

# **Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Arts, Heritage and Libraries 2018–2022**



## **Appendices**



# Appendices

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# Appendix A

## Timeline for Preparation of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy

### Timeline for Preparation of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy

This timeline shows the key drivers and steps in the preparation of the Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 by the Cultural Services Section of Kilkenny County Council.

October 2015	Establishment of Cultural Services Section by Director of Services (Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture)
27th January 2016	Presentation to Strategic Policy Committee 3 (Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture) regarding establishment of the Cultural Services Section
July 2016	Publication of Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach (A Framework Policy to 2025) by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs requesting a collaborative approach to cultural services delivery
20th January 2017	Correspondence from Minister of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs requesting establishment of Local Authority cultural teams and adoption of Creative Ireland programme
24th February 2017	Invitation from Cultural Services Section from suitably qualified consultants for quotes to help with the preparation of 5 Year County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy
March 2017	Creative Ireland requests Local Authorities to prepare a 5 year County Kilkenny Culture and Creativity Strategy
12th April 2017	Presentation to Strategic Policy Committee 3 (Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture) on the process for preparation of County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy
20th April 2017	Appointment of M.CO to work with the Cultural Services Section to facilitate the preparation of the County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy
27th April 2017	Public consultation meeting on Kilkenny's Creative Ireland Programme
2nd May 2017	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Stakeholder meeting, Kilkenny
26th May 2017	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Stakeholder consultation workshop (including Kilkenny Heritage Forum)
5th-26th June 2017	Online public consultation survey on County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy
14th June 2017	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Public consultation meeting, Ferrybank Library
21st June 2017	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Public consultation meeting, Kilkenny City
21st June 2017	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy Public consultation meeting, Castlecomer Library
9th October 2017	Meeting of the Kilkenny Heritage Forum regarding the County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy
11th April 2018	Presentation to Strategic Policy Committee 3 (Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture)
21st May 2018	Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy (Arts, Heritage, Libraries) 2018 -2022 adopted by Kilkenny County Council
July 2017	Appropriate Assessment of Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy (Arts, Heritage, Libraries) 2018—2022 completed



# Appendix B

## Stakeholder Workshop Output

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### Kilkenny Cultural Strategy

#### Facilitator's Summary of Workshop Outputs

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June 2017



Connected Thought.  
Creative Action.



Arts Office  
Kilkenny County Council



Kilkenny County Library Service

## INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Services Section of Kilkenny County Council convened a stakeholder workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to gather insights for the development of an Integrated Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny, setting out a vision for the next 5 years and identifying strategic actions for Heritage, Arts and Libraries Services.

The workshop was attended by 28 participants – bringing together diverse expertise from people involved directly or indirectly in shaping the intrinsic culture and the cultural services on offer across County Kilkenny.

The workshop was facilitated by MCO and this document is the facilitator's summary of conversations and synthesis of worksheets completed by the participants, who worked in teams on the day. The purpose of this document is to share the insights and ideas captured on the day for feedback.

## WORKSHOP PURPOSE



- To co-create a shared vision for the future of cultural services in County Kilkenny.
- To gather input from stakeholders to better understand our users, our current strengths and our potential opportunities.
- To understand what is needed to enable success.



## WORKSHOP FLOW



- Identify strategic themes
- Prioritise key strategic themes
- **Future Vision: Big Ideas**



- Understand the end users
- Identify cultural touchpoints
- Identify opportunities and gaps
- **Discovering Personas: User Insight**

## PART 1

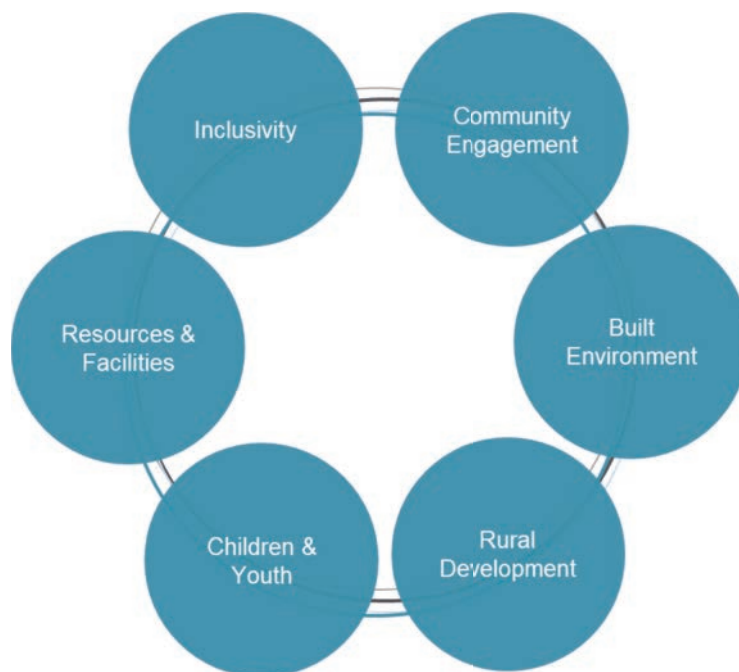






## EXTRACTING THE BIG IDEAS

Reflecting on the common themes emerging, participants collectively prioritised six **big ideas** to shape the development of the Integrated Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny.



## EXPLORING POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

	Resources & Facilities	Community Engagement	Inclusivity	Children & Youth	Rural Development	Built Environment
	Support the use of existing community spaces as a resource for cultural activities.	<p>"Then and now" visual Kilkenny archive.</p> <p>Linking more with festivals.</p> <p>Tapping into existing interests, e.g. Abbey Quarter open day.</p> <p>Information sharing with elected representatives.</p>	<p>Increase inclusion of minority groups.</p> <p>Create stronger links with tourism industry.</p>	<p>Children's "passport" for experiencing natural and built culture.</p> <p>Expand cultural element of Kilkenny Kids.</p>	<p>National Rural Development Strategy opportunity &amp; funding.</p> <p>Create stronger links with tourism industry.</p>	<p>Re-use / re-discovery project for existing buildings owned by Kilkenny County Council.</p> <p>Opening brownfield sites.</p> <p>Include training elements in redevelopments (conservation).</p> <p>Linking with third-level colleges.</p> <p>Further development of merchant housing.</p>
Shared Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Creating knowledge and awareness of what already exists, e.g. through an integrated database and interactive map of cultural services and networks.</li> <li>➤ Connecting and supporting networks between individuals, groups and organisations involved in culture, e.g. through platform, Creative Ireland planning, etc.</li> <li>➤ Enabling partnerships between cultural services, to strengthen connections between practitioners and to create joined-up offerings for users.</li> <li>➤ Tapping into the interest and resources of the diaspora.</li> </ul>					



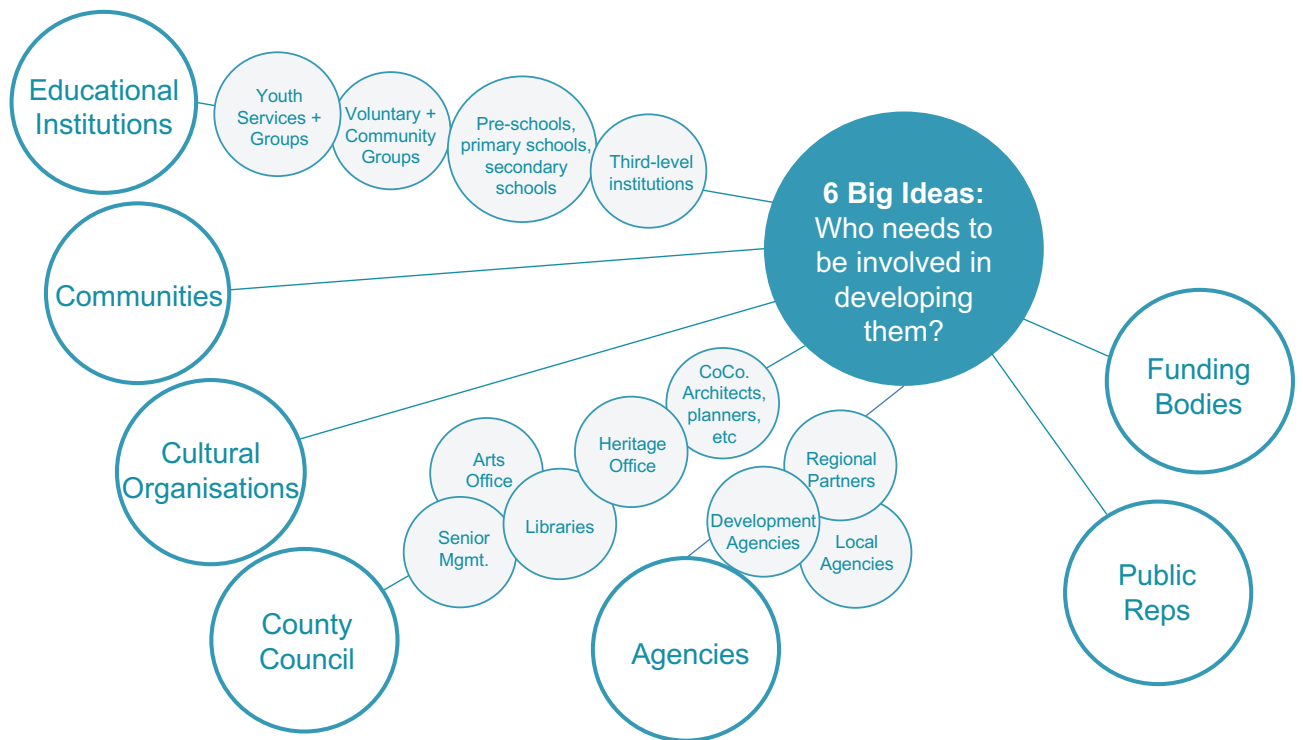
## HARNESSING OUR STRENGTHS

	Resources & Facilities	Community Engagement	Inclusivity	Children & Youth	Rural Development	Built Environment
	<p>Community spaces with potential to use more for cultural purposes.</p> <p>Strong infrastructure and knowledge for music, theatre and festivals.</p> <p>Data research.</p>	<p>Change in national policy to work with local authorities.</p> <p>Community engagement is a part of public policy – need to build on this.</p> <p>Council – support of elected representatives.</p>	<p>Community engagement is a part of public policy – need to build on this.</p>	<p>Existing programmes – libraries initiatives, artist in residence programme for primary schools, teacher courses with artists, outdoors and forest programme, etc.</p> <p>Existing groups / institutions – Barnstorm, Butler Gallery education programmes, DCCol child-friendly exhibitions, County Childhood Committee, KAF youth, children and family pillar, Education Centre, young filmmakers, etc.</p> <p>Kilkenny Kids publication.</p>	<p>LEADER programme &amp; local development strategy linked.</p> <p>Geographically spread network of libraries.</p>	<p>Living City Initiative.</p>
Shared Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Deep cultural appetite, pride and awareness, including appreciation of the intrinsic value of culture.</li> <li>➤ Strong and diverse natural environment and built heritage.</li> <li>➤ Committed and collaborative ecosystem of individuals, groups and networks.</li> <li>➤ “Brand Kilkenny” – well-established reputation as destination for culture, in particular craft.</li> <li>➤ Integrated approach to planning Heritage, Arts and Libraries services – joined up thinking and doing.</li> <li>➤ Momentum of the Creative Ireland five-year initiative.</li> <li>➤ Track record of success and learnings (including Kilkenny Design Workshops, led by Irish Export Board in 1960s).</li> </ul>					

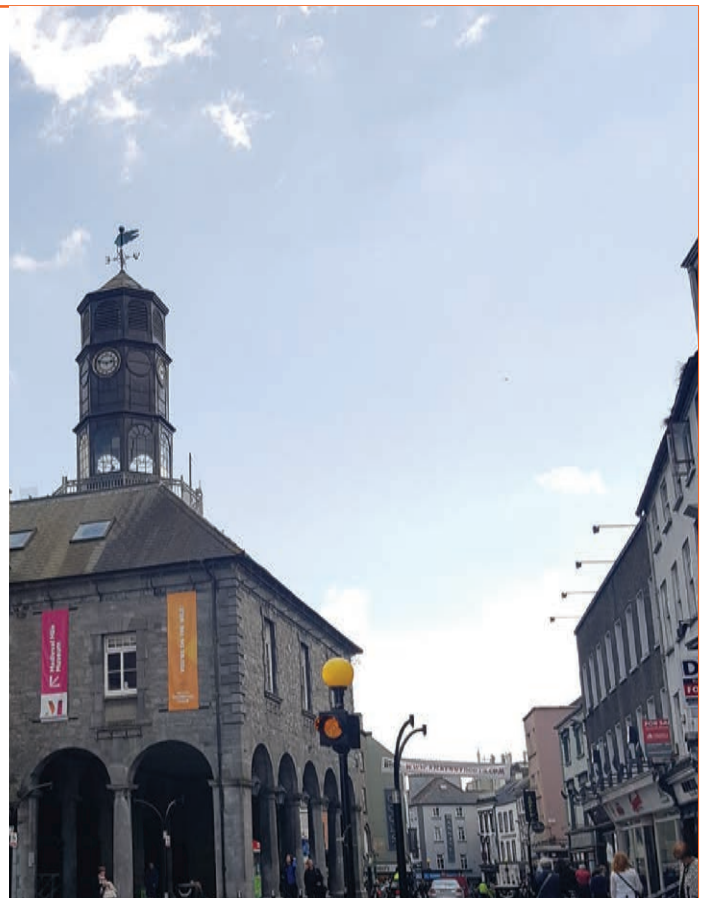
## UNDERSTANDING OUR CHALLENGES

	Resources & Facilities	Community Engagement	Inclusivity	Children & Youth	Rural Development	Built Environment
	<p>Knowledge regarding planning, conservation and grants.</p> <p>Converting existing assets into actual offerings that engage users.</p>	<p>Elected representative agenda.</p>	<p>Diversity and age range of population across County Kilkenny.</p>	<p>Maintaining engagement with young people through their various life stages.</p>	<p>Need to improve rural transport options to support access to cultural activities.</p> <p>Challenge of cross-border working.</p> <p>Keeping the heart of the villages across County Kilkenny.</p>	<p>Balancing contemporary design with best practice – no pastiche.</p> <p>Ensuring an appropriate balance of focus in development of urban and rural environments.</p>
Shared Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Challenges associated with funding, capacity and skills required.</li> <li>➤ Large rural population and wide geographic spread, causing difficulties with accessibility of cultural services and a fair distribution of resources and facilities.</li> <li>➤ Lack of transport options connecting cultural services and destinations, resulting in limited accessibility.</li> <li>➤ Silos of information on what cultural services and networks exist and how to access them. Limited communication with the public.</li> <li>➤ Challenges associated with dealing with multiple agencies and stakeholders.</li> <li>➤ Need to measure and evaluate culture (e.g. in economic terms, in health and well being terms, etc.).</li> </ul>					

## IDENTIFYING WHO'S INVOLVED



## PART 2



# DISCOVERING PERSONAS

We considered six **key user personas**, mapping out how they currently engage with culture and potential opportunities for them to engage further. We considered diverse age groups, rural and urban settings, and different interests.



# DISCOVERING PERSONAS

## Exploring how our users **currently** interact with cultural services

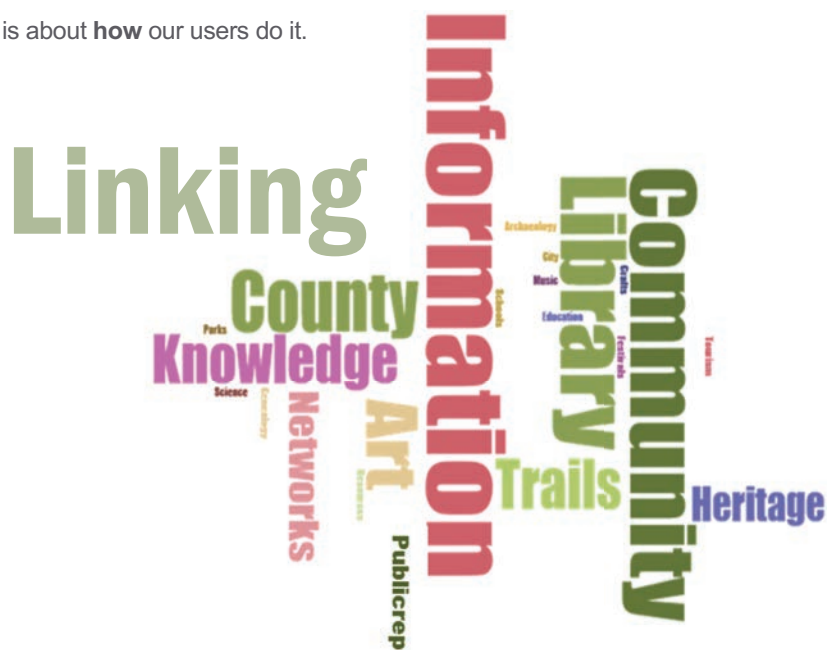
The present is about **what** our users do.



## DISCOVERING PERSONAS

Exploring **opportunities** to improve cultural services for our users

The future is about **how** our users do it.



## DISCOVERING PERSONAS

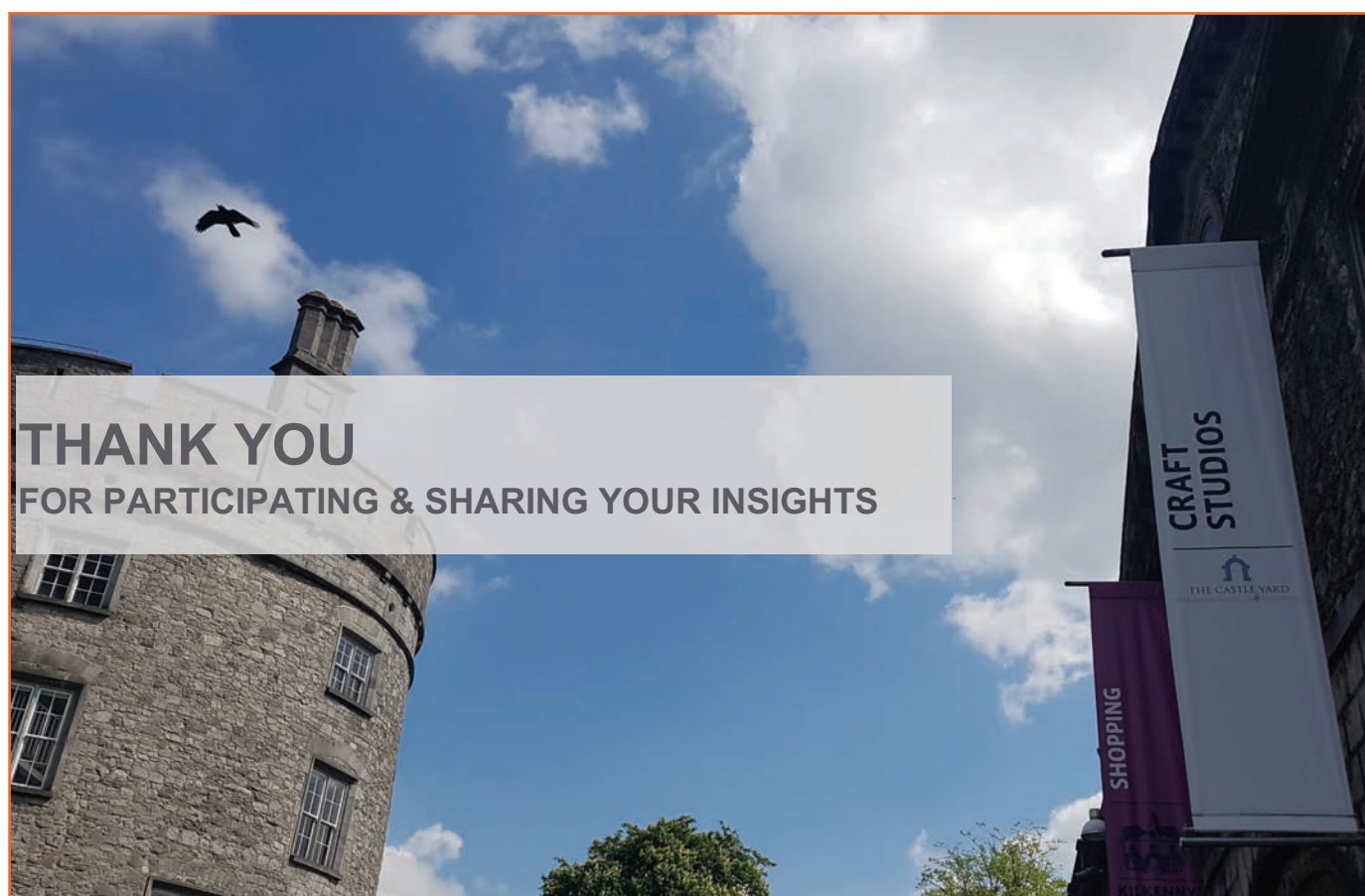
Exploring **opportunities** to improve cultural services for our users

<b>Information &amp; Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve availability and accessibility of information on cultural services.</li> <li>- Website mapping cultural destinations.</li> <li>- "What's happening" page online.</li> <li>- Link with local businesses / organisations to distribute information.</li> </ul>
<b>Structured Participation Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structured arts and crafts programmes for children.</li> <li>- Structured science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEAM) events and facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tap into networks of teachers and principals.</li> <li>- Promote a list of targeted speakers in schools.</li> <li>- Explore learning from / rolling out school-led initiatives / programmes (e.g. CBS TY archaeology course).</li> <li>- Explore the opportunity to increase linkages with the education sector and to create links with the curriculum.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tap into active community groups (e.g. retirement communities).</li> </ul>
<b>Libraries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilising parents to access libraries more frequently.</li> <li>- Cultural activities that support mental health / mindfulness in libraries.</li> <li>- Storytime in libraries for children to increase stay time.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge &amp; Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tap into the cultural knowledge and skills base of older people.</li> </ul>

## DISCOVERING PERSONAS

Exploring **opportunities** to improve cultural services for our users

<b>Connected Offerings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enable local cultural networks between practitioners, SMEs, etc. – e.g. facilitate networking, provide online platform.</li> <li>- Enable local / speciality trails to connect practitioners / SMEs and promote collective visibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Links to Supports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect cultural practitioners / SMEs with LEO for enterprise supports.</li> <li>- Connect cultural practitioners / SMEs to Work Matters and other library resources for enterprise supports.</li> <li>- Connect cultural practitioners / SMEs with Kilkenny Tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural &amp; Outdoors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase cultural signage / information in public outdoor areas.</li> <li>- Use signage / information to maximise common walking routes, commuting routes, public gathering areas and cultural interest points.</li> <li>- Create a trail around the Kilkenny City walls (e.g. CBS).</li> <li>- Create a trail exploring Kilkenny City laneways.</li> <li>- Create a trail for the River Nore and promote exploration.</li> <li>- Introduce more linear parks to promote natural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>Authentic Experiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote Kilkenny as a brand.</li> <li>- Explore genealogy as an authentic tourism experience.</li> </ul>





# Appendix C

## Public Consultation Output

### Kilkenny Cultural Strategy

Public Consultation  
Emerging Findings

July 2017



Connected Thought.  
Creative Action.



Arts Office  
Kilkenny County Council



Kilkenny County Library Service

## Introduction

Formed in Oct 2015 the **Cultural Services Section** of Kilkenny County Council brings together Arts, Heritage and Libraries to facilitate a strategic cultural service.

The Cultural Services Section commissioned MCO for the development of an **Integrated Cultural Strategy** for County Kilkenny in April 2017. The Cultural Strategy will set out a shared vision for Arts, Heritage and Libraries for the next five years and identify both shared and distinct priority actions.

As part of the development of the Cultural Strategy, a **stakeholder workshop** was convened in May 2017. This generated initial insights from a diverse group of people involved directly or indirectly in shaping the intrinsic culture and the cultural services on offer across County Kilkenny.

Building on this, a wider **public consultation process** was conducted during June 2017 to gather user insights and generate ideas for the future of Arts, Heritage and Libraries in County Kilkenny. This consisted of a series of pop-up events and a public survey. The public consultation was publicised widely by Arts, Heritage and Libraries through local media, social media and existing internal databases.

**119 people** participated in the public consultation process, marking considerable public interest in the development of an Integrated Cultural Strategy and its potential impact.

The **purpose** of this document is to provide a synthesis of the insights generated from this process.



## POP UP EVENTS EMERGING INSIGHTS & CONSIDERATIONS



## Pop Up Overview

As part of the development of an Integrated Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny, a series of **pop-up events** was conducted. The pop-up events provided an opportunity for interested members of the public to contribute ideas to the development of the Cultural Strategy. These two hour events took place in three representative locations – Ferrybank (14<sup>th</sup> June), Castlecomer (21<sup>st</sup> June) and Kilkenny City (21<sup>st</sup> June) – and attracted 41 participants.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT... CULTURE IN COUNTY KILKENNY**

The Cultural Services Section (Heritage, Arts and Libraries) of Kilkenny County Council are creating a Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny. As part of this we want to understand and hear your thoughts. We would love you to pop-in to see us and share your ideas at one of our three drop-in events (see below).

**WHO SHOULD GET INVOLVED....**

Anyone living, working or connected to County Kilkenny, who is interested in our arts, heritage and libraries and who would like to be part of its cultural future

**Drop in Events**

Meet and chat with us at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time
Ferrybank Library	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	5pm - 7pm
Kilkenny City Rivercourt Hotel	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Castlecomer Castlecomer Library	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017	5pm - 7pm

If you can't join us to chat why not complete our on-line survey:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/kilkennyCS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/kilkennyCS)  
 Survey open 1<sup>st</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**EMAIL**  
 Message us at [kilkenny@mcc.ie](mailto:kilkenny@mcc.ie)

**Who Are We**

Formed in Oct 2015 the Cultural Services Section of Kilkenny County Council brings together Arts, Heritage and Libraries to facilitate a strategic cultural service to Kilkenny County Council.

**Our Mission**  
 'Creating and sustaining great places and communities'.

**Our Services**

- Play a vital role in the life of individuals and community
- Act as custodians of national and local culture
- Support arts, heritage, conservation and libraries.

**Our Goals are to...**

- ...ensure that culture thrives
- ...ensure that culture is celebrated and valued
- ...ensure as many people as possible experience the richness and diversity of culture
- ...ensure Cultural Services are integral to the work of Kilkenny County Council

**Developing a Cultural Strategy**

The Cultural Services Section (Heritage, Arts and Libraries) of Kilkenny County Council are creating a Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny. As part of this we want to understand and hear your thoughts. **Thank you for getting involved!**

**Posters**

- Add your thoughts using post-its and stickers to our interactive posters.
- Have your say about our strategic direction.
- What can we do better.
- Map your cultural life in Kilkenny County.

**Survey**

- Complete our survey.
- Tell us how you engage in culture.
- What do you love most.

**Let's Talk**

- Talk to the Cultural Services team and facilitators.
- Hear what we're doing.
- Tell us what culture means to you.
- Tell us your ideas for the future.

## Pop Up Analysis

As part of the pop-up events, participants were asked to share their views on **what culture means** to them. The responses revealed varied and personal interpretations.

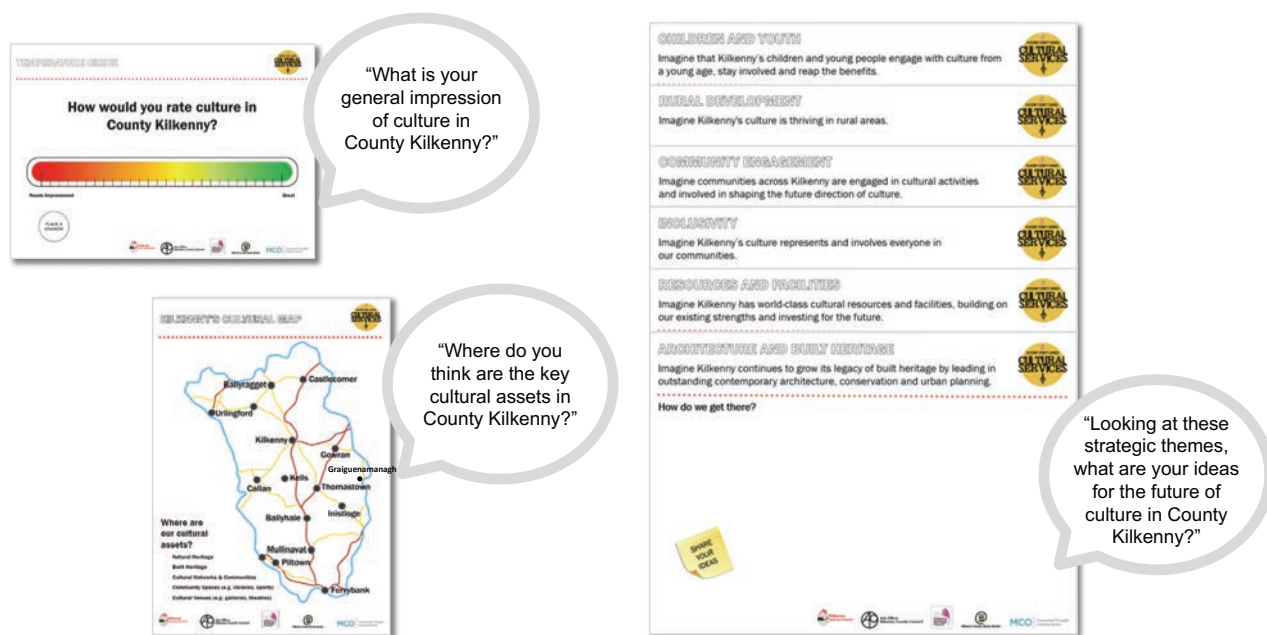
"What does culture mean to you?"

*"Culture is often confused solely as a high brow curiosity. Culture is how we speak, pray, imbibe, eat, play..."*

Survey Respondent

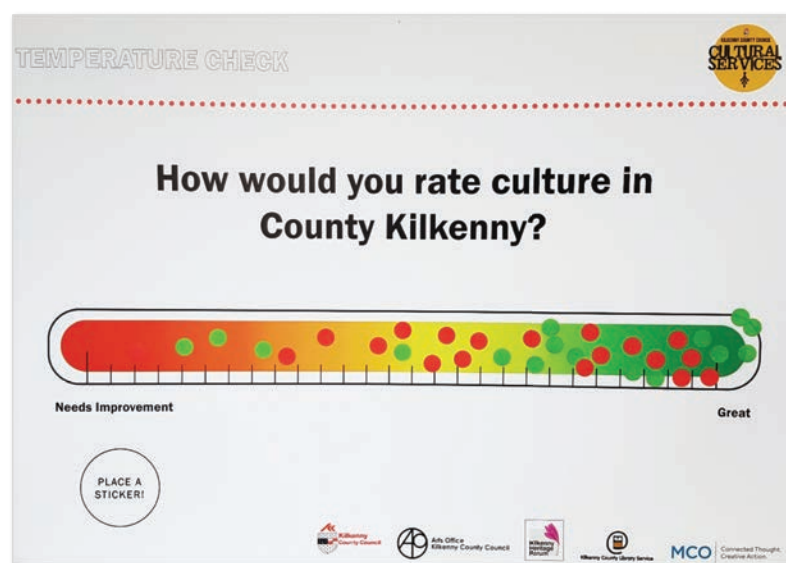
## Pop Up Overview

During the pop-up events, participants were invited to add their thoughts to a range of **interactive posters**. These looked at their general assessment of culture in County Kilkenny, their knowledge of cultural assets in County Kilkenny, and their ideas for the future in relation to six initial strategic themes identified during the previous stakeholder workshop, held in May 2017.



## Pop Up Analysis

As part of the pop-up events, participants were invited to share their **impressions of culture** in County Kilkenny. This exercise revealed a generally positive attitude towards culture in County Kilkenny, with some acknowledgement that there is room for improvement.



Please note the sticker colours are of no relevance.

## Pop Up Analysis

As part of the pop-up events, participants were invited to map the **cultural assets** in County Kilkenny. This exercise uncovered a balance of cultural assets across Kilkenny City and other regional towns. It also identified a balance in the types of cultural assets available, with Cultural Venues emerging as the most frequently identified by a narrow margin.



## Pop Up Analysis

The pop-up events generated **324 ideas** for actions supporting six initial strategic themes identified in the earlier stakeholder workshop in May 2017 – Children and Youth, Rural Development, Community Engagement, Inclusivity, Resources and Facilities, Architecture and Built Heritage.





## Pop Up Analysis

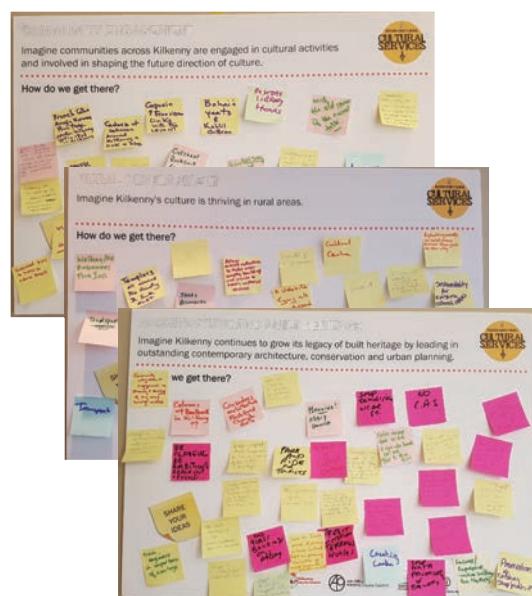
The pop-up events generated **324 ideas** for actions supporting six initial strategic themes identified in the earlier stakeholder workshop in May 2017 – Children and Youth, Rural Development, Community Engagement, Inclusivity, Resources and Facilities, Architecture and Built Heritage.



## Emerging Thoughts

The pop-up events informed the following initial observations.

- The public is generally positive about culture in County Kilkenny – its current state and its future potential.
- There is a good knowledge of a breadth of cultural assets across County Kilkenny. The public identified a range of cultural assets across urban and rural settings with which they engage.
- The public generated a large number of ideas for action, which will feed into the priority actions in the Integrated Cultural Strategy. There was a good spread of ideas across the six initial strategic themes presented to them, reinforcing the relevance of these themes to the future direction of culture in County Kilkenny.



# PUBLIC SURVEY

## EMERGING INSIGHTS & CONSIDERATIONS

### Public Survey Overview

As part of the public consultation process a **survey** was available online from 5<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. 78 responses were collected and analysed. The sample of survey respondents was as follows.

- A similar proportion of respondents lived in Kilkenny City (45%) and Kilkenny County (43%), with the remainder living elsewhere.
- A majority of respondents worked in Kilkenny City (49%). Roughly one quarter of respondents worked either in Kilkenny County (26%) or elsewhere (26%).
- 54% of respondents were directly involved in cultural activities:
  - Some respondents were associated with organisations including: An Taisce, Alternative Kilkenny Arts (AKA) Fringe Festival, Barnstorm Theatre Company, Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, Devious Theatre, Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation, Kilkenny Archaeology Society, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent, Open Circle Arts, Rothe House, Tidy Towns, Watergate Theatre and Young Irish Film Makers.
  - Other respondents were also involved as practitioners, coordinators or participants in: community projects, creative workshops, cultural programming, drama and theatre, film and TV, fine art, heritage groups, historical societies, Irish language circles, knitting groups, libraries, music and singing, play and music education, print studios, tourism and venue management.
- 41% of respondents were not involved in cultural activities as a job or in a volunteer capacity. 5% did not provide a response to this question.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT... CULTURE IN KILKENNY COUNTY**

7. Which of the following cultural activities do you regularly engage in?

Activity	Tick	Please detail where/ which
Nature		
Galleries		
Heritage sites		
Libraries		
Museums		
Festivals		
Music Venues		
Sports grounds		
Theatre		
Trails		
Arts activities/ projects		
Heritage activities/ projects		
Cultural Groups		
Societies		
Other		

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT... CULTURE IN KILKENNY COUNTY**

1. What is the best thing about culture in County Kilkenny?

2. What makes County Kilkenny culturally distinctive from other places in Ireland?

3. What would you recommend a visitor to do for a cultural day out in County Kilkenny?

4. What do you feel are the most important issues in relation to Culture in County Kilkenny?

5. How often do you engage in cultural activities?

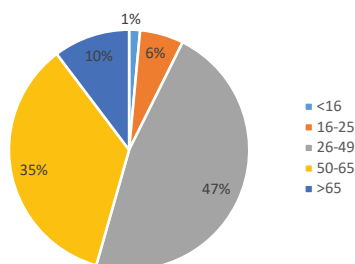
Frequency	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
As a job?				
In Kilkenny?				
In rest of Ireland?				

6. Are there any elements of County Kilkenny's culture you think are under represented?

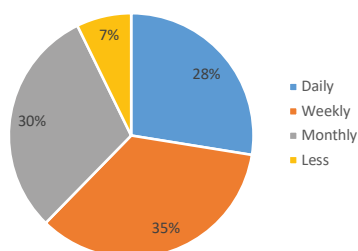
## Public Survey Overview

- The sample of respondents over-represented the age categories 26-49 and 50-65 years and under-represented the age categories of <16, 16-25 and >65 years, relative to Kilkenny's population age profile (CSO, 2016).
- Generally, respondents engaged with culture regularly, with 63% participating in cultural activities at least weekly (63%).
- Over two-thirds of participants (67%) engaged with culture most often in Kilkenny, with the remainder more often travelling outside of the county for culture.

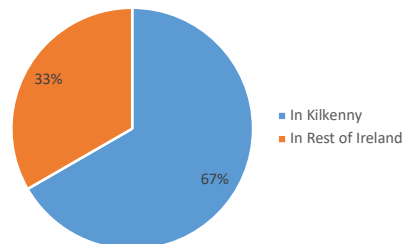
Q.1 What is your age group?



Q.5 How frequently do you engage in cultural activities?



Q.6 Where do you most often engage in cultural activities?



## Survey Analysis

### Identifying County Kilkenny's Cultural Strengths

The survey analysis identified the main strength of County Kilkenny's culture as the **variety** of cultural activities and initiatives on offer, which meet the needs and interests of a diverse range of people. In particular, respondents noted the importance of County Kilkenny's wide-ranging **festivals** and **events** in contributing to its multi-faceted and year-round cultural offering.

Another strength highlighted by respondents was County Kilkenny's **built heritage**, in particular the preservation of historic buildings and the presence of unique and iconic visitor attractions.

**Ease of access** was identified as a strength by respondents. However, this focused on the small scale of Kilkenny City and the density of cultural attractions within easy walking distance.

Q.1 What is the best thing about culture in Kilkenny?



"Our audiences who have a hunger for art and culture."

"It attracts a wide audience as it is a multifaceted asset that stimulates and addresses a huge range of interests."

"A great variety of natural heritage, built heritage and creative arts are on display."



## Survey Analysis

### Understanding what makes County Kilkenny's Culture Unique

The unique strength most often associated with County Kilkenny's culture was identified as the rich **Medieval history** and the well-preserved Medieval buildings, in particular in Kilkenny City.

County Kilkenny's well-established **festivals** and its impressive variety of cultural initiatives, activities and amenities were also identified as distinctive strengths of its culture.

Respondents highlighted the long-established, talented and collaborative network of **practitioners** as a distinctive strength of County Kilkenny's culture. In particular, they noted the long history of creative practitioners living in County Kilkenny, the presence of agencies and engaged societies, and the collaborative nature of the community of practitioners.

Respondents also highlighted County Kilkenny's **communities** and people as a unique strength of its culture, due to the recognition of the inherent value of culture, the willingness to be involved and the appreciation of cultural amenities and activities available.

"Medieval heritage and contemporary living brought together."

"The grassroots efforts of artists, makers, promoters and curators that allows the county to punch well above its weight."

Q.2 What makes culture in Kilkenny distinctive?



## Survey Analysis

### Mapping Kilkenny's Cultural Offering

Q.3 What would you recommend a visitor to do for a cultural day out in County Kilkenny?



Respondents identified a wide selection of cultural experiences.

## Survey Analysis

## Mapping Kilkenny's Cultural Offering

Analysing responses in more detail, a number of categories of cultural experiences emerged.

- Built Heritage (96 responses)
- Towns & Villages (29 responses)
- Recreation (29 responses)
- Tours & Trails (21 responses)
- Natural Heritage (21 responses)
- Creative Arts (20 responses)
- Performance & Events (12 responses)



## Survey Analysis

## Understanding Concerns

Respondents raised concerns about supporting culture in Kilkenny's **rural** areas. In particular, respondents noted that Kilkenny's rural areas should benefit equally from investment and economic development relating to culture, that their communities should be equally engaged, and that there is better awareness of their cultural richness.

*Q.4 What do you feel are the most important issues in relation to culture in County Kilkenny?*





## Survey Analysis

### Understanding Concerns

There were distinct differences in concerns identified by people depending on whether or not they identified as being involved in culture as their job or in a volunteer capacity.

Those formally involved in culture were primarily concerned with accessibility and inclusivity, and funding and infrastructure. Regarding **accessibility and inclusion**, respondents were particularly concerned with dispelling misconceptions that culture is elitist, embracing multiculturalism and meeting the needs of children and older people. Regarding **funding and infrastructure**, the main focus was on more funding for creative practitioners, consistent funding for initiatives and investment in more creative studios and spaces.

Those not involved in culture as their job or as a volunteer were primarily concerned with better **promoting** Kilkenny's culture and marketing its cultural attractions in an **integrated** way. Respondents also called for better **information** on what already exists, to support people in accessing culture and to better leverage Kilkenny's breadth of cultural amenities.

*Respondents involved in culture as job / volunteer*



*Respondents not involved in culture as job / volunteer*



## Survey Analysis

### Identifying Potential Opportunities

Respondents identified several important elements of Kilkenny's culture that they perceived to be under represented, which will be further explored as potential opportunities. The most prominent ideas focused on Kilkenny's **rural areas**, discovering Kilkenny's **customs, storytelling and folklore**, building on Kilkenny's success in **theatre** and supporting Kilkenny's **Irish language** customs.

*Q.7 Are there any elements of County Kilkenny's culture you think are under represented?*



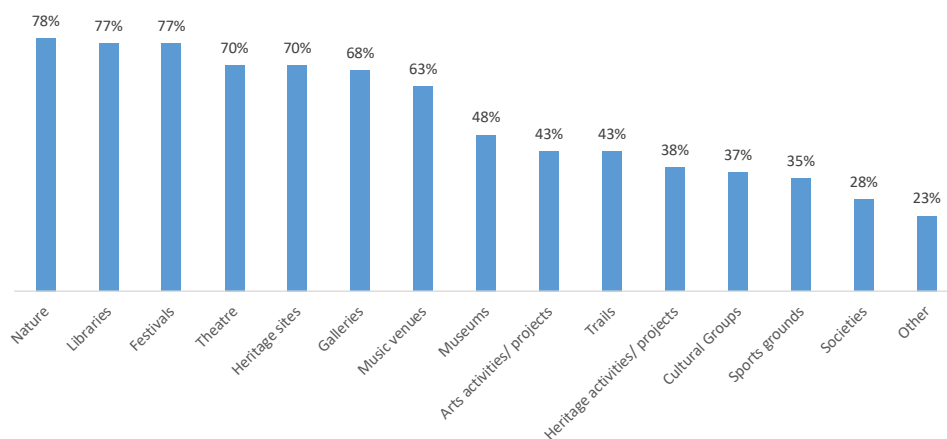
## Survey Analysis

### Understanding Cultural Touchpoints

Respondents were asked to identify the different types of cultural activities that they engage in regularly. This identified **nature** and **libraries** as key cultural touchpoints. Both are characterised by free and open access, and as appealing to a broad spectrum of interests. In addition, participation in **festivals** was high, reinforcing it as a strength of culture in County Kilkenny.

The results displayed a **contrast** between what respondents said and what they do – respondents focused their analysis of cultural strengths, weaknesses and opportunities mainly on built heritage, whereas they actually engaged in nature, libraries and arts activities on a regular basis.

Q.8 Which of the following (if any) cultural activities do you regularly engage in?



## Emerging Thoughts

The public survey informed the following initial observations.

- There is a great appreciation of the range and diversity of Kilkenny's culture, complementing the findings of the pop-up events.
- The questions around County Kilkenny's distinctive cultural identity and recommendations for a visitor on a cultural day out were both dominated by responses relating to built heritage.
- The concerns raised by respondents mainly focused on two things – resources, funding and accessibility from the perspective of the cultural sector, and marketing and information from the public perspective.
- The potential opportunities for County Kilkenny's culture looked to build on core traditions, such as customs, storytelling, folklore, local history and Irish language.
- There was a contrast between what respondents said and what they do – respondents focused their analysis of cultural strengths, weaknesses and opportunities mainly on built heritage, whereas they actually engaged in nature, libraries and arts activities on a regular basis.

"What makes County Kilkenny culturally distinctive from other places in Ireland is that there is something for everyone from young to old and everyone is welcome to attend."

"There is a great sense of pride in Kilkenny's culture... it is recognised that it contributes to our economy, sense of place and identity."



# APPENDIX

## Survey Results

### Survey Results

Q.1 What is the best thing about culture in Kilkenny?



Q.2 What makes culture in Kilkenny distinctive?



Q.3 What would you recommend for a cultural day out?

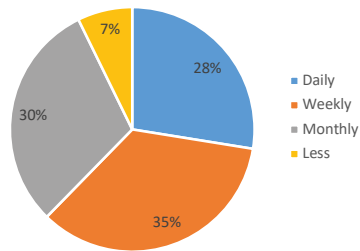


Q.4 What do you think are the most important issues?

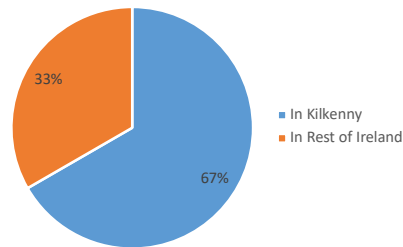


## Survey Results

**Q.5 How often do you engage in cultural activities?**



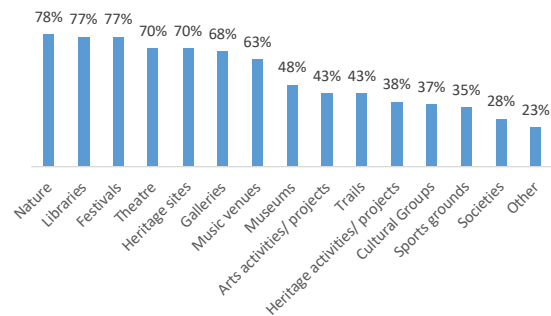
**Q.6 Where do you most often engage in cultural activities?**



**Q.7 Are there under represented elements of Kilkenny's culture?**

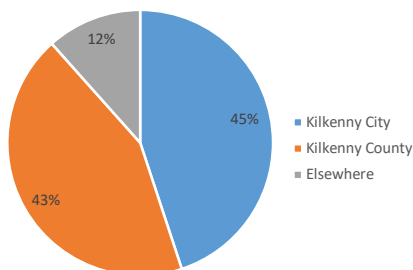


**Q.8 Which of these cultural activities do you engage in often?**

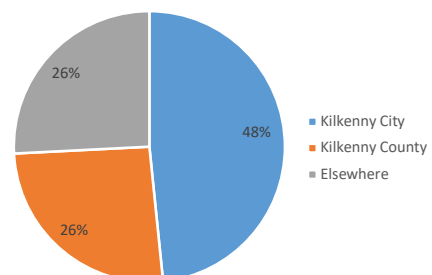


## Survey Results

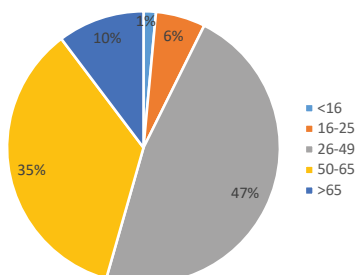
**Q.9 Where do you live?**



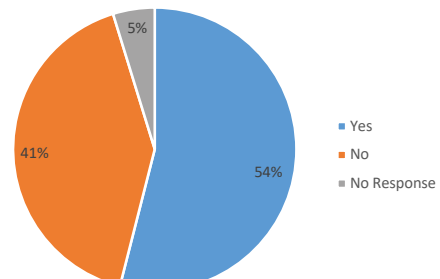
**Q.10 Where do you work?**



**Q.11 What is your age group?**



**Q.12 Are you involved in culture in a job / volunteer role?**





# Appendix D

## List of Consultees

### List of Consultees

The following is a list of consultees who participated in the stakeholder workshop and public pop-up events. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, as stakeholder information was not collected in all instances. In particular, stakeholder names were not collected in the public survey.

#### **Stakeholder Workshop Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny City 26th May 2017**

- Aisling Hayes, Kilkenny County Council / Kilkenny Tourism
- Anna O'Sullivan, Butler Gallery
- Bernadette Roberts, Heritage & Arts, Kilkenny County Council
- Brian Tyrrel, Kilkenny County Council
- Brid Hynes, Kilkenny County Council Business Support Unit
- Caitriona Kenneally, Kilkenny County Library
- Catherine Madders, Kilkenny Library Service
- Christopher O'Keefe, M.CO
- Damien Brett, Kilkenny County Library
- Dearbhla Legwidge, Heritage Office, Kilkenny County Council
- Declan MacAuley, Kilkenny Library Service
- Dorothy O'Reilly, Kilkenny County Library
- Evelyn Graham, Kilkenny County Council
- Francis Coady, Kilkenny County Council
- Gretta Murphy, Kilkenny County Childcare Committee
- James Eogan, Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Joseph Coyne, Kilkenny Library Service
- Josephine Coyne, Library Service, Kilkenny County Council
- Kathe Carroll, Foróige Drum / Comhairle na nÓg
- Lindsey Buttery, Kilkenny County Council Community & Culture
- Majella Byrne, Kilkenny County Library

- Margaret Maxwell, Kilkenny Education Centre
- Margo McGrath, Kilkenny Library Service
- Mary Butler, Arts Office, Kilkenny County Council
- Mary Egan, Tullahought Community Development
- Sadhbh O'Brien, M.CO
- Simon Gregory, M.CO
- Simon Walton, Kilkenny County Council
- Stephen O'Connor, Kilkenny County Council
- Tony Patterson, Kilkenny Education Centre
- Trish Nolan, Kilkenny Library Service
- Vincent Dempsey, Barnstorm Theatre
- Vincent McGrath, M.CO

#### **Pop Up Events Rivercourt Hotel, Kilkenny City Ferrybank Library, Ferrybank Castlecomer Library, Castlecomer 14th & 21st June 2017**

- Alice Bennett, KCAT Arts Centre
- Ann Tierney
- Anna Galligan, Barnstorm Theatre
- Breda Lynch, Office of Public Works
- Carmel Cummins, Ciorcail Comhrá
- Catherine Barron
- Christine Coman, Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation
- Christine Scarry, Red Alchemy Theatre
- Ciara Ni Mháirtín
- Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Kilkenny County Council
- Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Kilkenny County Council
- Declan Murphy, An Taisce
- Errol Delaney, Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Fiona Maher
- Frances O'Donohoe, Charity Knitters / Ciorcail Comhrá
- Garry McHugh, Young Irish Film Makers

- Guy Jones, Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation
- Helen Curtin, Young Irish Film Makers
- Hollie Kearns, Irish Walled Towns Network / Heritage Council
- Kathy Purcell, Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Lucia Ruane
- Malcolm Noonan, Kilkenny Heritage Council / Kilkenny County Council
- Mary Clarke, Kilkenny Education Centre
- Mary Morrissey, Castlecomer Library
- Mary Whelan, DCCol
- Maurice Shortall, Kilkenny County Council
- Michael Somers, Teagasc
- Micheál Ó Mháirtín, Ciorcail Comhrá
- Nora Ni Eacha, An Taisce
- Peter Bluett, Keep Kilkenny Beautiful
- Philip Hardy, Barnstorm Theatre
- Sinéad Lucey, Artist
- Sophie Jones, Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation
- Susan Holland, DCCol
- Tom Brett, Tom Brett Photography
- Trish Duffe, Rothe House

## List of Consultees

### Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum is a non-statutory advisory group established by Kilkenny County Council to provide advice to the Council on the preparation and implementation of a County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan.

The membership of the County Kilkenny Heritage Forum is drawn from communities, elected representatives, agencies and groups involved in aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in County Kilkenny. Current membership is shown in below. A review of membership will be undertaken during the lifetime of the Heritage Plan.

### Kilkenny Heritage Forum Members

- Councillor Malcolm Noonan
- Jimi Conroy, National Parks & Wildlife Service
- David McInerney, Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Tomás Turley, Teagasc
- Michael Power, Coillte
- Pat Durcan, Birdwatch Ireland
- Roger Goodwillie, BSBI Recorder
- Colm Murray, Heritage Council
- Mark Keegan, National Monuments Service
- James Eogan, Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Dr. Declan Murphy, An Taisce
- Erroll Delaney, Castlecomer Discovery Park
- Mary Egan, Tullahought Community Development
- Patrick Lydon, Butler Gallery
- Jim Walsh, Éigse Sliabh Rua
- Tony Patterson, Kilkenny Education Centre
- Martin Rafter, County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
- Maura Hickey, Kilkenny Tourism/Kilkenny County Council

- Francis Coady, Conservation Officer, Kilkenny County Council
- Evelyn Graham, Project Architect, Kilkenny County Council
- Denis Malone, Senior Planner, Kilkenny County Council
- Frank Stafford, Senior Executive Engineer, Kilkenny County Council
- Claire Goodwin, Landscape Architect, Kilkenny County Council
- Brian Tyrrell, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council
- Declan MacAuley, Executive Librarian, Kilkenny County Council
- Mary Butler, Arts Officer, Kilkenny County Council

# Appendix E

## Acknowledgement of Legislative Requirements

### Acknowledgement of Legislative Requirements

The County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy delivers upon the following legislative requirements:

#### Arts

The Local Authority is required by the Arts Act 2003 to prepare and implement an arts plan:

6.(1) A local authority shall, for the purposes of section 67 of the Act of 2001, prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within its functional area and shall, in so doing, take account of policies of the Government in relation to the arts.

For the full text, please refer to:

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2003/act/24/section/6/enacted/en/html#sec6>

#### Heritage

The Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective "To prepare and implement, in partnership with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum and all relevant stakeholders, a County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan" (ref: Objective 8.1).

The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 requires Local Authorities to review and update their Biodiversity and Heritage Action Plans (ref: Action no. 1.1.5).

For a complete list of relevant legislation for heritage (built, natural and cultural) and biodiversity, please refer to: <http://kilkennyheritage.ie/legislation/>

#### Libraries

A library development programme is a legislative requirement under section 78 of the Local Government Act, 2001. This plan is also informed by the national library strategy – Opportunities for All – the public library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development.



# Appendix F

## Library Performance



Over **12,000** people in Kilkenny are members of a library



Over **285,000** visits were recorded across the 8 branch network and mobile library service in 2017



Over **338,000** items were borrowed in 2017



**31,151** people used the library ICT facilities in 2017



**27,576** people used online library services in Kilkenny in 2017



# Appendix G

## Appropriate Assessment

### Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 requires that all plans and projects must be screened for potential impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Screening aims to establish whether a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Article 6 of the Directive is required. Scott Cawley (Consulting Ecologists) were appointed by Kilkenny County Council to analyse the Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy (Arts, Heritage, Library) 2018-2022 to see if it required an AA and prepare an AA Screening Report.

It was concluded that the strategy would have no significant adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites and that there is no requirement to carry out further stages of Appropriate Assessment on the Strategy.





### **Heritage Office**

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### **Library Service**

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### **Arts Office**

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