

Invitation for Expression of Interest to provide Management Services for Community Centre at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny City.

Closing Date Extended to Friday 28th February, 2025

Kilkenny County Council is seeking expressions of interest from community groups and organisations to manage and operate the Community Centre at Crokers Hill for a period of 5 years.

Kilkenny County Council would like to hear from organisations or groups who are interested in taking over the management and running of the community centre for a period of 5 years. The Community Centre is located on the Kennyswell Road on the outskirts of Kilkenny City and forms part of the new housing development at Crokers Hill where the Council will be providing 88 social housing units.

The premises is spread over two storeys, comprised of a number of meeting rooms of varying sizes, offices, storage space and kitchenette with a total area of 313 sq. m. More detailed plans can be made available and viewing is advised prior to any expressions of interest to ensure a full understanding of the building is in place.

It is proposed that the prospective organisation will manage the premises for an initial 5-year period, with an annual review.

This is an opportunity for a community group/organisation to acquire office space for their own use whilst managing the building.

Requirements will include the following: -

- Manage each element of the Facility in an effective and professional manner ensuring a standard of excellence is provided to ensure the development of a full range of activities to be used solely for community and youth services related activities and for the benefit to the general public.
- Under the direction of Kilkenny County Council, actively promote, encourage, and market the optimum use of the Facility.
- To manage and develop the building as a community focused centre available for a range of community activities / events / supports and ensure that it becomes a community centre available for hire for Crokers Hill residents, local community groups, support services and the general public
- To ensure that the building is available to facilitate community building for the new residents of Crokers Hill estate and to assist with the integration of the new residents into the local community
- To support the delivery of support services to the residents of Crokers Hill, particularly those with disabilities and complex needs.
- To ensure the facility is adequately resourced in terms of having an experienced management structure in place as well as having a clear financial plan.
- To complement the Council in meeting its Corporate and Community Plan objectives.
- Provision of an occasional office and meeting facility for Kilkenny County Council Housing Team and / or any third parties appointed to manage the maintenance of the estate.

Organisations interested in leasing the community centre are asked to submit an Expression of Interest. This opportunity is open to voluntary, community, charities and social enterprise organisations which are suitably qualified and meet the criteria set out in this expression of interest.

The successful organisation/group should also have: - a track record of community engagement and an understanding of what is required to successfully manage a community building, experience and expertise of financial planning and control, and a track record of fundraising.

For more information on how to apply and submit an expression of interest please see Information Booklet on www.kilkennycoco.ie AND Contact: Cora Nolan at Email: cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie Tel: (056) 7794931. Viewing recommended and by appointment only. Closing date for submissions of Expression of Interest is Friday, 28th February, 2025.