

Funding was provided by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport under the so called Active Travel Towns initiative. Benefitting schemes include the City pedestrian bridge and a feasibility study/report for the Ferrybank area. The latter was concluded in draft form late in 2012.

### **Smarter Travel in Kilkenny City and Environs**

2012 witnessed further progress and development of cycle ways, footpaths and bus shelters aimed at creating an appropriate environment for the modal shift to healthier and greener modes of transport. Collaborative work undertaken under the auspices of the local Smarter Travel Group strives to achieve greater public awareness through hosting of such events as Smart Saturday, school cycling weeks and cycle training for school children. The group also worked with the Irish Times/Pfizer partnership in the healthy towns initiative in mid 2012.

The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport provided funding towards the provision of a cycle way on the old N9/N10 between Kilkenny and Carlow via Paulstown. Works on the 42 km route commenced in the autumn of 2012 and will be completed in early summer 2013.

## Road Safety

The Road Safety Authority has prepared a new National Road Safety Strategy for the period 2013 to 2020. Kilkenny County Council noted that there were over 300 successive days in which not a single fatal road accident was recorded in the county. This achievement is very much a factor of drivers assuming greater personal responsibility on the roads allied to the collaboration of all agencies involved in Road Safety Together in Co Kilkenny.

- In parallel with the establishment of the national strategy Kilkenny Local Authorities, in consultation with An Garda Síochána, Ambulance Services, Health Service Executive, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Roads Authority, Road Safety Authority and local community representatives, developed the Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2007-2012.
- In essence this plan seeks to provide for the establishment of coherent policies and actions at local level so as to realise reductions in the numbers of collisions, deaths and injuries on the roads of County Kilkenny.
- A review of the Kilkenny Road Safety Plan was completed in Q1 2011 and further reviewed in 2012 at Strategic policy Committee level.
- It was concluded from the data recovered for the period 2007 to 2009, that the attainment of the overall objective, of achieving a 25% reduction over the six years of the Plan with respect to fatal and serious injury accidents was largely on target.
- The review findings and data interrogation also allowed for a targeted approach in terms of utilising resources to achieve the objectives set-out in the plan.



M8 motorway junction



**Kilkenny County Council noted that there were over 300 successive days in which not a single fatal road accident was recorded in the county.**



Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum

## Parks & Recreation

The Parks Department was established to oversee the development and maintenance of recreational amenities in Kilkenny City and County. Since its establishment a range of high quality recreational amenities including playgrounds, parks and sports pitches have been provided. The department is also responsible for on-going developments, visitor management and maintenance of Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in Inistioge which has become a major tourist attraction in the South-East.

The core services provided are :

- Playground development and maintenance – we currently have sixteen playgrounds around the county with a further three in development to be completed in 2013.
- These play facilities were developed in conjunction with local communities and many are also maintained with assistance from local communities and local FÁS schemes.
- All playgrounds are inspected each week by our own in-house playground inspector for any potential safety issues and are also cleaned each week or more often, where required, to ensure they continue to be safe and clean to use for children.
- The Parks Section have developed a number of city parks, most recently in 2012 the re-development of Lacken Walk which forms part of the overall River Nore Linear Park was officially opened.



*The pitch at Garringreen was extensively improved by sanding and re-seeding in the summer of 2012 to make it*

- The department maintains Newpark Marsh in the city and has developed further path networks and extensive tree planting here.
- Work to develop a walking/running track was also carried out in Bishops Demesne adjacent to the Fr. McGrath Centre along with the establishment of an outdoor gym.
- A pitch leasing facility is being operated on a number of pitches in the city and environs. These pitches are leased out to clubs for training and matches.
- The all weather mini pitches which are free to use at any time at Newpark, Garringreen and Bishops Demesne are proving to be very popular.
- The pitch at Garringreen was extensively improved by sanding and re-seeding in the summer of 2012 to make it playable for the 2013 season.



Woodstock Gardens and Aboretum



*Over ninety groups were in receipt of amenity grant assistance in 2012.*

- Woodstock Gardens Project – Since the historic Victorian gardens at Woodstock were restored over the past ten years they have become a major tourist destination in the south east and now attract in the region of 35,000 visitors per year. The Council continue to organise events, promote and manage visitors coming to the gardens in addition to carrying out high quality maintenance. Facilities recently added on site include a new children’s playground and Tea Room. A very successful outdoor pantomime was hosted in the gardens along with a number of other events such as 10km runs, plant sales. In addition Woodstock is becoming popular for civil ceremonies and in 2012 Woodstock hosted a number of weddings for couples on their big day.
- Administration of Amenity Grants – the Amenity Grants Scheme is administered by the Parks Department. The grants are available to voluntary community organisations to enhance or maintain local amenities. Over ninety groups were in receipt of grant assistance in 2012.





Beaver Scout troop Fortgrage learning about fire safety

## Fire Services

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service main functions are:

- providing emergency cover for all types of incidents (fires, road traffic accidents, flooding, oil spills, hazardous chemical incidents, etc.) in County Kilkenny.
- ensuring the fire safety of public premises by providing advice and enforcing the appropriate legislation for both new and existing premises.
- advising and educating to the public on fire safety matters.

## Incident Response

The following is a summary of the activity in 2012:

Incident	Total
No. of fires attended	264
Road Traffic Accidents	93
Flooding	21
Rescue/Removal of persons from water	3
Other non-fire rescues	5
Hazardous Substances in transit	0
Miscellaneous	174
False alarms, malicious	12
False alarms, good intent	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>661</b>

This is a reduction from 725 incidents in 2011. The average time to turn out the fire brigades was 6 minutes 45 seconds for fires and 6 minutes 58 seconds for other types of incidents.

## Capital Projects

- A new fire engine was ordered for Kilkenny Fire Brigade under a new Regional Procurement Policy. The costs of €320,000 will be funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

## Fire Safety Certificates

- 73 applications for fire safety certificates were received in 2012. These applications were dealt with in-house by the fire prevention staff.

## Fire Services Act

- Fire Prevention staff made a considerable number of visits to premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation.
- Closure notices were served on 2 premises during the year.
- The programme to focus on fire safety in large retail premises was continued, with a number of premises being visited. This programme will be completed in 2013.



ARUP Fire European Conference in Kilkenny



Presentation School principal Shane Hallahan demonstrating fire safety techniques during 2012 Primary Schools Programme

## Community Fire Safety

- The 2012 Primary Schools Programme was provided by Fire Services personnel. The objective of this is to raise awareness of fire safety amongst primary school children and their families. This programme is delivered to children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class in all the primary schools in County Kilkenny.
- Kilkenny Fire Station and other fire stations continued to facilitate school visits.

## Voluntary Fundraising

- Fire-fighters and ambulance personnel partook in the now annual Christmas Charity Collection with the funds going to two local charities. The fire-fighters also raised funds at the May Bank Holiday weekend with the Mount Everest Ladder Climb.

## Long Service Awards

- 12 members of Kilkenny Fire Service received Long Service Awards for 20 or 30 years service. The awards ceremony was held at The Red Cow Moran Hotel, Dublin.

## Major Emergency Management

- The County Council's Major Emergency Plan was reviewed and amended twice during 2012.
- The County has three establishments which fall under the Seveso Regulations due to the volume and type of dangerous goods stored there. Of these three sites, one External Emergency Plan was created and tested during 2012. For a second site, a plan was created in 2012 and is scheduled to be tested in 2013. The third site already had a plan in place and tested since 2011. This work was delivered in co-operation with the HSE and An Garda Síochána.
- A Coastal Pollution Plan for the County's tidal foreshores was prepared by the Council County in co-operation with the other Local and Harbour Authorities in the Suir/Barrow Estuary. The plan was approved by the Irish Coast Guard; this plan will now form the backbone of any response to a coastal pollution emergency in the Suir/Barrow Estuary.
- Extensive training was delivered to staff of Kilkenny County Council, the Health Services Executive (HSE) and to members of An Garda Síochána in relation to Major Emergency Management.



*The 2012 Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme was provided by Fire Services personnel.*



Firefighters Mount Everest Ladder Charity Climb



John Doran is the first ever candidate to complete this work experience pilot programme in KFRS. John surpassed all expectations and can comfortably carry out a number of recruit pump drills with precision. KFRS hopes to run TWO programmes each year to promote a positive and all-inclusive workplace.

## Civil Defence

Kilkenny Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation where its members are proud to serve as a high quality auxiliary service supporting the principle emergency services and the local community. Kilkenny Civil Defence is a key stakeholder in the Local Authorities response to Major Emergencies.

### Community Events

- During 2012 Kilkenny Civil Defence provided assistance to over 18 community events ranging from gymkhanas to hurling blitz and homecomings.
- All people requiring treatment at the events were treated by fully trained responders and practitioners.

### Training

- Kilkenny Civil Defence operates multi-skill training out of its two training centres both located within the city of Kilkenny. The areas of training are broken into the following;
- Casualty/first aid service
- Rescue – open country search and river based search and recovery
- Auxiliary fire service
- Welfare service
- Civil Defence communications

In 2012, 20 volunteers were presented certificates for courses completed in

- Radio operators
- Power boat coxswain
- First Responders cardiac and emergency
- Child protection awareness
- Instructional methods
- Swift Water/Flood Water First Responder and water awareness

### Participation in Emergency Exercises

- Kilkenny Civil Defence participated in the Civil Defence Regional Response to Exercise RailRoad in Carlow.
- The exercise involved over 150 Civil Defence Volunteers who acted as both casualties and responders for the Major Emergency Management regional training exercise, the largest of its kind in Ireland for many years.



*In 2012, 20 volunteers were presented with Civil Defence certificates.*



*Kilkenny Civil Defence participated in the Civil Defence Regional Response to Exercise RailRoad in Carlow.*



## Corporate Services

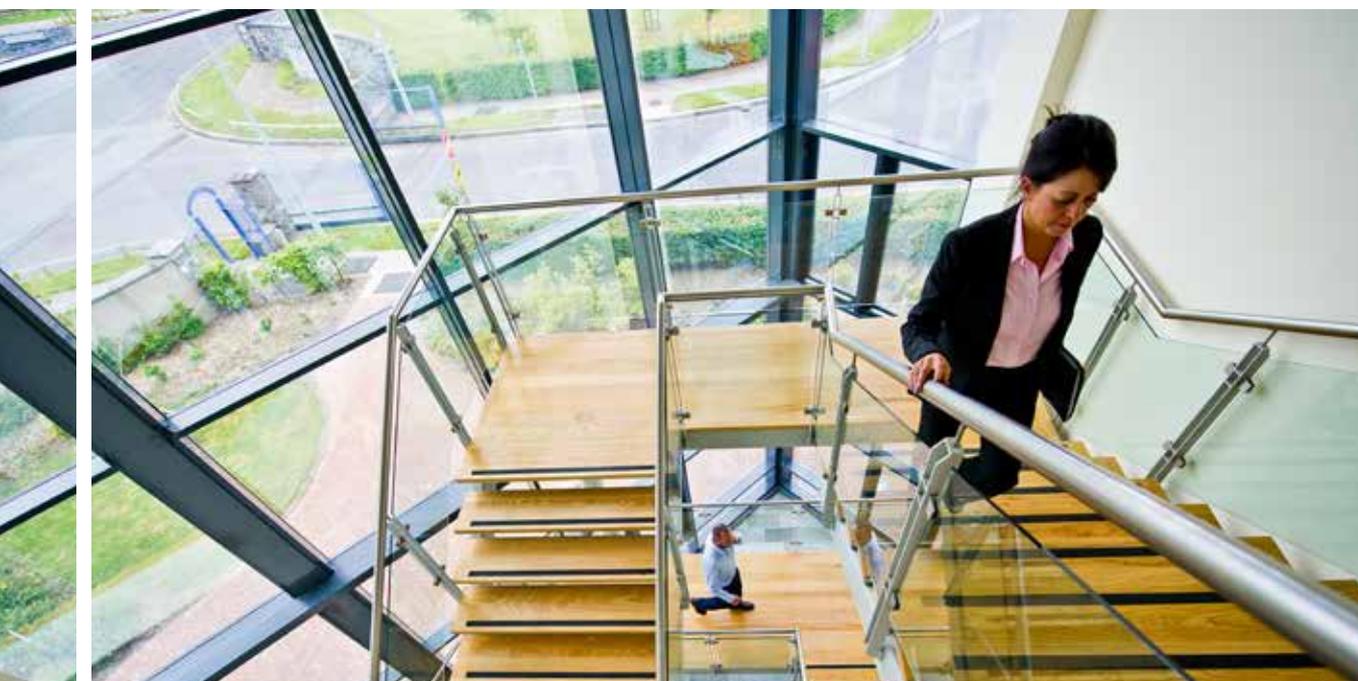
The Corporate Services department is responsible for the provision and management of a very wide range of services, which include elected member support and administration, County Council meetings, building and facilities management, register of electors and insurances.

### Register of Electors

The Annual Register is published on 1<sup>st</sup> February each year and is a list of all persons aged 18 years or over, resident in the state, who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dail, European Assembly, Presidential, local elections and referenda.

Local Electoral Area	Number of Electors on Register
Ballyragget	12,924
Callan	10,456
Kilkenny	3,754
Kilkenny City	13,813
Piltown	16,619
Thomastown	11,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,921</b>

- The draft register is available in post offices, libraries and Garda stations which provides people with the opportunity to check if they are on it.
- A website is also available for this purpose [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie)
- A person, for whatever reason, who is not included on the published register, or has moved from one address to another, may apply to be included on a supplement to the register.



## Human Resources

The Human Resource Department deals with:

- Human Resource strategy
- Workforce planning
- Recruitment and selection
- Payroll and superannuation
- Employee training and development
- Performance management
- Leadership development
- Equality
- Diversity management
- Work-life balance
- Industrial relations
- Employee health, safety and welfare



Much of the work of the Human Resources department in 2012 involved assisting in the reform programme for the local government sector and in the councils action plan under the Public Service Agreement.

The main achievements in Year 3 of the Agreement were as follows:

### Restructuring

- Services continue to be delivered at a high level despite the significant reductions in staffing numbers – Kilkenny Local Authorities staffing numbers have reduced by 160 (21%) since December 2008.
- The Council has cooperated with establishment of Irish Water through the completion of appropriate returns of data, in jointly securing with Waterford City and County Councils the establishment of one of the Regional Transition Offices and in preparing for the Domestic Metering Survey
- On foot of restructuring of water/wastewater caretakers carried out in autumn 2011, the Council has seen significant productivity gains from a specialisation of caretakers between water and waste water service operations. This is evident from continued year on year improvements in meeting compliance levels for both Drinking Water Standards and Urban Waste Water Discharge Emissions.
- The library service has continued to operate, maintain and increase/enhance service delivery with the opening of a new service point for South Kilkenny at Ferrybank Library during the period.
- The preparation of a new Workforce Plan commenced.



*Services continue to be delivered at a high level despite the significant reductions in staffing numbers.*

## Shared Services

- A shared Veterinary Service has been provided between Carlow and Kilkenny County Council and it provides that Kilkenny County Council is responsible for the statutory food safety functions in County Carlow.
- Kilkenny County Council, in partnership with Waterford County and City Councils, Wexford County Council, South Tipperary County Council and Carlow County Council, signed a 3 year public lighting maintenance contract with Airtricity Utility Solutions for a stock of some 47,000 public lights throughout the South East Region. Kilkenny Local Authorities are responsible for 10,200 lights and the expected annual savings on maintenance costs are €220,000
- Development of business case for Public Service Agreement (PSA) oversight groups approval for Treasury Management Shared Services.
- Development of business case for PSA Oversight Group approval for Social Media shared services.
- Participation of Council staff in and support to the Project Management Office Group and to the local government efficiency review group in the development of shared services for the sector.
- Participation in BPI initiative for local government – accounts payable and debt collection.
- The Councils internal audit service has entered into a collaborative forum with the internal auditors from Wexford, Waterford, City/County and South Tipperary Councils to assist and support in the common elements of audit work.
- Most waste collection permit functions were transferred to Offaly County Council in April 2012. Kilkenny County Council continues to co-operate with Offaly County Council in validating permit holders data and in enforcing permits.
- Continued co-operation with the National Transfrontier Shipment of Hazardous Waste Office (based in Dublin City Council) in relation to transfrontier shipments of hazardous waste
- The Council chaired the Suir Estuary Coastal Pollution Plan group which aims to complete an overarching Coastal Pollution Plan for the Suir Estuary in 2013, which will ensure a co-ordinated response to a coastal pollution incident.
- The Council continues to co-operate closely with DAFM (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine) in carrying out farm inspections and cross reporting to DAFM non-compliances by farmers with water quality legislation. DAFM carry out approximately 50 farm inspections each year on behalf of Kilkenny County Council.
- Kilkenny County Council continues to use the Environmental Protection Agency Regional Laboratory in Kilkenny for sampling and analysis relating to its statutory river monitoring programme, and other sampling and analysis as required.
- In conjunction with Carlow County Council, Kilkenny County Council continues to operate its dog shelter, located at Paulstown.
- The current Waste Management Plan for the South East Region (2006 – 2011) was evaluated in 2012, with South Tipperary as lead authority and Kilkenny County Council as one of the supporting Authorities. A new plan for an enlarged region will be undertaken in 2013.



***A shared Veterinary Service has been provided between Carlow and Kilkenny County Council and it provides that Kilkenny County Council is responsible for the statutory food safety functions in county Carlow.***



***The Council continues to co-operate closely with DAFM (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine) in carrying out farm inspections and cross reporting to DAFM non-compliances by farmers with water quality legislation. DAFM carry out approximately 50 farm inspections each year on behalf of Kilkenny County Council.***



*Kilkenny Library Service through [www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie) is developing an interactive online library, available 24/7, offering resources to a wider audience while promoting existing services and collections. This incorporates social media.*

- Kilkenny County and Borough Councils continue to provide shared services in many areas including planning, housing, finance, corporate, human resources, payroll/pensions, environmental, parks and recreation, and heritage and community development.

### **Procurement**

The Procurement Units continues to obtain savings in relation to the procurement of goods and services both in the Councils own activities and in shared activities with other Local Authorities.

- The sum of €1.1m was saved in 2012.
- The activities of the Procurement Unit are covered in the Economic Development section of this annual report.

### **E Government**

- Kilkenny Library Service through [www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie) is developing an interactive online library, available 24/7, offering resources to a wider audience while promoting existing services and collections. This incorporates social media.
- During the reporting period the library service developed a presence on Facebook.
- An eAudiobook service, One Click Digital was launched in December anytime, anywhere, via [www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie) using a personal portable device e.g. laptop, ipad, iphone, android phone, MP3 player etc. Library members have access to hundreds of downloadable titles, with new titles added monthly.
- The use of RFID self-service at the newly opened Ferrybank Library has improved service delivery for members of the public.
- In order to reduce staff time spent on technical processing - where possible, books/library items are supplied fully processed with electronic catalogue records
- In relation to the project – Release of Water Quality Information to Group Water Schemes which achieved a national award, early phase one deliverables have been put in place and have greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the water quality monitoring service provision and enhancing decision making

### **Productivity and Performance**

- Considerable business and tourism support was reported and is covered elsewhere in this report.

The following measures were also achieved:

- Opening of new library in Ferrybank.
- Resources were better utilized so as to improve the efficiency of cleansing arrangement for Kilkenny City. This has lead to securing 1st place in the IBAL survey and another high placing in the annual Tidy Towns awards.
- A comprehensive Health and Safety Management System is being implemented which is reported elsewhere in this report.
- Greening the Iverk Show was arranged by Kilkenny County Council. Iverk Show is one of the oldest agricultural shows in the country and it partnered with Kilkenny County Council and Environments Awareness Officers in the South East to improve the Shows environmental performance. The project was supported financially by the EPA. The project was nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence award.



*Opening of new library in Ferrybank*



Dunmore Recycling Centre Facility



***Dunmore Recycling Centre was among 3 shortlisted nationally for Recycling Centre of the Year in the Repak Awards.***



***Standardized annual leave arrangements have been implemented for all employees.***

- Dunmore Recycling Centre was among 3 shortlisted nationally for Recycling Centre of the Year in the Repak Awards.
- Mortgage Arrears Units established. Mortgage arrears cases have reduced from 465 to 343 in the period.
- Contributed to Mortgage Arrears resolution process nationally and implemented process in Kilkenny Local Authorities.
- Continued collection of new income streams (septic tank registrations, household charge and NPPR) within existing staffing levels.
- Water Charges Business Unit – continued progress has been made by the Unit in respect to water charges collection rates. To place in context collection levels in 2010 were at 58% which rose to 75% by end of 2011 increased to 82% by 31 December 2012.
- Implementation of new upgraded relevant contracts tax system.
- Implementation of VAT on expenditure project .
- Participation in baseline workshop and blueprint workshop as part of the BPI process for Local Government sector carried out for invoicing and debt management area.
- Standardized annual leave arrangements have been implemented for all employees.
- The provision of electronic time and attendance is ongoing and most Area Officers and branch libraries will be fitted with system in the current reporting period.
- Kilkenny County Council assisted the Department of Environment in its review of allowances.
- The IR process in respect of a number of efficiency measures in the Fire Service was concluded and the measures are being implemented.
- Various work-life balance schemes continue to be implemented on a pre-planned approach in partnership with staff and having regard to the need to achieve a balance between the work/life balance sought by each employee and the reduced numbers of staff and the financial savings that accrue to the organization.
- The Sectors performance and development system has been re-launched amongst senior management grades and will be rolled out to other employees in 2013.
- Through the implementation of various road improvement measures, smarter travel initiatives and road safety promotion a reduction of 43% in fatal and serious road accidents as opposed to the targeted reduction of 25%.

### **Redeployment**

- Redeployment of staff to new library in Ferrybank
- Road Design Staff redeployed to other work areas, including Property Management and Project Supervision
- Planning staff were redeployed to Housing Inspections,
- Staff from Payroll and Planning were redeployed to an area office and to the Mortgage Arrears Unit
- Staff were also redeployed within Housing and Community and Culture and to the Health and Safety function



***In 2012 Internal Audit made 62 recommendations to management, each recommendation was accepted and implemented or is under implementation so as to improve management controls.***

## Internal Audit

The Council operates an Internal Audit unit which is independent, and provides assurance as to the efficient operation of financial, management and operational controls in the Council. The unit is an essential element of corporate governance.

- The Internal Audit unit provides reports and updates to the County and City Manager regarding the operation of controls in the County & Borough Councils.
- Internal Audit reports are presented to the Councils Audit Committee.
- The Audit committee is a sub-committee of the Council comprising of two Councillors and three external experts.
- The Audit Committee produce an annual report for the Council regarding its work and the management controls of the Council.
- In 2012 Internal Audit made 62 recommendations to management, each recommendation was accepted and implemented or is under implementation so as to improve management controls.
- In 2012 the Councils Audit Unit provided support to the County Enterprise Board's Internal Audit function.
- In 2012 Kilkenny County Council Internal Audit Unit started working closely with the Internal Audit Units of Carlow, South Tipperary, Waterford City, Waterford County, and Wexford Councils to increase auditing efficiencies in the South East.



***64 Health and Safety Policies were adopted and Generic Risk assessment templates were developed to support the policies***

## Health, Safety & Social Welfare at Work

The Councils undertook a comprehensive range of activities so as to implement their Safety Management System.

The main highlights were:

- Additional staffing resources were allocated to Health and Safety
- 64 Policies were adopted and Generic Risk assessment templates were developed to support the policies
- The Safety Management Committee, Joint Safety Consultative Committee & Local Authority Safety Officers met, engaged in and consulted on safety matters on several occasions throughout 2012
- A programme of safety inspections was undertaken in 2012
- A hazard control tracking system was set up to capture items needing attention through safety inspections as well as risk assessments, accidents/incidents etc. so as to ensure corrective actions are put in place in a timely manner.
- Fire drills were conducted and first aid management measures were implemented
- A Programme of safety awareness and training was delivered to staff
- Safety Statement and Health and Safety Manual continue to be revised
- In 2012 there were 9 accidents 3 of which were reportable to the HSA. There were 7 near misses, 2 of which, were HSA reportable. These accidents/incidents were reported and investigated in accordance with our accident/incident management policy
- A programme of Improvement works at work locations was progressed
- Almost €600,000 was spent on Health and Safety in 2012



***A Programme of safety awareness and training was delivered to staff***



***Almost €600,000 was spent on Health and Safety in 2012***



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*Continued expansion of the role Web 2.0 and social media technologies as another means of communicating with the public. The latest example is used in the development of County and City Development plans*

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## Information Technology

Kilkenny Local Authorities are committed to the use of information systems to expand and increase the efficiency and quality of service delivery to the public. The Information Services Department looks after the Information Systems requirements of the County Council, Borough Council and County Library.

### Key achievements for 2012

- Continued expansion of the role Web 2.0 and social media technologies as another means of communicating with the public. The latest example is used in the development of County and City Development plans - <http://ourplan.kilkenny.ie>
- Expansion of the IT network to connect new area office and library in Ferrybank.
- Scanned planning files available on line for County and Borough Council.
- Ongoing additions and updates to the various local authority web sites.

## 2.2 Community, Culture & Housing

The Services provided under this Directorate are:

- Housing Accommodation and Supports
- Community and Estate Management
- Forward Planning
- Planning Control
- Derelict Sites
- Conservation
- County Development Board support
- Arts
- Heritage
- Library Services





**Kilkenny Local Authorities secured €4m and successfully expended its allocation on the completion of 31 units and Community Centre in Ossory Park along with the 20 units in Rosehill, Kells Road. The balance of monies was used to acquire 6 unsold affordable houses into stock at Graiguenamanagh.**

## Housing and Accommodation

The Directorate of Housing incorporates a wide range of services for applicants and tenants to facilitate and support the provision of independent and supported accommodation. This is achieved by offering a variety of social housing supports by the Housing Authorities, voluntary and private sector.

The Core Housing Services are:

### Social Housing Investment Programme [SHIP]

- Kilkenny Local Authorities secured €4m and successfully expended its allocation on the completion of 31 units and Community Centre in Ossory Park along with the 20 units in Rosehill, Kells Road. The balance of monies was used to acquire 6 unsold affordable houses into stock at Graiguenamanagh. With the additional allocation the Council acquired 11 units of accommodation into stock.
- The approval of the Department of Environment was obtained for the demolition of 8 houses in Newpark Close and the provision of a new access road, footpaths and amenity/green space.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme [RAS] & Leasing

- Allocation of €2m expended in full.
- 142 applicants accommodated under RAS in 2012
- 209 RAS interviews carried out in 2012
- A total of 4 units were secured under leasing in Kilkenny during 2012;

### Voluntary Housing Programme

- Completion of 15 units at Nuncio Road by S.O.S. costing €1.6m.
- 2 units under construction by KASHMA
- The Department invited applications under a 'Special Call' during 2012 and the following applicants were approved:

No. of Units	Name of Approved Housing Body	Approval €
2	The Good Shepherd Centre, Church Lane, Kilkenny. Acquisition of 2 units.	300,000
2	The Good Shepherd Centre, Church Lane, Kilkenny. Renovate Lodge to provide 2 units.	150,000
8	SOS Greensfield, Kilkenny	445,000
2	Camphill Communities, at Ballytobin, Callan Construction of 2 units	200,000
14		1,095,000



**Completion of 15 units at Nuncio Road by S.O.S. costing €1.6m.**



**12 units of accommodation provided to Traveller families.**

### Homeless Services

- The Good Shepherd Centre, Amber Women’s Refuge and FOCUS Ireland provided sheltered accommodation and support services for the homeless

Referral to KLA Homeless Services 2012	
Homeless Referrals	159
Potentially homeless Referrals	48
Housing Assistance	56
Housing Welfare	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>

### Traveller Accommodation Programme

- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 - 2013 reviewed
- 12 units of accommodation provided to Traveller families
- The total number of Traveller families in the local authority area on the date of the national count was 177, an increase of 22 on the previous year.
- Tender documents prepared for the group housing scheme of 11 units at Wetlands.
- Suitable lands were identified to advance the Horse Project in 2012.

### Maintaining Housing Stock

- Budget expended in full on combined housing stock of 2,098
- 105 units became vacant in 2012 with 100 made ready re-letting
- 25 units completed under the ‘improvement works/retrofit/energy’ programme along with a further 10 houses as a result of additional funding.
- 44 LA houses adapted in 2012 to meet the needs of the disabled.

### Assessment of Needs

- 2,852 applicants on housing List
- 69% of applicants want to live in Kilkenny city and environs
- 85% of applicants seeking social housing supports for financial reasons
- 1,003 housing need assessment appointments were held in 2012
- 105 casual vacancies
- 42 new lettings with 124 additional lettings under RAS
- 29 Offers of transfer of accommodation were made in 2012

### Housing Loans

- 54 applications for loans made in 2012 totaling €4,300,350
- House prices dropped in price between 42% and 50% from 2007
- 19 annuity loans issued to value of €2,175,500
- 2 shared loans redemption loans paid out in 2012



**44 LA houses adapted in 2012 to meet the needs of the disabled.**



**€1.8m allocation  
expended in full on  
258 applications.**

- 4 Reconstruction Loans issued valued at €82,500
- 101 Applications received under the two tenant purchase scheme
- All loans vetted by the Housing and Sustainable Communities agency and in house team.

### **Housing Grants**

- €1.8m allocation expended in full on 258 applications
- €73,000 [20%] paid from Council's own resources with the balance grant aided by the Department of Environment
- On average €7,173 paid out per application
- Applications on hand, estimated at €m at year end with Housing Aid for Older People grant accounting for 52% of all applications
- Panel of contractors and Occupational Therapists set up
- Private rented accommodation
- The Council carried out 253 inspections on private rented accommodation during 2012



**€6,000 support  
for LA Tidy Estates  
Competition.**

### **Community & Estate Management Services**

- €6,000 support for LA Tidy Estates Competition.
- Estate Management Grants totaled €36,000. Grant aid the supply of gardening equipment, landscaping projects, plants and gardening materials, minor refurbishment on estates, installation of fencing
- 80 active community committees supported in 2012.
- Consultation with Newpark Residents and Family Resource Centre for the demolition of units and provision of recreational/amenity space in Newpark Close
- Completion of regeneration works in Newpark Close
- Over 100 complaints dealt with by the Anti Social Behavior Officer
- Promotion of affiliation to Community and Voluntary Forum and Group Insurance Scheme

### **Estate Management Grant Scheme**

- Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council recognise the importance of resident and tenant participation in estate management and commit to work in partnership with residents and tenants on local authority estates to promote estate management in their estates
- Applications can be made under the Estate Management Grant Scheme, to offer assistance to local authority community committees in the development of an estate management programme
- In 2012 grants totalling €35,500 were paid to 32 estates throughout the city and county



**80 active community  
committees supported  
in 2012.**



*The review of Kilkenny's County Development Plan and Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan commenced formally in June 2012.*



*A dedicated website was set up to generate interest and provide for a collaborative, innovative approach to making the plans; <http://ourplan.kilkenny.ie/>*

## Planning and Development

The role and function of Kilkenny County Council's Planning Department is to determine the physical planning policy of the County, to control new development and building and to promote industrial, commercial and other appropriate sustainable development.

### Forward Planning

- The review of Kilkenny's County Development Plan and Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan commenced formally in June 2012.
- An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken as part of that involving (1) newspaper articles, (2) awareness raising meetings, (3) website development, (4) a primary schools project (5) a secondary schools project.
- In order to raise awareness and outline the issues involved for interested people, groups and organisations, a document entitled "Our Plan - A Guide to Having Your Say" was published.
- A total of ten meetings were held with organisations as being representative of wider groups within the County. The purpose of these meetings was an awareness raising exercise and to encourage these specific representative bodies to consider the issues of relevance to them and encourage submissions.
- A dedicated website was set up to generate interest and provide for a collaborative, innovative approach to making the plans; <http://ourplan.kilkenny.ie/>
- This website was officially launched at a County Council meeting on the 21st May 2012. The web site relates to the City and the County Development Plans. The primary purpose of the site is to utilise social media technologies and services in order to provide a forum where citizens can make comments, generate debate and collaborate with the Council during its forward planning consultations and processes. The site also gave information on how to make a written submission.
- Consultation exercises were carried out in three primary schools in the City as follows:
  - St. Patrick's De La Salle
  - St. John's Senior School
  - Presentation Primary School.
- Johnstown Vocational School was selected to pilot a consultation exercise with transition year students at secondary school level.
- A total of seven public meetings were held across the five electoral areas in the County and City-one in Thomastown, Callan, Castlecomer, Ferrybank, Graiguenamanagh and two in the city.
- The County Manager's Report on the public consultation and the issues raised was prepared and considered by the members of the Borough Council and the County Council.
- The draft plans for the city and county will be prepared in the first quarter of 2013.

### Development Control

- 615 planning applications were received in 2012, and a total of €233,515 was received in planning fees.
- 220 Commencement Notices under the Building Regulations were received 87 new houses commenced construction in County Kilkenny.

- 45 of these new houses were inspected under Building Control Regulations
- The planning clinic system continues to operate successfully in each of the Area Offices.
- A panel for approved site suitability assessors was set up in 2008 and there are a total of 71 on this panel. This has improved the quality and reliability of the information submitted with a planning application and has resulted in the reduction of referral of planning applications to the Environment Section for verification of data.

### Development Contributions

- Total of €1.76 m was collected in 2012.

### Enforcement

- A total of 134 new complaints were received during 2012
- Enforcement Proceedings are ongoing with approximately 11 cases forwarded for legal action.
- The Council successfully prosecuted 7 cases during 2012
- Fines and costs in the sum of €41,230 were imposed by the Courts following legal action taken by the Council.

### Quarries

- Under Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2010, Kilkenny County Council was required to examine every quarry in County Kilkenny by the statutory deadline of 15th of August 2012.
- Kilkenny County Council completed their examination of 104 quarries prior to this deadline and accordingly issued five official notices.
- Although the Planning Authority is generally satisfied with the level of planning compliance of particularly the larger operators in the industry, 27 unauthorised developments were identified that are not covered by Section 261A and these will be dealt with under the normal provisions of the act.

### Unfinished Housing Development

- During 2012, all unfinished housing sites were monitored for safety works and Developers were contacted where safety works were required.
- Safety works was carried out by Kilkenny County Council on one unfinished housing development with the assistance of a grant from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
- Major review of classification of unfinished developments for the National Survey took place in consultation with Department staff. This review was published by the Department in November 2012. The number of unfinished developments in Kilkenny was reduced from 76 to 41.
- 7 housing developments were taken in charge during 2012 consisting of 245 houses.
- The Bond was called in on 3 residential developments and remedial works were undertaken by Kilkenny County Council to bring the developments up to the standard for taking in charge.



*A total of 134 new planning enforcement complaints were received during 2012*



*The Bond was called in on 3 residential developments and remedial works were undertaken by Kilkenny County Council to bring the developments up to the standard for taking in charge.*

## Derelict Sites

- Notices under Derelict Sites Act 1990 were issued where appropriate and Derelict Sites will continue to be investigated.
- The acquisition of suitable derelict properties is pursued under the Compulsory Purchase Proceedings of the Derelict Sites 1990 where appropriate.

## Conservation

- Kilkenny County Council continues to provide a planning consultancy/advisory system for any persons wishing to carry out works to buildings of architectural heritage significance and protected structures within County Kilkenny.
- The Council supports responsible practice in managing our built heritage as well as the promotion of cultural tourism initiatives in the local economy and sustainable living in historical centres.

## Community & Culture

### Community and Cultural facilities Capital Scheme

- The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2012- provided a total of €180,000 for allocation by the County Council to community and sporting groups.
- Five projects were funded under the scheme in 2012; three playground facilities- one in Bennetsbridge, one in Kilmacow and one in Ballyraggett bringing a total of 19 playgrounds across the county.
- Projects also funded were the community centre in Mullinavat and a boxing ring for St Patrick's Boxing Club in The Watershed.



*The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2012- provided a total of €180,000 for allocation by the County Council to community and sporting groups.*





*The Born to Knit – project which was submitted for an award as part of the European Year for Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations 2012 and has also received €1,000 in support for this award from the Age Well Network.*

### Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group

Through interagency working arrangements with the Interagency Group the Council has supported a number of measures for the travelling community namely,

- the development of a number of key Traveller projects;
- the ongoing development of the Kilkenny Traveller community movement
- their community development and outreach team;
- the development of interagency working arrangements and
- protocols for the delivery of services and supports to families living in St Catherine’s halting site
- the progression of a viable Traveller Horse project for Kilkenny.
- the continuation of the men’s and women’s groups

### Kilkenny Age Friendly Communities INTERREG Project

In our second year in the delivery of pilot projects aimed at encouraging intergenerational exchanges and social cohesion Kilkenny county council in collaboration with its Arts Officer, the Butler Gallery, and the Kilkenny Sports Partnership has delivers five programmes that engage the generations in arts, sport and heritage activities as follows:

- Intergenerational festivals – Bealtaine and Kilkenny Arts Festival projects 2012
- Life story projects – community integration projects in partnership with the Butler Gallery, the Evans Home Life tory Project
- Engagement in Sports and Recreation – in collaboration with Kilkenny Sports and Recreation Partnership.
- The Born to Knit – project which was submitted for an award as part of the European Year for Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations 2012 and has also received €1,000 in support for this award from the Age Well Network.
- Creative exchange/ Collaboration – oung Critics group and Older Critics group 2012. The Ireland Wales Programme supported the development of an Adults Critic Group.



Nattering Knitters in Castlecomer Library



Toddlers having fun in Castlecomer library

### Heritage

The Heritage Office provides a professional heritage service throughout the city and county including advice and information on heritage issues; develops policies and priorities for the identification, protection, conservation and enhancement of Kilkenny’s heritage; collects and collates heritage data and promotes heritage awareness & education throughout the county. A key objective is to work with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum in the preparation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Plan.

### Notable Achievements

- Fieldname Recording – provided training for and co-ordinated the collection of over 200 fieldnames by communities in Tullhought, Castlecomer and Muckalee. The Town lands fieldname project was featured on RTE Radio 1’s farming programme “Countrywide”
- River Nore Audit – completed the final phase of the River Nore Heritage Audit (collecting data on built, natural and cultural heritage), from Inistioge to New Ross. The project was featured on the RTE 1 programme “Ear to the Ground”.



**Traditional Building Skills - sponsored and exhibited at the Traditional Building Skills Exhibition and Seminar in Kilkenny Castle in partnership with the Irish Georgian Society, the OPW and the Heritage Council – over 500 people attended**

- Children’s Biodiversity workshops – organised children’s biodiversity workshops at local festivals (Piltown, Goresbridge, Kilkenny City) – over 600 children participated
- Graveyard Recording – co-ordinated and supported the collection of graveyard recordings of 2345 headstones in 58 historic graveyards throughout the city and county, in partnership with [www.historicgraves.ie](http://www.historicgraves.ie) and CKLP.
- Traditional Building Skills - sponsored and exhibited at the Traditional Building Skills Exhibition and Seminar in Kilkenny Castle in partnership with the Irish Georgian Society, the OPW and the Heritage Council – over 500 people attended
- Kilkenny Heritage Week – co-ordinated the Kilkenny Heritage Week Programme, with over 60 heritage events throughout the city and county.
- Heritage workshops – organised and funded free workshops for the public in Castlecomer, Ferrybank and Kilkenny City, in partnership with the Heritage Council as part of Heritage Week: “Archaeology Workshops for Kids”; A Training workshop for Graveyard Recording”; “Explore the City Beneath your Feet”; “Wildlife Detectives”; “Archaeology Adventures for Kids”
- First Steps into Archaeology – produced archaeology teaching resources, linked to the Primary school curriculum, for local schools in partnership with Kilkenny Education Centre, Co. Kilkenny Childcare Committee and local teachers. See [www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/First\\_Steps\\_into\\_Archaeology\\_Archaeology\\_for\\_Children.html](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/First_Steps_into_Archaeology_Archaeology_for_Children.html)
- River Nore Teaching Resources – produced teaching resources, linked to the Primary school curriculum, on the heritage of the river Nore for local schools in partnership with Kilkenny Education Centre, the Heritage Council and local teachers. See [http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Teaching\\_Resources/](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Teaching_Resources/)
- Kilkenny Wildlife Detectives – produced a children’s brochure/wildlife detective guide and poster, based on the wildlife and habitats of Kilkenny in partnership with the County Kilkenny Childcare Committee. The first of its kind in Kilkenny.
- Vernacular Farm Gates – commissioned a pilot survey and poster of forged wrought iron gates in South Kilkenny, a disappearing part of our rural heritage. The first of its kind in Ireland.



## Library Services

Kilkenny County Library Service through its collections, services and service points promotes and supports: reading and literacy; lifelong learning; access to and use of IT; heritage and culture and social inclusion.

### Ferrybank Library

- Opened to the Public on the 4th December 2012, and has been greatly welcomed by the people of Ferrybank and South Kilkenny.
- It includes a total area of 312 sq metres incorporating: Children's Services: a Teen Zone; Adult Services; a Community/Meeting room; 8 Public PC's, RFID self-service and WIFI and accessible services and formats.
- A stock of over 15,000 items including, books, CD's, DVD's, Language Courses, newspapers and audio books.
- Members are from the Ferrybank area and across South Kilkenny.
- The community room is used by a wide range of local organisations with a full programme of events.

### Proposed New City Library

- The proposed plans for the new City Library beside County Hall, John Street were unveiled to elected members.

### Events & Activities

Libraries are more than buildings and books, they are community hubs - a place to learn, relax and meet. This is reflected in the range of events and activities run and hosted by Kilkenny Library branches. During 2012 these included events for: Bealtaine; Titanic Commemorations; Heritage and Science Weeks; Book club and Culture nights; All Ireland Poetry and International Women's days; Children's Summer Reading and Six Book challenges; the Children's Book Festival and Halloween and Christmas.

- Other ongoing activities which took place during the year included; author visits; creative writing classes/groups; knitting groups; FAS E-learning classes; Deaf Association IT classes; a Library trolley service at St Luke's Hospital and HSE Mental Health Group talks/meetings and Local Historical society lectures.
- 144,800 visits were made to Library Branches
- 263,203 books and 32,059 CD's, DVD's, language courses, talking books and magazines etc. were borrowed.
- 27,686 internet sessions were undertaken



*The proposed plans for the new City Library beside County Hall, John Street were unveiled to elected members.*



*27,686 visits were made to Library Branches.*



## Arts

The Arts Office works on its own initiative and in partnership to develop inspire and empower artistic activity throughout the city and county. It promotes the arts as a worthwhile activity for all. Both Authorities work to further strengthen Kilkenny's position as a centre of excellence for the arts. by focussing on the development of the practitioner and their work; engaging and employing artists and support staff in projects, by offering professional and practice development initiatives across all art forms, through audience development, community and education and by building capacity.





**Over 10,000 people engaged or participated in Arts office supported programmes in 2012.**



**The Arts Office supported the Duiske Concert Series and the Kilkenny Arts Festival New Music Initiative in bringing the arts to new audiences and into local communities.**



**National Drawing Day; this event is a partnership between the Butler Gallery, the Office of Public Works and the Kilkenny Arts Office. A total of 389 people across all age groups participated.**

The main achievement in 2012 were;

- Culture Night; saw a number of cultural organisations in Kilkenny City and County present numerous free events and activities to suit all age groups and interests. A total of 1,080 engaged as audience and participants.
- Music; The Arts Office supported the Duiske Concert Series and the Kilkenny Arts Festival New Music Initiative in bringing the arts to new audiences and into local communities. A total of 600 engaged as audiences in these two music events.
- Literature; The 12th issue of the Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet was published. 13 poets were published in this year's issue. The Arts Office & Library Service continued its partnership to host their 2012 Writers' Workshops programme with a total of 60 writers engaged overall.
- 5 To 6 Women's Project; provides space for women to participate in life-long learning and increase skills, knowledge and understanding of the arts. The Project has worked with over 139 women since its inception with 34 involved in the 2012 programme.
- National Drawing Day; this event is a partnership between the Butler Gallery, the Office of Public Works and the Kilkenny Arts Office. A total of 389 people across all age groups participated.
- Young Makers Workshop and Exhibition; showcased the work of young artists aged 14 to 19 from 13 countries. Complimenting the exhibition 4 free workshops were held in no.76 John Street enabling Kilkenny youths to gain new skills and experiences. A total of 68 engaged as participants.
- Siamsa; This fun child centred programme supported a number of children in developing a variety of skills including drawing, painting and making in a diverse range of media. A total of 108 children engaged as participants.
- Financial assistance was provided towards the development of the Arts. These included Tyrone Guthrie Bursary, Irish Youth Choir Summer Programme Bursary with a total of 7 individuals funded.
- Artists Residency Programme under a new model Shared studios and workshop space at no.76 John Street. It consisted of seven artists working on site part-time. A total of 2,562 engaged as audience and participants.
- Exhibition Programme at no.76 and the Upstairs Gallery, Watergate Theatre, presented a diverse range of contemporary exhibitions which drew in huge audiences. 1,875 people attended Patrick O'Connor's summer exhibition and a full publication was produced to accompany the show.
- Art Links once again offered a quality and accessible Arts Professional Development programme for practitioners across all disciplines. Through the Art Links Mentoring Programme 8 individuals got a mentoring opportunity with a professional artist in their respective areas. A further 6 Kilkenny based artists were awarded bursaries to aid their artistic practise. A total of 14 people from Kilkenny were directly supported.

Over 10,000 people engaged or participated in Arts office supported programmes in 2012.

## 2.3 Finance & Economic Development

The services being provided under this directorate are Financial Planning & Programming, Income Collection, Procurement, Economic Development and Motor Taxation.

### Income & Expenditure Account

- A deficit of €602,000 was brought forward on the Income & Expenditure (I & E) Account to 2012.
- This deficit was reduced by €448,000 during 2012 owing to corrective action and strict budgetary control by the council on a total expenditure budget of approx €77 million.
- This budget adherence occurred in a period of continued testing and challenging economic circumstances which has seen very substantial reductions in Council income, whether central exchequer or locally derived.

### Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

- The Council has a strong balance sheet at the end of 2012 and its financial position has strengthened considerably over the period 2000 to 2012.
- The Council is devoting considerable time and effort to debt collection, and, while collection levels have fallen, Council performance in this area compares well against other local authorities or equivalent private sector organisations.

### Capital Project Funding Arrangements

- The Council adopted a capital budget for the period 2012-2014. This budget outlines the proposed capital projects and related funding sources for the three year period concerned.
- The Council requires an identified funding source before it can initiate capital projects.
- Projects are funded through a variety of sources and the Council's ability to progress capital projects across all its service areas is very dependent on sufficient funds being available to commit to the projects in question. This is becoming increasingly difficult given the deterioration in the prevailing economic environment and the severe pressures on national exchequer funding.

### New Initiatives in 2012

- Current financial constraints mean the Council must meet increased demand with fewer resources.
- The Council participated in a number of national projects during 2012 including evaluating and planning a local government Treasury Management Shared Service System, a Business Process Improvement project for accounts payable and debt collection, completion of the VAT implementation project to VAT reclaim phase, new service provision for "Household Charge payments" and "Protect our Water payments".
- The process of continuous business improvement will continue to mitigate the impact of reduced resources on services provision.

- More than ever it is essential to have effective performance management and cost control. The Council remains focussed on delivering value for money services and capital projects where resources permit, even in an increasingly challenging economic environment.

## Procurement

The Procurement Unit is operational since September 2010 and is involved in directing and controlling all procurement spends. The Unit's objectives are to ensure that a proper procurement process has been completed and that the Council/Borough achieves savings/efficiencies where possible on its procurement activities. The Procurement Unit provides direction to the Service Area which is undertaking the procurement in question.

The main achievements of the Procurement Unit in 2012 were as follows:

- The servicing of the recycling centres and bring banks in Kilkenny continues to be carried out under the Regional contract, supervised by South Tipperary County Council as lead authority
- Procuring and implementing 6 Legal Services Frameworks
- Assistance with drafting mini tenders for plant hire and road making materials under LA quotes frameworks
- Implementation of all NPS frameworks locally by centralised purchasing
- The procurement by Wexford County Council, of a Fleet Tracking & Management System for Local Authority vehicles, on behalf of Wexford and South Tipperary Authorities & Kilkenny County & Borough Councils
- Kilkenny County Council & Carlow County Council jointly procured an Employment Assistance Scheme provider on an interim basis (pending the outcome of the shared service examination by the LG Sector) with savings of 51%.p.a.
- Initial consultation commenced in 2012 on the joint procurement of a single control of horses' contractor for the Council and a number of neighbouring local authorities. It is hoped to procure the contractor in 2013.
- Procuring and implementing framework for unscheduled water services works
- Assistance in procuring several works and consultancy contracts for Roads and Water Services
- Procurement of Waste transportation and disposal services for Dunmore Civic Amenity site.
- Procurement of marketing services for Kilkenny Tourism
- Assistance provided for the evaluation of the National LVPC tender
- Assistance to NPO re draft Efficiency Working Paper on Procurement Savings
- Assistance to NPO re draft spec of duties for LA Procurement Officers
- Procurement of Occupational Therapists Panel for Housing
- Management solution re Horse Traveller project for Housing Department
- Procurement of Housing Construction panel work commenced – to be implemented in 2013



*Significant savings continue to be achieved through improved procurement.*



‘Meet the Buyer Forum’

Rachel Deverell from Anna Harvey Farm Foods Bunclody Co Wexford, Cllr Paul Cuddihy Chairman of Kilkenny County Council and Phil Hogan TD Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government .



Phil Hogan TD Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government and Cllr. Paul Cuddihy, Chairman of Kilkenny County Council



Phil Hogan TD Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government and Julie Calder-Potts of Highbank Orchards in Kilkenny pictured at the South East regional buyers/producer networking event at the Lyrath Estate Hotel in Kilkenny. Pictures: Dylan Vaughan

## Economic Development

The Economic Development Unit continued to progress the key economic drivers in 2012 – agri-food, tourism, innovation in services, and education which remain at the core of the economic development agenda. The team work closely with infrastructure providers to optimise the city and county for further investment. Underpinning these priority areas is an ongoing communication programme.

The core activities centre on the following:

- Hosting and engaging in a number of promotional events to market Kilkenny as a business location including launching the Connect Ireland - Succeed in Ireland initiative to local government sector
- Completion and launch of the TSSG/WIT/IT Carlow/NUIG research and innovation centre in Kilkenny to embed IT skills, enhance the service innovation profile of the region and secure clustering of technology companies
- Expansion of the agri-food group focusing on infrastructural preparation, with particular attention on the environmental implications for Harvest 2020, and progressing a Sales and Marketing initiative, co-hosting a “Meet the Buyer” event
- Building China relations with town twinning, official delegate visit to Suzhou in China and running a Chinese Culture six week course
- Working with tourism and all stakeholders to market Kilkenny as a great place to visit and do business, pivotal role in co-ordinating The Gathering in Kilkenny and progressing the Medieval Mile tourism initiative.
- A number of high profile events were hosted in 2012 to raise Kilkenny's profile as a business location, develop linkages with the existing business community, and to market the city and county to new potential investors
- Kilkenny Tourism contracted new marketing and pr consultants and a new tourism marketing strategy was developed, with a new brand launched ('Kilkenny – living history, loving culture') targeting increased domestic and international business through social media channels including Flickr, Youtube and specific web SEO campaigns.
- Launched new marketing brochure incorporating new city and county maps partly funded by LEADER





**Financial support to local tourist & business initiatives including Castlecomer Demense Tourist Centre, to Kilkenny Christmas Festival and to Kilkenny Food Festival**

- Proactive public relations activity through a number of print media and advertorial campaigns were run in national newspapers, magazines and regional publications as well as national radio broadcast
- Increased engagement with tourism members through ezines and networking events/workshops which were held to develop and promote 'bundling packages' to optimise the product offering
- Trade show promotions targeted additional markets including over 50s, outdoor and activity seekers and heritage interests
- Financial support to local tourist & business initiatives including Castlecomer Demense Tourist Centre, to Kilkenny Christmas Festival and to Kilkenny Food Festival
- The Business Support Unit organised and hosted the national launch of the Connect Ireland Succeed in Ireland initiative to the local government sector attended by all County Mangers, Directors of Services, Mayors and Chairs of each council in Ireland.



**In 2012, Kilkenny local authorities became the first in Ireland to run a six week 'Introduction to Chinese Culture' course attended by a cross section of business people, government body representatives and students.**

- Connect Ireland was appointed by IDA Ireland to capitalise on the power of global connections and the Irish Diaspora and is designed to create jobs using a referral system to attract more foreign direct investment to Ireland. Additionally, a county launch was organised to engage with local voluntary and community stakeholders throughout Kilkenny.
- A number of high level, business centric visits were hosted. A party of delegates including the County Manager, Chairperson of the County Council and Chief Executive of the IDA backed Connect Ireland initiative travelled to Suzhou in China to promote Kilkenny and Ireland, and engage with business and political leaders as part of ongoing relationship development.
- At the launch of Invest Kilkenny, the establishment of the TSSG Research and Innovation Centre was announced. The centre was officially opened by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny in May 2012 and is focusing on develop relationships with existing companies in Kilkenny and the South east region. The new research centre marked the continued growth of WIT's highly successful TSSG group and greatly enhanced the academic profile of Kilkenny, consolidating the county's value offering as a centre of innovation and creativity. The Kilkenny centre creates a hub for ICT expertise and next generation internet development for companies in the finance, banking and insurance sectors.



**On evolving the agri-food agenda, further to the Harvest 2020 strategy, a high level food group was established with representatives from the sector including Glanbia, Dawn Meats, Brett Brothers, Connolly Red Mills, Oldtown Bakeries and LEADER.**

- In 2012, Kilkenny local authorities became the first in Ireland to run a six week 'Introduction to Chinese Culture' course attended by a cross section of business people, government body representatives and students. Modules included Chinese etiquette, business protocol, family hierarchy and Chinese festivals as part of a bid to attract investment from the Far East. This engagement continues to build Kilkenny's business relationship with this significant industrial area.
- On evolving the agri-food agenda, further to the Harvest 2020 strategy, a high level food group was established with representatives from the sector including Glanbia, Dawn Meats, Brett Brothers, Connolly Red Mills, Oldtown Bakeries and LEADER. This group has been developing four areas, namely expansion of the milk supply post 2015, food sustainability, improved routes to market for S.M.E's and exploring the development of food excellence. A technical working group was established with representatives of Teagasc, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Dept. of Agriculture, the Dept. of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the River Basin Catchment Management Team and the Council to examine environmental management issues. This group liaised at a national level with Dept. of Agriculture and River Catchment Management, with Kilkenny was designated a pilot programme.



*In October, a €5.5 million investment in a new Medieval Mile tourism project for Kilkenny was announced.*

- Tourism development continues to be at the core of the economic agenda in Kilkenny and the economic development unit engaged with tourism stakeholders as an economic partner and providing IT and administrative staff to support Kilkenny Tourism initiatives.
- In October, a €5.5 million investment in a new Medieval Mile tourism project for Kilkenny was announced. The Medieval Mile will stretch from Kilkenny Castle to St Canice's Cathedral and will position the historic city as a must see destination for overseas visitors to Ireland. This Medieval Mile Project was announced as part of the Invest Kilkenny programme aimed at promoting Kilkenny as a great place to do business.
- The business support unit directly supported the Gathering Initiative organising community briefings and engaging with the public to create 45 gatherings to date, including three flagship initiatives supported by IPB Insurance. These Gatherings partnering with Failte Ireland, The Gathering Ireland and local communities, will drive overseas visitors to Kilkenny and create legacy events for future economic growth.
- Work continued to build and develop the Invest Kilkenny website, growing the social media community networks and distributing promotional material the Business Support Unit supported a local start-up competition to promote entrepreneurship, participated in focus groups for enterprise development and conducted a number of meetings with potential entrepreneurs and companies in terms of planning advice, overheads and contacts

## 2.4 Water Services & Environmental Services

The Services being provided under this Directorate are;

- Maintenance and Provision of Water Infrastructure
- Maintenance and Provision of Waste Water Infrastructure
- Water Conservation
- Rural Water Programme
- Water Charges
- Water Quality Testing and Assurance
- Waste Management
- Litter Management
- Environment Awareness
- River Basin Management and Pollution Control
- Water Safety
- Burial Grounds
- Veterinary Services

### Water Services

- Kilkenny Water Services Authority is responsible for 20 public drinking water supplies and 35 public waste water treatment schemes.
- In 2011 the Authority produced over 9.4million cubic meters of quality drinking water directly to a population of over 61,000 across the county.
- The Authority acts as a supervising Authority for private water supplies that fall under the drinking water regulations.

### Operations and Maintenance Programme

- Despite operating within a significantly reduced budget in 2012, Water Services succeeded in maintaining and improving the levels of service provided.
- A dedicated resource was assigned to monitoring waste water treatment plants, detecting problems at an early stage and devising solutions.
- Further increase in schedule of planned maintenance for all water and waste water plants achieved.
- A programme to install alarms and SCADA systems at all plants is continuing.
- Kilkenny County Council is part of a SE Regional Committee, established to exchange ideas and to establish best practice for Water and Waste Water Operations and Maintenance.
- Drinking Water Incident Response Plan was further refined and equipment in the dedicated emergency depot enhanced.
- Roll out of site specific safety statements substantially completed for all water and waste water treatment plants.



*In 2011 the Authority produced over 9.4million cubic meters of quality drinking water directly to a population of over 61,000 across the county.*



*The repair of a 1 million gallon reservoir at Radestown was completed in 2012 at a cost of €276,000.*

## Capital Programme

### Major Schemes

#### Kilkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme

- The Preliminary Design Report has been submitted for approval to the Department of Environment. It is expected that the scheme will progress as a series of prioritised contracts, rather than one large scheme.
- The first such contract, the repair of a 1 million gallon reservoir at Radestown was completed in 2012 at a cost of €276,000.
- Detailed design for the upgrade of Outrath reservoir and the adjacent network is due to commence early in 2013, with a quick progression to construction expected. (cost estimate €0.5m)

#### Ballyragget, Clogh/Castlecomer and Urlingford/Johnstown WSS Bundle

- Preliminary design reports for these schemes are being reviewed by the Department of Environment.

#### Callan, Graignamanagh and Thomastown/Inistioge WSS Bundle

- This overall bundle of schemes is on the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010-2012, with the main advance works being the Thomastown/Inistioge contract



- Detailed design of this scheme is scheduled to commence early 2013 with quick advancement to construction anticipated thereafter.

### **Kilkenny City Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- An Bord Pleanála has approved the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kilkenny (Purcellsinch) Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- It is expected that this scheme will advance as a DBO project, but in 2013 a number of essential advance contracts (entrance upgrade, obsolete bio tower removal and phosphorous removal plant) will firstly be undertaken.

### **Freshford, Johnstown & Goresbridge Sewerage Scheme Bundle**

- The Council are advancing the design proposal for these village schemes as a matter of urgency and the process to select a DBO contractor to undertake the scheme is underway. This scheme is scheduled to commence construction in 2013.

### **Appropriate Assessment of Natural Impact Statements and Outline Design**

- Reports for the following waste water treatment plants were approved by An Bord Pleanála;
- Ballyhale waste water treatment plant outfall (construction commenced)
- Paulstown waste water treatment plant outfall (construction expected 2013)
- Urlingford waste water treatment plant interim upgrade (construction expected 2013)
- Castlecomer waste water treatment plant interim upgrade (construction expected 2013)
- Stonyford waste water treatment plant interim upgrade (construction expected 2013)

### **Clogh/Moneenroe Sewerage Scheme**

- Consulting Engineers preparing Preliminary Report.

### **Piltown/Fiddown Sewerage Scheme**

- Consulting Engineers preparing Preliminary Report.

### **Water Conservation**

- Water conservation is primarily concerned with reducing the levels of unaccounted for water (UFW) in water supply schemes. UFW includes water losses as a result of leakage from mains and fittings, unauthorised connections, excessive consumption, and unmetered non-domestic connections.
- The level of UFW in Co Kilkenny in 2012 was at its lowest since measurements began in 2008. In 2008, UFW was 56.7% and in 2012 UFW had been reduced to 39.8%.
- This represents a reduction of 6,000 cubic meters of water per day in the amount of treated water required for supply.
- Put in context, this represents 1.5 times the total amount of water required for Kilkenny's four scheduled towns of Castlecomer, Callan, Graiguenamannagh and Thomastown together.
- Since the commencement of Stage 2 works in 2009, approximately 3,000 leaks have been detected and repaired.



*The level of UFW in Co Kilkenny in 2012 was at its lowest since measurements began in 2008. In 2008, UFW was 56.7% and in 2012 UFW had been reduced to 39.8%.*

- 3 full time leak detection staff are now employed and 750 leaks were detected and repaired in 2012.
- Construction is expected to commence on Phase 1 of the mains replacement and remediation programme in Q2, 2013.
- The Replacement and remediation programme is expected to continue and expand in 2013 and subsequent years.

## Rural Water Programme

- There are 232 Group Schemes in the County-124 Groups served from a private source & 108 Groups connected to the public supply. There are 140 operational Small Private Supplies, including Schools, Housing Estates & Food Premises.
- The sum of €332,000 was paid out in improvement grants to group schemes in 2012 and a further €40,000 was spent on the takeover of Group Schemes.
- 49 Subsidies towards the operational running costs of Group Water Schemes totalling €264,602 were administered and paid to Group Schemes in 2012.
- 77 approvals issued for grant applications for provision of wells to private houses and the sum of €133,000 was paid out in well grants in 2012.

€705,700 was spent on the provision & improvement works to public water and sewage schemes under the Small Schemes Programme.

Amongst the schemes funded from this source were the completion of Tullaroan Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), upgrade/improvement works treatment plants at Coan, Ballyhale, Glenmore, Kilmoganny and the upgrade of Massford pump station. Work also commenced on the Stonyford by-pass watermain.

- A total of 2,114 tests, from 91 different sample locations, were undertaken on the 48 regulated Group Water Schemes in 2012.

## Water Charging Programme

- Kilkenny County Council established the Water Charges Business Unit in August 2010. This unit brought together staff from Sanitary Services and Debt Collection to provide a more focused approach on water charges.
- The Water Charges Business Unit is responsible for invoicing and collection of water charges.
- Invoicing is generally on a quarterly basis but with monthly billing for high consumers. This assists both the customer and the Council from a cash flow perspective.
- For the second consecutive year there was no increase in water and waste water charges. Rates for non-domestic users were €0.96 per cubic metre for drinking water and €1.93 per cubic metre for waste water (a combined rate of €2.89).
- Kilkenny County Council continues to promote a number of initiatives such as data loggers and [www.meter.ie](http://www.meter.ie) to encourage monitoring of water usage.
- During 2012, a leaflet offering a guide to 2012 water charges and outlining advice to customers on water conservation was distributed to all customers.



*The sum of €332,000 was paid out in improvement grants to group schemes in 2012 and a further €40,000 was spent on the takeover of Group Schemes.*



*For the second consecutive year there was no increase in water and waste water charges. Rates for non-domestic users were €0.96 per cubic metre for drinking water and €1.93 per cubic metre for waste water (a combined rate of €2.89).*



*Kilkenny County Council was one of only six Local Authorities in the country to achieve a 100% mark when the EPA assessed the publication of water quality results on line.*

## Water Quality Programme

- In consultation with the EPA, a more focused, risk based water quality monitoring programme, built upon successive improvements and knowledge gained in recent years, was introduced. Despite the fact that the number of parameter tests undertaken was reduced by 10% to 12,550, the targeted, risk based approach resulted in a more comprehensive picture of the quality of water being put into supply.
- Coupled with the drinking water testing, the Council also undertook an extensive waste water sampling and testing programme in 2012.
- During 2012 a total of 9,500 waste water parameter tests were undertaken by the Council's water quality team.
- The results obtained from the water and the waste water testing programmes were essential in supporting decision making with regard to both operational and capital investment decisions.
- Kilkenny County Council was one of only six Local Authorities in the country to achieve a 100% mark when the EPA assessed the publication of water quality results on line.
- The Water Quality Liaison Group Meetings with the HSE have continued to be very successful and practical in managing the quality of drinking water supplies and protecting public health of the consumers. The Group has worked very well to manage water quality incidents arising.

## Environmental Services

The aims of the Environment Section are:

- To promote sustainable development
- To provide an efficient and environmentally sound waste management infrastructure and implement the Joint South East Waste Management Plan
- To maintain proper regulatory and monitoring systems for environmental protection and control of pollution

The Environment Department has responsibility for over 500 statutory functions, which are contained within over 100 pieces of legislation. The key areas dealt with include:

- Waste Management
  - Waste Management Planning
  - Dunmore Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre
  - Recycling
  - Enforcement
  - Litter Management
- Education and Awareness



Mayor in GLT cab



*The centre celebrated Repak Recycling Week by running a Recycling Hits marketing promotion with KCLR96FM.*

- Water Quality and Pollution Control
  - Water Framework Directive
  - Pollution Control and Enforcement
- Water Safety
- Burial Grounds
- Veterinary Services

## Waste Management

### Waste Management Planning

- The Joint Waste Management Plan (JWMP) for the South East Region, 2006 - 2011 was evaluated in 2012 and the outcome of that evaluation is that the Plan must be replaced.

### Dunmore Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre 2012

- Security fencing was installed around the perimeter of the recycling centre.
- A green waste segregation area was introduced where over 110 tonnes of garden waste was diverted from landfill and instead sent for composting.
- On-site management and consigning of household hazardous was improved which resulted in a significant cost reduction to the facility.
- The centre was a finalist in the in the National Recycling Centre Repak Awards giving it national recognition as one of the top three Recycling facilities in the country.
- Constant promotion of the facility through local media i.e. paper and radio. Promotional items handed out on site (recycling bags, pencils, pencil cases and rulers) all made from recycled materials to show a positive end result to the recycling process and further encourage more recycling.
- The facility was fully compliant with its waste licence resulting in no complaints from the local community and no adverse effects on the surrounding environment.
- The centre celebrated Repak Recycling Week by running a Recycling Hits marketing promotion with KCLR96FM.



Recycling Plant at Dunmore



*Environment Section operates more than forty bring centres throughout the county in addition to the Dunmore facility.*

### Waste Collection Permits

- Following a review of the service, the waste collection permitting function transferred to County Offaly during the year as a shared service.

### Recycling

- Environment Section operates more than forty bring centres throughout the county in addition to the Dunmore facility.
- The maintenance contract continues to greatly improve the cleanliness of the bring centre locations.
- The regional tender for servicing of the recycling facilities continued in 2012.
- Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Recycling.
- In 2012 WEEE Ireland in support with Kilkenny Local Authorities completed 10 mobile collection days resulting in the collection of 101 tonnes of electrical waste. This is a weight equivalent of recycling 4,612 televisions.



REPAK Awards

## Enforcement

- In total, there were 947 environmental complaints investigated by the Enforcement Team in 2012. A large majority of the complaints received related to illegal dumping. On completion of the inspection the sites were cleaned to prevent the escalation of dumping at the locations.
- 13 small covert cameras were purchased. These are set up to monitor a large variety of litter black spots including a number of the Bring Banks.
- Evidence from the cameras has resulted in 53 fines to being issued.
- The high quality of the evidence provided by the cameras means that persons fined are reluctant to challenge the evidence and the on the spot fine is usually accepted without us having to seek a prosecution before the courts.
- 1,050 site inspections of various facilities and premises were completed during the year under our RMCEI Plan, which exceeded our planned inspection targets.
- 86 enforcement procedures were taken as a result, ranging from issuing warning letters and statutory notices to prosecutions.

## Litter Management

- The Litter Management Plan 2012-2014 was formally adopted in the spring.
- The Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign was launched in Kilkenny city in May 2012 to raise awareness of the problems associated with chewing gum litter.
- 2 anti dog fouling campaigns were rolled out to raise awareness of dog owner's responsibilities to clean up after their pet while out in public.

## Education And Awareness

### Schools

- Over 85% of schools participate in the green school programme.
- 54 schools have received the green flag award.
- 39 environmentally themed school workshops were organized through the Spring Educational Programme.
- 33 school visits were completed to specifically assist schools with the green school programme.
- The annual green schools information evening was held for teachers and parents with the assistance of An Taisce in October.
- 11 secondary school groups participated in two green teen waste and litter workshops to assist with their green school programme.

### National Spring Clean

- 119 local community groups registered with An Taisce to participate in the National Spring Clean in April. Additional clean up supplies were provided to groups who required assistance and the collection of litter from large community clean ups was organized by the Environment Section.

### Waste Prevention

- The Greening of the Iverk Show was shortlisted in the Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards under the Sustainable Environment Category.



*Over 85% of schools participate in the green school programme.*



2012 Greener Schools Programme



*119 local community groups registered with An Taisce to participate in the National Spring Clean in April. Additional clean up supplies were provided to groups who required assistance and the collection of litter from large community clean ups was organized by the Environment Section.*

## Tidy Towns

- Assistance was provided to local tidy town groups by organizing mentoring workshops led by national adjudicators.

## Public Relations

- A number of initiatives were completed with KCLR 96FM to highlight environmental campaigns throughout the year including Eco Chat with the Sue Nunn Show and two advertising campaigns to highlight the anti dog fouling and Responsible Dog Ownership Campaigns.
- 22 press releases were given to local media throughout the year to emphasis both awareness and enforcement activities.

## Water Quality & Pollution Control

### Water Framework Directive & River Basin Management

- The process of reviewing all Section 4 Discharge Licences under the Surface Water Regulations concluded in 2012.
- The Implementation Plan for County Kilkenny which sets out the specific measures which must be undertaken in County Kilkenny to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive, formed the framework for inspection planning in 2012.
- Extensive Surface and Ground Water Monitoring Programme was continued.

### Pollution Control and Enforcement

- 116 farm inspections were undertaken by KCC staff in high priority water bodies.
- 16 farms were cross reported by KCC to DAFM under the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations.
- 56 farm inspections were undertaken by DAFM on behalf of KCC of which 26 were found to be non-complaint with the Gap Regulations.
- Over 100 inspections were undertaken of food service establishments to control discharges of fats, oils and greases to the public sewer.

### Food Harvest 2020

- A project on "Supporting the Economic Development of the Agri-food Industry in the South East" was shortlisted in the Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards under the Partnership with Business Category.

### Water Safety

- Presentation of certificates to 34 new lifeguards and 14 revalidated lifeguards took place in County Hall in May 2012.
- Many of these lifeguards worked for Kilkenny County Council on rivers during the summer months. Swimming areas are The Meadows, The Weir, Graiguenamanagh and Inistioge.
- Improvements were carried out the swimming area on the Bleach Road, Kilkenny. The works were jointly funded by KCC and Kilkenny branch of Irish Water Safety.



**116 farm inspections were undertaken by KCC staff in high priority water bodies.**



**A project on "Supporting the Economic Development of the Agri-food Industry in the South East" was shortlisted in the Chambers of Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards under the Partnership with Business Category.**

### **Burial Grounds**

- Kilkenny County Council has 14 open and active burial grounds across the County with each having a caretaker in place to manage the record keeping.
- Updated burial ground maps continue to be developed and are distributed to the caretakers on completion.

### **Veterinary Services**

- The Veterinary Service fulfils the food safety service contract between the FSAI and Kilkenny County Council. The Veterinary Public Health and animal welfare functions include providing official controls/ regulation of slaughterhouses and small meat processing plants, and small poultry slaughtering plants (includes on farm slaughter of poultry i.e. seasonal slaughter).
- Slaughterhouses under the service's supervision in 2012 slaughtered 5,217 Cattle, 20,632 Sheep and 118 Pigs.
- 53 Residue samples were taken as part of the National Residue Control Plan
- The Control of Horses Enforcement Team impounded 78 horses and licensed 8 horses in 2012.
- In 2012, there were 6,626 individual dogs licensed, 7 general dog licences and 14 lifetime dog licences were issued for the county.
- 7 premises were registered under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 which came into law in 2012.

# Kilkenny Borough Council



# Kilkenny Borough Council

It is the role of Kilkenny Borough Council to administer local authority services within the Borough of Kilkenny. Such duties include infrastructure, community and civic services and the Borough Council plays a major role in the preservation of Kilkenny's medieval heritage and in the development of Kilkenny as a major tourist centre.

## Profile of the City

Kilkenny City is a place of urban settlement which has endured through the centuries by adapting to the needs of its inhabitants, whilst retaining its unique appeal to visitors. The unique built heritage and winding streetscapes provides a link to ancient times whilst continuing to be a vibrant place to live and work. Kilkenny retains its charm by allowing modern uses in old buildings so that they don't become museum pieces, but rather provide the means to enjoy old buildings in modern settings. Kilkenny celebrated 800 years of town government in 2007 and 400 years of City government in 2009. Kilkenny City's 1609 Charter of James 1<sup>st</sup> conferred Kilkenny with City status. One of Kilkenny's strengths is its compact nature, both in physical size and in scale. The pattern of narrowed streets with ancient slip ways provides an ambience which pedestrians can enjoy and facilitate easy access and movement around the city. The street network has remained largely undisturbed over the centuries. The High Street is a vibrant area, with a mix of uses to attract shoppers and workers. The historic core – the spine from Kilkenny Castle through High Street, Parliament Street, Irishtown, to St. Canice's Cathedral, links these various themes of civic authority and worship. The Tholsel, was the seat of urban local government with its arcaded front and distinctive bell tower has acted as a focal point for local governance for centuries. A long tradition of local politics is maintained to the present day, whilst the civic archive is preserved there as a reminder of the urban history of Kilkenny.

## Provision of Services

- Many of the functions of Kilkenny Borough Council are being provided jointly under a shared services model of delivery with Kilkenny County Council and are reported under the relevant Directorates reports.
- Kilkenny Borough Council continues to provide services directly in the following areas: Roads, Transportation, Planning, Development, Urban Renewal and Enhancement, Burial Ground, Streetscape Improvements, Parks and Recreation, Refuse Collection and Street Cleaning, Car Parks and On Street parking, Civic Receptions and Occasions.

Amongst the achievement in 2012 were:

### Roads and Transportation

- Car park information signage completed
- New bus stops with proprietary kerbs substantially complete
- Pedestrian bridge (John's Quay to Bateman Quay) advanced to formal planning stage
- Mobility management works completed at Cootes Lane, CBS Sconce and Market Yard
- Improvements to pedestrian crossings were carried out at Parliament Street, John Street and James Street
- Low cost accident scheme improvements were completed at College Road, Granges Road and Freshford Road



*Car park information signage completed.*



*New bus stops provided*



*New/improved footpaths provided at Bateman Quay, Lacken Drive, Wolfe Tone Street, Johns Green, High Hayes Terrace and sections of Granges Road.*

- Courtesy pedestrian crossings provided at Bennettsbridge Road/Castlecomer Road and Dublin Road
- New/improved footpaths provided at Bateman Quay, Lacken Drive, Wolfe Tone Street, Johns Green, High Hayes Terrace and sections of Granges Road.
- Surface restoration carried out at Granges Road, St. Rioch Street, Parliament Street, New Road, Johns Green, Castlecomer Road and Hebron Road.
- Capacity improvements completed on Kilkenny Ring Road
- Kells Road improvement progressed
- Ring Road cycleway in progress
- Car park improvements including re-surfacing were carried out at Market Yard, Dean Street and Gaol Road
- Urban landscaping projects including improved pedestrian facilities were completed at Dean Street and John's Green
- All works are funded predominantly by the revenue accruing from car parking charges

### **Planning and Development**

- The Council received 71 Planning Applications in 2012, 57 were valid applications and 14 were invalid.
- A total of 56 decisions were made.
- Planning permission was granted in 50 cases and 6 applications were refused.
- 152 Pre-Planning Meetings were held in 2012.

### **Strategic Planning**

The review of the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan commenced formally in June 2012 as did the Kilkenny County Development Plan. An extension consultation exercise was undertaken which involved newspaper articles, awareness raising meetings, website development, a primary schools and a secondary schools project.

- In order to raise awareness and outline the issues involved for interested people, groups and organisations, a document entitled "Our Plan – A Guide to Having Your Say" was published.
- The County Manager's Report on the public consultation and the issues raised has been prepared and has been considered by the Elected Members of the Borough Council.
- The next step in the review process is the preparation of the draft Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan by March 2013.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

Kilkenny Borough Council continue to secure compliance with existing planning permissions and conditions and uses the enforcement measures where appropriate.

- Legal proceedings have been initiated in certain cases, and it is intended to continue to devote resources to the compliance/enforcement area to ensure orderly development consistent with planning conditions.
- 25 formal complaints were made in relation to non-compliance



*Car park improvements including re-surfacing were carried out at Market Yard, Dean Street and Gaol Road*



*The Borough Council announced a "Streetscape Paint Scheme" for the first time in 2010. The scheme was continued into 2011 and 2012 and was expanded to include hand painted signage.*

- Most complaints are resolved through negotiation and without the need to resort to legal action
- 8 warning letters and enforcement notices issued

### Streetscape Paint Scheme

- The Borough Council announced a "Streetscape Paint Scheme" for the first time in 2010. The scheme was continued into 2011 and 2012 and was expanded to include hand painted signage.
- A fund of €10,000 was allocated to assist with the cost of painting the front façade of buildings within the administrative area of Kilkenny Borough Council.
- The Scheme offers a grant of up to €500 maximum or 50% of the cost of the work to each successful applicant. There was a considerable uptake on the scheme, details of which as follows;
  - Number of Applications: 20
  - Number of Approved Applicants: 12
  - Number who availed of the Scheme: 12

### Section 254 Licences

- Applications for licences under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 have proven to be increasingly popular in Kilkenny City.
- This licence authorises a business owner to provide tables and chairs outside their premises.
- Income in relation to these licences over the past three years is as follows:

2010	2011	2012
€8,375	€6,625	€8,375

### Parks and Open Spaces

- The presentation of open spaces throughout the city is of a high standard and Kilkenny achieved a significant result in the 2012 Tidy Towns competition, winning a gold medal award and achieved first place in the IBAL Litter League 2012.
- Amenity improvements were carried out to James Green, Freshford Road, Dean Street and the opening of the Boardwalk along the River Nore while the landscaping of the roundabouts on Kilkenny Ring Road presents a very positive image on the approaches to the City.
- A major amenity/traffic management scheme for John's Green was completed in 2012 and has added significantly to the amenity value of the public realm in the City providing a new seating area for the public.
- The allotment site to the rear of Shandon Park had a number of plots in full cultivation during the year.
- The opening of St. Mary's Church grounds to the public in 2012 added significantly to the tourist attraction for the city and provided a secluded seated area for the residents of Kilkenny to enjoy.



*A fund of €10,000 was allocated to assist with the cost of painting the front façade of buildings within the administrative area of Kilkenny Borough Council.*



*The allotment site to the rear of Shandon Park had a number of plots in full cultivation during the year.*

## Civic Receptions and Occasions

Highlights of the civic year included:

- On 2nd April, 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the County and City of Kilkenny and People's Government of Suzhou Huqiu District of the People's Republic of China.
- It was agreed through friendly consultation to establish a sister-city relationship in order to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Ireland and China and to strengthen and to develop friendly co-operation between the County and City of Kilkenny and the People's Government of Suzhou Huqiu District of the People's Republic of China
- This Memorandum of Understanding was signed at a ceremony which took place in the Great Hall, Kilkenny Castle.
- On 8th July, 2012, the Regional National Day of Commemoration Ceremony took place in the grounds of Kilkenny Castle.
- This has become an annual event since 2011 and Kilkenny is the regional venue for Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Laois and Offaly.
- The Ceremony is held to honour all those Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations and mirrors the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony held in Dublin.



# Appendix 1

## Elected Members



## Public Representatives and their Electoral Areas



### BALLYRAGGET ELECTORAL AREA

<b>Maurice Shortall</b> (LAB) 42 Maryville, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.	056 4441770 087 7543906	mauriceshortall@eircom.net
<b>Mary Hilda Cavanagh</b> (FG) Whitewall, Crosspatrick, Co. Kilkenny.	0505 46419 086 8157366	maryhildacavanagh@eircom.net
<b>Patrick Millea</b> (FF) Gaulstown, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7769182 086 8253215	patdmillea@eircom.net
<b>John Brennan</b> (FG) Cruitt, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.	056 444239 087 7697479	cllrjohnbrennan@eircom.net
<b>Catherine Connery</b> (FG) Jeninstown, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7767692 086 6013013	catherineconnery@eircom.net



### CALLAN ELECTORAL AREA

<b>William Ireland</b> (FG) Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7727668 086 3762044	williamireland@eircom.net
<b>Patrick Crowley</b> (NON PARTY) Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7728310 086 2561584	drpcrowley@eircom.net
<b>Tom Maher</b> (FG) Broadmore, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7725234 086 8290491	cllrtohmaher@eircom.net
<b>Matt Doran</b> (FF) Shrughwadda, Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny.	051 648220 087 2470458	cllrDoran@eircom.net



## KILKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

<b>Andrew McGuinness</b> (FF) Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny.	056 7770672 086 8705811	cllrandrewmcguinness@gmail.com
<b>Malcolm Noonan</b> (GREEN PARTY) 35 Fr. Murphy Square, Kilkenny.	056 7723276 086 8399418	malcolm.noonan@kilkennycity.ie
<b>Martin Brett</b> (FG) Derdimus, TennyPark, Kilkenny.	056 7761116 087 2651272	martin.brett@kilkennycoco.ie
<b>Marie Fitzpatrick</b> (LAB) 64 Bishop Birch Place, Kilkenny.	056 7764438 087 6754193	mariefitz56@yahoo.co.uk
<b>John Coonan</b> (FF) 17 Willow Close, Ardnore, Kilkenny.	056 7762398 086 8145020	johncoonan@gmail.com
<b>David Fitzgerald</b> (FG) Castle Road, Kilkenny.	056 7720888 086 2514041	david@davidfitzgerald.ie
<b>Paul Cuddihy</b> (FG) Granges Road, Kilkenny.	087 9931484	councillorpaulcuddihy@eircom.net



## PILTOWN ELECTORAL AREA

<b>Tomas Breathnach</b> (LAB) Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.	051 885483 086 0704114	breathnachtomasa@eircom.net
<b>Pat Dunphy</b> (FG) Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.	051 895000 087 6789304	patrickdunphy@eircom.net
<b>Anne Maria Irish</b> (FG) Nicholastown, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny.	051 851483 086 3511131	annemariarish@gmail.com
<b>Eamon Aylward</b> (FF) Ballynooney, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny.	051 898975 087 9824651	eamonaylward@eircom.net
<b>Fidelis Doherty</b> (FG) Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny.	051 880310 087 9752556	fidelisdoherly2@eircom.net
<b>Cora Long</b> (FF) Ballygriffin, Carrigeen, Via Waterford, Co. Kilkenny.	051 897894 087 2383611	coralong@eircom.net



## THOMASTOWN ELECTORAL AREA

<b>Michael O'Brien</b> (LAB) Friarshill, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7724374 087 9475452	michaelobrien11@eircom.net
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<b>Sean Treacy</b> (FF) Coolroebeag, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7724430 087 6246511	treacysm@eircom.net
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<b>Tommy Prendergast</b> (LAB) 3 St. Oliver Plunkett Avenue, Tinnahinch, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny.	059 9724770 087 6404580	tprendergast1@hotmail.com
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<b>Jane Moran</b> (FG) Rathcusack, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.	086 3655314	jane.galway@kilkennycoco.ie
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## KILKENNY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Andrew McGuinness</b> (FF) Constituency Office, O'Loughlin Road, Kilkenny.	056 7770672 086 8705811	clrandrewmcguinness@gmail.com
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<b>Martin Brett</b> (FG) Derdimus, TennyPark, Kilkenny.	056 7761116 087 2651272	martin.brett@kilkennycoco.ie
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<b>Joe Malone</b> (FF) 11, Maiden Hill Estate, Kilkenny.	086 3128838	joe.malone086@gmail.com
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<b>John Coonan</b> (FF) 17 Willow Close, Ardnore, Kilkenny.	056 7762398 086 8145020	john.noonan@kilkennycity.ie
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<b>Kathleen Funchion</b> (Sinn Féin) 28, Whitescastle, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny.	056 7766709 056 7721267 087 1249702	kathleenfunchion@gmail.com
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<b>Paul Cuddihy</b> (FG) Granges Road, Kilkenny.	087 9931484	paul.cuddihy@kilkennycity.ie
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# Appendix 2

## Financial

## Reports



# Income and Expenditure Account Statement (Kilkenny County Council) For Year Ending 31st December 2012

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2012 €	2012 €	2012 €	2011 €
Housing and Building	11,809,869	12,495,459	(685,589)	89,498
Roads Transportation & Safety	16,859,674	11,745,847	5,113,827	5,907,043
Water Services	13,664,949	5,079,357	8,585,592	8,872,408
Development Management	4,463,942	996,954	3,466,988	3,740,246
Environmental Services	7,391,322	1,712,377	5,678,946	5,796,830
Recreation and Amenity	3,475,807	270,465	3,205,342	3,309,023
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	4,659,941	4,316,400	343,541	446,825
Miscellaneous Services	4,792,313	1,989,285	2,803,028	2,301,736
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>67,117,816</b>	<b>38,606,143</b>		
Net Cost of Divisions to be Funded From rates of Local Government Fund			<b>28,511,674</b>	30,463,609
Rates			12,096,264	11,983,357
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant			14,700,609	16,202,577
Pension Related Deduction			1,259,347	1,325,004
County Charge			2,600,000	2,600,000
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>2,144,546</b>	1,647,330
<b>Transfer From/(to) Reserves</b>			(1,696,810)	(2,196,755)
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>447,736</b>	(549,425)
<b>General Reserve @ 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012</b>			(602,062)	(52,637)
<b>General Reserve @ 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012</b>			<b>(154,326)</b>	(602,062)

# Income and Expenditure Account Statement (Kilkenny Borough Council) For Year Ending 31st December 2012

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2012 €	2012 €	2012 €	2011 €
Housing and Building	923,756	1,604,120	(680,364)	(528,382)
Roads Transportation & Safety	3,246,854	2,466,585	780,270	204,525
Water Services	2,000	-	2,000	2,019
Development Management	1,143,717	84,016	1,059,701	634,808
Environmental Services	1,468,175	260,031	1,208,144	1,300,492
Recreation and Amenity	1,567,081	13,233	1,553,847	1,143,229
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	6,596	1,613	4,983	(8,591)
Miscellaneous Services	1,817,821	704,792	1,113,029	1,060,078
County Charge	2,600,000	-	2,600,000	2,600,000
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>12,776,001</b>	<b>5,134,390</b>		
<b>Net Cost of Divisions to be Funded From rates of Local Government Fund</b>			<b>7,641,611</b>	<b>6,408,179</b>
Rates			<b>6,445,737</b>	<b>6,370,422</b>
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant			<b>1,272,860</b>	<b>1,401,435</b>
Pension Related Deduction			<b>154,077</b>	<b>158,893</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year before Transfers</b>			<b>231,063</b>	<b>1,522,571</b>
<b>Transfer From/(to) Reserves</b>			<b>(233,148)</b>	<b>(1,469,769)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>(2,085)</b>	<b>52,802</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012</b>			<b>1,131</b>	<b>(51,671)</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012</b>			<b>(954)</b>	<b>1,131</b>

# Appendix 3

## Service Indicators



<b>F Fire Service (F1 - F3)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>F1: Fire Service Mobilisation</b>			
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	N/A		
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	6min 45sec	6min 39sec	6min 17sec
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents.	N/A		
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents.	6min 58sec	6min 52sec	6min 22sec
<b>F2: Percentage of Attendances at Scenes</b>			
Total Number of incidents in respect of fire	294	354	429
Number of cases in respect of fire where first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	90	102	140
Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	156	194	223
Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	47	58	66
Total Number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	274	236	292
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	61	75	100
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	161	114	127
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	52	47	65
<b>F3: Fire Prevention</b>	70	255	155
A. Total Number of fire safety certificate applications received	73	81	68
B. Total Number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	83	67	73
C. Total Number of applications deemed invalid	3	9	8

<b>CP: Community Participation (CP1 And CP2)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>CP1: Participation In Local Youth Council/Comhairle Na N-Óg Scheme</b>			
Total number of local schools and youth groups	16.00	16.00	16.00
Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	9.00	9.00	9.00
<b>CP2: Groups Registered with the Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</b>			
Number of groups registered with the Community & Voluntary Forum	100.00	100.00	100.00

<b>C: Corporate Issues (C1-C2)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>C1: Working Days lost to Sickness</b>			
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4005 (3.48%)	4956 (4.08%)	5605.5 (4.74%)
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	486 (0.42%)	557 (0.46%)	647 (0.6%)
Total Number of staff (Whole Time Equivalent) at the end of December 2011 (as per DoEHLG staffing return for the end of 2011)	507.46	535.59	545
<b>C2: Staff Training and Development</b>			
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	3.53	3.90	3.88

<b>E: Environmental Services (E1- E9)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Water: (E1- E2)</b>			
<b>E1: Unaccounted For Water</b>			
Total volume of water supplied (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	25,718	27,775	28,110
Volume of unaccounted for water (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	10,241	12,943	13,416
<b>E2: Drinking Water Analysis</b>			
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	EPA supplied ( 99.2%)	EPA Supplied	EPA Supplied
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	EPA Supplied (93.9).	EPA Supplied	EPA Supplied

Waste Management (E3 - E6)	2012	2011	2010
<b>E3: Waste Segregation</b>			
Total number of households provided with a waste collection service		18,840	16,752
Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for dry recyclables		18,840	16,122
Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for organics	0	0	0
<b>E4: Household Waste Sent for Recycling</b>			
Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside		18,431	16,608
Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling		7,535	4,275
Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is landfilled		10,896	
Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	2,562.02	2,818	3,060
<b>E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill</b>			
Total tonnage of household waste collected		18,431	16,608
Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill		10,896	12,333
<b>E6: Recycling Facilities</b>			
The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	171	147	106
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	3	3	3
The number of Bring Sites for recycling glass	42	43	40
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling glass	3	3	3
The number of Bring Sites for recycling cans	43	40	40
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling cans	3	3	3
The number of Bring Sites for recycling textiles	108	95	62
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling textiles	3	3	1
The number of Bring Sites for recycling batteries	82	81	67
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling batteries	1	1	1
The number of Bring Sites for recycling oils	0	0	0
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling oils	1	1	1
The number of Bring Sites for recycling other materials	21	9	7
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling other materials	3	3	3

Waste Management (E3 - E6)	2012	2011	2010
<b>E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement</b>			
Number of full-time litter wardens	3	3	3
Number of part-time litter wardens	13	13	14
Number of part-time litter wardens (full and part-time) per 5,000 population	4.35	4.3	
Number of on-the-spot fines issued	227	102	189
Number of on-the-spot fines paid	118	53	55
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	4	3	4
Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	0	2	2
Number of notices issued (under Sections 9,15,16,17 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	24	20	15
Number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2009)	9	0	9
Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2009)	1	0	2
Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	3	2	
Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	53	53	
Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	41	41	
Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	3	4	
Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0	0	
<b>E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1,014	1,340	1,325
B. Number of complaints investigated	1,014	1,340	1,325
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	834	1,270	1,070
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	180	185	155
<b>E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns</b>			
Total number of primary schools	77	77	78
Number of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	65	65	67
Total number of secondary schools	16	16	16
Number of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	13	12	12

<b>H: Housing (H1 - H7)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>H1: Housing Vacancies</b>			
The average number of dwellings in local authority stock	2167	2148	2132
The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2167	2122	2012
The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	85	83	10
The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	78	54	66
The average number of empty dwellings available for letting	7	16	16
<b>H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available Dwellings</b>			
The average time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	21.3	21.3	18.22
The average time taken from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	2.9	2.91	2.14
<b>H3: Housing Repairs</b>			
The number of repairs completed	3331	2840	1198
The number of valid repair requests received	3366	3962	1757
<b>H4: Traveller Accommodation</b>			
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	120	110	
Number of Traveller families accommodated	12	11	5
Target number of Traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the local Traveller accommodation programme	10	10	10
<b>H5: Enforcement of standards in private rented sector</b>			
Total number of registered tenancies	3438	3068	3188
Number of dwelling units inspected	285	54	141
Number of inspections carried out	324	59	151
<b>H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability</b>			
A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application.	23	29.31	20.27
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaption grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application, to the date of decision on the application.	32	28.23	32.29

<b>H: Housing (H1 - H7)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses</b>			
Total number of new local authority tenants	104	99	89
Number of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	104	99	89

<b>L: Library Services (L1 - L4)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>L1: Library Public Opening Hours</b>			
Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	32.11	33.43	32.62
Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	21.31	21.66	19.5
Number of full-time libraries that have lunchtime openings	4	4	4
Number of full-time libraries that have evening openings	5	4	4
Number of full-time libraries that have Saturday openings	5	4	4
<b>L2: Library Visits</b>			
Total number of visits to full-time libraries	144800	154800	161800
<b>L3: Library Stock</b>			
Annual expenditure on stock	€56,322.45	€302,134.41	€54,738.48
Total number of books issued	262233	251246	288527
Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.76	2.75	
Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	.34	.31	
Total number of other items issued	29885	32110	29817
<b>L4: Internet Access through Libraries</b>			
Total number of Internet sessions provided	29552	23455	18233

<b>M: Motor Taxation (M1 - M4)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>M1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions</b>			
A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	59137	61801	65113
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	10976	12765	14063
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	46844	43330	VRU/LGCSB input
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	50.56%	5%	59%
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	9.38%	1%	14%

<b>M: Motor Taxation (M1 - M4)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>M2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications</b>			
A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the	6858	7088	5102
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application.	3758	4444	6928
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application.	157	660	1024
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application.	203	573	1009
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application.	62%	56%	36%
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application.	34%	35%	49%
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application.	1%	5%	7%
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application.	2%	4%	7%
<b>M3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications</b>			
A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	2032	1796	1589
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	4599	6458	2271
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1088	1656	1275
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	5600	2102	7603
E. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application.	15.26	13.80	12.47
F. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application.	34.53	49.63	17.83

<b>M: Motor Taxation (M1 - M4)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
G. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application.	8.17	20.41	10.01
H. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application.	42.05	16.15	59.69
<b>M4 Public opening hours</b>			
Average number of opening hours per week	34	34	34

<b>P: Planning and Building Control (P1 - P6)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>P.1 Planning Applications - Decision-Making</b>			
<b>Individual Houses</b>			
Number of applications decided	110	155	233
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	48	76	112
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	62	79	121
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	0	0	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	74	76	75
Number of applications granted	96	125	182
Number of applications refused	14	30	51
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Brd Pleanala	0	1	4
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Brd Pleanala	4	4	8
<b>New Housing Development</b>			
Number of applications decided	8	31	14
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	4	15	10
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	4	16	4
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	0	0	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78	80	79
Number of applications granted	5	21	5
Number of applications refused	3	10	9

<b>P: Planning and Building Control (P1 - P6)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Brd Pleanala	100	0	1
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Brd Pleanala	0	100	1
<b>Other: Not requiring EIA</b>			
Number of applications decided	401	420	481
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	266	305	347
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	135	115	134
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	0	0	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	78	75	76
Number of applications granted	376	377	440
Number of applications refused	25	43	41
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Brd Pleanala	8	16	13
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Brd Pleanala	2	2	9
<b>Other: Requiring EIA</b>			
Number of applications decided	9	5	5
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	9	6	3
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	3	3	2
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	0	0	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	99	89	104
Number of applications granted	6	7	5
Number of applications refused	0	2	0
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Brd Pleanala	0	1	3
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Brd Pleanala	0	0	0

<b>P: Planning and Building Control (P1 - P6)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>P.2 Planning Enforcement</b>			
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	159	161	246
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	10	10	4
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	188	192	158
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	92	124	153
E. Number enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	69	68	99
F. Number of prosecutions	7	10	9
<b>P.3 Planning Public Opening Hours</b>			
Average number of opening hours per week	33.52	33.25	33.52
<b>P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation</b>			
Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held			
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	620	663	667
B. Average length of time from request for consultation with the local authority to actual formal meeting for preplanning consultation	4.47	5.06	6.33
<b>P.5 New Buildings Inspected</b>			
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	220	114	304
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	45	23	48
<b>P.6 Taking Estates in Charge</b>			
Number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hand at the beginning of the year	51	43	37
Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	7	2	4
Total number of dwellings in these estates	245	31	86
Number of estates in Column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	40	33	27
Number of estates in Column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1	3	3

Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	4	1	0
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<b>Rec: Recreational Services (Rec1 - Rec2)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
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**Rec1: Children's Playgrounds**

Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority	16	16	16
Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority	4	4	4

**Rec2: Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities**

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities	445000	432380.00	384000.00
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<b>Rev: Revenue Collection (Rev1 - Rev5)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
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**Rev1 House Rent**

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	89	88	88
Percentage of Housing Rent arrears that are less than 4 weeks old	6.6	5.8	6
Percentage of Housing Rent arrears that are 4 weeks old or more, but less than 6 weeks old	5.5	5.2	6
Percentage of Housing Rent arrears that are 6 weeks old or more, but less than 12 weeks old	6.7	5.9	8
Percentage of Housing Rent arrears that are 12 weeks old or more	81.2	83.1	80

**Rev2 Housing Loans**

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	62.4	72.75	76
Percentage of Housing Loans arrears that are less than 1 month old	3.55	1.3	1
Percentage of Housing Loan arrears that are 1 month old or more, but less than 2 months old	2.23	5.3	5
Percentage of Housing Loan arrears that are 2 months old or more, but less than 3 months old	1.36	2.8	5
Percentage of Housing Loan arrears that are 3 months old or more	92.86	90.6	89

**Rev3 Commercial Rates**

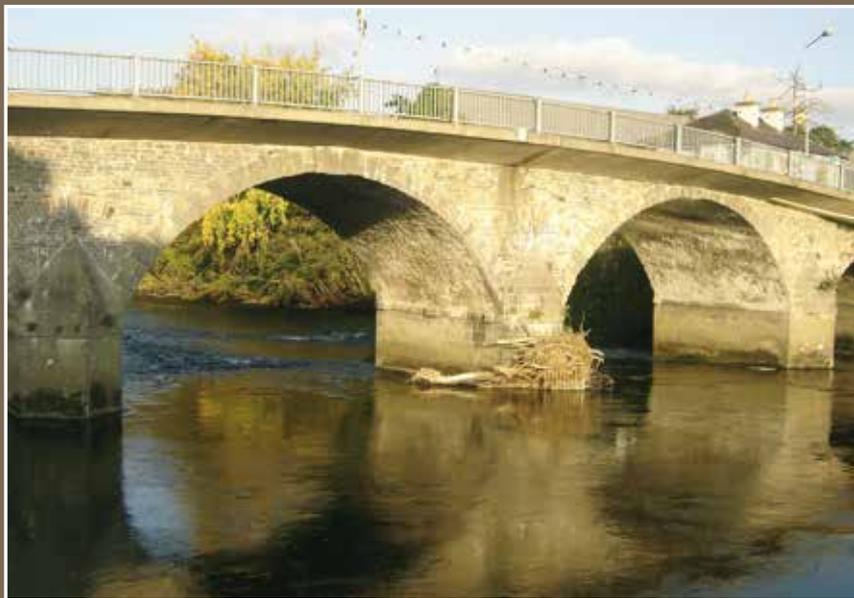
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial Rates	81	82	83
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<b>Rev4 Refuse Charges</b>			
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	100	100	100
<b>Rev5 Non-Domestic Water Charges</b>			
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	82	75	58
<b>R: Roads (R1)</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>R1: Road Restoration Programme</b>			
A. The Number of kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	127	162	114
B. The Number of kilometers of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvements grants scheme per annum	0	0	0



# Appendix 4

## Details of Conferences attended by Members



Date	2012 Conference Details & Cllr. Attendance	Location
20/01/2012	<b>How to Elect More Women</b> Catherine Connery	Dublin Castle
20-22/01/2012	<b>The Rise of the Creative Individual</b> Fidelis Doherty	Portlaoise
27-29/01/2012	<b>Understanding EU Funding</b> Maurice Shortall, Marie Fitzpatrick, Tommy Prendergast, Michael O'Brien	Roscarbery, West Cork
27-29/1/2012	<b>Local Government Seminar</b> John Brennan	Limerick
27-29/01/2012	<b>National Disability Strategy</b> Pat Dunphy	Westport, Co. Mayo
20/01/2012	<b>How to Elect More Women</b> Catherine Connery	Dublin Castle
27-29/01/2012	<b>Local Government Seminar for Cllrs</b> Fidelis Doherty	Limerick
09/02/2012	<b>National Business Conference - Opportunity for Growth</b> Fidelis Doherty	Waterford
10-11/2/2012	<b>AMAI Spring Seminar</b> Tom Maher, Tomas Breathnach	Cavan
10-11/2/2012	<b>1st Garrett Fitzgerald Spring School</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	St. Stephens Green, Dublin
17-19/02/2012	<b>Training Workshop for Cllrs</b> Catherine Connery, Anne Marie Irish	Westport, Co. Mayo
24-26/2/2012	<b>Mental Health &amp; Suicide Awareness</b> Pat Millea, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland	Dungarvan
24-26/2/2012	<b>2012 Budget Review of Allowances &amp; Benefits</b> Maurice Shortall, Marie Fitzpatrick	Rosscarbery, West Cork
23-26/2/2012	<b>21 Annual Kerry Environmental</b> John Coonan, Matt Doran, Cora Long, Eamon Aylward	Tralee
08/03/2012	<b>Tasc-Health Service Reform &amp; the Governments 1st Year</b> Maurice Shortall, Michael O'Brien	Croke Park
9-10/3/2012	<b>Guide to Septic Tank Systems</b> Matt Doran, Andrew McGuinness	Galway
23-25-3/2012	<b>Water Services Amendment Act 2012</b> Marie Fitzpatrick, Maurice Shortall, Tom Maher, Tommy Prendergast, Michael O'Brien	Westport
23-25/3/2012	<b>Amalgamations &amp; Reforms in Local Government</b> John Coonan, Pat Dunphy	Letterkenny
23-25/3/2012	<b>Effective Time &amp; Priority Management</b> Martin Brett, Billy Ireland, Jane Galway	Dundalk, Co. Louth
30-31/3/2012	<b>Personal Injuries, Manor West Hotel</b> Andrew McGuinness, Pat Millea, Eamon Aylward	Tralee
13-14/4/2012	<b>LAMA Spring Seminar, Tower Hotel</b> Fidelis Doherty, Catherine Connery, Marie Fitzpatrick, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland, Jane Moran, Pat Dunphy	Waterford

13-15/4/2012	<b>Modern Alternatives to the Disappearance of Fossil Fuels</b> Sean Treacy, Eamon Aylward, Patrick Crowley	Rosscarbery,
20-21/4/2012	<b>Finance Bill 2012</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh, John Coonan, Cora Long, Andrew McGuinness	Tralee, Co. Kerry
20/04/2012	<b>Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland</b> Pat Millea	Dundalk
21-22/4/2012	<b>Killarney National Conference 2012</b> Catherine Connery	Killarney
26-27/4/2012	<b>National Planning Conf.</b> Fidelis Doherty	Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel
30/04/2012	<b>Renewable Energy-Revitalising Ireland's Regions</b> Pat Millea, John Coonan, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland	Castlebar
9-11/5/2012	<b>2012 Mayors Conference of European City Against Drugs</b> Cora Long	Killarney
10-11/5/2012	<b>ACCC Annual Conference</b> Sean Treacy, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Catherine Connery, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland, Pat Dunphy, Fidelis Doherty	Kilkenny
11-13/5/2012	<b>Community Tourism</b> Marie Fitzpatrick, Maurice Shortall, Tommy Prendergast, Michael O'Brien	Rosscarbery,
25-27/5/2012	<b>West Cork Fusion</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
25-26/5/2012	<b>Reducing Irelands dependency on Fossil Fuels</b> Andrew McGuinness	Tralee
1-2/6/2012	<b>Draft Prg. Standards for domestic wastewater treatment systems</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness	Westport
8-9/6/2012	<b>The Councillor &amp; the Environment</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare
13/06/2012	<b>Convergence Ireland</b> Pat Millea	Dublin 4
15-17/6/2012	<b>How to Influence People</b> Pat Millea, Maurice Shortall, Marie Fitzpatrick, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland, Tommy Prendergast, Michael O'Brien	Westport
8-10/6/2012	<b>Planning Seminar</b> John Brennan	Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick
15-16/6/2012	<b>Getting to grips with the Nation's Debt</b> John Coonan, Matt Doran, Cora Long, Sean Treacy, Eamon Aylward	Galway
21-23/6/2012	<b>Carlow Tourism, Pride in Our County-Pride in Our Place</b> Pat Dunphy, John Brennan, Billy Ireland	Carlow
22-24/6/2012	<b>Advancing Technology in Majority World Technology</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Catherine Connery, Sean Treacy	Rosscarbery

29-30/6/2012	<b>Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2012</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh, John Coonan, Andrew McGuinness	Westport
10-13/7/2012	<b>4th International Percy French Summer School</b> Tommy Prendergast, Maurice Shortall, Marie Fitzpatrick, Michael O'Brien	Castlecoote, Roscommon
20-21/7/2012	<b>Local Media &amp; The Councillor</b> Maurice Shortall, Tom Maher	Skibbereen
20-21/7/2012	<b>Bullying &amp; Stress in the Workplace</b> Matt Doran	Killarney Rd. Tralee
20-22/7/12	<b>Mitchelstown Literary Society</b> Pat Millea	Mitchelstown
20-22/7/2012	<b>Mind Mapping &amp; Efficient Reading Techniques</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Rosscarbery
28/6-1/7/2012	<b>Synge Summer School - Irish Drama: Making it New</b> John Brennan	Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
13-14/7/2012	<b>Local Authority Housing</b> Sean Treacy	Merlin Park, Galway
30-31/7/2012	<b>Criminal Law for the Local Rep.</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Merlin Pk, Galway
3-4/8/2012	<b>Local Government Auditing</b> Matt Doran	Merlin Pk, Galway
10-12/8/2012	<b>Creating Employment Opportunities in Local Food Production,</b> Marie Fitzpatrick, Cora Long	Rosscarbery
12-17/8/2012	<b>Parnell Summer School</b> Jane Moran	Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
24-26/8/2012	<b>Utilising your Tax Entitlements &amp; Reliefs</b> Mary Hilda Cavanagh	Rosscarbery
31/08/2012	<b>Ireland Newfoundland Festival</b> Tomas Breathnach	Wexford
6-8/9/12	<b>Kennedy Summer School</b> Fidelis Doherty	New Ross
05/09/2012	<b>Social Media Seminar 2012</b> Pat Millea	Dundalk
7-9/9/2012	<b>Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend 2012</b> Michael O'Brien	Omagh
7-9/9/12	<b>Local Government Reform</b> Eamon Aylward	Rosscarbery
13-15/9/2012	<b>AMAI Centenary Annual Conference</b> Tomas Breathnach	Ballinasloe,
14-16/9/2012	<b>Communicating to Win</b> Jane Moran	Bunratty, Co. Clare
21-22/9/2012	<b>Revenue Collection &amp; Dealing with difficult debt</b> Catherine Connery, Andrew McGuinness	Tralee
28-29/9/2012	<b>LAMA Autumn Seminar</b> John Brennan, Catherine Connery, John Coonan, Martin Brett, Billy Ireland, Tom Maher, Eamon Aylward	Letterkenny

5-6/10/2012	<b>Protecting the public from dishonest trading</b> Sean Treacy, Eamon Aylward, Andrew McGuinness	Merlin Pk, Galway
5-6/10/2012	<b>Constitutional &amp; Political Reform &amp; the Cllr.</b> Tommy Prendergast, Fidelis Doherty	Bunclody
10-11/10/2012	<b>Irish Association of Suicidology, Learning to Listen</b> Tommy Prendergast	Carlow
10/10/2012	<b>National Disability Authority</b> Pat Millea	Croke Park, Dublin
12/10/2012	<b>NFLA Autumn Seminar</b> Pat Millea	Downpatrick, Co. Down
12-14/10/2012	<b>Michael Collins &amp; the creation of Irish Democracy</b> Catherine Connery, Patrick Crowley	Rosscarbery
15/10/2012	<b>3rd National Jobs Conference</b> Fidelis Doherty	Dunhill, Co. Waterford
16/10/2012	<b>Maximising the use of rural resources</b> Pat Millea	Enfield, Co. Meath
19-21/10/2012	<b>Reform of Local Government II</b> Maurice Shortall, Tommy Prendergast	Bunratty Castle,
19-21/10/2012	<b>Valuation 'Amendment' Bill 2012</b> Pat Dunphy	Glaslough
26-27/10/2012	<b>Amendments to Social Welfare Acts 2012</b> Matt Doran	Merlin Park, Galway
2-3/11/2012	<b>Debt Settlement</b> Matt Doran, Pat Dunphy	Tralee, Co. Kerry
7-8/12/2012	<b>Rights of Way, Recent changes in the Law</b> Pat Millea, Cora Long	Merlin Pk, Galway
14-16/12/2012	<b>Maximising Energy Efficiency in the Local Authority</b> John Coonan, Marie Fitzpatrick, Cora Long, Pat Dunphy	Galway
16-18/11/2012	<b>LEADER Funding and the Councillor</b> Maurice Shortall	Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare
16/11/2012	<b>Association of Irish Regions</b> Fidelis Doherty, Marie Fitzpatrick	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
16-18/11/2012	<b>LEADER Funding and the Councillor</b> Tommy Prendergast, Michael O'Brien	Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare
30/11-1/12/2012	<b>Local Government Budget 2013</b> John Brennan, Tommy Prendergast, Fidelis Doherty	Bunclody, Co. Wexford
30/11-2/12/2012	<b>Is a Century of Municipal Local Govt Service to be Abolished</b> Matt Doran	Co. Meath
30/11-1/12/2012	<b>Promoting Justice through better Consultation &amp; Cooperation in Local Government</b> Cora Long	Tralee
14-15/12/2012	<b>Health &amp; Safety &amp; the Cllr.</b> John Brennan	Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel
14-16/12/2012	<b>Budget 2013</b> Tom Maher	Rosscarbery
10 -11/2/2012	<b>AMAI Spring Seminar</b> Seán Ó hArgáin	Kilmore Hotel, Cavan.

<b>16 - 17/2/12</b>	<b>Mid West Regional Authority Annual Conference 2012</b> Seán Ó hArgáin	<b>Ennistymon, Co. Clare</b>
<b>6 - 7/2/12</b>	<b>Energy Action Fuel Poverty Conference 2012</b> Malcolm Noonan	<b>Dublin Castle</b>
<b>19 - 21/7/12</b>	<b>Trevor Bowen Literary Conference</b> John Coonan	<b>Mitchelstown Co. Cork</b>
<b>28 - 29/8/12</b>	<b>LAMA Autumn Seminar</b> Jimmy Leahy	<b>Letterkenny, Co. Donegal</b>
<b>13 - 15/8/12</b>	<b>AMAI Centenary Annual Conference</b> David FitzGerald	<b>Ballinasloe Co. Galway</b>