

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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*Adopted by Kilkenny County Council on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2023*

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# STATEMENT OF AN CATHAOIRLEACH

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It is a great privilege for me to introduce the Annual Report for 2022. This Annual Report details the wide variety of services provided by Kilkenny County Council to the people of Kilkenny City and County. We, the Council play a key role in providing essential core services such as housing, roads, water, fire and emergency services and in supporting local communities through the arts, heritage, conservation, libraries and community and enterprise functions.

The Council has responded to many challenges in providing much needed services to the public over the years. The staff have responded to these challenges and have adapted to different ways of working. The Elected Members also have changed to respond to their constituents needs for a wide variety of services. We have continued with hybrid meetings to protect ourselves and staff. Little did we know at the start of 2022 that we would be asked to offer support to Ukrainians fleeing the terrible conflict in their home country. In March, 2022 we set up a Ukrainian Displacement Unit within the Council. By the end of 2022, the Council has welcomed approx. 1,200 refugees and provided them with accommodation in Kilkenny. I sincerely thank the staff involved in meeting this challenge and responding to the on-going arrival of Ukrainians on a daily basis.

The Council continues to source much needed grant allocations to enable us to fund the many projects planned for the enjoyment of all our citizens. The allocation of funding under various schemes greatly assists in the development of our towns and villages. Schemes such as CLAR, Town & Village Renewal, URDF, RRDF and local funding from Kilkenny County Council gives communities a much needed boost and improves their quality of life.

Our businesses were severely impacted with closures and loss of business during Covid. During 2022, inflation increased. Rising energy costs and cost of materials continued to impact on the operations and delivery of all our services. We also welcomed the completion of the Brewhouse in the Abbey Quarter and I am delighted that this building is now fully occupied. We look forward to further development in the Abbey Quarter. The decision by Abbott to locate a manufacturing plant in Kilkenny City was great news in August 2022 and we look forward to the opening of this plant in 2024 and the employment of hundreds of highly skilled people.

In 2022, the provision of additional housing remained a priority for Kilkenny County Council to meet the growing demand for social housing. We will continue in 2023 to meet the targets set out by Government to deliver as many units as possible. All options will be explored to source much needed accommodation in the City and County. We will also encourage the provision of private housing.

I would like to sincerely thank all the Council's staff for their work for the people of Kilkenny. I commend their commitment and dedication and we look forward to continued progress, working with all of the people of Kilkenny in making our City and County a better place. Kilkenny must look forward in hope to 2023 when we will see many important projects completed and new ones commence.

Finally, it has been my privilege as Cathaoirleach to lead my fellow Elected Members in meeting the challenges presented in 2022 as we work together with the Executive and staff for the betterment of Kilkenny and the communities that we all live in.



**Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick**  
**Cathaoirleach**

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

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I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2022, which outlines the extensive range of services provided directly or indirectly by this Council. Within the main body of this Report the various activities and delivery of services and infrastructure projects being progressed by Kilkenny County are outlined.

This year continued to be very challenging responding to the post COVID Pandemic and then the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine. We continued to adapt to deliver all our services and to assist businesses and communities to get through a very challenging year. We continued with working remotely for a period before the introduction of blended working. We also continued to facilitate hybrid Council meetings to enable full participation by all Members, staff and others who could link in remotely as required. Staff and Members rose to the challenges of providing additional services such as the increasing demand for Housing supports and the Ukrainian Displacement services.

There was a high level of commitment across all Departments to delivering the 2022 Service Delivery Plan and in achieving the Objectives of our Corporate Plan. Most areas met all of their stated objectives within the limitations placed on us by restrictions and ever-rising costs of energy and materials and where the level of achievement was less than 100% it will not have any impact on the Council achieving the objectives of its Corporate Plan. We continued to administer on behalf of the Government the Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme in the first quarter of 2022. We also continued to deliver our ambitious programme of place-making and public realm projects across the City and County, which help make Kilkenny the best place in the country to live, work, invest, visit and do business.

I wish to pay tribute to the work being done at Municipal District level and at SPC level. These committees are invaluable in assisting the Council in pursuing its objectives and getting through its business. The commitment of the Councillors and external members is evident from the activities outlined in the report. I express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of all the Elected Members, my colleagues on the Management Team and the staff of the Council. I am confident, given the abilities and spirit of co-operation that is consistently shown by the Elected Members and staff that we will be in a position to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We can look forward to a positive 2023.

I would like to particularly thank the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and his predecessor Cllr Fidelis Doherty, the Municipal District Cathaoirligh Cllr's Mary Hilda Cavanagh and her predecessor Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr Matt Doran and his predecessor Cllr Michael Doyle, Cllr David Fitzgerald Mayor and his predecessor Cllr Andrew McGuinness, and Cllr Fidelis Doherty and her predecessor Cllr Pat Dunphy who have distinguished themselves in their respective roles. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the out-going Chief Executive, Colette Byrne for her outstanding leadership of the Council and the strong pipeline of projects and initiatives that we continue to build on.

I commend this Annual Report for adoption by the Elected Members.

It will give an overview to the people of Kilkenny and beyond of the broad range of activities undertaken and of the Council's achievements in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean McKeown', written over a horizontal line.

**Sean McKeown**  
**Interim Chief Executive**



# HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

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- Revenue expenditure was €104 million in 2022.
- Surplus of €18,230 achieved in the Revenue Budget in 2022.
- €3.5m collected in development levies.
- Focused on improving collection rate across all of our income sources and reducing the arrears.
- Capital Expenditure was €63.1 million in 2022.
- Completed construction on Brew House building, occupied by year end. Funding secured under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund.
- Seventh successful Yulefest festival celebrate with many outdoor events.
- St. Patrick's Festival celebrated over 6 days – 40,000 attended the Parade.
- 161 new housing units completed by Kilkenny County Council and Voluntary Bodies.
- 6,300 calls were made seeking housing repairs in 2022.
- 14 housing loans paid out to a value of €2,696,352.
- 234 housing grants paid for adaptation to houses to the value of €1,912m.
- 436 Private Rented Inspections carried out.
- Welcomed 1,232 Ukrainians to Kilkenny.
- €25m spent on improving and maintaining our entire road network.
- Advanced design work for the 2 Flood Relief Schemes.
- Supplied 9.59 billion litres of water to 67,500 customers through the public water schemes.
- 189 grants paid out totalling €393,152 in well grants for private water supply.
- Progressed Masterplans for the Abbey Quarter and Loughmacask areas.
- 837 planning applications received during 2022.
- 27 sites on the Vacant Sites Register at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.
- €408,916 in conservation grant funding awarded in 2022 to 16 projects.
- 5 Housing Developments taken in charge.
- €607,110 paid to 35 businesses.
- 31 public playgrounds are now open and maintained by the Council.
- Fire Brigades responded to 889 incidents in 2022.

- Civil Defence provided 2,906 hours of assistance in response to Ukrainian Assistance, COVID Community Call, 41 Community Events and assisted in 7 Searches.
- 1,715 tonnes of solid waste, 1,355 tonnes of recyclable waste and 893 tonnes of dry waste were received at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Site.
- 2,153 tonnes of glass, aluminium and steel were collected across the 46 Bring Centres.
- 4,857 environmental inspections were carried out in 2022.
- 5,107 Dogs are licenced.
- €218,961 spent on community projects with funding from Creative Ireland.
- Funding of €1,406,785 under Town and Village Renewal Scheme allocated for projects in 8 towns and villages.
- Funding of €218,629 provided to Communities under Healthy Ireland.
- Allocation of €420,207 for 12 projects under the CLAR Programme 2022.
- Allocated €2.2m under Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for projects in Callan and Piltown.
- Council were allocated €100,000 under the Streetscape Scheme in 2022 - 37 applications in Callan were awarded funding.
- Allocated €250,000 to 9 projects under the Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme.
- Allocated €272,638 to 62 projects under the Community Enhancement Programme.
- Allocated €48,000 to undertake six biodiversity and invasive species management projects.
- MacDonagh train station in Kilkenny became the first age friendly train station in Ireland.
- 15,170 membership in libraries.
- 278,560 books, eBooks and eAudiobooks borrowed in 2022.
- 144,566 library users visited libraries across the County in 2022.
- 52 Projects organised for National Heritage week.
- 3 projects received a total of €211,200 from the Community Monuments Fund.
- 12 projects received funding totalling €50,000 under Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022.
- Over 42,106 people engaged with Arts Office Programmes.
- Bookville Festival engaged with 31,355 children and families in 2022.
- Over 13,000 books distributed for Bookville Festival to all Primary schools.
- Awarded 41 bursaries and mentoring opportunities to Artists.

# ELECTORAL REPRESENTATIONS

Kilkenny County Council's membership consists of twenty-four Members, elected for a five-year term of office. The current Council was elected in May 2019 and membership at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 is as follows:

CALLAN - THOMASTOWN		CASTLECOMER	
	<b>Peter Cleere (FF)</b> <i>Aughiletuan, Skeoughvosteen, Co. Kilkenny.</i>		<b>John Brennan (FG)</b> <i>Crutt, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny</i>
	<b>Deirdre Cullen (FF)</b> <i>Kilree, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.</i>		<b>Mary Hilda Cavanagh (FG)</b> <i>Whiteswall, Crosspatrick, Via Thurles, Co Kilkenny</i>
	<b>Matt Doran (FF)</b> <i>Shrughawadda, Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny</i>		<b>Michael Delaney (FF)</b> <i>The Village Shop, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny</i>
	<b>Michael Doyle (FG)</b> <i>Ballinbarna, The Rower, Co. Kilkenny.</i>		<b>Pat Fitzpatrick (FF),</b> <i>Cloghpook, Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny.</i>
	<b>Joe Lyons (FG)</b> <i>Bauntha, Callan, Co. Kilkenny</i>		<b>Denis Hynes (SF)</b> <i>Ballyellen, Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny.</i>
	<b>Patrick O'Neill (FG)</b> <i>Ballyreddin, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.</i>		<b>Michael McCarthy (FF)</b> <i>Buncrusha Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.</i>

## KILKENNY CITY



**Martin Brett (FF)**  
Callan Road,  
Kilkenny City



**John Coonan (FF)**  
17 Willow Close,  
Ardnore,  
Kilkenny



**Maria Dollard (GP)**  
Vianore,  
Greenshill,  
Kilkenny



**David Fitzgerald (FG)**  
24 Patrick Street,  
Kilkenny.



**Joe Malone (FF)**  
11 Maiden Hill  
Kells Road,  
Kilkenny.



**Andrew McGuinness (FF)** Constituency Office,  
O' Loughlin Road,  
Kilkenny.



**Eugene McGuinness (NP)**  
40 Bishop Birch Place,  
Kilkenny

## PILTOWN



**Eamon Aylward (FF)**  
Ballynooney,  
Mullinavat,  
Co. Kilkenny.



**Tomás Breathnach, (Lab)**  
Forge Road,  
Narabane,  
Kilmacow,  
Co. Kilkenny.



**Fidelis Doherty (FG)**  
Ballyfacey,  
Glenmore,  
Co. Kilkenny.



**Pat Dunphy (FG),**  
Ballygorey,  
Mooncoin,  
Co Kilkenny



**Ger Frisby (FF)**  
Treanaree,  
Slieverue,  
Co. Kilkenny.



# MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council holds Ordinary meetings on a monthly basis. It also holds special meetings to consider and adopt its annual budget. The Council may hold as many meetings as it considers necessary to discharge its functions.

## PLENARY MEETINGS OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

*Number of Meetings held in 2022: 26*

*Ordinary Monthly Meetings - 13, Workshops - 10 & Special Meetings - 3*

- Adoption of Budget
- Abbey Quarter and St. Francis Abbey Park
- Affordable Housing
- Amenity Grants 2022
- Annual Financial Statement 2021
- Annual Report 2021
- Anti-Litter/Graffiti Grants 2022
- Appointments of Chairs of SPC's
- Appointment of Elected Members to Committees
- Arts Grants 2022
- Audit Committee Annual Report 2021
- Audit Charter & Work Programme 2022
- Bank Overdraft Facility of €20m for 2023
- Bye-Laws – Casual Trading
- Careers at Kilkenny
- Chief Executive's Monthly Report
- Civic Festivals & Events
- Climate Action
- Community Event Grants 2022
- Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2022
- Creative Ireland Strategy Update
- Economic Dashboard
- Election of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach
- Events Grant Scheme
- Festival Grants 2022
- Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2026
- Flood Update
- Foreign Travel
- Graveyard Grant Scheme 2022
- Housing Capital Development 2021/2022 Update
- Housing Policies
- Interpretation/Commentary Socio Economic Statement for LECP
- Kilkenny Polling Scheme
- LCDC Annual Report 2021
- Library Service Update Report & Review
- Loan to Watershed
- Local Property Tax
- Migration Integration Policy
- Monuments & Memorials
- Naming of Infrastructure
- National Broadband Update
- Northern Ring Road Extension
- Part 8 Reports on Various Projects
- Performance Indicators 2021
- Pets in Apartments Policy
- Raising of a Loan from the Housing Finance Agency Plc.
- Record of Protected Structures
- Recreational Infrastructure

- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Road Works Programme 2022
- Roads Capital Projects
- Rural Development Update
- Section 85 Agreements with other Local Authorities
- Section 183 Disposals
- Self Help Scheme Policy
- Service Delivery Plan 2022
- Statutory Audit Report
- Taking in Charge
- Team Up to Clean Up
- Technological University for the South East (SETU)
- Ukrainian Displacement
- Winter Maintenance Plan 2022 – 2023 & Salting Operations



## **Election of Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and Leas-Cathaoirleach Pat O'Neill-June 2022**



# MEETING OF COMMITTEES

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CASTLECOMER MEETINGS

*Number of Meetings held in 2022: 13    Number of Workshops: 3*

- Active Travel
- Adoption of Road Works Programme
- Agree Schedule of Meetings 2022 - 2023
- Assumption Place & Community Creche, Urlingford – vehicular access
- Bring Banks
- Castlecomer Footbridge
- CLÁR
- Community Monuments Fund
- Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme
- Community Centres Investment Fund
- Community Involvement Scheme
- Draft Castlecomer Mobility Management Plan (2021 – 2026)
- Draft Freshford Mobility Management Plan (2024)
- Digital Hub – Urlingford
- Election of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach
- EirGrid – Laois/ Kilkenny Re-Enforcement Project Community Forum
- Flooding & Climate Change
- Fire Brigade Services
- Grangefertagh and Clomantagh Churches - Conservation
- Goul Drainage Committee
- High speed Broadband Delivery for Castlecomer & Urlingford
- Irish Water – Disruption to Supply
- Kilkenny Library Services
- LCDC Funding – Community Enhancement Programme & Community Activities Fund
- Local Improvement Scheme
- National Broadband Plan
- Old Fire Station Urlingford – Proposal for an outlying Standby Point for the NAS
- Public Lighting
- Private Septic Tanks – Grant Funding
- Road Works Programme Updates & Roads Related Issues
- Speeding Issues in Towns & Villages
- Road Safety & Provision of Ramps
- Section 38 Traffic Calming Scheme - Castlecomer
- St. Lachtain's Church Freshford celebrating 1,400 years
- Street Cleaning
- Taking in Charge
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Vacant Homes Initiative
- Water & Waste Water Supply Schemes
- Winter Maintenance Plan 2022 – 2023 & Salting Operations



**OPENING OF THE CASTLECOMER PEDESTRIAN  
BRIDGE JANUARY 2022**



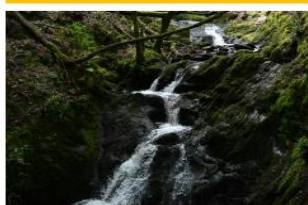


## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CALLAN - THOMASTOWN

*Number of Meetings held in 2021: 13*

- Active Travel/TII Projects
  - Callan By-Pass
  - CLÁR Projects
  - Climate Change
  - Dangerous Structure
  - Derelict Sites
  - Directional and Road Signage
  - Dog Fouling
  - Drainage Works
  - Footpaths
  - Flood Relief Schemes
  - Friary Complex, Callan
  - Kings River, Callan
  - Local Improvement Schemes
  - Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes
  - Mobility Management Plans
  - Public Lighting
  - Nore Valley Walk Linkage Project
  - Potential for Tourism Development
  - Rural Development Updates
  - Recreational Schemes and Trails
  - South-East Greenway Updates
  - Speeding & Speed limits review bye-laws
  - St. Mary's Church, Callan
  - Streetscape Enhancement Scheme Callan
  - Taking in charge of Estates
  - Town & Village Renewal Schemes
  - War in Ukraine
- 
- Adoption of Roadworks Programme 2022
  - Adverse weather conditions & flooding issues
  - Bennettsbridge Riverside Amenity Area and Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study
  - Bridge Cleaning works & General Maintenance
  - Callan one-way system/Public Realm and Flaggy Lane
  - Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme
  - Community Involvement in Roadworks Schemes
  - Compulsory Purchase Order process
  - Declaration of existing road as a public road
  - Election of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach
  - Environmental Awareness & Recycling facilities
  - General Municipal Allocation / Adoption of Municipal Budget Plan
  - Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study
  - Increase in inflation and construction costs
  - National Library Strategy & KCC Library Development Plan
  - Potential for pedestrian bridges Bennettsbridge & Graiguenamanagh
  - Recreational connectivity link between Woodstock Estate and SE Greenway
  - Restoration Improvements & Maintenance works
  - Roadworks Programme Updates & Roads Related Issues
  - Rural Regeneration Roads Projects & Development Fund & Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme funded projects
  - Winter Maintenance Plan 2022 – 2023 & Salting Operations

**OFFICIAL OPENINGS OF THE MENS SHED  
GRAIGUENAMANAGH,  
THE LOOP WALK INISTIOGE AND  
THE ABBEY HALL GRAIGUENAMANAGH  
MAY 2022**





**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY MEETINGS**  
(including Annual Meeting, Budget Meeting & Special Meeting)

*Number of Meetings held in 2022: 14*

- Active Travel Update & Allocation
- Adopted Municipal Budget for 2023
- Adoption of Schedule of Municipal Works for 2022
- Braille Trail (Kilkenny Access Group)
- City Mobility/Temporary One-Way System
- Coote's Lane Improvement Scheme
- Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- LECP presentation 2023-2028
- Loughmacask Masterplan update
- New National Library Strategy
- Northern Ring Road Extension presentation
- Parking Option- Irishtown
- Part 8 proposed Housing at Weather Station Site on the Dunningstown Road
- Part 8 proposed Market Square/St. Kieran's Street Improvement Scheme
- Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project & lights in Kilkenny City
- Road Works Scheme & Monthly Updates
- Report on Wells in the City
- Strategic Housing Development- Breaghagh Valley
- Taking in Charge Updates
- Use of Parade & Mayors Walk in 2022
- Winter Maintenance Plan 2022 – 2023 & Salting Operations



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PILTOWN MEETINGS

*Number of Meetings held in 2022: 13*

*Number of Joint Meetings held in 2022: 5*

- Access to Grannagh Castle
- Adoption of Road Works Scheme 2022
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Casual Trading Bye Laws
- CLÁR Funding - Kilmogue Portal Tomb, Listerlin Public Lighting
- Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme
- Draft LECP High Level Goals and Objectives
- Draft Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040
- Election of Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach
- Ferrybank Shopping Centre
- Flooding Issues / Drainage Maintenance
- General Municipal Allocation / Adoption of Municipal Budget Plan
- Glenmore Bus Stop and Weighbridge
- Greenway Proposal – Carrick-on-Suir to Kilmeaden Hedge Cutting – Section 70 Roads Act, Landowner Responsibility
- Greyway, Slieverue to Ferrybank
- Greyway Proposal – R723 Glenmore Roundabout to New Ross
- Illegal Dumping Piltown MD – Anti-Dumping Initiative
- Irish Water – Water Outages and Disruption to Supply
- Joint Retail Strategy & Review / Update of Ferrybank-Belview Local Area Plan
- Kilkenny Community Awards
- Link Road – Abbey Road and Belmont Road Improvement Scheme
- Local Improvement Scheme
- Local Policing Partnership Committee Meetings
- Meetings with TII – Road Safety Issues
- Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan & Setting up of Regional Forum
- Mobility Management Plans – Ferrybank & Piltown
- National Biodiversity Action Plan – Public Consultation
- National Broadband Plan and Broadband Connection Points
- National Library Strategy & KCC Library Development Plan
- National Pride of Place Competition – Mullinavat
- N24 Tower Road Improvement Scheme
- N24 Carrick Road Scheme
- N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme
- N24 New Aglish to Grannagh Castle – Feasibility Assessment for Safety Improvement Scheme
- N25 Glenmore to Waterford Scheme
- N25 Traffic Calming Measures
- North Quays URDF and Strategic Development Zone
- Piltown Garda Station Redevelopment
- Poulanassy Waterfall Car Park & Walking Trail
- Pre-planning Consultation Clinics, Piltown MD
- Primary Health Care Centre Ferrybank
- Provision of Footpath – Mill Road, Mullinavat
- Provision of Public Lighting
- Road Markings and Signage
- Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy
- Remote Working Hubs
- Roadworks Programme Updates & Roads Related Issues
- RSES 2 Year Progress Report – Southern Regional Assembly
- Rural Regeneration Development Fund



- School Safety – Safe Routes to Schools Programme
- Search and Rescue Service South East
- SEG – Feasibility Study for proposed link to Woodstock Estate
- SEG – Links to Glenmore and Slieverue Ukraine Crisis – Community Response
- South East Greenway, incorporating Kilkenny Greenway
- Speeding Issues & Speed Limit Review Waterford Proteins, Christendom – EPA Licence Renewal
- Support of Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan – RRDF Funding
- Taking in Charge Developments – Unfinished Estates
- Treatment of Ragwort
- Waterford to Rosslare Railway
- Winter Maintenance Plan 2022 – 2023 & Salting Operations



## POULNASSY WATERFALL WALKWAY OFFICIAL OPENING MAY 2022



# COMMITTEES & SUBSIDIARY BODIES

## Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) is a committee of the Council consisting of the Cathaoirleach of the Council, the Chairperson of each of the five Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) and the Party Whips.

The CPG links the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where proposed items for Council meeting agendas and policy matters are discussed. The CPG also monitors the performance of the local authority and plays a key role in the budgetary process.

The CPG met on 11 occasions in 2022.

## Committees & 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 to assist them in performing their roles as Elected Members.

## Strategic Policy Committees

Kilkenny County Council adopted a Strategic Policy Committee Scheme on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 for the newly elected Council 2019 to 2024. The role of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) is to assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. Their composition reflect the major functions of the Council within the broader context, are tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of the Council and have one third of their membership drawn from sectors relevant to the committees' work.

The SPC's bring together both Elected Members and people actively working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies to develop and review policies related to Council's services. The SPC's provide Elected Members with external views as they discharge their strategic role in the development of the local authority, including their policy development and oversight roles within the local authority.

The overall configuration and membership of the Kilkenny County Council's Strategic Policy Committees is as follows at the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022:

### SPC 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism, Planning & Development Policy

*Number of Meetings held...4 & Number of Joint SPC 1 & LCDC Meetings (LECP 2023 - 2028)...2*

#### Elected Members [8]

John Coonan  
Michael Doyle  
Pat Fitzpatrick  
Ger Frisby **[Chair]**  
Michael McCarthy  
Eugene McGuinness  
Maria Dollard  
Patrick O'Neill

#### Members from External Sectors [7]

Agriculture/Farming:	Bill O'Keeffe [IFA]
Development/Construction:	Marion Acreman [Chambers Ireland]
Business/Commercial:	Deirdre Shine [Chambers Ireland]
Trade Union:	Eileen Moyles [ICTU]
Social Inclusion:	Fiona O'Neill [PPN]
Environment/Conservation	Brian Hamilton [PPN]
Community & Voluntary	Paul Brophy [PPN]

## Main Items Considered:

- Abbey Quarter Regeneration & Abbey Quarter Master Plan Review
- City & County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 including Ministerial Direction regarding Windfarms
- Conservation Grants
- Developments at St. Canice's Campus in Kilkenny
- Disability Implementation Plan by Kilkenny County Council and the availability of a Changing Places facility in Kilkenny



- Kilkenny's designation as World Craft Council City & Craft Region and the Made in Kilkenny Group
- Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 to 2028 - Review of guidelines, the preparation of the plan and the adoption of the high-level goals and objectives of this plan. Support two joint meetings with the LCDC to agree key progression stages of the development of LECF 2023 to 2028
- Monitoring of the delivery KPIs of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Local Enterprise Development Plan (LEDP) for 2022 on behalf of Kilkenny County Council per Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland
- Masterplan for Loughmacask
- North Quays Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)
- Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
- South East Greenway
- Taking in Charge (TIC)
- Tourism Supports and key animation projects in Kilkenny.
- Vacant Sites & vacant site levy.

## SPC 2: Transportational Policy/Mobility Management & Water Services

*Number of Meetings held...4*

### Elected Members [8]

Tomás Breathnach  
Peter Cleere  
Deirdre Cullen  
Michael Delaney  
Fidelis Doherty  
Matt Doran **[Chair]**  
Pat Dunphy  
Patrick O'Neill

### Members from External Sectors [7]

Agriculture/Farming:	Paul O'Brien <i>[IFA]</i>
Business/Commercial	Gary Graham <i>[Chambers Ireland]</i>
Development/Construction	Barry Lynch <i>[Chambers Ireland]</i>
Trade Union	Ger Mooney <i>[ICTU]</i>
Community/Voluntary	Gerard Ferris <i>[PPN]</i>
Social Inclusion	Eileen Ryan <i>[PPN]</i>
Environment/Conservation	Alan Sullivan <i>[PPN]</i>

### Main Items Considered:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ Broadband                               | ▪ National Road Safety Strategy                |
| ▪ Capital Roads Projects                  | ▪ Pathfinder – Sustainable Urban Mobility      |
| ▪ Capital Water Projects                  | ▪ Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project    |
| ▪ Climate Action Plan                     | ▪ Rainbow Crossings & Sunflower Parking Spaces |
| ▪ Flooding & Flood Schemes                | ▪ Review of the 2015 – 2020 Road Safety Plan   |
| ▪ Irish Water Leakage Reduction Programme | ▪ Speed Limit Review                           |
| ▪ Irish Water Transformation              | ▪ Water & Wastewater Capacity Registers        |

## SPC 3: Housing

*Number of Meetings held...5*

### Elected Members [8]

Eamon Aylward **[Chair]**  
Martin Brett  
Pat Fitzpatrick  
Denis Hynes  
Joe Lyons  
Andrew McGuinness  
Eugene McGuinness  
Joe Malone

### Members from External Sectors [6]

Development/Construction:	Brian Dunlop <i>[Chambers Ireland]</i>
Environment/Conservation	Mags Morrissey <i>[PPN]</i>
Community/Voluntary	John Bourke <i>[PPN]</i>
Social Inclusion:	Lisa Morris <i>[PPN]</i>
Trade Union:	Yvonne Moriarty <i>[ICTU]</i>

### Main Items Considered:

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Housing First – Own Front Door | ▪ Self Help Scheme |
| ▪ Pets in Apartments             | ▪ Tenant Handbook  |

## SPC 4: Environment Protection, Climate Action & Energy

*Number of Meetings held....4*

### Elected Members [6]

Mary Hilda Cavanagh  
Deirdre Cullen  
David Fitzgerald [Chair]  
Denis Hynes  
Joe Lyons  
Maria Dollard

### Members from External Sectors [5]

Agriculture/Farming	James Murphy [IFA]
Development/Construction	John Hurley [Chambers Ireland]
Business/Commercial:	Laurence Conroy [Chambers Ireland]
Community/Voluntary:	Noel O'Donoghue [PPN]
Environment/Conservation:	Aidan Fitzpatrick [PPN]

### Main Items Considered:

- Burial Grounds – Care and Maintenance
- Climate Action Update including the role of the Climate Action Co-Ordinator and the preparation of the new five year Climate Action Plan for Co. Kilkenny
- Draft River Basin Management Plan
- “Lets Team Up to Clean Up” Initiative
- Membership of the Committee
- Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) updates
- 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan – focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of Ireland’s biodiversity

## SPC 5: Community, Cultural & Fire Services

*Number of Meetings held....5*

### Elected Members [6]

Tomás Breathnach  
John Brennan  
Martin Brett  
Peter Cleere  
John Coonan  
Pat Dunphy [Chair]

### Members from External Sectors [5]

Agriculture/Farming:	Michael Rice [IFA]
Business/Commercial:	Kathy Purcell [Chambers Ireland]
Community/Voluntary:	Denis Brophy [PPN]
Social Inclusion:	Martin Brennan [PPN]
Trade Union:	Fergal Canton [ICTU]

### Main Items Considered:

- CCFCFS Grant Scheme 2022 - 2024
- Creative Ireland strategy 2023 – 2027
- Disability Strategy
- Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2022 - 2026
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2028
- National Library Strategy

# KILKENNY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE



Kilkenny County Council has established a Joint Policing Committee in accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

**Number of Meetings:** 4 (held both remotely and in person)

**Public Meeting:** None Held

## **Chairperson:**

*Cllr. Martin Brett, Callan Road, Kilkenny*

## **MEMBERS OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cloopook, Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Kilree, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Michael Delaney, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. John Brennan, Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny  
Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny  
Cllr. David FitzGerald, 24 Patrick Street, Kilkenny  
Cllr. Denis Hynes, Ballyellen, Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny  
Cllr. Joe Lyons, Bauntha, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Hillview, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Michael Doyle, Ballinbarna, The Rower, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. John Coonan, 17, Willow Close, Ardnore, Kilkenny City  
Cllr. Mick McCarthy, Buncrusha Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Joe Malone, 11 Maiden Hill, Kells Road, Kilkenny.  
Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, O'Loughlin Rd., Kilkenny.  
Chief Superintendent Padraig Dunne, Waterford Garda Station.  
Superintendent Derek Hughes, Kilkenny Garda Station.  
Superintendent Anthony Farrell, Thomastown Garda Station.  
Detective Inspector Séan O'Meara, Kilkenny Garda Station.  
Sergeant Peter McConnan, Kilkenny Garda Station  
Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Graigue, Co. Carlow.  
Deputy Kathleen Funchion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Lower New Street, Kilkenny  
Deputy John McGuinness, O'Loughlin Rd, Kilkenny  
Deputy John Paul Phelan, 25 Market Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.  
Deputy Malcolm Noonan, Cedarwood Drive, Loughboy, Kilkenny.  
Samual Morgan, PPN, Kilkenny.  
Helena Power, PPN, Kilkenny.  
Gerard Ferris, PPN, Kilkenny.  
Colette Murphy, PPN, Kilkenny  
Marion Acreman, Kilkenny Chamber.  
Anthony Morrisson, Vintners Association.

## **SUMMARY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Active Travel Initiatives.</li><li>▪ Animal Welfare</li><li>▪ Annual Report 2021</li><li>▪ Community Text Alert</li><li>▪ Crime Statistics, Gardai Stewardship, Traffic and Road Safety</li><li>▪ Draft Works Programme 2022</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Drugs Initiative - An Garda Síochána &amp; GAA</li><li>▪ Lock Up - Light Up.</li><li>▪ Online Fraud &amp; Cyber Security</li><li>▪ Project Connect - Health Service Executive's presentation</li><li>▪ Road Safety Strategy 2021 - 2030</li></ul> |
|--|---|

# MEMBERS TRAINING & EXPENSES

DATE	CONFERENCE & LOCATION	ELECTED MEMBER	FEES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Celtic Conference</b> <i>The Finance Act 2021</i> <i>Louth</i>	<i>Andrew McGuinness</i> <i>Michael Delaney</i>	€200.00	€722.19	€922.19
14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>University College Cork</b> <i>Cork</i>	<i>Maria Dollard</i>	€525.00	€0.00	€525.00
18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Environment Ireland Conference</b> <i>Dublin</i>	<i>Maria Dollard</i>	€362.85	€0.00	€362.85
21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Celtic Conference</b> <i>"The New Housing For All Policy"</i> <i>Cork</i>	<i>Andrew McGuinness</i> <i>Michael Delaney</i>	€200.00	€277.81	€477.81
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Celtic Conference</b> <i>"Social Media use in Political Campaigns"</i> <i>Cork</i>	<i>Deirdre Cullen</i>	€100.00	€455.96	€555.96
17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>AILG</b> <i>Personal Safety &amp; Risk Assessment</i> <i>Mullingar</i>	<i>Peter Cleere</i> <i>Micheal McCarthy</i> <i>Eamon Aylward</i>	€210.00	€745.43	€955.43
18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>AILG</b> <i>Silversprings, Cork</i>	<i>Matt Doran,</i> <i>Joe Malone,</i> <i>Pat Dunphy,</i> <i>Michael Delaney,</i> <i>John Brennan,</i> <i>Pat Fitzpatrick,</i> <i>Andrew McGuinness,</i> <i>John Coonan</i>	€560.00	€1,934.47	€2,494.47
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Celtic Conference</b> <i>"Tourism &amp; Digital Marketing"</i> <i>Louth</i>	<i>John Brennan,</i> <i>Pat Fitzpatrick,</i> <i>Michael Doyle,</i>	€300.00	€1,156.91	€1,456.91
23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>AILG Annual Training Conference 2022</b> <i>Donegal</i>	<i>Eugene McGuinness,</i> <i>John Coonan,</i> <i>Joe Malone,</i> <i>Michael Delaney,</i> <i>Peter Cleere,</i> <i>Pat Dunphy,</i> <i>Deirdre Cullen,</i> <i>Andrew McGuinness,</i> <i>Pat Fitzpatrick,</i> <i>Ger Frisby,</i> <i>Michael McCarthy,</i> <i>Eamon Aylward,</i> <i>Martin Brett</i>	€2,015.00	€8,941.08	€10,956.08
7 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>IPI Annual Planning Conference</b> <i>Kilkenny</i>	<i>Maria Dollard</i>	€360.00	€0.00	€360.00
11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>LAMA</b> <i>Spring Training</i> <i>Kilkenny</i>	<i>Martin Brett,</i> <i>John Brennan,</i> <i>John Coonan,</i> <i>Maria Dollard,</i> <i>Pat Fitzpatrick,</i> <i>Deirdre Cullen,</i> <i>Andrew McGuinness,</i> <i>Joe Malone,</i> <i>Eugene McGuinness,</i> <i>Pat Dunphy,</i> <i>Michael McCarthy,</i> <i>Gerard Frisby</i>	€2,160.00	€161.23	€2,321.23



DATE	CONFERENCE & LOCATION	ELECTED MEMBER	FEES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
27 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Suck Valley Way Conference</b> <i>Roscommon</i>	<i>John Coonan</i>	€0.00	€340.63	€340.63
12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>AILG</b> <i>Climate Action</i> <b>Ennis</b>	<i>Deirdre Cullen, Gerard Frisby, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Michael McCarthy, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere</i>	€490.00	€2,417.98	€2,907.98
14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>AILG</b> <i>Climate Action</i> <b>Monaghan</b>	<i>Pat Fitzpatrick, John Coonan, John Brennan, Michael Delaney, Eamon Aylward, Matt Doran</i>	€420.00	€2,267.15	€2,687.15
18 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>AILG</b> <i>Development Plan</i> <b>Castlecomer</b>	<i>Pat Fitzpatrick John Brennan</i>	€140.00	€0.00	€140.00
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>AILG</b> <i>Local Authority Audit Committee, Governance &amp; Oversight Role of Elected Member</i> <b>Bundoran</b>	<i>Andrew McGuinness, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby, Joe Malone, John Brennan, John Coonan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Peter Cleere</i>	€700.00	€5,515.31	€6,215.31
28 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>AILG</b> <i>Audit Committee</i> <b>Horse &amp; Jockey</b>	<i>Fidelis Doherty</i>	€70.00	€112.74	€182.74
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>AILG</b> <i>"Celebrating Local Government"</i> <b>Trim</b>	<i>Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Fidelis Doherty, Ger Frisby, Peter Cleere, Micheal McCarthy, Eamon Aylward, John Coonan, Martin Brett, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Maria Dollard, Joe Malone.</i>	€2,635.00	€6,110.68	€8,745.68
15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021	<b>AILG</b> <b>Tralee</b>	<i>Peter Cleere</i>	€0.00	€333.98	€333.98
24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021	<b>Celtic Conference</b> <i>"Health &amp; Safety in the Workplace"</i> <b>Cork</b>	<i>Peter Cleere</i>	€0.00	€498.24	€498.24
29 <sup>th</sup> September - 25 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Irish Language Course</b> <b>Online</b>	<i>Deirdre Cullen, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Ger Frisby, John Brennan</i>	€996.00	€0.00	€996.00

DATE	CONFERENCE & LOCATION	ELECTED MEMBER	FEES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
30 <sup>th</sup> September – 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>Celtic Conference</b> "A Practical Guide to Budget 2023" <i>Louth</i>	<i>Eamon Aylward, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Ger Frisby, John Brennan,</i>	€400.00	€2,306.27	€2,706.27
07-09 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Celtic Conference</b> "Irish State Pensions and Benefits" <i>Cork</i>	<i>Michael McCarthy</i>	€0.00	€608.54	€608.54
21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>AILG Conference</b> <i>Disability and Inclusion</i> <b>Killarney</b>	<i>Andrew McGuinness, Ger Frisby, John Brennan, Maria Dollard, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Pat Dunphy</i>	€490.00	€3,071.91	€3,560.91
25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>AILG Conference</b> <i>Disability and Inclusion</i> <b>Sligo</b>	<i>John Coonan Peter Cleere</i>	€140.00	€833.72	€973.72
28 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Celtic Conference</b> "Innovation in Solar Energy" <i>Cork</i>	<i>Peter Cleere</i>	€100.00	€512.84	€612.84
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> November (21)	<b>LAMA</b> <i>County Development Plans</i> <b>Sligo</b>	<i>Martin Brett</i>	€0.00	€416.65	€416.65
9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>LAMA</b> "Cost of Living Crisis & Sustainable & Renewable Energy" <b>Monaghan</b>	<i>Peter Cleere, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Patrick O'Neill, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, Michael Delaney, Andrew McGuinness, Joe Malone, John Coonan, Eugene McGuinness, Martin Brett, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby</i>	€2,400.00	€6,873.80	€9,273.80
17 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>AILG</b> <i>Data Protection</i> <b>Waterford</b>	<i>Mary Hilda Cavanagh</i>	€140.00	€171.13	€311.13
25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>AILG</b> <i>Data Protection</i> <b>Navan</b>	<i>Pat Dunphy, Michael McCarthy, Ger Frisby</i>	€210.00	€787.85	€997.85
September	Purchase of IT Equipment	<i>Joe Malone, Joe Lyons</i>	€1,710.92	€0.00	€1,710.92
6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>IPB AGM &amp; Conference</b> <b>Dublin</b>	<i>Mary Hilda Cavanagh</i>	€0.00	€299.52	€299.52
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€18,034.77</b>	<b>€47,873.02</b>	<b>€65,907.79</b>

# PAYMENTS TO ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected Member	Number of Meetings	Representational Salary	Annual Expenses/ Allowance	Local Representational Allowance	Cathaoirleachs / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	Municipal District Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Total Amount Paid to Elected Members 2021	Expenses Paid From Outside Bodies
John Brennan	30 of 33	€26,261.55	€2,810.32	€2,911.59				€31,983.47	€1,901.76
Mary Hilda Cavanagh	43 of 43	€26,975.65	€3,563.13	€4,232.78		€3,173.73		€37,945.30	€1,941.18
Pat Fitzpatrick	44 of 48	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€1,990.23	€10,732.40	€2,799.18		€44,637.11	€5,261.59
Michael McCarthy	38 of 44	€25,664.31	€2,139.65	€5,190.82	€1,850.79			€34,845.57	€1,053.81
Michael Delaney	30 of 36	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,189.69				€34,304.99	
Denis Hynes	27 of 42	€26,975.65	€2,305.22	€3,644.43				€32,925.30	
Peter 'Chap' Cleere	31 of 37	€25,664.31	€2,452.23	€5,769.04				€33,885.58	€2,094.13
Matt Doran	42 of 43	€26,975.65	€3,348.04	€4,605.72		€3,380.72	€5,930.20	€44,240.33	
Michael Doyle	31 of 36	€26,319.98	€3,240.50	€3,179.25		€2,615.19		€35,354.92	
Patrick O'Neill	30 of 41	€26,319.98	€2,139.65	€2,990.11	€2,146.48			€33,596.22	
Deirdre Cullen	39 of 40	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,190.42				€34,305.72	
Joe Lyons	40 of 50	€26,975.65	€2,306.05	€4,697.15				€33,978.85	
David FitzGerald	41 of 45	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€4,602.74		€5,366.20	€5,930.20	€45,014.44	
Joe Malone	40 of 46	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,190.15			€2,733.48	€37,038.93	€9,687.48
Andrew McGuinness	47 of 50	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,194.31		€4,599.60		€38,909.21	€1,581.72
Martin Brett	45 of 56	€26,319.98	€2,139.65	€2,989.17				€31,448.80	

Elected Member	Number of Meetings	Representational Salary	Annual Expenses/ Allowance	Local Representational Allowance	Cathaoirleachs / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	Municipal District Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Total Amount Paid to Elected Members 2021	Expenses Paid From Outside Bodies
John Coonan	37 of 42	€26,319.98	€2,139.65	€1,990.23				€30,449.86	
Eugene McGuinness	39 of 40	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,190.15				€34,305.45	
Eamon Aylward	35 of 38	€25,664.31	€3,563.13	€2,832.81			€3,196.72	€35,256.97	€318.00
Tomás Breathnach	51 of 51	€26,975.65	€3,993.30	€2,244.97				€33,213.92	
Fidelis Doherty	40 of 42	€26,319.98	€3,993.30	€2,045.02	€9,253.96	€3,380.72		€44,992.98	€6,594.52
Pat Dunphy	52 of 52	€26,975.65	€4,746.10	€2,824.30		€2,615.19	€5,930.20	€43,091.44	€632.04
Ger Frisby	48 of 51	€26,975.63	€4,531.02	€1,692.29			€5,930.20	€39,129.14	€3,123.58
Maria Dollard	39 of 41	€26,975.65	€2,139.65	€5,190.19				€34,305.49	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>€639,489.11</b>	<b>€66,528.09</b>	<b>€91,577.62</b>	<b>€23,983.63</b>	<b>€27,930.53</b>	<b>€29,651.00</b>	<b>€879,159.98</b>	<b>€34,189.81</b>



# CIVIC OCCASIONS & EVENTS 2022

## ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL KILKENNY

St. Patrick's Festival Kilkenny 2022 was 6-days long, incorporated over 45 events, involved working with 130 performers/ organisations / vendors and attracted an estimated 100,000 people to the City in the space of six days. The Parade had the largest attendance in Kilkenny's St. Patrick's Day Parade history with 40,000 people lining the streets and over 1,000 people participating attracting audiences and engagement from the United States, United Kingdom and France.

The social media channels across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter reached over 650,000 accounts. The week of the festival the website had 93,090 page views. Kilkenny featured on the front page of the Irish Times on St. Patrick's Day, received 45 seconds of airtime on RTÉ news and received coverage in US, UK and national publications. With a marketing activity spend of €10,000, the festival received nearly 150 pieces of earned media coverage online, on radio and in print. Funding for the festival was provided by Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny County Council Arts Office through the Local Live Performance Programme Scheme (LLPPS), and Fáilte Ireland.



*Fireworks, Kilkenny Castle\_Photo Credit\_Robbly Berry*

€8,500 was raised for the St. Vincent De Paul through ticket sales for the Rogu Fire Show from the Fireworks Display events. St. Patrick's Festival Kilkenny 2022 took place alongside Kilkenny Tradfest and the Medieval Mile Museum Music series which added to the "Unique Selling Point" of Kilkenny's St. Patrick's Festival celebrations. Also €12,000 was raised for Amber Women's Refuge from LLPPS music series.

## KILKENNY DAY

Kilkenny Day is a celebration of all things Kilkenny - The diversity of our local and new communities, the richness of our cultural heritage, along with our wide-ranging creativity and sporting excellence. Everything that makes Kilkenny a very special place to be.

The now famous and celebrated Virtual Hug, which leapt to national prominence at the height of the COVID19 pandemic on RTÉ's Late Late Show is immortalised in Kilkenny as a major piece of sculpture unveiled in Kilkenny on Kilkenny Day, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2022. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins sent a special letter of congratulations to

the young Cork man who inspired the nation at a crucial time and praised his positivity which lifted the nation. The sculpture piece was unveiled by Adam King and inspiring Paralympian and Kilkenny native, Mary Fitzgerald as part of Kilkenny Day celebrations in the City.



## YULEFEST KILKENNY

Yulefest Kilkenny Christmas Festival was first established in 2016 by Kilkenny County Council to promote Kilkenny as a Christmas festive destination for local people and visitors to enjoy.

A key feature of the Yulefest Kilkenny Festival is its community connectivity. Yulefest Kilkenny 2022 was delighted to host an array of local musical talent at the Yulefest Market with performances from choirs, groups and solo artists throughout Christmas week! Each day saw a variety of performances on the Bandstand featuring Ali Comerford, Alchemy, Music Generation Kilkenny, The Hit Machine, and many more. The Victorian-inspired pop-up Bandstand was a beautiful addition to the Parade and provided the perfect place for our Yulefest gigs. Everyone enjoyed seasonal cheer, choral arrangements, festive music and Celtic drummers as night fell over the Yulefest Market and twinkling lights dance across Kilkenny Castle and on the evening of Friday 23rd December a dazzling Yulefest Fireworks Display lit up the skies above Kilkenny Castle.



*Yulefest Christmas Markets*

Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick officially launched an exhibition of stunning photographs in the Pembroke Hotel Kilkenny on the evening of Thursday, 8th December. The images which were on display celebrated important moments in Kilkenny sporting history and offered visitors to the exhibition the opportunity to look back at some memorable events. Images include shots of current camogie All-Ireland Senior champions Claire Phelan and Katie Power; iconic shots of Kilkenny hurling captains lifting the Liam McCarthy Cup; past and present players and crowd celebrations and All-Ireland homecomings. These beautifully framed images were available to purchase with all proceeds donated to the Kilkenny Lions Club Christmas Appeal.



*L-R\_Philip O'Neill (Kilkenny Lions Club), Philip Tierney (Kilkenny Lions Club), former Kilkenny Senior Hurler Eddie Keher and Gerry McGovern (Kilkenny Lions Club)*





## St. Patrick's Day Festival-March 2022



## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY WINNERS-APRIL 2022







## CIVIC RECEPTION FOR VIOLINIST AND CONDUCTOR PATRICK RAFTER APRIL 2022



## Regional National Day of Commemoration - July 2022







## KILKENNY HURLING AND CAMOGIE HOMECOMINGS JULY/ AUGUST 2022



# MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Kilkenny County Council's Management Structure is:



**Sean McKeown**  
Interim Chief Executive

☎ 056-7794075  
✉ [sean.mckeown@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:sean.mckeown@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Interim Chief Executive of  
Kilkenny County Council**



**Mary J. Mulholland**  
Director of Services

☎ 056-7794900  
✉ [mary.mulholland@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:mary.mulholland@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Director of Services with  
responsibilities for:**

*Housing, Community, Library, Arts,  
Heritage, Fire Service*

*Municipal District of Callan/Thomastown*



**Tim Butler**  
Director of Services

☎ 056-7794070  
✉ [tim.butler@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:tim.butler@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Director of Services with  
responsibilities for:**

*Corporate, Human Resources, Roads &  
Transportation, Water Services,  
Communication, Health & Safety*

*Municipal District of Kilkenny*



**Denis Malone**  
Acting Director of Services

☎ 056-7794010  
✉ [denis.malone@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:denis.malone@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Director of Services with  
responsibilities for:**

*Planning, Environment, Building Control,  
Parks, LEO/Economic Development,  
Tourism Marketing & Veterinary Services*

*Municipal District of Piltown*



**Martin Prendiville**  
Head of Finance

☎ 056-7794214  
✉ [martin.prendiville@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:martin.prendiville@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Director of Services for responsibilities  
for:**

*Finance, Information Technology, Facilities  
Management, Procurement & Special  
Projects*

*Municipal District of Castlecomer*



**Fiona Deegan**  
Acting Director of Services

☎ 056-7794196  
✉ [fiona.deegan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:fiona.deegan@kilkennycoco.ie)

**Director of Services for responsibilities  
for:**

*Management of Displaced Ukrainian  
Persons situation*

# **DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Director of Services: Mr. Tim Butler**

# checktheregister.ie

### Electoral Rolling Register

Electoral Reform Act 2022 (Commencement) Order 2022 has resulted in a number of changes to the Register of Electors.

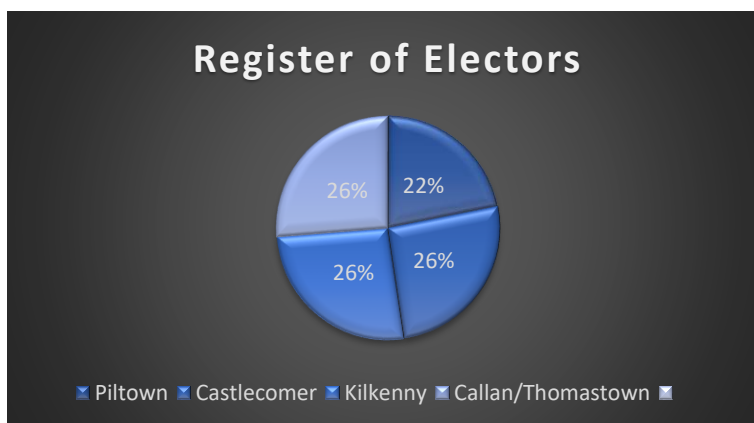
Since October 2022, the annual register cycle no longer applies and a rolling register process is now in place.

The new Electoral Rolling Register was rolled out in November, 2022. All electors are now being asked to visit [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to confirm or update their entry by adding their PPSN, Date of Birth and Eircode or register for the first time using a newly upgraded online form. This will help to ensure that entries are accurate and up to date as well as enabling the identification of entries on the register that require follow up. Checking, updating or registering has never been easier.

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 provides the legislation to underpin a range of significant electoral reforms set out in the Programme for Government – Our Shared Future.

A national communications campaign was launched to encourage people to visit [checktheregister.ie](http://checktheregister.ie) and update their details. In excess of 900 requests for update or new registrations have been received via [checktheregister.ie](http://checktheregister.ie).

*The total number on the Register on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, 2022 is 73,475.*



Any member of the public can check if they are on the register on the following website: [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) or can contact the Corporate Services Department in the Council.

### CUSTOMER CARE

The Council is committed to providing a quality service to all its customers. Kilkenny County Council's Customer Charter sets out the way in which the Council endeavours to deal with its customers. The document is available on our website at [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie).

This Charter includes a commitment to equality in service provision and a recognition of the diverse nature of the community we serve. The Charter also includes a Customer Complaints Procedure which may be availed of by any person not satisfied with the quality of service received. The Senior Executive Officer in Corporate investigates all complaints/comments received. A person not satisfied with the response provided by the Senior Executive Officer can request to have their case reviewed again by the Director of Services, Corporate Services.

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council dealt with 14 formal complaints from customers.



## **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 sets out the functions of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) which includes examination of the performance of local government bodies against forty-two indicators.

The report in respect of 2021 was published by NOAC in November, 2022.

Kilkenny County Council's performance in each area in 2021 compared to other local authorities is available for viewing on [www.noac.ie](http://www.noac.ie)

## **OMBUDSMAN**

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980. The role of the Office is to investigate complaints about administrative actions, delays or inactions adversely affecting persons or bodies in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

The Office of the Ombudsman dealt with 4 Customer complaints in 2022. Reports on each complaint was provided by Kilkenny County Council to the Office of the Ombudsman.

## **OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN**

In 2022, no complaint was made to the Ombudsman for Children.

## **IRISH LANGUAGE SCHEME**

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins into law in December, 2021.

This new legislation is a strengthening of the Official Languages Act 2003 and it is widely recognised that it will make a significant contribution to the quality of services in Irish provided to the public by State Bodies.

Kilkenny County Council's Irish Language Scheme 2019-2022 was confirmed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and came into effect on 8th April 2019. This Scheme remains in force until new language standards are prescribed by the Minister under the new act which will apply to public bodies in order to promote the use of the Irish language for official purposes. The current scheme is available to view on our website at: [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie).

Kilkenny County Council recognises that our customers have the right to choose to do business with us in their preferred language and they are facilitated in their dealings with us as far as practicable, whether that is through Irish or through English.

The main changes of this amendment Act which affect Kilkenny County Council immediately are that 20% of new recruits to the public service will need to be competent in Irish by the end of 2030. It also requires that 20% of any advertising placed is through the medium of Irish and 5% of any monies spent on advertising by the Council in any year shall be in the Irish language in Irish language media outlets.

Each public body will be required to make annual returns in relation to their advertising spend. If you wish to contact the Council in Irish, please send an e-mail to [gaeilge@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:gaeilge@kilkennycoco.ie)

During 2022, Kilkenny County Council dealt with 4 formal Irish complaints.

## **PROTECTED DISCLOSURES**

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 became operational on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. The Act provided a statutory framework within which workers can raise concerns regarding a potential wrongdoing that has come to their attention in the workplace in the knowledge that they can avail of significant employment and other protections if they are penalised by their employer or suffer any detriment for doing so.

The 2014 Act has been substantially overhauled by the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022, which was signed into law in July, 2022. This new legislation came into operation on 1st January, 2023.

In accordance with Section 22 of the 2014 Act, Kilkenny County Council has an obligation to report on the number of protected disclosures made to the Council in the preceding year.

To 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, one disclosure was received by the Designated Officer for Protected Disclosures.

### **DATA PROTECTION (GDPR)**

Kilkenny County Council processes all personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and the Data Protection Acts, 1988 to 2018.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. It has general application to the processing of personal data in the EU, setting out more extensive obligations on data controllers and processors, and providing strengthened protections and rights for data subjects.

### ***Privacy Statement***

At Kilkenny County Council we are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. The Privacy Statement lets you know how we look after your personal data. It also informs you as to our obligations and your rights under data protection law. Kilkenny County Council's privacy statement can be found at: [https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your\\_Council/Data-Protection/General-Privacy-Statement-for-Local-Authorities.docx](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Your_Council/Data-Protection/General-Privacy-Statement-for-Local-Authorities.docx)

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council dealt with 10 data subject access requests. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) was notified of 9 data breaches of which 3 were notified to the DPC. The DPO has activity engaged with Service Departments in carrying out Data Privacy Impact Assessments and addressing any risks identified.

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 was enacted on 14th October 2014. It introduced significant changes to the Freedom of Information regime repealing and replacing the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 and expanding the scope of FOI to a number of further bodies. It also consolidated, modernised and updated the legislation generally.

It is the policy of Kilkenny County Council to give members of the public access to information held by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Further information is available on the Council's website [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie)

The Freedom of Information Unit deals with requests for records held by Kilkenny County Council from members of the public, Journalists and Organisations. Kilkenny County Council is a public body which is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

**Kilkenny County Council received 76 Freedom of Information requests in 2022.**

2022	Journalists	Business/ Interest Groups	Oireachtas/ Public Reps	Staff	Clients	Others	TOTAL
TOTAL	17	5	2	0	2	50	76

**A total of 77 decisions were made by the Freedom of Information Officer in 2022.**

One application for an Internal Review was received following the decisions of the FOI Officer.

	FOI DECISIONS MADE 2022				
	Requests Granted	Requests Part-Granted	Requests Refused	Requests Withdrawn	TOTAL
TOTAL	23	19	27	8	77

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

You are entitled to request access to information on the environment that is held by Kilkenny County Council. This right comes from Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament, the European Communities (*Access to Information on the Environment*) Regulations 2007 to 2014 (*hereafter referred to as the AIE Regulations*).

Under these Regulations, information relating to the environment held by, or for, a public authority must be made available on request, subject to certain exceptions. The AIE regulations also oblige public authorities to be proactive in disseminating environmental information to the public.

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council received 16 requests. 10 requests were granted, 5 requests were part granted and 1 request was refused.

There is no initial fee for making an application under the AIE Regulations. However, the Regulations do allow a public authority to charge a reasonable fee for the cost of supplying environmental information, and Kilkenny County Council has set the following charges: -

- Search, retrieval and copying of records: .....€20 per hour
- Photocopy:.....€0.04 per sheet
- CD Rom: .....€10.00
- Radiograph:.....€6.00

## COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA 2022

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The Communications Team oversees corporate and internal communications for the Council. It is responsible for all internal and external communications, public relations, crisis management and marketing on behalf of the Council extending across all Council services.

The Team provides full support to An Cathaoirleach, the Mayor and Elected Members regarding:

- Advice on Protocol and Event Management.
- Organising of civic events.
- Circulation of press release post events.
- Photoshoots and videos for promotion.
- Preparation of speaking notes.
- Management of civic events.

### **Achievements in 2022:**

- 101 Press Releases issued in 2022
- Promotion and management of Council Events and activities.
- Publication of third Council newsletter “Kilkenny Connects”.
- Publication of Annual Report 2021.
- Management of Council’s social media accounts.
- Management of Council’s websites.

### **Support to Civic Events in 2022.**

- Support to the promotion of the Council’s Civic Festivals being St. Patrick’s Festival, Kilkenny Day and Yulefest Kilkenny.
- Co-Ordinated content for Kilkenny People Local Authority Page.
- Participated in Regional Network of Communications Officers in South East for regional campaigns.
- Promoting the County Brand [kilkenny.ie](http://kilkenny.ie).
- Promoted various national campaigns through social media campaigns which included:
  - Your Council Day
  - Be Winter Ready
  - Heritage Week
  - Culture Night
  - Increase in Parking Penalties
  - Seachtain na Gaeilge
  - Energy Week
  - Local Live Performance Programme Scheme
  - Love this Place

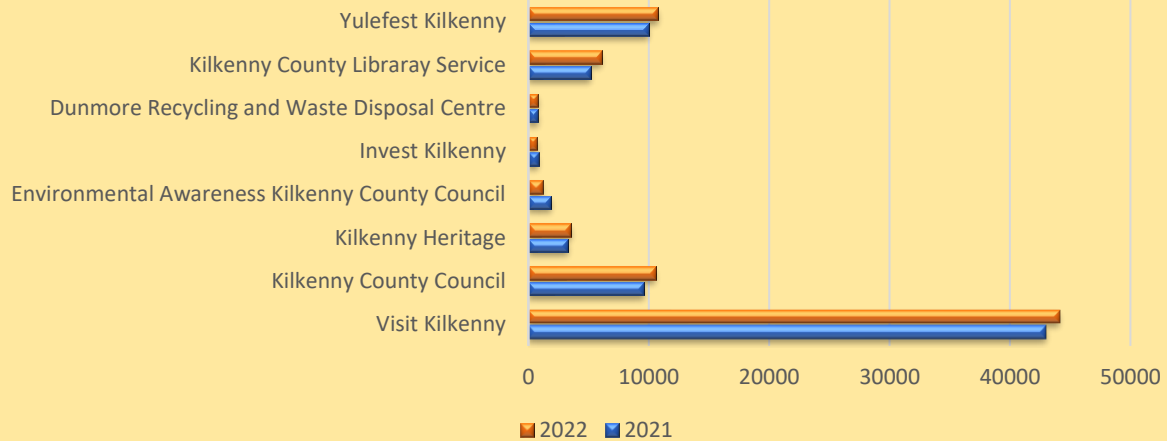




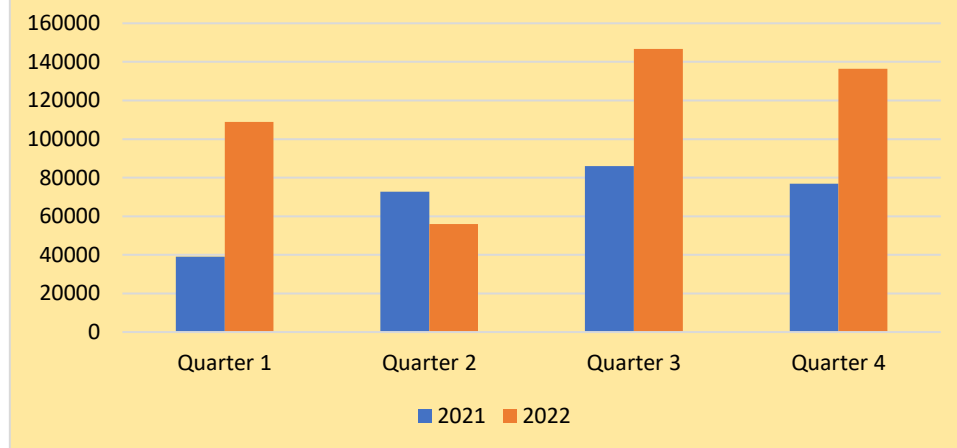
## Social Media Followers at 31/12/2022:



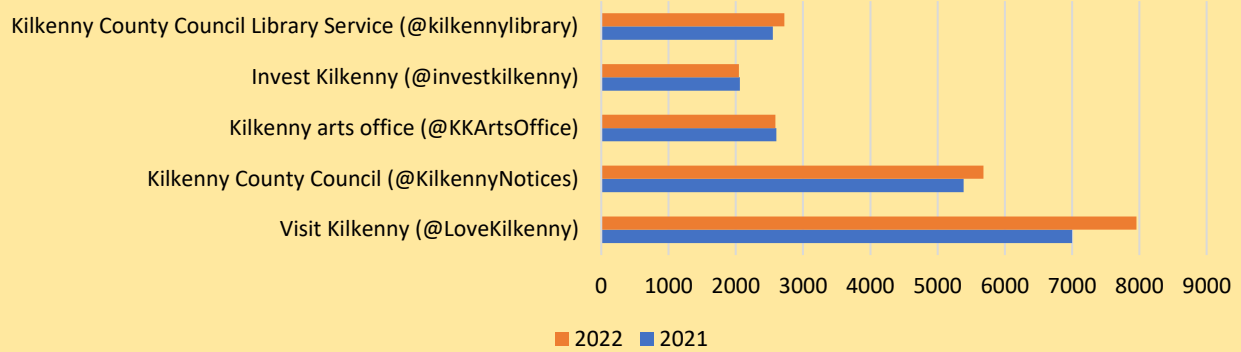
### Facebook Followers



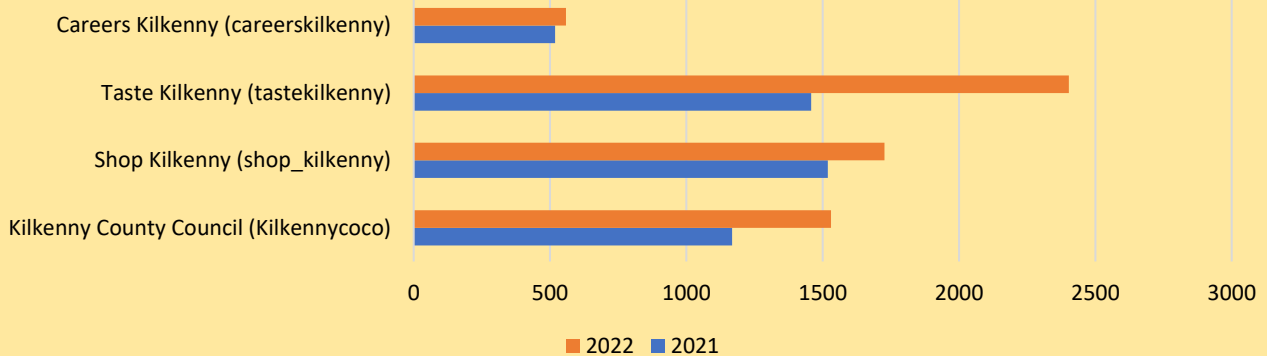
### Kilkenny County Council Facebook Main Page Reach in 2022



### Twitter Followers

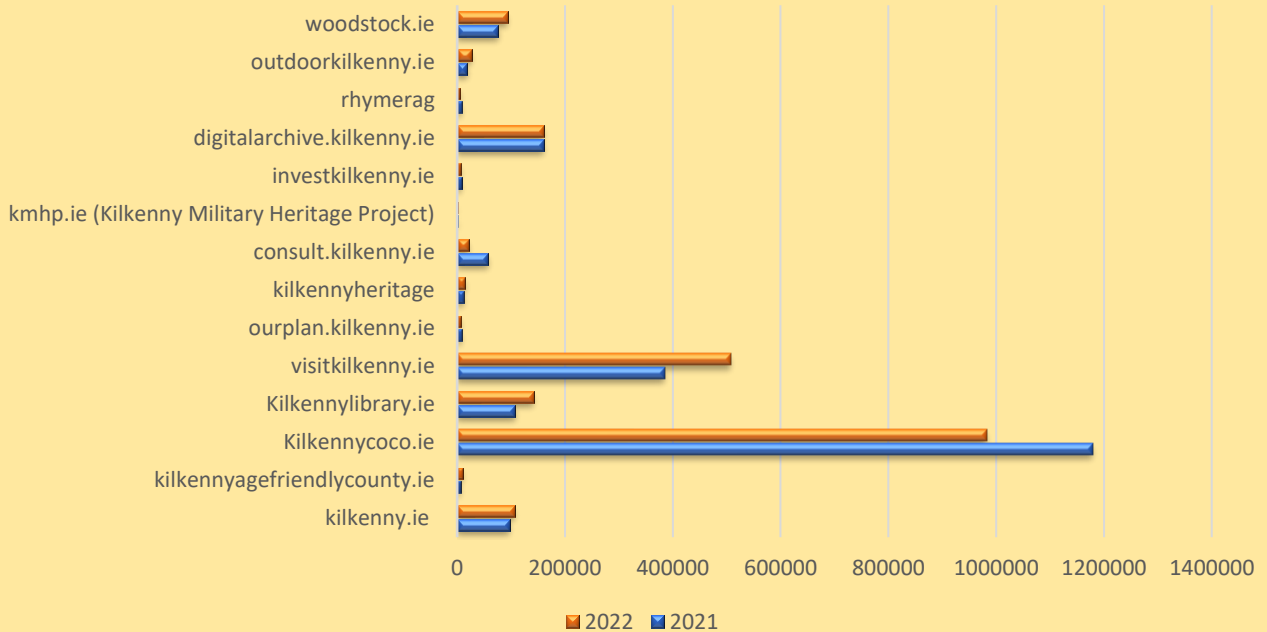


### Instagram Followers



## Website Page Views as at 31/12/2022

### Website Page Views



# HUMAN RESOURCES

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The objective of the Human Resources Department is “to ensure that there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the Organisation and to ensure as reasonably practical the safety, health and wellbeing of all our staff”.

The Human Resources Department vision is to provide effective strategic and operational support as a business partner to service delivery units of the Authority. Kilkenny County Council continue to develop and implement the Local Authority People Strategy launched by the LGMA in 2018. In doing so Kilkenny County Council is building capacity and capability of existing staff, planning a workforce required for current and future service delivery.

The Human Resources Department deals with the following areas:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Human Resource Strategy           | ▪ Equality                                      |
| ▪ Workforce Planning                | ▪ Diversity Management                          |
| ▪ Recruitment and Selection         | ▪ Work-Life Balance – Including Blended Working |
| ▪ Payroll and Superannuation        | ▪ Industrial Relations                          |
| ▪ Employee Training and Development | ▪ Data Analytics                                |
| ▪ Performance Management            | ▪ Employee Health, Safety and Welfare           |
| ▪ Leadership Development            |   |

The Human Resource Service in 2022 continued to offer online interview format to anyone who requested it and provided online delivered training modules where suitable. Blended working was rolled out to staff in December 2022.

## **Work Force Planning / Staffing Levels**

The number of staff employed at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 was 606 (Headcount) or 575 (*Whole-Time-Equivalent*). The Human Resource Department coordinates the ongoing management of the work force plans, managing new entrants, staff transfers and staff departures with line management colleagues.

## **Recruitment**

The Human Resources Department has moved to an e-recruitment process with competitions now being administered on line using a system called submit.com. Competitions are now administered with online applications, online selection stages including new enduring hybrid interview service where candidates are offered either face to face or video interviews.

There was a total of 44 competitions held during the year which resulted in 580 applications being received by the Council. 261 offers were made during 2022 resulting in 166 new appointments (*indoor & outdoor*). 76 of these new appointments were external candidates and 90 internal candidates.

Kilkenny County Council participated in a Careers Fair held in the Medieval Mile Museum on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This Careers Fair was used to highlight the jobs on offer by Kilkenny County Council with a view to expand the reach of the Authority to talent markets.

## **Summer Student & Lifeguard Programme**

The Council employed 27 students during the summer months of 2022 to cover the area of Litter Cleaning, Gardening and other seasonal work under this programme. This was a slight increase on the previous year. There were also 19 Lifeguards employed throughout the County during the summer period of 2022.

### **Shared Payroll & Superannuation Service**

This service is delivered by My Pay the Local Government Shared Services Provider from its offices in Portlaoise Co Laois with support from Kilkenny Human Resources Department. Kilkenny County.

### **Attendance Management**

The Local Government Sectors Attendance Management Policy was revised in 2013 and revised sick pay schemes were introduced for the Sector. Absenteeism levels continue to be managed in accordance with these policies. The Authority has seen improved reduced levels of absences year on year.

2022 saw a reduction in the instances of staff who were Covid positive and close contacts rules were relaxed.

### **Training & Development**

Kilkenny County Council is committed to ensuring the professional and personal development of all employees. Training and development is aimed at helping employees to become more effective in their jobs and developing their potential, while also meeting the goals and objectives of the Council. A comprehensive training programme was delivered in 2022 which incorporated mandatory training, work related and personal development programmes. This included Health & Safety training, Third level Learning Programmes, Climate Change training and various other in-house training workshops. A sample of the training programmes provided in 2022 is as follows:-

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▪ Abrasive Wheels                            | ▪ Leadership Training                    |
| ▪ Banksman                                   | ▪ Library Services Training              |
| ▪ Climate Change Training                    | ▪ Local Government Studies               |
| ▪ Competency Based Interview Training IPA    | ▪ Location of Underground Services       |
| ▪ Confined Spaces                            | ▪ Manual Handling                        |
| ▪ CSCS Signing, Lighting & Guarding Training | ▪ Mobile Elevated Work Platform Training |
| ▪ Customer Care Training                     | ▪ Safe Pass                              |
| ▪ Driver CPC                                 | ▪ Safety Representative Training         |
| ▪ First Aid Response Refresher               | ▪ Supervisory Management Training        |

Kilkenny County Council endeavours, subject to available resources, to facilitate and support staff personal development wishing to pursue Third Level Courses that are relevant to and contribute to their role and the business needs of the Council. We are dedicated to providing a library of courses/information which is easily accessible to staff online and to a new hybrid delivery of courses online and in house. 700 attended 105 various training courses in 2022.

### **Equality & Supporting Diversity**

Kilkenny County Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to a broad range of policies, practices and procedures which aim to recognise individual contribution and performance, develop each individual's capability and give everyone an equal opportunity to use his/her talent and realise his/her potential.

Kilkenny County Council promotes and supports the employment of people with disabilities and we exceed the public sector target as set out in the Disability Act i.e.3%.



# INTERNAL AUDIT

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The Internal Audit Unit function is to provide a critical and independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control framework across the Local Authority. As part of the overall governance and control environment in Kilkenny County Council, it provides Audit assurance that all significant operating risks are identified, managed and controlled effectively. The Internal Audit Unit is independent in the performance of its duties and in its reporting arrangements. It is a function of the Corporate Services Directorate.

The Audit Committee is made up of three external members and two Elected Members. The current Audit Committee was established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group and following consultation with the Chief Executive. The term of the committee is concurrent with that of the current Council which commenced on 1st June 2019 and will terminate on 31st May 2024. Its role is:

*To review the Council's financial reporting practices and procedures*

*To foster the development of best practice in the Local Authority internal audit function*

*To review the Council's financial reports and to report on its findings*

*To assess and promote efficiency and value for money*

*To review systems that are operated by the Local Authority for the management of risks.*

There were four Audit Committee meetings held in 2022. The March meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions. The other three meetings were held in person in Kilkenny County Council with the option of remote access for the Committee. During the year the Committee met with the Local Government Auditor and various Directors of Services and Head of Finance to discuss a broad range of issues.

Areas of priority included:

- Annual Budget 2023
- Annual Financial Statement 2021
- Financial Implications of Covid-19
- Housing
- Internal Audit Reports
- Key Capital Projects
- Local Government Audit Service Statutory Report 2021
- Management of Displaced Ukrainian Persons Situation
- NOAC Reports
- Planning, Tourism and Economic Development

Each year a new plan of work for Internal Audit is designed and prepared based on risk evaluation and on consultation with Management of the Council and the Audit Committee. The list of Internal Audit Assignments carried out in 2022 included the following:

- Arts Programme
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Housing Loans
- Motor Tax EOY Stock take
- Payroll Procedures
- Procurement
- Public Spending Code – In Depth Review of Capital and Revenue Projects.
- Random Cashier Check Motor Tax, Traffic/Receipts
- SICAP 2019-2020
- Vacant Site Register & Vacant Site Levies.

# ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

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The Elected Members adopted the 2022 Roadwork's Scheme for County Kilkenny in March 2022. The total value of Maintenance and Improvement Schemes amounted to €25m.

Kilkenny County Council successfully secured €566,800 (*B12 Maintenance, HD28 Skid Resistance Capital Maintenance Works*) in additional funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland [TII] during the course of the year which allowed for additional design, improvement and maintenance works on the National Road Network.

Kilkenny County Council was successful in 2022 in securing funding of €628,610 under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) scheme for works on non-public roads.

## **Roads Capital Projects & Improvements**

The past decade has seen continued significant capital expenditure invested in road schemes in County Kilkenny.

## **MAJOR PROJECTS**

### **N25 Glenmore to Waterford Major Scheme.**

There was no funding allocation for this scheme in 2022 to progress past route option selection and the scheme was formally suspended in Q3 2022.

### **N24 Waterford to Cahir Major Scheme.**

An allocation of €2 m was provided to advance Phase 2 (Option Selection) during 2022.

## **MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME**

Under the Minor Works Programme, financed by TII, Kilkenny County Council has made significant progress with respect to the following:

### **(a) N24 Carrick Road Minor Improvement Scheme**

An allocation of €150,000 was provided in 2022 to advance the design stage of this Scheme and the preparation of documentation for the statutory approvals stage. The application for 177AE Planning Approval and Compulsory Purchase Order Confirmation was made to An Bord Pleanála during Q4 2022. A decision is expected during Q3 2023.

### **(b) N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme**

An allocation of €2m was provided in 2022 to advance this scheme. The tender for construction was issued via etenders during Q3 2022 and awarded to the successful contractor Wills Bros, Mayo in Q4 2022. Construction is set to commence on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **(c) N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee Improvement Scheme**

An allocation of €500,000 was provided in 2022 to further advance the scheme. An Bord Pleanála approved a 177 AE Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order in 2021. Enabling works were completed during Q2 2022 which will facilitate the future construction phase. Notice to treat was served on all affected landowners in Q3 2022 and land acquisition procedures are on-going. Advanced archaeological investigations commenced during Q4 2022 and will continue into Q1/2 2023.

## OTHER MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

### **N78 Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge**

Through a Section 85 Agreement with Kilkenny County Council, Kildare County Council (*Bridge Management Office*) have project managed the construction of the footbridge on Kilkenny County Council's behalf. The bridge was 100% grant funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII.) RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd were the appointed consultants on the project who have taken the project from inception through to construction. RPS engaged Powell Williams Architects (UK) for specialist bridge architect advice early on in the project on which various options for the design were considered. Kenny Civils & Plant Ltd (Galway) were the appointed contractors on the project. Works commenced in June 2021 and concluded with the official opening in early 2022. The overall cost of the project was in excess of €1.7m.



*View of the new Pedestrian Bridge at Night*

### **National Pavement Improvement Programme**

Under the Pavement Improvement and Minor Works Programme, financed by TII, Kilkenny County Council has made significant progress with respect to the following:

#### **(a) N78 Webbsborough**

This project was completed by Kilkenny Block Company Ltd for a contract value of €640,000 (ex VAT) during 2022 and consisted of approximately 1.9 km pavement improvement overlay and other associated works.



*N78 Webbsborough – Finished Pavement*

#### **(b) N10 Danesfort**

This project was tendered and awarded to Lagan Asphalt Ltd during 2022 with construction commencing during November 2022. It consists of approximately 1.3 km of pavement improvement overlay, safety and other associated works. The project is planned to be completed during Q1 2023 for a contract value of €825,000 ex VAT.

#### **(c) N77 Suttonsrath Pavement Scheme**

This project was tendered and awarded to Priority Construction Ltd during 2022. It consists of approximately 1.6 km of pavement improvement overlay and other associated works. The project is expected to commence construction during Q2 2023 for a contract value of €818,330 ex VAT.



### **National Road B12 Maintenance Works**

Kilkenny County Council received €170,800 in 2022 to address a number of specific issues identified by the Municipal District Engineers on the national road network.

### **National Road HD28 Skid Resistance Maintenance Works**

A contract was tendered and awarded to Tracblast for a contract value of €41,614 to complete mechanical abrasion works on the N10, N24 & N76 national road. These works were completed during Q2 2022.

Kilkenny County Council under Skid Resistance Maintenance Works completed major surface replacement works to address surface pavement issues on the N10/N76 Kilkenny Ring Road Roundabouts.

This project was completed during 2022 and consisted of pavement improvement works to 8 roundabouts & lead-in/exits from them on the Kilkenny Ring Road and other associated works. The project was completed by Lagan Asphalt Ltd for a contract value of €1,600,000 (ex VAT.)



*Typical Night Works underway by Contractor on N10 Dublin Rd Roundabout*

### **National Road Capital Maintenance Works.**

Works involving pavement reconstruction works to the value of approximately €250,000 (Ex Vat) were completed by Priority Construction Ltd on the N76 Callan Road in the vicinity of Archersleas.



*N76 Callan Road, Kilkenny. (Reconstruction Works in progress)*



### **Fencing Retrofit on the National Road Network.**

Kilkenny County Council tendered and issued 2 separate contracts to a combined value of €67,000 (Ex VAT) during 2022. These works are on-going and expected to conclude in Q1 2023. This scheme provides for the replacement of old concrete post and rail fencing with passively safe fencing. The funding provided for the completion of works on the N10, N77 & N78.



*Typical Fencing Retrofit completed works on the N10 Dundaryark*

### **Vehicle Restraint System Upgrade**

A contract was awarded during 2021 to Lagan Operations & Maintenance for the replacement of substandard and damaged sections of Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) on the national road network. This work commenced in late Q3 2021 and was completed during Q1 2022. The contract value was in excess of €600,000. The next set of VRS upgrades is undergoing evaluation at present to determine where works are deemed necessary.



*New Section of VRS on the R723 (Former N25)*

## **NON- NATIONAL ROAD NETWORK**

### **Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programme 2022**

The main road improvements on the Non-National road network are funded from the Road.

Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Grant Scheme. The Council received a grant allocation of €11.5m in 2022. Works under this funding Scheme are prioritised on a basis of providing for enhancements to the road condition rating, skid resistance and impermeability. Significant progress has been made on the Non-National road network over the years since the Restoration Grant was introduced and the condition rating of the roads in County Kilkenny compares favourably with that of other Counties.



### **Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme**

The Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme is targeted at locations along the non-national road network which have been identified as collision prone zones. The works carried out under this programme include improved junction delineation and visibility splays, traffic calming, enhanced roadside delineation and pedestrian crossing facilities within urban areas. 19 schemes were completed under this programme at a cost of €397,400 in 2022.

### **Public Lighting**

Kilkenny County Council maintains approximately 11,000 public lights throughout the County.

In 2022, Enerveo was awarded the contract for the maintenance of the public lighting stock with Kilkenny County Council. This was a joint tender by Kilkenny and Carlow Local County Councils. The introduction of this new maintenance contract will generate further savings for both Local Authorities.

### **Kilkenny LED Replacement Programme Non-National Roads**

The replacement of the existing lanterns with new LED lanterns will be carried out as part of the overall Public Lighting Energy Enhancement Project (PLEEP). The Works contract for the PLEEP project was awarded on the 17th August 2022 to Killaree Lighting Services - ASD Joint Venture and Arup Consulting Engineers respectively. The works will commence in County Kilkenny in Q1 of 2023 with completion of the works in Q4 of 2023. Approx. 5,200 (50%) lights in Kilkenny require upgrading.



### **Flood Relief Capital Projects**

Kilkenny County Council saw a €29.6million investment in Flood Risk Management measures proposed across 6 schemes in the County, funded by the Governments Ten Year Programme of investment (2018-2028) and administrated by the OPW.

In 2022, two major Flood Relief Capital Projects advanced through the Design Stage of the schemes for both the communities of Graiguenamanagh and Ballyhale. Ballyhale moved into Stage 2 Planning Phase in 2022. Graiguenamanagh is due to advance to Stage 2 Planning Phase in 2023. An Bord Pleanála approved an application for Site Investigations Works in Graiguenamanagh in 2022. These works will commence in 2023 and will inform the design of the preferred option.

These flood relief schemes will provide a standard of protection when complete to approximately 92 properties and will have a significant social and economic benefit to the effected communities of both Graiguenamanagh and Ballyhale.

### **Minor Works Programme**

Kilkenny County Council sought funding from the OPW under the Minor Works Programme for 2 Minor Works projects in Kilkenny in 2022. Callan received €18,000 for a flood study and assessment of the current pumping arrangements & Ardalo received €54,000 for an extensive flood study. Both projects commenced in 2022 and are due for completion in 2nd quarter of 2023.

# WATER SERVICES

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## Operation & Maintenance

Under Service Level Agreement with Irish Water (IW) (*will be known as Uisce Éireann from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023*), Kilkenny County Council manages:

- 19 public drinking water supplies
- 35 public waste water treatment schemes
- 9.59 billion litres of water (*average 26.28 million litres/day*) provided to approximately 67,500 customers.



*Water Quality Monitoring Station*

## Kilkenny Main Drainage - Satellite Dewatering Centre

Under the National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan a set of requirements for the design and installation of sludge treatment facilities were developed by IW to standardise the approach across the country. Kilkenny's main wastewater treatment plant located at Purcellsinch was identified as a suitable location for sludge treatment facilities for Kilkenny.

Following the granting of planning permission, the works were tendered with the successful tenderer appointed in 2022. Construction work commenced in early September at the Purcellsinch site on the Sion Road in Kilkenny City and consists of the following main items:

- Sludge acceptance works including screening
- Sludge Import Reception Tank
- Sludge Blending Tank
- Sludge Liquor Return Sump
- Sludge Liquor Return Balancing Tank
- Odour unit
- Refurbish Picket Fence Thickener
- New Sludge Dewatering Press



*Sludge Import & Liquor Tank Installation Works – Kilkenny City & Environs Wastewater Treatment Plant*



## Kilkenny City Regional Water Supply Scheme

Works are ongoing to upgrade to the Kilkenny City Regional Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) consists of upgrading the existing Troyswood Water Treatment Plant to increase the daily production capacity from 8MLD (*mega litres per day*) to 19MLD, all ancillary works to facilitate the decommissioning of the existing water treatment plant in Radestown and to address shortcomings in water quality in the existing plant.

Construction on the upgrade of the Kilkenny City RWSS continued throughout the year with approximately 45% of the overall construction works completed during 2022.

Elements of work completed during 2022 include:

- Construction of new building comprising of chemical storage and dosing, high lift pump station, Control room, ESB substation.
- Construction of new clarification & filter tanks.
- Construction of new wash water treatment facilities including sludge tanks and settlement tanks.
- Construction of the River Nore water abstraction point. New intake works comprising of sediment settlement sump, fine screen chamber, pump sump, control building completed.
- Completion of the 2.8km rising main to supply treated water from the upgraded Troyswood WTP to the existing reservoirs at the Radestown WTP.



*New Inlet Works – Kilkenny City RWSS Troyswood*



*New Chemical Building & Tanks – Kilkenny City RWSS Troyswood*



### Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme

The Bennettsbridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project, part of the Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) was handed over to the IW's Delivery Team during 2022 and is currently in the concept design phase. A contractor was appointed by IW under the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) type of contract.

Subject to statutory approvals, including successful planning and land acquisition, the current programme for construction completion is 2028.

### Leakage Reduction Programme

A budget of approximately €4.2 million was allocated by Irish Water to assist in achieving the leakage target in Kilkenny for 2022 in addition to improving the overall below ground assets. In relation to mains replacement, approximately 6.5km was constructed in 2022 with a further 5.8km at design stage.

### Mains Rehabilitation Works

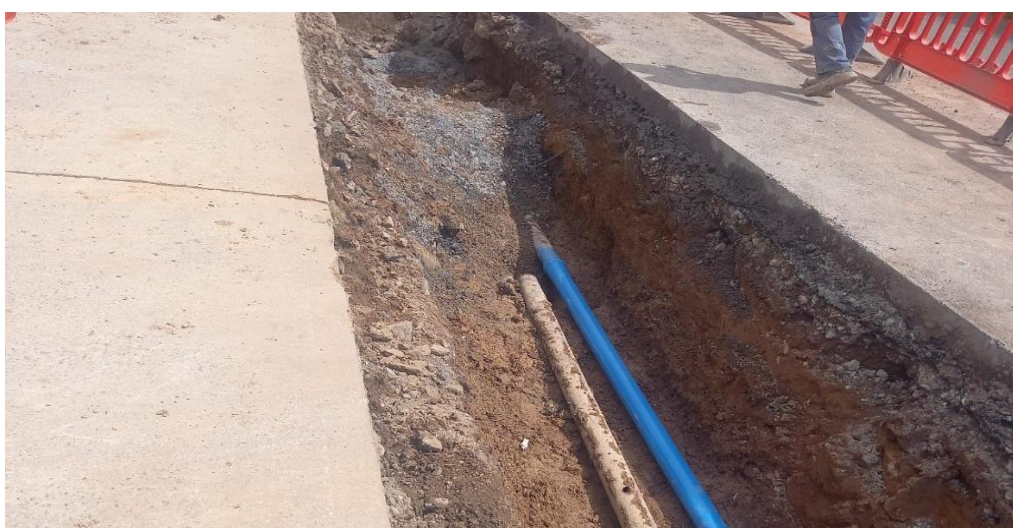
Works undertaken in 2022 include:

- **Knocktopher Village** - installation completed on 1,250m of ageing 100mm Asbestos Watermain with replacement watermain on the R713 between Knocktopher and Ballyhale.



*Construction of new water-main at Knocktopher Village*

- **Slieverue Village** – installation completion of 1200m of 125mm water main.



*Drilling of new watermain at Slieverue Village*

- **Carrickmourne, Thomastown** - installation of 3250m of 125mm water main. Completed Q4 2022.
- **Rathduff Reservoir** – Norelands WTP – replacement of 2.8km of asbestos rising main and 4.2 km of asbestos distribution main with new HDPE. Commenced Q4 2022.
- **Dublin Road, Thomastown** – installation of 1220m of 180 HDPE to replace ageing asbestos water main. Project commenced Q4 2022.

### Backyard Services

*The Michael Street, Kilkenny* mains rehab (250m) and backyard services (24) project was completed in Q2 2022. On completion of the project, the benefits were a reduction in leakage and improved pressure for the residents of Michael Street.



*Transfer of services to new HDPE public-side mains at Michael Street, Kilkenny City*

*St Fiacre's Place, Kilkenny* – Construction commenced in Q4 2022 for mains rehab (697m) and backyard services (99 homes).

### Pressure Management

The generation of more stable pressures within network allowed for increased pressure management applications and have a direct effect on levels of leakage. These hydraulically actuated Pressure Reducing Valves replaced throttled valves which reduced pressures in the network in proportion to the flow through the valves, resulting in a reduction in burst frequencies recorded.



*PRV installation at Kiltown Cross, Inistioge*

### Find & Fix

The Find and Fix process continued through 2022 reducing leakage within the Bennettsbridge, Castlecomer, Thomastown, Inistioge, South Kilkenny, Piltown and Kilkenny City water supply zones.

#### First Fix

Cold calling resumed in 2022 after Covid-19 restrictions lifted. New regional contractor commenced Find & Fix works in Q1 2022 on Customer-Side-Leaks in Kilkenny where waivers were received by property owners. These works helps to improve supplies for all customers on the scheme and reduce wastage of water.

### Disinfection and Source Protection Programme

Upgrade of works at Water Treatment Plants and reservoirs has delivered a standardisation of disinfection across the County. The programme has improved drinking water quality by improving the disinfection system and standards, while ensuring compliance with all regulations. Source protection projects commenced at the following sites in Q4 2022:

- Jamestown
- Gorteen
- Callan



### **Access to Heights and Edge Protection AHEP Scheme**

This scheme was undertaken in partnership with IW. Contractors were appointed to carry out works to address the risk associated with falling from heights and ensure the safety of personnel at designated Waste-Water and Water Sites in Kilkenny. Works on ladders, platform's, covers, handrail, fencing, security etc. Risk assessments have been submitted for 19 sites with works commencing in Q1 2023.



*New Access Platform with Handrail support at Galmoy WWTP*

### **Welfare Programme**

In conjunction with IW, Welfare Facilities to be provided at the following Water Treatment Plants in Kilkenny:

- Loon
- Ballyragget
- Gowran
- Bennettsbridge
- Callan



*New Welfare facility installed at Loon Water Treatment Plant*

## **RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

The EPA is the Supervising Authority for public water supplies. Kilkenny County Council is the Supervising Authority for private water supplies in County Kilkenny, which fall under the Drinking Water Regulations. There are 133 small Private Supplies (SPS), which typically include schools, food premises and rural housing estates.

The Council manages and allocates Government Grants approved under the Rural Water Programme for group water and waste water schemes, in addition to private wells grants.

- 195 Group Water Schemes in County Kilkenny.
- 125 are served from own sources.
- 70 are served from public mains.
- 55 Group Schemes were paid €420,000 Group Subsidies towards the operational running costs of Water Schemes.
- 189 grant applications were approved for the provision of wells to private houses.
- €393,152 was paid out in well grants.

In relation to the Capital Programme for Rural Water all planned work for 2019-2021 were completed including measures to assist due to drought conditions.

Capital Grants amounting to €101,282 were paid out in 2022. Invites for the next 5 year programme are expected to be received from the Department by the end of Q1 2023.

# **DIRECTORATE OF HOUSING, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES**

Director of Services: Ms. Mary J. Mulholland

# HOUSING

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## HOUSING

Kilkenny County Council provides social housing supports to persons who are unable to meet their housing needs from their own resources. The Housing Department aims to meet the delivery targets set out in the Government's 'Housing for All' program. The Housing Department aids households through the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme and provides grants to private households. A high-quality maintenance service is provided as well as energy upgrades to its housing stock through the Energy Retrofit Programme.

### Housing Capital Programme

Kilkenny County Council is ambitious and innovative in the delivery of housing units and will utilise all available measures within the Housing For All Programme to meet and exceed the targets set for the County to 2026. While Kilkenny County Council have a strong delivery pipeline the target of 170 for delivery in 2022 was not met. Delivery for the year 2022, of substantially complete new build housing units is 144. In addition to this delivery, 14 acquisitions and 3 units under the Traveller Accommodation Plan was also delivered giving an overall social housing delivery for the current year of 161.

Main Projects as follows:

- **Limegrove, Ferrybank:**  
*10 units completed in January 2022 – KCC Turnkey Project.*
- **Pennefeather Court, Hebron Road, Kilkenny:**  
*8 units completed May 2022 – KCC Turnkey Project*
- **Pennefeather Green, Hebron Road, Kilkenny:**  
*58 units completed June 2022 – KCC Turnkey Project*
- **Orchard Close, New Orchard, Kilkenny:**  
*23 units completed April 2022 – AHB Turnkey – Cluid Housing*
- **Brother Thomas Place, Church Lane, Kilkenny:**  
*12 units completed August 2022 – AHB CAS Direct Build – Good Shepherd Services Ltd.*
- **Grennan Villas, Thomastown:**  
*5 Units completed. CAS Construction – Camphill Communities of Ireland.*
- **Tinnypark, Callan Road:**  
*Kilkenny. 6 Units completed. CAS Turnkey – SOS Kilkenny.*

Projects on Site include:

- 25 Units at Legan Grange and Court, Thomastown (KCC Direct Build)
- 6 units at Golf Links Rd., Kilkenny (KCC Direct Build)
- 6 Units at Mooncoin (New Rd. & Chapel Street) (KCC Turnkey)
- 9 Units at Old Creamery, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.(KCC Turnkey)
- 88 Units at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny (KCC Turnkey)
- 12 units at The Crescent, Belmont, Ferrybank
- 5 units at Village Gardens, Waterford Road, Kilkenny.





58 UNITS AT PENNYFEATHER GREEN, KILKENNY CITY



17 UNITS AT LIMEGROVE, FERRYBANK



2 UNITS AT SHANGANNY, JENKINSTOWN



2 UNITS AT MULLINAVAT



4 UNITS, COMERAGH GRANGE, MOONCOIN



8 UNITS AT PENNYFEATHER COURT, KILKENNY CITY



2 UNITS, GRAIGUENAMANAGH



5 UNITS, BERKELEY DRIVE, FERRYBANK



2 UNITS AT CHAPEL VIEW, MOONCOIN



Kilkenny County Council

## HOUSING CAPITAL DELIVERY 2022



### Homeless Services

The Housing Office continues to see an increase in the number of homeless presentations with 478 new homeless presentations in 2022 compared to 370 for the year 2021 and 252 for the year 2020.

The cases presenting are increasing in complexity and the options to provide emergency accommodation are diminishing making the provision of effective homeless services extremely challenging.

We continue to focus on the prevention of homelessness and offer emergency accommodation as a last resort only.

<b>HOMELESS SERVICES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Homeless Presentations</b>	370	478
<b>Homeless Assessment Outcomes</b>		
Prevention & Interventions	193	246
Emergency Service	84	77
Not eligible / Did not avail of service	96	155
<b>HAP Place Finder Service</b>		
Homeless HAP tenancies @ 1 <sup>st</sup> January	70	100
Homeless HAP tenancies created during year	30	15
Homeless HAP tenancies in place @ 31 <sup>st</sup> December	100	115
Number of Homeless HAP tenancy breakdowns	1	2

### Housing List

The gross Housing Demand at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 was 1,588 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number on Housing List</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number on Housing List</b>
December 2022	1,588	December 2016	2,059
December 2021	1,619	December 2015	2,744
December 2020	1,899	December 2014	2,456
December 2019	1,988	December 2013	2,144
December 2018	2,070	December 2012	3,688
December 2017	2,180	December 2011	3,118

### Housing Allocations

306 tenancies were offers to approved Social Housing Applicants in 2022.

	<b>Kilkenny County Council</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Approved Housing Body</b>	<b>%</b>
Allocations Offered	190		116	
Offers Accepted	156	82%	95	82%
Offers Refused	34	18%	21	18%
Decisions Pending	0	0	0	0

### Tenancy Management

The Tenancy Management Section deals with allocations, maintenance and anti-social behaviour complaints in relation to our tenants. In 2022, over 6,300 maintenance calls were received in relation to our 2,668 housing units.

### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

The Energy Retrofitting Programme continued in 2022. 28 of our houses were upgraded to a B2 energy rating at a cost of €718k. Eligible works included wall and attic insulation, windows & doors replacement and heat pump installation.

### Housing Loans & Tenant Purchase Scheme

The Local Authority Home Loan Scheme (LAHL) replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Scheme from 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

60.....	Loan Applications Received
15.....	Loans Approved [Value €1.775m]
14.....	Loans Paid [Value €1.912m]
€136K.....	Average Loan Paid



## Housing Private Grants

Kilkenny County Council administers a number of grant options to assist older people and people with a disability in carrying out works which are necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for their accommodation needs. The annual budget is €1,977,000. An increase in works under the various grant schemes has resulted in an increase in expenditure in the current year with a projected spend in the region of €2,057,389 for the year 2022. An application for additional funding was made to the Department of Housing during November 2022 with approval received to increase the 2022 budget allocation for Housing Grants by €64,000 to meet increased demand.

Grants Approved & Committed in 2022		
Scheme	No.	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	163	€1,646,042
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	23	€87,359
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	183	€992,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>€2,726,281</b>

## Private Rented Accommodation

Kilkenny County Council is dedicated to improving the living standards of tenants in private rented housing. This is done through the inspection of private rented properties to determine whether a property meets the standards for rental accommodation and where the property does not, for ensuring compliance through the use of improvement and prohibition notices and legal proceedings. Landlords and tenants are required to allow the Housing Authority access to the property to undertake inspections.

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS	2021	2022
Total Number of Inspections carried out in year	437	436
Total number of First Inspections	162	365
Total number of Second Inspections	275	71
Number of final inspections achieving compliance	219	93
Number of Improvement Notices issued	6	1
Number of Prohibition Notices issued	1	0



## AGE FRIENDLY

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Kilkenny Age Friendly Alliance is a multi-agency voluntary partnership that works closely with older people in Kilkenny. The Alliance meets regularly throughout the year and is responsible for the development and implementation of Kilkenny's Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2022.

The Alliance is currently chaired by the Interim Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, Mr. Sean McKeown. Membership of the Alliance represents a number of organisations such as HSE, Garda Síochána, Leader Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, Kilkenny Sports Partnership and Kilkenny Older People's Council.

### **Kilkenny County Council**

- Progressed MacDonagh train station as an Age Friendly Train Station.
- Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2022 application to Creative Ireland expanding on the "Knitted together" project to include a more inter-generational approach and the inclusion of the men's sheds.
- Age Friendly Bus shelters installed at 13 locations around the City.
- Provision of three bus shelters with real time information in Castlecomer, Ballyragget, and Paulstown.
- New controlled pedestrian crossing to link the Church to the Graveyard and Community Centre, Piltown.
- New controlled pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Piltown at Park and Bus Shelter.
- New controlled pedestrian crossing on R698 Piltown linking Hillcrest to National School.
- New footpath in Lower Kilmacow to improve access from village to shop.
- Public lighting scheme at Chapel Lane, Moneenroe - Provision of 16 new LED lights.
- Provision of a ramp with associated handrail at St Lachtain's Church, Freshford.
- Reconstruction of 300m of footpaths along the N78 Kilkenny Road, Castlecomer. Funding secured from TII under the B1.2 Programme.
- Age friendly housing delivered under the Housing Programme.
- Community Fire Safety-Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSV's)

### **Kilkenny County Library Service**

- Reader Pens purchased for each library in Kilkenny. These pens read words and full lines of text aloud for independent reading.
- Loughboy and Graignamanagh Libraries are Age Friendly Libraries. Kilkenny Library Services are working towards achieving Age Friendly Library status for all branches in County Kilkenny.
- Library staff attended the Kilkenny Older Persons Council Celebrations held in November, 2022.
- The Keep Well Campaign was supported with a range of initiatives including creative writing and poetry writing workshops, Ireland Reads Author Series and Dial a Story.
- Age Friendly Libraries Digital Ambassadors programme was launched where Library Staff trained to become digital mentors for older people.
- Library book stocks were increased to respond to demand.
- Library Stands at the Age Friendly Gatherings held across the County.
- New titles focusing on dementia were added to the Healthy Ireland at your Library book collections.

### **Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP)**

- KRSP Strategy 2022-2025 launched.
- Attended the Kilkenny Older Peoples Council Celebration held on 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- Sport Ireland Winter Initiative available through KRSP offering lots for older adults to keep active. This included a stock of Activator Walking Poles that can be loaned to community groups.
- 8 week online programme for older adults held in early 2022.
- Delivered a 10 week community chair-based exercise class including a 6 week programme of chair based exercises for St. Canice's ladies group.



- Older adults bowling, boccia and craic each Monday night in the Watershed and Men on the move programme was also available in the Watershed.
- KRSP ran a wide variety of programmes for people with additional needs and worked with SOS, Rehabcare, National Learning Network and a variety of services in the HSE (TASK, St Canice's etc). Programmes include swimming, Football For All, Activator Walking Poles, Online Exercise classes and walking programme.
- Programmes run during the year included: Ladies Let's Move, Couch to 3k, Men on the Move, Yoga for Men, Monday Night Walking and getting 1,000 people active including schools (Strava).
- Four sessions for Men on the Move (over 45's) were held on the track.
- Boccia sets were procured and free tutor led programmes for organisations, groups or settings were provided.

### **An Garda Siochána**

- Gardai supported The Lions Club in promoting "Message in a Bottle". This is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details in a standard form and in a common location in case of an emergency.
- Fraud Awareness Week was run from 28th March- 1st April to make older people aware of the scams that are prevalent at the moment.

### **Kilkenny Older Persons Council (OPC)**

- Review underway on the Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027.
- Quarterly Newsletters circulated to all members on the OPC's database.
- Participated in a webinar run by Age Friendly Ireland 'A Spotlight on Age Friendly Housing, Policy to Practice' 2022 Celebration Conference.
- County wide gatherings were held promoting the OPC with significant new membership achieved in 2022.
- A subcommittee was established to map the developments within the Age Friendly Programme over the last 10 years. A booklet was produced together with videos and audio recordings. The Book and video were launched in November 2022 celebrating 10 years of Age Friendly in Kilkenny.
- Walkability Audit undertaken in St. Luke's Hospital (new wing).
- The OPC Convention took place on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May in Trim. Co. Meath. The theme of the convention was "Health and Wellbeing – Live Well Be Well".
- Members weekly newsletter/Kilkenny People Age Friendly features.
- Two members of OPC participated on the Housing Committee set up by Kilkenny County Council to look at policy documents on "Housing Options for Older People".
- OPC have representation on the National Transport Working Group.

### **Kilkenny Leader Partnership (KLP)**

- Trail Kilkenny supported by KLP are installing 43 audio points along the main looped trails across the County. The audio supports making the trail more accessible to the visually impaired.
- Social Prescribing Service is delivered by KLP to tackle loneliness and isolation by creating a link between the client and community and voluntary services.
- KLP supported Piltown Community to develop their own broadband. They delivered four roadshows to communities to investigate if other communities are interested in developing a similar project.
- Held a conference on public transport.
- Bus shelters in Callan, Kilamery, Ballyragget, Castlecomer and Paultown (Applegreen) have been installed.
- KLP is planning monthly coffee mornings as a social activity in Ferrybank.
- Provided training and support to the Men's Shed network.

### **Health Service Executive**

- Health Promotion and Improvement Officers are now based in Callan, Thomastown, Newpark Primary Care Centre and James Green with a remit for smoking cessation support.
- The Community Connector working specifically with the Integrated Care Team for Older Person.
- Supported the 10 year Age Friendly publication and documentary held in November 2022.
- Provided 2 day Care Pals Training rolled out by Age and Opportunity in November, 2022.
- Health and Wellbeing Living Well programme returned to face to face delivery along with online options of workshops in Kilkenny.

### **Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce**

- Continued to engage with the Age Friendly Business Initiative during 2022. Kilkenny is acknowledged nationally as one of the most successful locations for rolling out the concept.
- Chamber Members participated in the Walkability Audit conducted on 17th February at MacDonagh Train Station as part of the process to become the first Age Friendly Train Station in Ireland.
- Supported and helped to promote the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 which included an Age Friendly category.
- Held a Seminar on 'Employing People with Disabilities'

### **Kilkenny Carlow Education Training Board (KCETB)**

- Acorn Tablet training was available through the adult Education Office and training can be provided on a one to one basis or as part of a group setting.
- Attended community gatherings with the Older Persons Council and informed communities on what is available through KCETB.
- The Community Arts and Culture Grants 2022.
- Under Reach Grant 2023, groups can apply to purchase items such as a bank of laptops for their service users.

### **Kilkenny Public Participation Network (PPN)**

- The PPN continued to work with Kilkenny Access Group in respect of capacity building, providing support and access to information.
- Kilkenny PPN in conjunction with Kilkenny Volunteer Centre and Kilkenny Older Person's Council took part in a **community roadshow** throughout the months of March, April and May. The objective of the roadshow was to engage with community organisations and groups throughout the County to inform them about the work of the PPN and the Volunteer Centre

# COMMUNITY

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## **Creative Ireland**

Kilkenny County Council received €218,961 funding under Creative Ireland in 2022 to deliver the Creative Ireland Programme in County Kilkenny. Actions under the programme included a grant scheme, projects supporting creativity in older people and Cruinniú na nÓg. 2022 was the last year of the Creative Ireland Programme with a new 5 year programme commencing from 2023. During 2022 a new Creative Ireland Strategy for County Kilkenny was prepared to cover the next 5 year programme.

## **Kilkenny Public Participation Network (PPN)**

The Council continues to support and resource the Kilkenny PPN by providing funds to employ staff and office accommodation.

## **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)**

The Council received funding of €861,867 in January 2022 for Callan Friary Complex/Upper Bridge Street Regeneration & Master Plan for the historic core of Callan Town. This funding will enable the Council to carry out the design and planning stages for the future use of the Callan Friary Complex to include the relocation of the existing library services in Callan.

The Council received funding of €1,345,301 for Piltown Town Centre Rural Regeneration Project. This project builds on existing regeneration projects to bring a holistic response to addressing identified challenges in Piltown. It includes the development of a historic building to provide a social enterprise and community space and public realm works to revitalise the town centre.

## **Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022**

Kilkenny County Council received funding of €401,900 for 5 applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the following projects in County Kilkenny:

**Thomastown:** Further development and finishing of existing outdoor park/amenity in centre of town – €56,000.

**Streetscape Enhancement Measure in Callan:** €100,000.

**Building Acquisition Measure Glenmore** for purchase of building to house community café/shop/meeting space – €146,000.

**Project Development Measure for Thomastown and Glenmore:** €49,950 each – consultation, design brief, tender, EIA, surveys and screenings, planning, architect fees for buildings to turn into community facility.

A further 7 applications were approved under the standard Town & Village Scheme 2021 early in 2022 for projects at Piltown, Gowran, Callan, Johnstown, Urlingford, Graiguenamanagh and Kilmanagh. Each of these projects is being developed presently.





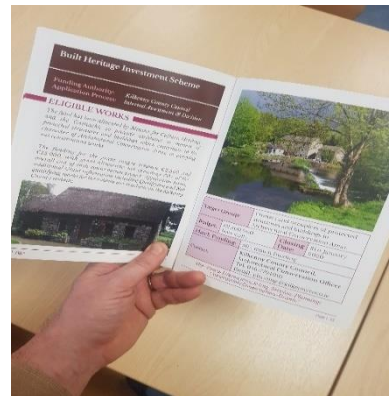


### Community Grants Booklet

The fifth Community Grants information booklet was produced by the Council and launched in February 2022. This interactive document was also available on-line.

### Funding ONE STOP SHOP

Phase 5 of the online ONE STOP SHOP for funding was developed. This online portal is designed to make the Kilkenny Grants Booklet more accessible to the general public.





### **Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP)**

In 2022, consultations were completed with key stakeholders for the new KRSP Strategy and the strategy 2022-2025 was launched in 2022.

### **Estate Management Grants**

The Estate Management Grant is available to resident's groups/community committees who represent Kilkenny County Council Social Housing Estates. In 2022, a total of 44 applications were received under this scheme.

### **Pride of Place 2022**

In 2022, three local projects were nominated by Kilkenny County Council to represent Kilkenny in the National Pride of Place Awards, Ireland's largest community awards event. Dubbed the 'Oscars of the Community Sector' the Pride of Place awards is an annual competition organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. It promotes and celebrates the best in community development and recognises the selfless efforts of people in making their local area a better place to live, work and socialise. The projects representing Kilkenny included the Thomastown New Recreational Amenity, The Graiguenamanagh Tourism Activity Hub and Mullinavat. The winners of the 2022 awards were announced in January 2023, Graiguenamanagh Barrow Valley Activities Hub won the National Pride of Place Award under the Community Tourism Category and Mullinavat were runners up in the Village Category.



*Graiguenamanagh Tourism Hub won the National Pride of Place Award under the Community Tourism Category*

### **Community Events Grants Scheme**

The closing date for the 2022 Events Grants Scheme was the 30th March, 2022. The total budget allocated for the 2022 scheme was €22,400. A total of 35 applications were received.

We had a number of enquiries after the closing date and as we had remaining funds we approved a further 5 community groups funding for Event Grants to the value of €3,000.

### **Community Information e-newsletter (IN FOCUS - District Town E-Magazines)**

The fourth Community IN FOCUS information newsletter covering Graiguenamanagh was published in 2022. These e-newsletters focused on Town and Village and Rural Regeneration projects completed and underway throughout the County Kilkenny. These newsletters inform the public on community related information including funding, project updates and future projects planned.

## Rural Regeneration Information ONE STOP SHOP

Kilkenny County Council developed a ONE STOP SHOP on website to help communities easily navigate and get access to information relating to Rural Regeneration and Town & Village Renewal Funding. As part of this landing page we have also uploaded Town Team Plans National Policy Documents and a number of videos showcasing projects. Other documents available include the IN FOCUS on-line magazines that highlight projects completed and underway in our District Towns and Villages throughout the County.



See link here <https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/publications/rural-regeneration/>

## Kilkenny County Councils Community Awards Night

Kilkenny County Council's Annual Community Awards Night was held in the Parade Tower in Kilkenny Castle on Wednesday 23rd of February 2022. This award ceremony recognised and acknowledged the contribution of local communities from across the County for their endless dedication to projects and to their towns and villages.

Awards were presented as follows:

### Pride of Place:

Kilkenny Older People's Council, KCAT Callan and Windgap Village.

### Tidy Towns:

Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, Inistioge, Tullahought and Listerlin Tidy Towns.

### Tidy Estates:

*Large Estates:* Newpark Lower Kilkenny, Chapelfield Urlingford & Glenvale Ballyragget.

*Medium Estates:* Mill Road Inistioge, De la Salle Place Kilkenny & Brandon Park Graiguenamanagh.

*Small Estates:* St. Patrick's Close Mullinavat, Glendine Court Kilkenny & Fr. Raftice Place Moneenroe



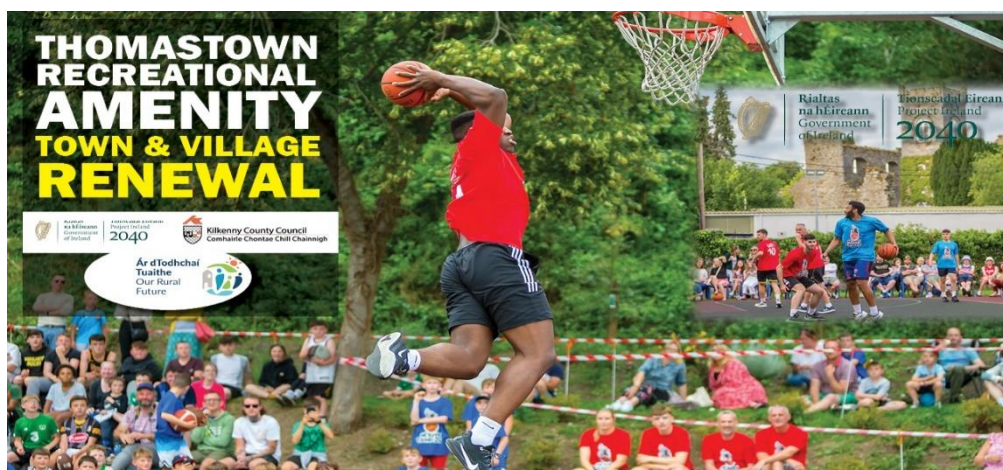
## The Kilkenny County Council Developed Thomastown Recreational Amenity hosted Ireland's largest Outdoor Basketball Exhibition and family Event.

SHOWTIME came to Thomastown in July in what was Ireland's biggest ever outdoor basketball exhibition game! This community event was held on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 in the newly developed outdoor recreational amenity in Thomastown. This was a family event where in excess of 700 locals came to enjoy this unique festival like event. As part of the first anniversary of the very popular new outdoor amenity that was developed by Kilkenny County Council, this exciting event showcased the skills of top Irish International, National League and Professional Players.



Located in the centre of the town, this Town and Village Renewal development was also nominated for a National Pride of Place. See link to the documentary video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at0gexF9n1o>



### Callan Town Team Plan (Review)

A review of actions for the Callan Town Team Plan took place in September 2022. Kilkenny County Council selected Callan to pilot the “Framework for Town Centre Renewal” published by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Conservation in 2016. The Council identified Callan as a priority location due to the severe decline in its economy and the areas of significant dereliction. The Callan Town Team was formed in January 2018. The Callan Town Team Plan developed a number of actions identified by the local community. Following the review of the plan it was identified that over 80% of actions are now complete or under way, with significant funding secured under the Departments Town & Village Renewal and Rural Regeneration Development fund.

### Kilkenny County Council Disability Plan

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council commenced the process of establishing an internal Disability Access Group with the first meeting taking place in December 2022. This group will be further developed in 2023.

### Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS)

CCFCS Grants were awarded to nine groups across the County in 2022.

Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2022		
Name of Applicant	Project Details	Amount Approved
1 <sup>st</sup> Kilkenny Scout Group	Upgrade of exiting lighting to LED lighting, improve installation in attic, upgrade existing boiler and installation of solar panels.	€15,000
Bigwood Children's Playground	Development of playground facilities.	€35,000
St. Lachtains GAA Club	Development of GAA club walkway.	€40,000
Carrigeen GAA Club	Replacement of side panels on AstroTurf pitch.	€25,000
The Rower Inistioge GAA Club	Erection of floodlighting as part of ball wall facility.	€30,000
Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA Club	Development of walkway and floodlighting.	€40,000
Thomastown Community Centre	Development of a community cinema.	€15,000
Johnstown Sports field Committee	Development of community walkway.	€40,000
Mooncoin Celtic FC	Erection of a spectator railing around playing pitches.	€10,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€250,000</b>



*Development of the Graigue Ballycallan GAA Amenity under the 2021 CCFCs*

### **Kilkenny Migrant Integration Strategy/Kilkenny Integration Forum**

Kilkenny County Council continues to support the implementation of actions as outlined in the Kilkenny Migrant Integration Strategy for 2021-2023. This work is undertaken in partnership with the Kilkenny PPN and Kilkenny LEADER Partnership Company as well as with migrants engaged in the process.

### **Kilkenny County Council Migrant-Councillor Forum**

Kilkenny County Council were successful in receiving funding from the LGMA to support the establishment of a Migrant-Councillor Forum in 2021. Through 2022, a programme that involved workshops for engagement, education and empowerment aimed at increasing diversity and inclusion in local decision making took place. Some of the funding was allocated to engage a resource worker for a year to further develop this engagement and support the actions of the integration strategy. This will commence in 2023.

### **Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

Kilkenny County Council continues to support the LCDC. The LCDC continued to meet in person and virtually due to public health restrictions in 2022 (6 meetings). The LCDC successfully administered the Community Enhancement Programme Grants, The Healthy Ireland Programme and maintained its oversight role of the Kilkenny SICAP Programme. The LCDC administers and monitors a variety of funding streams for communities that experience social exclusion or disadvantage including the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement KTCM.

### **Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

Kilkenny LCDC commenced the process for the next iteration of the LECP which will cover the period 2023-2028. An Advisory Steering Committee was formed at the start of the year to guide the process and has been working in partnership with the Council, the LCDC and SPC 1. Public consultations and engagement with stakeholders were held during the year. The draft Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals and Objectives were agreed at a joint meeting of the LCDC and SPC 1. Work continues in 2023 on developing and agreeing high level outcomes and actions to inform the first two year implementation plan.

### **Community Enhancement Programme Funding (CEP)**

The Community Activities Fund under the CEP scheme was advertised early in the year. Kilkenny received a total of €272,638 to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas with non-pay running costs/operating costs and also to carry out necessary repairs/improvements to their facilities.

102 applications were received. 14 small grants up to the value of €1,000 were approved, 31 medium grants up to the value of €5,000 were approved and 17 large grants up to the value of €20,000 were approved. In all 62 grants were approved.

In November 2022, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme. LCDC received an allocation of €290,749. This fund will be processed in early 2023.



## Healthy Ireland

The Department of Health and Pobal continued to support the third round of the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF). The grant period for Round 4 commenced in June 2022 and will run until the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025 with a new outcomes-led approach to be delivered from 2023-2025. The aim of this funding is to support local and national organisations to deliver on outcomes that will improve health and wellbeing in line with *Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025*.

The Healthy Ireland (June 2022-December 2025) approved budget for the LCDC is €218,629 and is allocated as follows:

- Total Funding awarded to Kilkenny LCDC June-December 2022.....€40,000
- Total Funding awarded to Kilkenny LCDC Social Prescribing June-December 2022 .....€23,629
- Total Funding awarded to Kilkenny LCDC 2023.....€75,000
- Total Funding awarded to Kilkenny LCDC 2024.....€40,000 (*indicative amount*)
- Total Funding awarded to Kilkenny LCDC 2025.....€40,000 (*indicative amount*)

## Healthy Kilkenny Achievements 2022

The Healthy Kilkenny Programme 2022 supported actions with One-Parent Families, individuals living with a disability, disadvantaged communities, the Travelling Community and continued to support the Kilkenny Social Prescribing Service. Kilkenny LCDC were delighted to host Mr. *Frank Feighan T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing & the National Drugs Strategy* at a number of venues across Kilkenny in May 2022 to showcase the fantastic work that has been supported through Healthy Ireland funding.



L-R Malcom Noonan, T.D. Minister for Heritage & Electoral Reform; Teresa Hennessy HSE, Janette Boran, Kilkenny County Council, Karin Todd, Fr. McGrath FRC, Frank Feighan, T.D. Minister for Public Health & National Drugs Strategy, Amanda de Burca, Kilkenny Leader Partnership, Ellen Brophy, Kilkenny One-Parent Community, Declan Gibbons, Kilkenny LCDC



L-R Declan Gibbons, Kilkenny LCDC; Cllr Maria Dollard; Helena Power, KTCM; Frank Feighan, T.D.; Will Kinsella, FAI; Eimear Lynch KRSP; Lauren Walsh Kett, KRSP; Superintendent Derek Hughes; Cllr Fidelis Doherty, An Cathaoirleach; Front Row; players involved in the Ains Nyuk programme

**Kilkenny One-Parent Community (KOPC):** The Healthy Ireland fund continued to support the engagement with one-parent families in Kilkenny. The funding provided opportunities for the Kilkenny One-Parent Network to engage with health and wellbeing programmes, social activities, creative projects, peer social engagement and providing information and supports. Some of the programmes/activities included: Parenting When Separated, Creative Arts Programme and Celebration Workshops, Smartphone Photography, wellbeing and self-care workshop, coffee mornings, activities at the Watergate, Butler House and MacDonagh Junction.

**Newpark Close FRC Health and Wellbeing Programme:** Newpark FRC received funding to deliver a health and wellbeing programme with residents in Newpark, Kilkenny. The focus of the programme was Health and Wellbeing, Self-Care, Healthy Relationships and raising awareness of Domestic Abuse.

**Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement (KTCM) Health and Wellbeing Programme:** Families from the Travelling Community participated in a 10-week Health and Wellbeing Programme which included healthy eating, physical activity, parenting and mental health and wellbeing. A Health Facilitator. Co-ordinated the programme and engaged with the families and encouraged them to participate in the programme twice a week. The outcomes from this programme were hugely successful and had a positive impact on health behaviours for the families involved.

**Kilkenny Recreational Sports Partnership (KRSP): Physical Activity & Disability Action:** The Healthy Ireland Funding supported the delivery of physical activity programmes for people living with disabilities in Kilkenny. The following programmes were implemented: summer camps, walking programmes, woodlands for health/nature programmes, hand cycling etc. there has been good engagement from services and service users from L'Arche, SOS, TASK, St Patricks and NLN. KRSP highlighted that there has been a great impact from the programmes and has impacted positively on health behaviours and participants mental health and wellbeing.

**Kilkenny Leader Partnership: Kilkenny Social Prescribing:** The Healthy Ireland fund continued to support the Kilkenny Social Prescribing service up until December 2022. Social Prescribing is a non-medical service which tackles loneliness and isolation by creating a link between the client and voluntary and community services.

### **New Developments**

- The recruitment of a Healthy City/County Coordinator from June 2022 – December 2025.
- The introduction of an outcomes led approach associated with outcome indicators from the Healthy Ireland Framework with all activities orientated towards contributing to the selected outcome(s) for the period January 2023-December 2025.
- Two Priority Outcome Indicators recommended by local consultation processes and approved by Kilkenny LCDC: An increase in positive self-reported health and an Increase in the percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines.
- Commencement of UcanACT Project- Urban ACTION for cancer prevention: adult and senior citizens practice physical activity within public urban green spaces to prevent cancer diseases - is an intersectoral project funded by the European Union, and joining together physiotherapists, local authorities, non-profit organisations, higher education and research institutions. The overall objective of the project is to engage adult and senior citizens to practice physical activity as a tool for cancer prevention within public urban green spaces. In this regard, the interdisciplinary project team will develop a set of actions, tools and recommendations to empower adult and senior citizens to take active attitudes towards their health.

The partners will also implement cancer-preventive physical activity actions within open nature environments in three pilot territories: Bologna (Italy), Kilkenny (Ireland), and Munich (Germany).

Cancer-preventive actions – which will contain different modalities of the physical activity exercises, adapted to people’s needs & abilities and facilities of public urban green spaces - will embrace three levels of cancer prevention and be designed for:

- 50 years of age living who never have suffered from this disease (primary prevention)
- 50 years of age living who were diagnosed with cancer (secondary prevention)
- 50 years of age living in recovery from cancer or had a previous diagnosis of cancer in the past

Besides this primary target group, UcanACT will also benefit physiotherapists and other health professionals, scientific community working in the field of cancer prevention through physical activity, family, friends, caregivers, local/regional administrations, as well as the general public.

- Kilkenny County Council are accelerating the fight against period poverty and participated in the pilot of the Free Provision of Period products Bill 2021, supported by the Department of Health. In 2022, Kilkenny County Council received €11,000 to provide products in Local Authority Public Accessible Bathrooms and to the wider community.

The following services engaged in the initiative and provided free period products:

- Foróige, Amber Women’s Refuge,
- Ossory Youth,
- Mill Family Resource Centre,
- Kilkenny County Council Library Service – 8 Branches,
- Kilkenny County Council Homeless Services,
- Newpark Close Family Resource Centre,
- Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre, and
- Droichead Family Resource Centre, Callan.

Kilkenny County Council will continue to support this initiative in 2023.

### **Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group (KTIG)**

In 2021, KTIG membership undertook a Needs Analysis Profile and 2-year Action Plan with the Traveller Community in Kilkenny. KTIG were awarded funding under the new 3-year pilot Community Development Programme. In 2022 the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement (KTCM) was developed and is becoming established as the main traveller representative group for Kilkenny.

### **Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP)**

In 2022, consultations were completed with key stakeholders for the new KRSP Strategy 2022-2025 and the new strategy was launched in December, 2022.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairle na nÓg prioritised in 2022 Youth Mental Health & Climate Justice as the key issues facing young people in Kilkenny. As part of the Mental Health project the Comhairle Members worked with local stakeholders to increase the information available for young people who are experiencing adversity in their lives. For Climate Justice they worked with Kilkenny County Council to campaign for more climate friendly behaviours within the community.

The Annual General Meeting of the Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Langton’s Hotel. Over 150 young people from secondary schools across the County gathered to identify issues that affect them and their peers. The young people participated in a number of Workshops and identified the following as the three main issues that affect young people living in County Kilkenny.

- Lack of transport links connecting to rural parts of the County.
- Lack of community/youth facilities for young people.
- School-related issues.



Following a final vote, school-related issues were selected as the main topic to be acted upon by the incoming Comhairle na nÓg Group. This encompasses an imbalance of subjects, work/life balance, access to mental health services, all forms of bullying, equality, and diversity. 43 young people also expressed an interest in joining the 2022 / 2023 Comhairle na nÓg group.

### **Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC)**

The CYPSC provides an interagency forum at which service providers for children and young people's services meet to ensure the best services for children and young people in the County.

The inter-agency committee drew up its first 3-year Children and Young People's Plan for County Kilkenny in 2020. This strategy targets children and young people 0-24 years and is being implemented by sub-groups of staff in front line service such as mental health, physical activity, learning and development, safety from harm etc.

In 2022 Kilkenny CYPSC continued to work on its Children and Young People's Plan. Actions which were progressed in 2022:

- Supporting training in Talk Boost, an Oral Language programme in Early Years and Primary school settings.
- Awareness raising of Domestic Abuse through its subgroup Kilkenny Domestic Abuse Network.
- Funding Domestic Abuse training for frontline professionals by Amber Refuge.
- Supporting and funding Youth programmes in school transitions, anxiety, disability and consultations for Healthy Ireland fund planning.

CYPSC received funding from Healthy Ireland and has rolled out a family-based healthy nutrition and physical exercise programme (Healthy Streets) in collaboration with Foroige and Droichead Family Resource Centre. CYPSC also provided Healthy Ireland funding to schools and youth clubs to ensure children's and young people's health and wellbeing needs are addressed.

### **CLÁR**

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council received €420,207 funding for twelve projects under this national funding stream.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Listerlin Public Lighting	Public lighting along footpath linking the national school to shop and church	€21,375
St. Martin's GAA Club	Astro turf surface to upgrade MUGA	€50,000
Muckalee Community Centre Ltd.	Fit out for community centre kitchen, café and shop	€26,933
Windgap Community Development Ltd.	Hard surface for car park outside community centre and tea rooms	€50,000
Kilmoganny GAA Club	Community walkway at club	€40,663
Naomh Aodhan Handball Alley	Renovate existing ball alley to modern standard	€44,550
Galmoy Community Hall	Multi-use Activity area in community hall	€42,000
Skeoughvosteen Community Centre & GAA	Provision of outdoor public and wheelchair accessible public toilets	€50,000
Kilmogue Dolmen	Access road improvement	€50,000
Tullahought Community Development	Tarmac surface for 3 amenity areas	€16,200
Muckalee	Public lighting from creche to school	€22,186
Windgap Tidy Towns	Public lighting at lake area car park & upper village	€6,300
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€420,207</b>

### **Capital Play & Recreation Grants**

Funding of €15,852 was awarded by Department of Children and Youth Affairs towards the refurbishment of Assumption Place, Kilkenny Playground.

## Bike Week

Bike Week was held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022. Bike Week events were delivered by Kilkenny County Council (KCC), Cycling Ireland, Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP), Kilkenny Cycling & Walking Campaign and the local cycling clubs. Highlights of Bike Week 2022 included the Couch to 40K Programme and Callan Sportive Community Bike Rides were organised by Kell's Angels, Marble City Cyclers and Deenside Wheelers. Bike Maintenance workshops were held in Loreto and St. Kieran's Secondary Schools and Kilmacow/Stoneyford communities. Primary schools including John of God's, St. Patrick's De La Salle, St. John's Senior School and St. Canice's all took part in the primary schools escorted trips on routes around their schools. Cycle champions is a leadership programme that upskills the transition year pupils to deliver cycle training in local primary schools. This programme was delivered to 60 secondary school students and over 400 primary school students.



Bike Week funding allowed for the delivery of Learn to Cycle programmes for children and people with intellectual and physical disabilities.



## Workplaces

Workplaces attended a Bike Breakfast to find out about promoting cycling in the workplace and share ideas with other companies.





## Bike Fest

Kilkenny County Council and Cycling Ireland came together to bring Bike Fest to Kilkenny on the 22nd of May. Bike Fest was a family-focused festival with lots of cycling and related activities on offer. The grounds of County Hall were transformed into an outdoor playground and a celebration of sustainability for the whole community.

Bike Fest launched with a Slow Roll through the City that was attended by all ages and abilities. Other activities on offer included an E-bike spin and trials, foraging cycles, balance bike courses, obstacle courses, mountain biking and off-road zones. The activities were not just limited to cycling. Orienteering Ireland designed a course for the day along the river and the orienteering maze was hugely popular and a great introduction to orienteering in a small, safe area. Local artists came on board to offer hands-on workshops, from windmill catchers, plant printing and photography, seed planting, organic teas and drumming workshops for adults and children. Bike maintenance was available on the day and there was also a bike drop off point for the upcycling programme for Ukrainian families.

Kilkenny County Council and Cycling Ireland were delighted with the partnership and County Hall proved to be an amazing venue for off road cycling activities.





### **Bike Week Wind Down – Bike Buffet**

A leisurely Friday cycle or Bike Buffet was held to wind down Bike Week. The cycle left The Parade at 6pm, followed quiet rural routes and returned to the City for refreshments.

Bike Week funding allowed for the delivery of Learn to Cycle programmes for children and people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Workplace roadshows were offered to encourage employers to support employees to make the shift to commuting by bike.



### **National Play Day**

€3,000 funding was allocated for a National Play Day. Due to the COVID19 restrictions and in consultation with CYPSC, sensory gift bags were assembled with suitable sensory toys and distributed to 35 families (*throughout the County*) for children and young people with disabilities. Special thanks to CYPSC, Tusla, HSE and Kilkenny Civil Defence who distributed the gift bags. This initiative was very well received by the families involved.

Outdoor play equipment for Ukrainian children and teenagers was also provided at the Ukrainian Housing Centre, John of God Convent, College Road, Kilkenny.

### **Youth Work and Support**

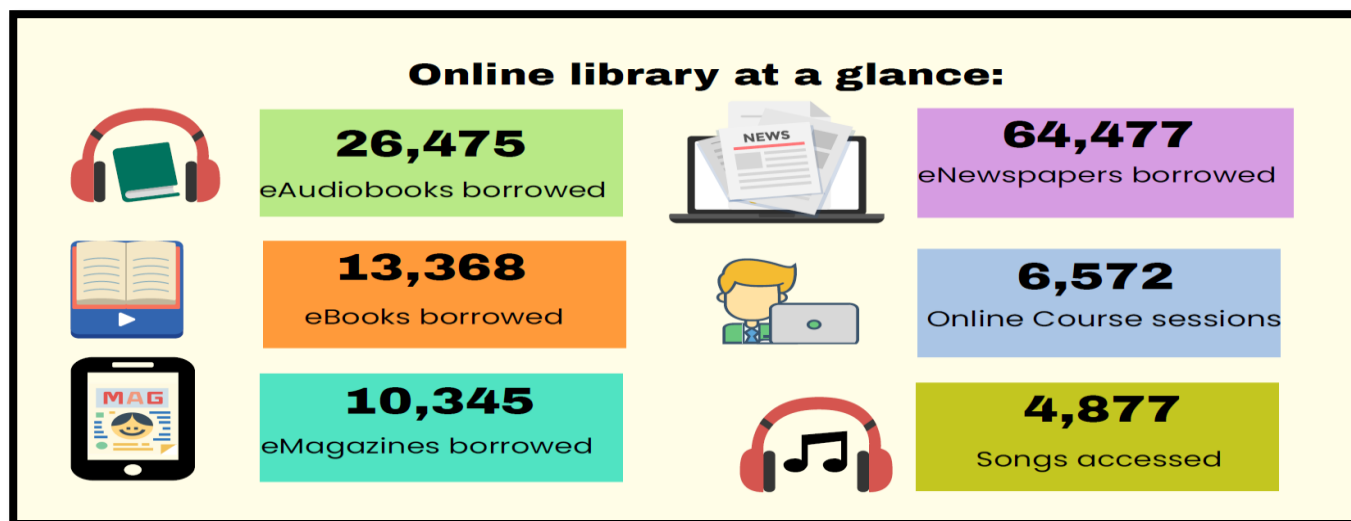
Kilkenny County Council continues to support the work of youth development throughout the County through:

- Young Social Innovator Programmes for 15-18 years old, focusing on innovation around social issues affecting young people.
- Ossory Youth – Support for delivery of programmes and funding of same
- DRUM Youth Café – Joint funding partner with TUSLA for the DRUM youth café based at MacDonagh Junction.

# LIBRARY SERVICES

## Notable Achievements

- 15,170 memberships this year, an increase of 136% on 2021.
- 278,560 books, eBooks and eAudiobooks were borrowed throughout the year, an increase of 57%.
- 144,566 library users came through our doors.
- 13,000 Bookville Activity Books distributed to all 88 primary schools across Kilkenny as part of our annual Bookville Kilkenny Festival.
- 46,425 video views across our social media and YouTube platforms.

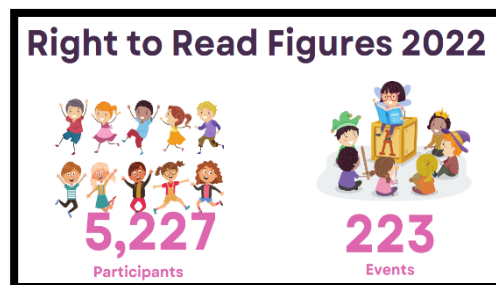


## National Initiatives

Right to Read Literacy Programme: All strands of Right to Read proved extremely popular again this year. We ran a host of storytimes, online workshops and events for Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library.



Little Library Bag: We engaged with 90 Early Learning Centres and childminders as part of this project, giving out 1,161 book bags to pre-school children and school starters to encourage a love of reading and books from an early age.



TTRS literacy licences: This year, Castlecomer Library ran a pilot project providing Touch

Type Read & Spell licences for FREE to local schools. The Touch Type Read & Spell programme is a multi-sensory online typing course that is beneficial for pupils who have reading, spelling and writing difficulties. 80 pupils have benefited from using these licences.



Ireland Reads: Our national day of reading was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February. We ran a series of talks and workshops for all ages, with 2,187 views of our online events.

**Work Matters:** Library branches provided introductory tours to Kilkenny Carlow ETB (KCETB) learners. Career guidance outreach sessions were hosted by library branches in conjunction with KCETB guidance counsellors. Universal class and other relevant online services were promoted through our social media channels.

### Healthy Ireland At Your Library:

In 2022, Healthy Ireland resumed events in branches. We ran a series of walking groups both in Loughboy and Castlecomer library where people came together to exercise, socialise and learn about a healthy lifestyle. We also held talks on decluttering and anxiety in children with psychotherapist and counsellor, Fiona Hall. We worked with Mental Health Ireland to facilitate 3 on line webinars on five ways to health and wellbeing. We showcased healthy eating with advice from Safe Food Ireland and held yoga and mindfulness sessions for children.

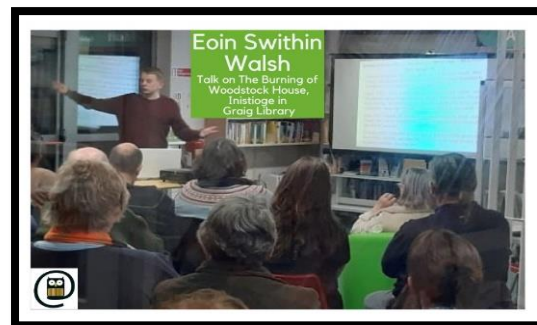


### Age Friendly Library Service

In 2022 our libraries provided a wide-ranging programme of age friendly events, including flower arranging, sewing classes, author visits, history talks, and a series of workshops for Bealtaine. We ran intergenerational projects in the City Library where TY students provided drop-in sessions for older people to help with navigating mobile phone and other devices. Castlecomer Library knitting circle shared their knitting skills with the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class Presentation Girls N.S.



Kilkenny Library Service rounded off 2022 doing the ground work towards obtaining an Age Friendly Status for all 8 library branches by Bealtaine 2023. To date library staff have received Age Friendly awareness training and have identified recommendations that will be implemented to make our service more Age Friendly. Our library members can already enjoy some of these changes including a new Age Friendly parking space outside our Castlecomer and Urlingford branches.



**Decade of Centenaries and Local Studies:** As part of Kilkenny County Council Library's ongoing programme to raise awareness of the events of the Decade of Centenaries locally, the following programme was delivered to the public.

**Podcasts:** 13 podcasts were developed, covering the events of 1923, researched and narrated by historian Eoin Swithin Walsh, which are available on our library website.

**Lecture Series:** The Library was pleased to welcome back the public to inhouse lectures, the first since 2019. Lectures covering subjects as diverse as the burning of the big houses to censorship during the Decade and on topics ranging from the life of Tom Treacy to the burning of Woodstock House proved extremely popular.

**Digitisation:** The Library commissioned the digitisation of minute books of Kilkenny County Council covering the period 1910 - 1926, the period from Home Rule, the War of Independence, the Civil War and the development of local government in Kilkenny. All available on the Kilkenny Digital Archive.

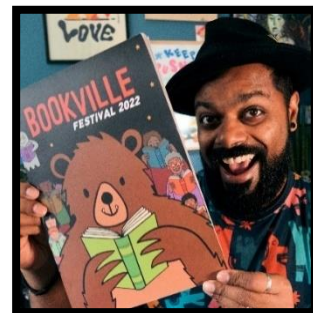


**Heritage Week:** 2022 was the first year since Covid 19 that the library welcomed back the public to our branches. Among events were genealogy classes, the unveiling of a unique artwork by Common Thread project, reflecting the lives of Kilkenny women of 100 years ago and the launch of a book on James Hoban, Architect of the White House in Callan.



## Creative Ireland

**Bookville Kilkenny:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive festival was a huge success with 13,000 specially developed activity books delivered to all primary school pupils in Kilkenny, 6 online videos, a Bookville exhibition and 50 live events. We introduced children across the County to 38 authors, illustrators and entertainers with 7 authors from County Kilkenny.



**Christmas at the Carnegie:** On December 13<sup>th</sup> over 430 people enjoyed a day of events to mark *Christmas at the Carnegie* in anticipation of the move to the new Mayfair Library. Storyteller Liz Weir, local musician Mark Anthony McGrath, local actor Jimmy Rhatigan, Historian Dr Mary, local writer Gerry Moran and special guest Pauline McLynn entertained people of all ages on the day.



## PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

**Slí na Scéalta:** Our outdoor Story trail was launched in 2022 in Woodstock, Inistioge providing families and children an opportunity to enjoy an outdoor, free and self-guided family reading experience that combines creativity, reading and exercise in a fun and interactive way.

**Virtual Book Club:** Our Virtual Book continued to thrive this year, offering a 24/7 space to discuss and recommend books with over 151 members.



**OWL 2022:** We hosted a literacy programme in Winter focusing on dyslexia. Dr. Mary Roche hosted 3 workshops on developing oral language. We held workshops for teenagers, children and adults incorporating literacy into interactive events from wreath making to lego.

**Climate/GIY:** Our 2022 programme included events on the themes of sustainability, upcycling and recycling. The Grow It Yourself initiative built on the successes of 2021 with the distribution of an additional seeds, through the Men's Sheds network, local early childhood centres and schools. The theme of sustainable living promoted through various workshops such as soap-making and Grow it Yourself activities. Sewing workshops were held in Ferrybank and Urlingford encouraging upcycling of clothes and re-use of materials. Energy saving kits were also available from each library and proved to be in high demand with the general public.

**Ukrainian Supports:** We invested in a selection of Ukrainian books and worked with Kilkenny Volunteer Centre to translate instructions for using the library and our services. Storytimes and events were held to welcome new users into the library.

**Ferrybank 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** We celebrated Ferrybank Library's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in December with a musical coffee morning.

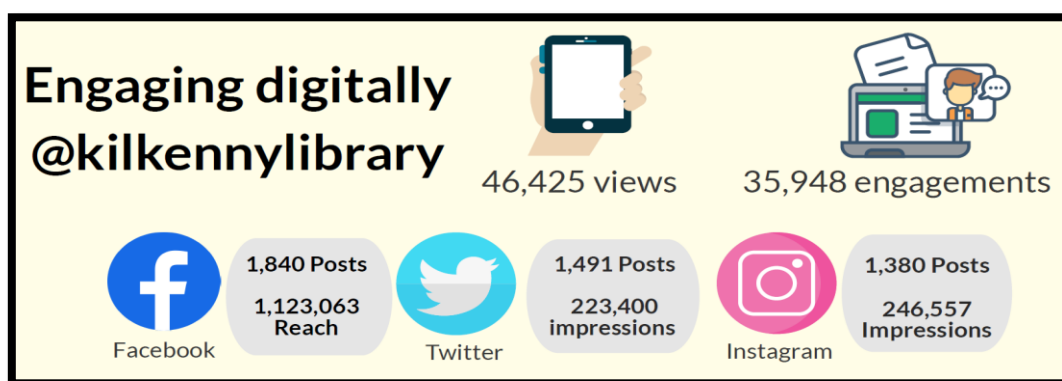
**Partnerships:** We actively collaborated and partnered with a range of organisations, agencies and community groups such as Kilkenny Carlow ETB. Kilkenny Education Centre, Kilkenny Childcare Committee, Healthy Kilkenny, Music Generation, Kilkenny Volunteer Centre and Calmast. We participated in national and local festivals such as Seachtain Na Gaeilge, National Poetry Day, Culture night, Sustainable Development week, Reuse Month, Decade of Centenaries, Yulefest Bealtaine, Heritage week and Science week.





## Information & Communication

- A Lapsafe unit was purchased for Urlingford Library in partnership with Urlingford Town Team and Urlingford on the Move, offering 8 laptops for borrowing for use in the library.
- We engaged in various platforms and media to engage people with our services, facilities and events.
- We purchased additional Reader pens (C-Pens) for each library to assist people with dyslexia, people with difficulty reading or pronunciation, English language learners and those with vision problems.



## READING SUPPORTS

**Schools Services:** We engaged with all primary and post-primary schools in Kilkenny, held class visits, gave presentations and offered our Aistear Resource boxes to all infant classes. Teacher resource packs were distributed in 2022 with brochures for our class novel collection, sensory book collection, sensory book and toy collections, and Aistear collection.

**Sensory Resources:** We continued to build and promote our collection of sensory toys and books, offering free access to specialist equipment and toys focusing on developing motor, play and life skills for families and children that need it most.

**Mobile Library Service:** Our mobile service routes were adapted to best serve the needs of users. Additional nursing homes, schools and early learning centres were added due to demand and we now have 32 schools, 19 Childcare Centres and 5 nursing homes included in our mobile route across the communities in Kilkenny.





## Funding

We successfully applied and were awarded €146,356 from a range of funding sources including Dormant Accounts Fund, Decade of Centenaries, ETB, Creative Ireland, Ireland and Healthy Ireland.

## Service Development and Infrastructure



- Mayfair Library progressed significantly with roof completed in December 2022. Purchasing and processing of books and stock continued throughout the year in preparation for opening in 2023.
- Progressed capital project in Thomastown to stage 2.
- Replacement of windows in Graiguenamanagh Library
- Revamp of internal space in Urlingford

## Workforce

Kilkenny Library Service continues to proactively upskill and train staff in relevant areas to enhance the service we provide to our diverse community. Specialised library training courses were completed by a large number of staff, with 2 staff currently training for a professional qualification in Librarianship.



# ARTS

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The Arts Office develops, co-ordinates, motivates, inspires and empowers artistic activity throughout the City and County. It promotes the arts as a worthwhile activity for all and works to further strengthen Kilkenny's position as a centre of excellence for the arts and ensure a successful and prosperous arts environment within the region. The Arts Officer also supports the facilitation and coordination of the Arts Office Creative Ireland Kilkenny Programme.

## **Notable Achievements in 2022**

- 413 Artists and Creators worked with the Arts Office.
- 42,106 people engaged with the Arts Office programmes in 2022.
- 41 bursaries were awarded in 2022.
- 15,400 young people engaged with Arts Office programmes across the year
- 31,355 children and families engaged with Bookville Festival.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Visual Arts Youth Residency**

Partnership between Kilkenny County Council, Ossory Youth and The Drum Youth Centre. Aoife Doherty was the successful applicant and she undertook the residency in the two city-based youth centres in mid-September to December 2022. The aims and objectives of this residency was to create a safe space for young people to explore their creativity, to diversify and increase their participation in the visual arts, enhance existing learning that they have received both in school and outside of the school setting. Encourage them to focus on the process of making and to be less focussed on outcomes and expose them to different materials, ways of making and creating art, to experiment and work innovatively. A colourful publication documenting their activity was produced at the end of the residency

### **Writers Map Launch**

As part of our response to the 2021 Your Voice Matters programme, we developed a Writers Map. This Map is specific to the services & programmes that Kilkenny Arts Office offers to beginner, emerging and established writers as part of their journey. The Map was launched in June and was followed by an Open Mic Session.

## **LITERATURE**

**Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet** - The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the very sought-after Poetry Broadsheet was published. 108 poems by sixty poets were submitted. Editor Elaine Feeney selected fourteen poems for publication. For the first time in three years there was an in-person launch as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival. The published poems were also featured on Poetry Phone: Free Phone 1800 272 994.

**Annual Writing Workshops for Adults** - In the Spring and Autumn two writing courses were facilitated - 'Character Development & Story Structure' with writer, Ken Bourke and novelist, short-story writer, playwright and broadcaster, John MacKenna, facilitated course on 'Steps to a Story'. The courses were very well received.

**Words Ireland mentoring bursary** - Local writers Nuala Roche and Caoileann O'Mahony, were selected from over 300 applicants by the Irish Writers Centre to receive professional literary mentoring over an eight-month period by an acclaimed Irish writer of their choice. Funded by Kilkenny County Council and the Arts Council of Ireland, the mentoring process involves four meetings between the selected 'mentee' and their chosen mentor offering support, advice and critical feedback on their current work.

**Poetry Phone** - Writer Colm Keegan, Paralympian Mary Fitzgerald and chef and food writer Edward Hayden selected their choice of poems from our previous published broadsheets and Rhyme Rag platform for our 2022 Poetry Phone. Anyone across the island of Ireland can call the phone for free and listen to a selection of poems by Kilkenny poets.

## ARTISTS SUPPORTS

**Visual Arts Mentoring (ArtLinks)** - This programme was part of Kilkenny's Artists Supports Programme 2022 and provided an opportunity for nine artists to meet face-to-face with a specialist mentor who had expertise in their artform to discuss and develop their artistic practice. The sessions provided expert guidance, practical support and advice. This Programme was open to Kilkenny visual artists who were registered members of ArtLinks.

**Wednesday Weeklies** -2022 Wednesday Weeklies online CPD programme was focussed on Literature and writing. Sessions included – in-conversation with the Arts Council, Poetry Ireland and the Irish Writers Centre, Paths to Publication with writer Hazel Gaynor, a session titled 'Read Closely & Widely' with poets Jessica Traynor and Anne Marie Ní Churraín and finally 'Making the most of Social Media and online promotion' with journalist and multimedia content creator, Una-Minh Kavanagh. Once again, this programme was very favourably received.

**ArtLinks** – CPD partnership programme including Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford and Wexford County Councils. Ten bursaries and nine mentees were funded for 2022. Artists continued to feature on the ArtLinks social media channels.

**Music Plan** - the Arts Office worked with First Music Contact and the Local Authority Arts Offices of Carlow, Waterford and Wexford to deliver a high level professional development series to musicians in those counties. This also created an opportunity for musicians in those counties to give feedback on what local supports are needed to develop their professional careers moving forward. The aim was to better understand where musicians are in their careers and what their current aspirations and needs are. This programme and the information gathered will inform work going forward and enable the Arts Office to support musicians to progress their careers.

**Emerging Curator in Residence** - enabling emerging curators to gain direct experience in their field and supporting emerging & established artists. Our 2022 Emerging Curator in Residence, Sinead Keogh organised a series of three programmes during the year. Sinead kicked off the year with a solo show of poetic and bold works from emerging painter Lee Shanahan, A Human Voice. The second project was titled MATRIARCH, this was designed to celebrate women artists over 65 who have practiced art for much of their lives and to place older women artists at the forefront in powerfully shaping the arts landscape in which they operate. Each event was site specific and held in places of symbolic significance. The project was featured as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival with talks, exhibitions, performances and audio tours. The third and final programme for the year was RESILIENCE with an exhibition, online audio tour, a tactile tour with the NCBI, Amber Women's Refuge Awareness Display and a panel discussion in the Butler Gallery.

**KCLR Partnership – The Arts Show** - Kilkenny Arts Office and KCLR radio with funding from Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland Programme co-produced a 12-week Arts Show which shared and highlighted arts and cultural activity. It included profiling and highlighted professional practitioners and experiences across art forms and community projects, giving a voice to artists and creative activity across the County. This in turn broadened and diversified regional knowledge and potential audiences and was an opportunity to highlight the intrinsic value and significance of the arts but also its economic and social benefits. Shows can be listened back at:

<https://kclr96fm.com/the-arts-show-with-hugo-jellett/>

**Arts Act Grants 2022** – Eighteen grants totalling €22,000 were awarded. Artforms included Literature, Theatre, Drama, Music, Multi Media, Multi-Disciplinary, Visual Arts and Quilting/Patchwork.

**Community Education & Inclusion** – The design and delivery of high-quality community and education programmes were delivered to suit this diverse sector.

**Open Circle Community Arts Collective** – Open Circle’s 2022 programme included Memoir writing with Tara Heavey, Storytelling & Stitch and the Common Thread project with Carrie Lynam. The Common Thread artwork was unveiled in Kilkenny City Library with forty-five attendees where they had the opportunity to learn about the project research, engage with the women involved and gain an understanding of the techniques and skill that went into the making of the artwork. The project was funded by the Kilkenny County Council Decade of Centenaries programme with support from Kilkenny City Library and Open Circle Arts. St. Patricks weekend saw a collaboration between Open Circle, KCAT Arts Centre and KCETB. They hosted three days of workshops including Lino printmaking, eco art, buttonhole flowers and botanical drawing. Here is a link to a short video highlighting the weekend <https://opencirclearts.ie/st-patricks-festival-2022-popup/>

A Culture Night Embroidery Workshop was hosted to facilitate conversation and stitch inspired by Open Circle’s recently completed artwork, Common Thread. The twelve attendees embroidered a simple image taken from the visual research produced by the participants who created the Common Thread embroidered artwork. All experience levels were catered for with materials and tools provided.

**Knitted Together Age Friendly Community Arts Project**– 348 participants knitted, crocheted and attended our maker met up hubs in Kilkenny City (3), Graiguenamanagh, Callan and Ferrybank, during the year. Three men’s sheds, two in Kilkenny and one in Graiguenamanagh also participated this year and they made fabulous stools which they painted and some got macramé crochet covers put on them. Over ninety blankets were distributed to the local charity shops plus stools and they sold like hotcakes! For Culture Night the **Knitted Together** project hosted a drop-in workshop for children and adults on the Parade Plaza. Attended by some very enthusiastic children and adults working away on their flowers and bracelets and a good night was had by all. There was a Knitted Together Charity Shop Trail of all the beautiful blankets and of course the fabulous stools made by the Men’s sheds. An evaluation event was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Set Theatre and over tea and scones the attendees gave feedback as to why participating in this project meant so much to them. Participants loved the freedom to be creative, making new friends and learning something new. All agreed that participating had a Positive impact on their well-being, the making alone or together encouraged tranquility and was calming. Many found it therapeutic for their hands particularly those with Parkinsons or arthritis and lastly all agreed that they would definitely do it again.

**Culture Night** – National night celebrating all that makes up the richness and diversity of culture in Ireland. Kilkenny had a varied programme of events on offer with nine venues in the City hosting a selection of events. There was a Block Party with live DJs, Kilkenny Castle period rooms opened to the public plus a live medieval/renaissance music performance, RESILIENCE exhibition, free AV tours at MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre of the Kilkenny Famine Experience, Young Irish Film Makers screenings of young peoples’ short films to name a few of the events. Countywide events included jewellery and metalwork, writers’ event in Moneenroe focusing on the theme of coal mining and local culture through poetry, song and dance. Ionad Lachtain, Freshford presented an event of music, heritage and art drama workshops were held in Thomastown, poetry by the Barrow in Graiguenamanagh and theatrical entertainment and eco-art explorations at KCAT Arts Centre, Callan. Over 2,000 people attended Culture night events in Kilkenny.

**School Subsidies** - The Arts Office subsidised transport for 1,122 primary school children so they could attend two theatre events with Barnstorm Theatre Company; Swansong and The Elves and the Shoemakers,

**Bookville Children’s Festival** included fifty live events working with twenty-five local, national & international authors and illustrators. The Festival also included a number of online videos and a forty-page Bookville Festival book. Over 13,000 books were distributed to primary schools across Kilkenny, one for every primary school child in the County. The Bookville exhibition in the Watergate Theatre featured four illustrators with exhibition related activity pages in the Bookville book to complement the exhibition. Total audience figures for this year’s festival was 31,335.



# HERITAGE

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The Heritage Office delivered a comprehensive programme of projects, grants and initiatives in 2022. The projects were co-funded by Kilkenny County Council and a wide range of partners including the Heritage Council, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service), Creative Ireland, and Commemorations Unit of Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Community Monuments Fund 2022**

3 projects received a total of €211,200 from the Community Monuments Fund to help to conserve and protect three medieval sites. These sites were Clomantagh Church, Dunkitt Church and Graveyard, and Grangefertagh Church and Graveyard.

### **Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022**

Kilkenny County Council received €48,000 to undertake six biodiversity and invasive species management projects. The projects included actions to protect swifts and barn owls; identify biodiversity and pollinator corridors, support communities to protect pollinators, and control of invasive species at Silaire Wood and Woodstock Gardens & Estate. The projects were funded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2022 (€48,000) with 15% match funding from Kilkenny County Council (€8,500).

### **Decade of Centenaries Grants**

Films, audio drama, podcasts and public talks were among the 12 projects awarded funding under the Kilkenny County Council Decade of Centenaries Grants Programme (*Total: €50,000*). These projects commemorated people and events in Kilkenny in 1922.

### **County Heritage Plan Funding Secured**

The Heritage office received €21,000 under the Heritage Council *Heritage Awareness and Engagement Programme*. It comprised of themed ad campaigns to promote Kilkenny's Heritage including Pollinators, Nature is good for you, Swifts, Heritage Week, Native tress, Wetlands and Autumn Clean up. The Council provided 25% match funding (€19,000).

### **Kilkenny Pollinator Programme 2022**

The Local Authority Heritage Officer Network ran a series of 4 free one-hour webinars on *Climate, Heritage and Biodiversity: Nature Based Solutions* focussing on positive actions for climate and highlighting case studies of local authority heritage projects which help support climate action. The Kilkenny Heritage Officer delivered a presentation on the Kilkenny Pollinator Programme.

### **Council-wide support for Pollinators**

The Municipal District Councils, Parks Department, Environmental Awareness Office, Community and the Heritage Office have all undertaken significant work to protect pollinators and their habitats in Kilkenny in 2022. Actions included reducing mowing, reducing pesticides, protecting habitats, pollinator planting, raising awareness and supporting communities and schools. All work undertaken by Kilkenny County Council has been collated into an annual report and submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre to meet our commitment under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

### **Pollinator Resources**

2,300 AIPP pollinator booklets and signs, along with Kilkenny County Council pollinator badges and totes were sent to communities, sports clubs, schools, individuals, graveyard groups, businesses, County Council staff and elected representatives. Co-funded by the Heritage Office and the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant 2022.

### **Heritage Week in Kilkenny 2022**

49 events and 3 digital projects, were organised by heritage groups, venues and organisations in 12 towns and villages throughout Kilkenny for Heritage Week.

### **Civic Memorials and Naming Infrastructure**

The Civic Memorials and Naming Infrastructure sub-committee (Heritage, Arts, Conservation & Architecture) assessed 6 public realm sites/structures in line with the Council's Civic Memorial and Infrastructure Policy.

### **Kilkenny Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg Programme 2022**

The Heritage Office supported filming at Knockroe as part of a documentary film called *The Second Chamber*; Phase 2 of an audit of traditional shopfronts in Kilkenny and *The History Show* on KCLR. Creative Ireland is a national programme co-ordinated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/>

### **Heritage Education**

Birdwatch Ireland and the Heritage Officer provided two workshops on recording swifts in Thomastown and Kilkenny.

Biodiversity in Schools designed a unique Summer Course to help Primary school teachers connect their students to the nature of Kilkenny and to encourage their class/es to become Wildlife Detectives. The course took place in the Kilkenny Education Centre, Callan Road, Kilkenny.

A free Citizen Science Workshop was organised in July to support the public to protect and record hedgehogs in County Kilkenny as part of the [National Hedgehog Survey](#)

### **Awards and Recognition**

#### **Australian film festival Award for Kilkenny Decade of Centenaries Film**

Kevin Hughes received an *Honourable Mention Award* in the 2022 Australian Film Festival for his short film *The re-Burial of Jackie Brett* which was funded by Kilkenny County Council under the Decade of Centenaries Grants Programme 2021.

#### **Kilkenny Entries to Local Authority Pollinator Award**

5 Tidy Towns groups from Kilkenny entered the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2022. Congratulation to Tullahought who won in the 'Small Town' category for the South East.

# CIVIL DEFENCE

**Kilkenny Civil Defence** is a volunteer-based organisation that supports the Principal Response Agencies both locally and nationally (*County Councils, Gardai and HSE*) in dealing with severe weather, flooding, major incidents and searching for missing people. It also assists our local communities primarily at events. The member numbers increased by 15% to 46 active volunteers.

## Activity 2022

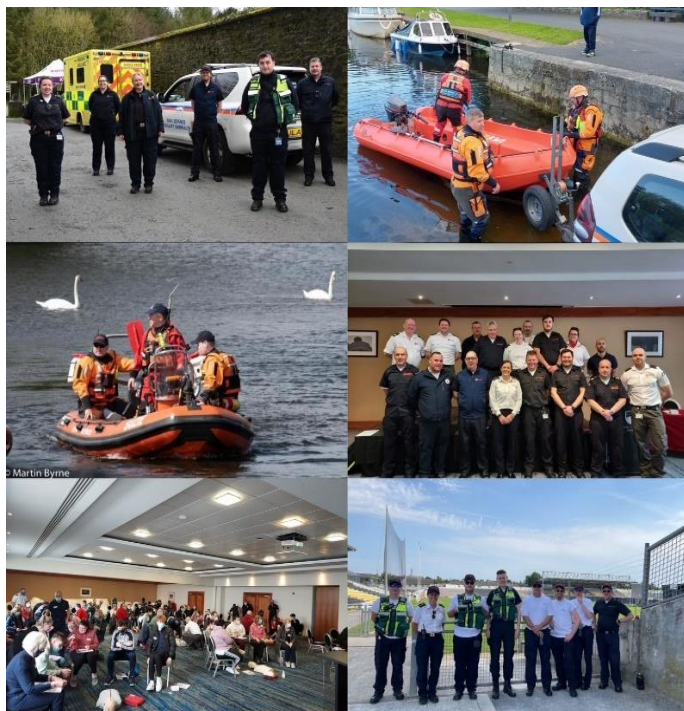


This year saw us emerge in part from the COVID restrictions to face a new crisis, the war in Ukraine and all displaced people fleeing it.

In April, our volunteers set up, manned and ran the emergency accommodation in the initial stages alongside Kilkenny Leader Partnership.

Our volunteers took the keys to St. John of God convent and turned it into a home within a week. This was done with the assistance of the Defence Forces, Scouts and Girl Guides.

This was a huge undertaking and a large focus of our work for 3 months. All the while we completed first aid duties,



Activity	Duties	Hours
Ukraine Assistance	68	1,396
COVID	42	586
Community Events	41	348
Boating	6	80
Missing Person	7	496
	<b>164</b>	<b>2,906</b>

We worked with so many agencies including PPN, KLP, ALONE, Yulefest, Healthy Ireland, Sports Partnership as well as ESB Networks restoring power twice in Talbots inch area of the City.

We continued to support the HSE, An Gardaí Síochána, Fire and Rescue Service.

## Training

We continued to re-certify and upskill our volunteers throughout the year. We trained in the areas of Medical, Communications, Swiftwater, Boats, Manual and People Handling, issuing 86 certificates to our Volunteers and a further 52 members of the public in Cardiac First Responder.



### Awards/ Achievements.

We attended a ceremony in Croke Park on 28<sup>th</sup> November where Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney presented volunteers with a COVID medal in recognition of the tremendous work carried out by them over COVID.



The remaining medals were presented in Council Chambers during the annual Civil Defence award night. This was attended by The Cathaoirleach, The Mayor, Our Chief Executive and Directors of service as well as elected members.



Our Volunteers received promotions within the unit as well as acknowledgement for the trojan work they had carried out throughout the year and the assistance provided to the people of Kilkenny.



This night also saw the retirement of Katherine Peacock as Civil Defence Officer and Mr Kieran Howley retired as a volunteer following 48 years as a member in Kilkenny Civil Defence

# **DIRECTORATE OF UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT**

**Acting Director of Services: Ms. Fiona Deegan**

# UKRAINIAN RESPONSE UNIT

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On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the war between Russia and Ukraine saw a major escalation as Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, leading to the mass influx of displaced persons caused by the invasion.

Ukrainian refugees began to arrive in Kilkenny from 17<sup>th</sup> March and Kilkenny County Council was tasked with the setup of temporary Rest Centres to provide accommodation for the new arrivals.

A Ukrainian Unit was established within the Council to co-ordinate the Kilkenny response. The Community Forum, Chaired by the Chief Executive was re-established to provide support to the crisis. At the end of year there were approximately 1,200 Ukrainians living in Kilkenny in two Council managed properties at St. John of God Convent in the City and The Friary in Knocktopher, various commercial properties throughout the County and in shared and vacant properties pledged by the people of Kilkenny.

With the support of the various agencies and community groups through the Community Forum supports were provided to ensure the Ukrainian community felt welcome and integrated into our community.

In 2022:

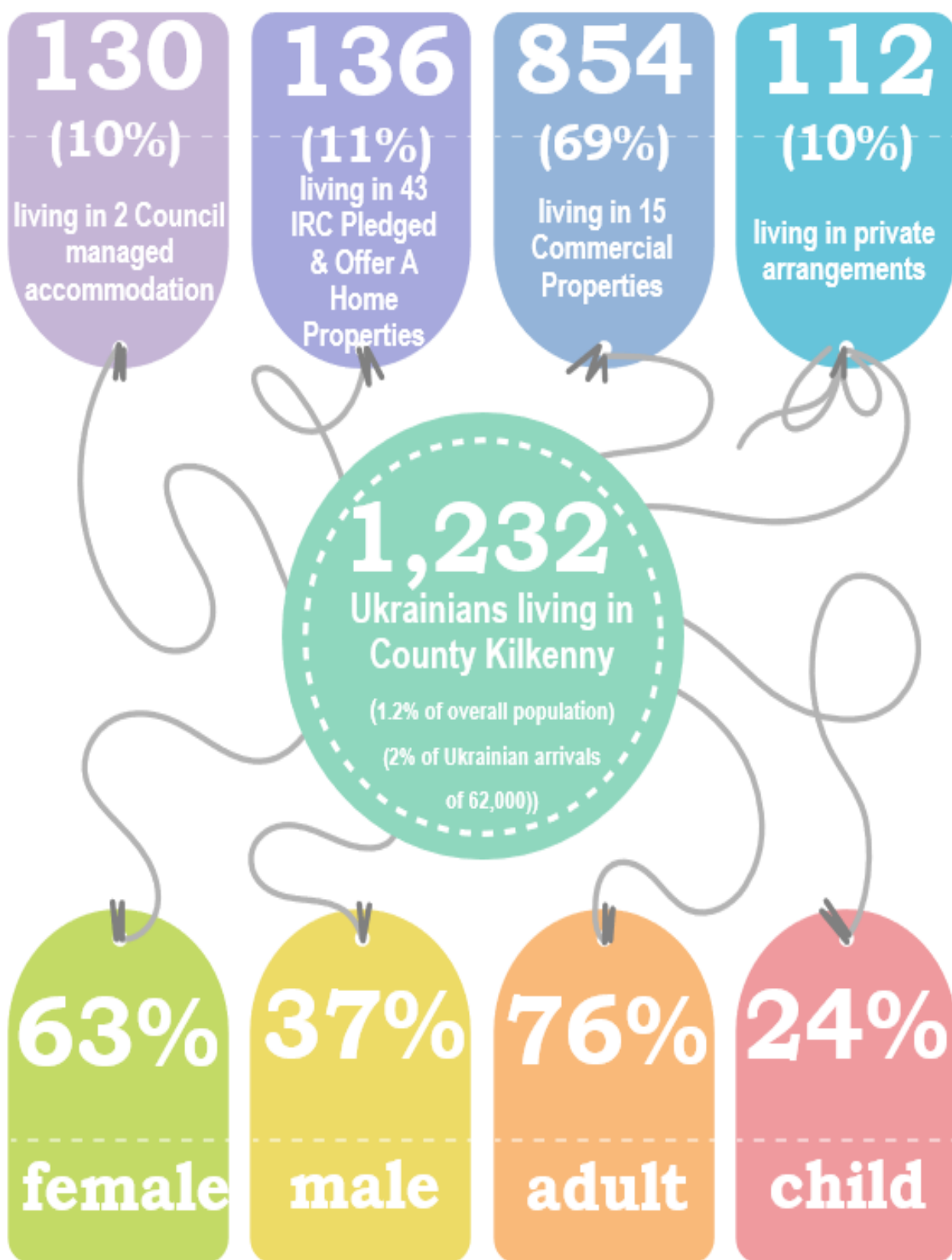
- 487 Ukrainians availed of training programmes developed through Kilkenny Leader Partnership in order to prepare them for the workplace.
- 425 Ukrainians had attended English as a second language with Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board in order to develop their language skills to prepare them to enter the workforce.
- 160 had availed of the Adult Guidance Services and over 200 Ukrainians were registered as employed in Kilkenny businesses.
- Children integrated into our school system with 151 children enrolled in Primary Schools, 110 children enrolled in Secondary Schools and 40 children enrolled in pre-school education and afterschools.
- The integration was very noticeable in our Volunteer Centre with 92 Ukrainians registered as volunteers who became involved in the various festivals and other events arranged throughout the year.

A huge thanks must go to the following agencies who put their shoulder to the wheel to support the Ukrainian people - Kilkenny Civil Defence, Defence Forces, Health Service Executive, Kilkenny Carlow Education & Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Kilkenny Leader Partnership, Local Link and many more who continue to support the Ukrainians.

Thanks also to the people of Kilkenny who couldn't do enough to help by providing beds, cots, clothes, donations of anything else required and continue to do so. The work of the Ukrainian Crisis Unit within the Council will continue to provide accommodation and oversee the work of the agencies and communities in 2023 and ensure that the people of Ukraine feel that Kilkenny is now their second home, until such a time that they can return to their homeland.



# Ukrainian Monitor



# FIRE SERVICES & MAJOR EMERGENCY

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Our focus is on protecting the communities we serve. The Fire and Rescue Service provides a highly skilled response to a range of emergencies. During Storm Eunice and in COVID-19, the Local Authority Fire and Rescue Service showed to be very resilient and a useful resource in that Brigades (*trained and equipped manpower*) can be mobilised within minutes of an emergency in their area 24hrs a day, 7 days a week 365 days a year.

Fire and Rescue Service main functions are:

- To engage with the community in order to inform and educate citizens in how to reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies.
- To influence and regulate the built environment in order to protect people, property and the environment from harm.
- To plan and prepare for emergencies that may happen, and making a high quality, effective and resilient response to them.
- To work together to deliver the highest quality services within a safe and positive environment for everyone in the organisation.

## Capital Projects

Construction of the new fire station for Urlingford started during Q2 of 2022 and construction is now over 50% complete. The building is designed to satisfy the functional requirements of the Fire Brigade. The Fire Station is a two-bay design, meaning that it will be designed capable of housing two Fire Service vehicles.



Our new Emergency Tender vehicle was received during 2022 and is now in use covering the City and County of Kilkenny. It was fully capital funded from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. The new Emergency Tender vehicle has the capacity to carry rescue equipment for all types of emergencies including road traffic collisions, chemical incidents and Heavy Goods Vehicle Rescue which will enhance Kilkenny Fire and Rescue response to incidents. The new vehicle replaced our existing Emergency Tender.



## Emergency Tender

Also, a fire appliance was purchased with funding from the Directorate which primarily covers the City and surrounding hinterlands.

A site was identified for a new fire station in Kilkenny City following a selection process during 2022. It is hoped that this process will conclude in 2023.

Positive Pressure Ventilation Fans, Smoke Curtains and battery powered lighting was approved by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) and is currently in use at incidents throughout the county.



Three 4-wheel drive jeeps were purchased with funding approved by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. These jeeps are operational in Castlecomer, Urlingford and Graiguenamanagh Fire Stations.

## Fire Safety Certificate Applications

- 91 applications for fire safety certificates were received in 2022 and processed on behalf of the Building Control Section.
- 5 of these were maximum application fee applications and 5 of these were Regularisation Fire Safety Certificate Applications (*the equivalent to Planning Retention Applications*).
- A number of large-scale fire safety certificate applications for:
  - (a) Medical Device Manufacturing facility and
  - (b) Industrial developments at Belview Port were processed.

## Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

- Fire Officers made a number of fire prevention visits to premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation.
- 73 inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation were undertaken.
- 65 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.
- 7 Dangerous Substance licence applications, 4 Vapour Recover Certificates and 2 Certificate of Installations were received and assessed to date.
- 1 Fire Safety Closure Notice under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 was served in 2022.
- No Fire Safety Notices under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 were served in 2022.

## Community Fire Safety



Home fire safety visits (HFSV's) recommenced after Level-5 initial lockdowns. 103 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out by Fire Brigade personnel in 2022. Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) are a significant element of our Community Fire Safety Strategy. Fire service personnel call to houses by appointment and give fire safety advice to the occupants. A HFSV is usually carried out by two uniformed operational

fire service personnel. They use a checklist to ask questions, try to identify the fire safety hazards in the house and recommend solutions. Fire safety advice is given, fire safety leaflets handed out and smoke detectors may be provided and fitted, where necessary. They also discuss the occupant's response should a fire occur in their home.



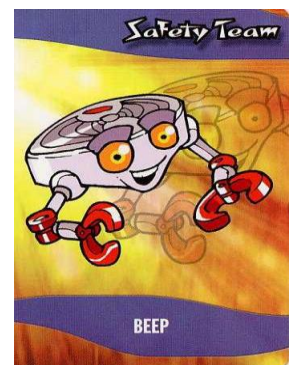
The firefighters leave the occupier with further advice and information to also make available to other members of the household. The primary aim of these HFSVs is to reduce the numbers of fires, deaths and injuries in the home by firstly preventing fires occurring and to ensure that when fires do occur, the occupiers are given early warning and they know how to react quickly and safely.



Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service participated in this year's National Fire Safety Week. Activities included radio interviews, in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council's Social Club a fire safety competition was run, home fire safety visits were carried out in a number of homes, increased use of social media.

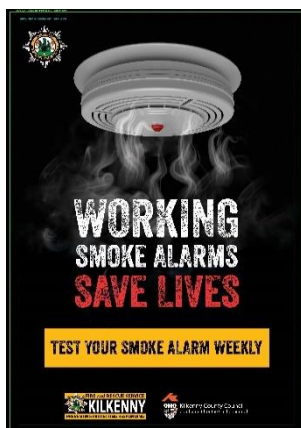
Ongoing public messaging campaigns were maintained through our social media channels to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.

Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme was relaunched after the pause due to Covid-19 for public safety concerns, the academic year 2021/2022 – was for Primary Schools Fire Safety Programme a 3-in-1 year where we offered to deliver the PSP programme to the usual cohort of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class students and also to the two-previous year of 3<sup>rd</sup> classes we missed and who missed out on meeting us due to Covid-19 restrictions. In the academic year 2021/2022 we delivered this fire safety programme to 3,231 class pupils over 48 schools that we visited. This programme has been running without a break since 2006 to over 23,272 3<sup>rd</sup> class pupils who received the benefit of this national primary school fire safety programme to date.



During the build up to Halloween 2022, we liaised with Liaison the Environment Section and An Garda Síochána to reduce the risks associated with bonfires. Thankfully from all 7 fire brigade points of view it was a quiet day and night - weather related - as minimal anti-social calls were received to attend bonfires over Halloween 2022.

A very successful Fire Safety Seminar was provided to Housing Technical staff by a Senior Fire Officer.



For 2022 National Fire Safety Week, the fire and rescue service developed an artwork and campaign with NDFEM and within Kilkenny City we took advertising space from JC Decaux with a number of our Kilkenny City Link Bus Stops throughout the City, the advertising campaign ran for 4-weeks.

This was a first-time experience for the fire and rescue service and hopefully funding permits to be repeated again next year, 2023.

Radio Interviews on fire safety were also given and an advert on Fire Safety Tips for Christmas were placed on the local newspaper.



*Fire Safety at Christmas*



*Fire Safety at Christmas using the Bus Shelters*

Following the success of our self-funded National Fire Safety Week campaign, we sought for funding from NDFEM to run a fire safety campaign over the Christmas period for 5-week period for the whole month of December 2022.

### **Annual Service Mass**

The Annual Service Mass was hosted by Thomastown Fire Brigade in The Church of the Assumption, Thomastown, County Kilkenny - "A Mass for present, past and deceased members of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service".



*Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council with firefighters from Thomastown Fire Brigade*



*Minister of State Malcom Noonan, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council and Cllr Matt Doran with Officers of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service*



*2022 Annual Mass celebration with Officers, firefighters, family and friends of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service hosted by Thomastown Fire Brigade.*



## Recognition Award

Firefighter/Driver John O'Neill, Callan Fire Brigade was presented a Recognition Award by the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council and Chief Fire Officer for the actions where he saved a member of the public's life on William Street, Kilkenny City in 2021. Whilst off duty, John performed key live saving CPR skills on a man to keep him alive prior to the arrival of the Ambulance Service.



*Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council with Firefighter/Driver John O'Neill, Callan Fire Brigade and Chief Fire Officer John Collins.*

## Training

The following training was provided by Kilkenny County Council's Fire and Rescue Service in 2022: Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Initial course, ESDS recertification courses, Breathing Apparatus (BA), Water Awareness training, Compartment Fire Behaviour training, Emergency First Responder (EFR) training delivered during on-going training sessions.

Most fire service personnel have been trained to Emergency First Responder (EFR) level. Ongoing Emergency First Responder (EFR) training was held in 2022 as part of on-going drill sessions. The training that is being practiced was registered with Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). EFR is a course for fire personnel operating in a first responder role who require more than the more basic Occupational First Aid. EFR is the national standard of first-aid training for Fire Services in Ireland.

The QQI accredited initial training programmes for new firefighters have been developed by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) in collaboration with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). Training to QQI standard was provided to new recruit firefighters in Fire Fighting Skills, BA Initial Wearers and Compartment Fire Behavior (CFB).





Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service firefighters refresh their skills in the use of Breathing Apparatus (BA) for 2 days every second year.

Training on compartment fire behaviour was carried out in Freshford by our own in house instructors. Compartment fire behaviour training (CFBT) integrates the topics of fire behaviour, fire streams and ventilation within a structural firefighting context.

Safe and effective structural firefighting operations requires the firefighters to have:

- (i) A solid understanding of how a fire develops within a compartment or structure.
- (ii) The ability to “read” fire behaviour indicators.
- (iii) Knowledge of how tactical operations will influence fire development and the environment inside the building.
- (iv) A high level of skill in the application of these concepts.

Kilkenny Fire Service delivered three separate Emergency Services Driving standard (ESDS) Initial training as well as three separate ESDS recertification training during 2022. This training is designed provide a consistent standard for driving under response conditions (i.e. responding to fire calls).



*Course participants and Instructors on the ESDS course*

Kilkenny Fire Service offered Water Awareness training to all operational staff during 2022 to help ensure safety while effecting rescues from water and while pumping from water courses at fires. Five 1 day water awareness courses were held in Graiguenamanagh fire station. The Water Awareness course is both a classroom-based and on site (river Barrow) course with practical demonstration, designed to provide personnel who may be working near water with sufficient knowledge to be aware of the hazards created by this environment and develop an understanding of water rescue techniques.



*Water Awareness training in Graiguenamanagh*

## Operations

Fire Brigades responded to 892 turnouts in 2022. The Fire Service is a very resilient and useful resource to the Local Authority in that Brigades (trained and equipped manpower) can be mobilised within minutes of an emergency in their area, etc.

The Road Safety Authority carried out a risk rating for Roadworthiness in relation to the safety of our vehicles and compliance with our legal obligations. Great work was done by our Brigade Mechanic in maintaining our fleet (over thirty vehicles) to such a high standard and also to all our personnel involved in the checking of appliances. **Kilkenny Fire & Rescue Service** is currently ranked within the 71<sup>st</sup> percentile on the Roadworthiness Risk Rating scale which is of a high standard. This is a reduction on previous years due to the ageing profile of the vehicle fleet. The ranking is based on a comparison to all other HCV operators assessed for Roadworthiness compliance.

## Supporting Ukrainian Firefighters

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service donated fire vehicles and equipment on the 28th to 30th June 2022 to provide vital support to the Ukrainian firefighters who are battling the most horrendous conditions imaginable on a daily basis. At the time, over 110 fire stations and over 1,300 fire appliances have been destroyed in the Ukraine, and tragically 37 firefighters have lost their lives as they battle to do their job in their local community. Kilkenny County Council's Fire and Rescue Service had been in contact with the State Emergency Services in the Ukraine regarding their immediate requirements. Fire Services across the South East of Ireland have donated firefighting equipment such as generators and lighting, hydraulic rescue gear, pneumatic lifting equipment and sets of firefighting PPE.



*Fire Officers supporting Ukrainian Fire Service*

The 3 jeeps loaded up with this equipment was accompanied by a fire engine from Kerry Fire and Rescue Service. The convoy of vehicles was driven by firefighters from Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service who had volunteered their time to assist in this humanitarian crisis.

## Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2026

Kilkenny County Council considered and adopted a Fire and Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2026 at its March meeting.



*Staff of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service on duty at the Chief Fire Officers' Association Conference.*

The **Chief Fire Officer's Association Annual Conference** was hosted by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service in Lyrath Estate Hotel. This is one of the most prestigious events of its kind in Ireland. Over 400 delegates and trade representative attended the two-day event. It was a major boost to the local economy. This was the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, and is the third occasion it has been hosted in the county, the previous years in 1967 and 1981.



## Major Emergency Management

The Major Emergency Management Plan and its Appendices document were both reviewed and updated in 2022.

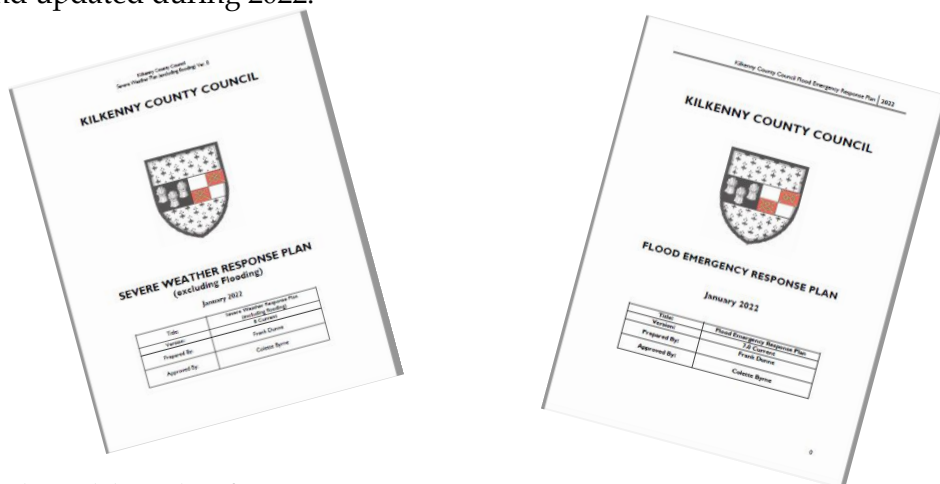


The External Emergency plan for Trans-Stock Ltd. was reviewed and tested under the Seveso III Directive in 2022. This comprised a test of the mobilisation procedures of the Principal Response Agencies (PRA's) and a test of the External Emergency by the PRA's, Site Operator and other statutory agencies.



*Local Authority, HSE and An Garda Síochána Staff in the onsite Co-ordination Centre*

The Flood Emergency Response Plan and the Severe Weather Plan (excluding Flooding) were both reviewed and updated during 2022.



## Occupational Health and Safety

Kilkenny Fire Service maintains a Safety Management System. The Safety Statement for each Fire Station was updated in 2022 and all staff were given their Annual Safety Induction. The learning outcomes for all accident reports and near miss reports are used to update the Safety Manual each year.



# **DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Acting Director of Services: Mr. Denis Malone

# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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## Planning Applications

837 planning applications were received during the year 2022 compared to 1,054 in 2021.

The Planning Department remained open for business throughout 2022 and welcomed the public back with limited restrictions, social distancing and other safety measures for the protection of customers and staff.

## Building Control

- 335 valid Commencement Notices were processed in 2022 compared to 435 for 2021, representing a drop of 100.
- The quantity of New Buildings increased by 9 in 2022: (2022 512; 2021 503)
- The number of New Dwelling Units decreased by 13 in 2022: (2022 515; 2021 528).
- 72 valid applications for Disability Access Certificates (DACs) were received compared to 54 for the same period in 2021. This has been the second busiest year since the requirement for DACs began.
- The figures above are an indication of the maintained level of activity in construction generally and in particular the sustained delivery of much needed housing units during 2022.

## Taking in Charge

42 Taking in Charge (TIC) applications were in various stages of process in County Kilkenny during the year 2022.

The following estates were taken in charge:

- The Paddocks, Gowran
- Filbuckstown, Mooncoin
- Arbournmount, Ferrybank
- Margaretsfield, Callan
- Whitehall, Paulstown

The main services subject to TIC are:

- public roads and footpaths;
- public open spaces;
- unallocated surface parking area;
- and public lighting.

There is a total of 37 estates at various stages of the process at the end of 2022.

## Masterplans

**Abbey Quarter:** A review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan was commenced and Consultants were appointed to carry out this review. The public consultation for the pre-draft phase started in late 2022 and continues into early 2023.

**Loughmacask:** Consultants were appointed to prepare the Loughmacask Masterplan. The Draft Masterplan was published in August 2022. A series of public consultation events were held during the public display of the Draft Masterplan. A total of 175 submissions were received and the Interim Chief Executive's Report on the consultation will be brought to the Councillors in early 2023.

**St. Canice's:** Consultants were appointed to assist the Project Steering Committee for the drafting of a Masterplan for the St. Canice's Campus, Kilkenny City. There has been significant engagement with the HSE and this engagement is ongoing. Once a draft plan is available, it will be presented to the Council and HSE before it is placed for public consultation.

**Urlingford Town Centre First:** The pre-draft phase of the Draft Urlingford Masterplan was completed by the appointed Consultants and a Draft will be published for public display in early 2023.

**Smaller Towns and Villages:** Consultants were also procured to prepare Masterplans for Ballyragget, Paulstown and Kilmacow. These Masterplans will assist in prioritising projects for future funding. Drafts will be on display in Q2 of 2023.

### **Conservation Grants**

The quality of our historic built environment contributes to the vitality of our urban areas, villages and countryside, instils a sense of pride of place and enhances the quality of our everyday lives. Our built heritage is one of the main attractions for visitors to Ireland so its conservation also reinforces and promotes our tourism industry as well as contributing to the regeneration of urban and rural areas.

The following conservation grant projects were completed in 2022:

*Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)* - The aim of the BHIS is to leverage private investment in small-scale, labour-intensive conservation projects and to support the employment of conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment. Total funding of €153,947 was approved for 12 projects under the BHIS in County Kilkenny in 2022 for a wide range of works from the repairs to windows, external render works, roof repairs, lime works and general masonry works.

*Historic Structures Fund (HSF)* - The aim of the HSF is to support conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings in both private and public ownership. Four projects were supported with total grant-aid of €254,969 in County Kilkenny under the HSF in 2022.

*Historic Town Initiative (HTI)* - The HTI is a joint undertaking by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council which aims to support heritage led regeneration to enhance buildings and streetscapes in Ireland's historic towns. The Council secured €19,000 in funding under the HTI in 2022 to compile architectural assessment and proposals for two vacant properties on Upper Bridge Street, Callan.

*Heritage Stewardship Fund* - The Heritage Stewardship Fund is a new funding scheme delivered by the Heritage Council. Funding totalling €4,125 was used for gathering, collating and assessing information from the archived planning files on potential Early Modern Townhouses in Kilkenny City.

### **Derelict Sites**

A new strategy for the management of Derelict Sites was implemented in 2022 with a targeted approach to the identification and pursuit of derelict sites. Measures included setting up a robust workflow, drafting template documents and improving public awareness through a dedicated webpage and a new information leaflet for landowners. The phased programme of additions began with tackling Kilkenny City followed by Callan and Thomastown. Castlecomer and Graiguenamanagh will be addressed in 2023. Nine sites were added during 2022 bringing the total to 20 sites on the Derelict Sites Register by the end of the year. One site in Mullinavat was removed from the Register due to improvement. Twelve additional sites have been served with the first notice in accordance with the Act. Valuers were procured to carry out valuations of the sites. Notices of valuations will be issued to landowners in early 2023 and the levy can be imposed after that point.



**Vacant Sites**

There were 27 sites on the Council's Vacant Sites Register at the end of 2022. The number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement stands at 20 sites which demonstrates that the levy is having the desired effect. The Vacant site levy will be replaced by the Residential Zoned Land Tax from 2024.

A total of €123,530 has been received to date from vacant site levies from private developers. The Council are continuing to pursue the payment of all outstanding levies and instigated Court proceedings to pursue two landowners for non-payment during 2022.

**Residential Zoned Land Tax**

The first Draft Residential Zoned Land Tax maps, showing land in scope for the new tax were prepared and published for public display in November 2022. A total of 25 submissions were received and determinations will be made on these in early 2023 prior to the publication of the Supplemental Maps by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

# ENVIRONMENT

The Council's Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan for 2022 set an ambitious target of just under 4,900 inspections across Waste, Water, Noise and Air.

A breakdown of the inspections are listed in the table below:

Category	No. of Inspections
Routine Waste Inspection	648
Non-Routine Waste Inspections	685
Routine Litter Patrols / Investigations	510
Routine Producer Responsibility Initiatives	119
Routine Water & Wastewater Inspections	1,586
Non-Routine Water & Wastewater Inspections	51
Routine Air & Noise Inspections	70
Non-Routine Air & Noise Inspections	38
Routine Environmental Planning Inspections	1,150
<b>Total number of inspections for 2022</b>	<b>4,857</b>

## Dunmore Civic Amenity Site (CAS)

In 2022, the Dunmore CAS received 1,715 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste, 893 tonnes of Municipal Dry Waste and 1,355 tonnes of Recyclable material. Under our Anti-Dumping Initiative in 2022, there was a total of 724 mattresses collected from Granny and Dunmore Civic Amenity Sites.

## Upgrade works at Dunmore Civic Amenity Site

Works were carried out in 2022 for the securing of infrastructure on the landfill site. To cater for the new Bio Diversity Park due to open in 2023 the groundworks around the leachate lagoons have been upgraded. These upgrades require new security fencing to protect members of the public when the park is opened.



*Upgrade works carried out at Dunmore*

## Anti-Dumping Initiative application for 2022

Kilkenny County Council was awarded funding for projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative for 2022 in the amount of €98,630. This funding contributed to a project which involved working with Cartoon Saloon on designing graphics for our road sweepers.



*Cartoon Saloon artwork on road sweepers*

### Clean Up at Thomastown Bridge

As part of another project under the Anti-Dumping initiative a clean-up was undertaken at Thomastown Bridge which included picnic tables and benches being installed at Sweetman Castle, Thomastown.

A number of other clean ups took place on October 9th, 2022 to assist with the “Lets Team up to Clean Up, Together for Kilkenny City” initiative on the N76, N77 Canal Walk and Bleach Road.



*Clean up at Thomastown Bridge*

### Anti-Dumping Initiatives 2022:

Project	Grant
County Wide Mattress Amnesty	€39,827
Variable messaging boards for waste	€5,992
Media campaign using ADI information	€17,525
Clean up of Bishops Mountain	€5,450
Clean up of various Roadside verges around County	€18,687
Clean up at Thomastown Bridge	€6,964
Clean up at Slieverue	€4,185
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>€98,630</b>

### Bring Banks

The Council provides and manages 46 Bring Bank Recycling Centres across the City and County and a total of 2,153 tonnes of recyclables were collected at these Centres in 2022. Loughboy Shopping Centre is the busiest Bring Centre in the City while ALDI, Graiguenamanagh is the busiest centre outside of the City. Environment staff are continuing to work very closely with our service providers to ensure the collection service is in keeping with demand especially around holiday periods. The Council continues to look to expand the network of recycling centres and in this regard is in discussions with Tidy Town committees in relation to suitable locations.

All bottle and textile recycling receptacles were removed from Lidl Loughboy in August 2022 due to development works involving the demolition of the existing store and replacing with a larger new store at the same location. The new store is due to re-open during 2023 and will have the capacity to accommodate the bring banks and the new deposit return scheme for bottle and cans.

### ANTI-LITTER INITIATIVES

#### Picker Pals



A total of 35 classes participated in the Picker Pals programme throughout the City and County during the academic term of 2021-2022. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> class in Kilkenny City participated under a special “Mayor’s Initiative” and national funding enabled other schools across the County to participate. The programme provided a litter picking kit to participating classrooms and provided an opportunity for each pupil to borrow the kit over a weekend and tell the class their findings the following week. This programme saw

over 1,000 families being involved in weekend litter picking adventures over the course of the programme.





*Let's Team Up to Clean Up, Together for Kilkenny Corporate Sponsor Representatives with Kilkenny County Council's Cathaoirleach, City Mayor and Representatives of the Environment Section*

The "Let's Team Up to Clean Up, Together for Kilkenny" initiative was launched in June 2022 with the financial backing of our sponsors:- PRL, Dawn Meats, John O Shea Trust and Glanbia PLC/Glanbia Co-op together with our waste management sponsor Panda. The Army Personnel at St. Stephens Barracks were a great support of Lets Team Up to Clean Up offering their logistical expertise to organise the community litter picking packs for the October event held in the City. This event had over 50 participating groups with 600 litter pickers distributed along with 6,000 flowering bulbs to neighbourhoods across Kilkenny City. This event proved such a success it is now being rolled out county wide.



*Mayor Cllr. David Fitzgerald*



*Loughlin Court, Kilkenny*



*Volunteers for "Team Up to Clean Up" Day*



### Anti-Dog Fouling Awareness

An awareness stand was present at Madra Monday, a dog themed day on the final day of the Savour Kilkenny Food Festival.

The stand highlighted the importance of bagging and binning dog fouling to all those attending the stand throughout the afternoon. Branded dog hi vis vests were given away to dog owners who pledged to clean up after their pooch.



*Stand at Savour Kilkenny Food Festival*

### Waste Prevention Initiatives

The “Re-cycle the Bicycle Project” was a joint collaboration between the Environmental Awareness Officer and the Cycling Officer and proved to be very successful. Junior bicycles were donated with a drop off location at Dunmore Recycling Centre. Following repair and servicing the bikes were then used as part of the Transition Year Champions Pilot Project teaching the sprocket rocket cycling programme to juniors in primary school.



*Cycling Officer Caitriona Corr & Environmental Awareness Officer Bernadette Moloney*

### Bicycle Initiative for Ukrainians

As Ukrainians continued to come to Kilkenny and settle into their new accommodation their transport needs were considered and one solution was to re-purpose donated bicycles. Collaborating with Leader Partnership, the Civil Defence, Council’s Cycling Officer and the Kilkenny City Men Shed a scheme commenced under the Council’s Waste Prevention Programme to bring unused bicycles back into circulation and these bikes were distributed to Ukrainians in Kilkenny.



*Bicycle Initiative for Ukrainians*

### Savour Kilkenny Food Festival

The 2022 Savour Kilkenny Food Festival increased their greening activities through waste minimisation. Stall holders as part of the Festival Green charter pledged to minimise waste and reduce water and energy consumption. Free water refill points were located on the Parade for members of the public and a three-bin system to segregate food waste was in operation.

Volunteers from St Brigid’s Camogie Club, Kilmanagh assisted over the weekend by becoming the “Let’s Team Up to Clean Up” street crew and kept the Parade litter free throughout the Festival. These initiatives were part sponsored by the Council’s Waste Prevention Programme.

## RECYCLING 2022

### WEEE Ireland Collections in County Kilkenny

WEEE Ireland completed 5 community collections in 2022, yielding over 55,000 kg of electrical household waste being collected for appropriate recycling at the following locations around the County.

Date	Town	Weight (kg) Collected
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Erins Own GAA Club, Castlecomer	6,740
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Pilltown Community Centre, Piltown	12,134
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Soccer Club Car Park, Thomastown	13,464
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Church Car Park, Johnstown	16,910
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Cillin Hill Mart, Kilkenny	5,760
<b>Total</b>		<b>55,008</b>

### Food Waste Recycling

The Council's Environment Section hosted a food waste awareness stand throughout the Savour Kilkenny Food Festival and gave away 1,000 food waste caddies to enable households to segregate food waste easily.

The recycling of food waste diverts this important resource from landfill and allows it to be transformed into renewable energy and fertilisers for horticulture and agriculture use in Ireland. Every tonne of food waste that is recycled rather than ending up in a landfill can prevent about half a tonne of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere. The stand was in association with [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie).



Food waste awareness stand at Savour Kilkenny Food Festival

### Voice Ireland Visited Kilkenny

The Return for Change campaign visited Kilkenny City in May. Its aim was to raise awareness of the national Deposit and Return Scheme for beverage bottles and aluminium cans which is due to be launched in the near future. The scheme will see an additional charge on a beverage at the point of purchase with the charge redeemable when returned to a reverse vending machine.



### Energy in Focus Week

Kilkenny and Carlow Local Authorities hosted an "Energy in Focus" Week in March on KCLR Live. The week featured an energy themed segment at 11.20am daily and advertising that highlighted the availability of Home Energy Kits in local library branches. This collaboration project highlighted the Local Authorities commitment to its Climate Change Adaption Strategy. Each speaker from the Council's Climate Action Teams, SEAI and 3CEA provided information on different aspects of energy conservation throughout the week.



## TIDY TOWNS

### Tidy Town Forum

Two Tidy Towns Forum took place in 2022. Kells Tidy Towns led a village walk showcasing a variety of projects including their rain water harvesting project and their biodiversity enhancement project at St. Mary's Church. In August, the Ballyragget Development Association hosted the Forum and the Environmental Awareness Officer made a presentation on "Let's Team Up to Clean Up, Together for Kilkenny" before a walking tour of Ballyragget commenced. The success of both communities water harvesting projects resulted in a funding opportunity being announced for Tidy Town Forum members in 2022 to encourage them to replicate the rain water harvesting projects in their own local area.



*Mural in Ballyragget*

### Tidy Towns Awards

There were twenty-five entrants from County Kilkenny which is an increase in participation from previous years. The following awards were achieved:

- *Kilkenny City* retained its gold medal and won the County Award
- *Inistioge* retained its gold medal and came 2nd in the County Awards
- *Tullahought* retained its silver medal and came third in the County Awards
- *Kilmoganny Tidy Towns* won the Endeavour Award
- *Castlecomer Tidy Towns* was the national winner of the Agent Brite Litter Awareness Award
- *Tullahought Tidy Towns* won the SE category of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan Award.

## CLIMATE ACTION

### Climate Action Service Established – New Developments

A new Climate Action Service was established and a Climate Action Coordinator was appointed to co-ordinate the implementation of the Local Authority's response to the climate crisis and support Kilkenny County Council to lead by example on climate action. The Climate Action Team will support the delivery of the national targets to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by 2050.

### Climate Action Plan

Work commenced on the Advanced Planning Phase of Local Authority Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan is a 5 year plan with mitigation and adaptation measures which is required to be developed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The preparation of a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Risk Assessment for County Kilkenny was initiated in 2022. The findings of these studies will inform the priorities and actions in the new Climate Action Plan. The Climate Risk Assessment will identify the key current and future climate hazards such as flooding and heatwaves and the potential impacts on infrastructure, health and well-being, environment, and finance. The Baseline Emissions Inventory will provide a baseline against which changes in emissions will be measured over the life of the Climate Action Plan.

### Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The annual progress report on the Kilkenny County Council Climate Adaptation Plan (2019-2024) to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications reported that 95.8% of the Strategy's actions are either complete or ongoing at this point.

These include:

- Kilkenny City Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan commenced
- Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project for the Eastern Region commenced
- Blended working policy adopted and scheme roll out commenced
- Severe Weather, Major Emergency and Winter Maintenance Plans updated
- 4 Flood Relief Schemes (FRS) progressed to OPW Approval stage  
Graigenamanagh and Ballyhale FRS's at Stage 2 and Stage 1 respectively
- Energy retrofitting projects at County Hall and Machinery Yard complete
- New welfare facility installed at County Hall to facilitate active travel to work for staff
- Mobility Plans for Callan, Graigenamanagh, Ferrybank and Castlecomer in train.

### **Casual Trading**

The Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 for the Municipal Districts of Castlecomer, Callan Thomastown and Piltown were adopted on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 and came into operation on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. These Bye-Laws cover 20 designated Casual Trading Bays. There are 18 of these trading bays available for trading. Two of the trading bays relate to the Greenway in Glenmore and Ferrybank and these are not available for trading until the completion of the Greenway.

There were eight Casual Trading Licences issued in 2022 i.e. four in Castlecomer, two in Graigenamanagh, one in Kells, and one in Inistioge.



*Casual Trading Bay at Inistioge*

### **Burial Grounds**

#### **Columbarium Wall Garden St. Kieran's Cemetery**

Contractors have been appointed as the contractor for the construction of the Columbarium Wall and all associated site works at St. Kieran's Cemetery. A total of 100 niches will be available within the Columbarium wall units in the Garden, with the option to add more unit's subject to future demand. Works have commenced onsite and the project will be completed early 2023.



*A Columbarium Wall Garden*



### Community Monuments Fund – Clomantagh & Dunkitt Capital Works

Kilkenny County Council has completed works to help conserve and protect two medieval churches and graveyards at Clomantagh and Dunkitt under the Community Monuments Fund 2022 provided by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Works were fully completed on both projects by the end of the year. The projects were managed by the Environment Section and Heritage Office.



*Dunkitt Church and Graveyard*



*Clomantagh Church and Graveyard*



## Water Quality - Farms Inspections

A review carried out of EPA Mapping issues and available water quality data by the Farm Inspection Team identified 3 surface water bodies where there are significant agricultural pressures and where the water bodies are at risk of not meeting water framework directive objectives by 2027 namely, Enisnag Stream (Ennisnag\_010), Gowran River (Gowran\_020), Monefelim and Ballywalden River (Monefelim\_030). A detailed catchment assessment followed where 80 farms were selected for inspection in accordance with the RMCEI plan submitted.

Follow up on previous issues identified during inspections from 2021 and a limited number from 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 restrictions continued throughout the year. A large number of cases were closed as issues were resolved. There are 5 cases outstanding where it may be necessary to be cross reported to DAFM in Q1 2023.

Only one farm inspected in 2022 had insufficient storage capacity and was over stocked with the remainder of farms inspected having ample storage for the stock levels on site during inspections. The main issue recorded on farms was around soiled water and the collection of same. The separation of clean water and soiled water also remains an issue in some cases.

## Water Safety

In 2022, Kilkenny County Council engaged 18 qualified and highly trained Lifeguards to cover 5 non designated swimming areas at The Meadows and The Weir in Kilkenny City, Graiguenamanagh, Inistioge and Thomastown. Lifeguards were on duty between 2pm and 7.30pm on weekends throughout June and 7 days during the months of July and August. July and August proved particularly busy, due to the very warm weather.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, “Summer Swim Week” took place at Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown Weir Pool lifeguarded areas. Swim week was facilitated by our lifeguards, the Water Safety Development Officer and promoted through Kilkenny County Council’s social media channels. Swim Week was very well received in both communities with very positive feedback received from swimmers and their parents. It was attended by over 200 children, all improving their swimming ability after missing out on swimming lessons through the Covid lockdowns.



*Thomastown Weir Pool*



*Lifeguards on duty during Thomastown Swim Week, the lifeguards wore blue face paint in support of world drowning prevention day*

Irish Water Safety organised a widely publicised campaign - “Heed our Heroes” warning the public of the different hazards involved with fresh and sea water and the importance of swimming in safe places where experienced lifeguards shared their advice. Lucy Cleere, one of our river lifeguards in Kilkenny for the past four years was one of the six lifeguards selected for the national campaign.



There have been several Lifebuoys reported missing along the River Nore in Kilkenny City throughout the year. Lifebuoys were replaced promptly and anti social behaviour reported to the Water Safety Development Officer and to the Gardai.

### Control of Dogs and Horses

Together with the Dog Warden Service (DWS), the Veterinary Service is involved in the implementation of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended and the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 as amended.

Summary of activity in 2022 is as follows:

- 9 Dog Breeding Establishments were regulated by the service in 2022 and there were 31 Dog Breeding Establishment inspections completed in 2022 for County Kilkenny
- The number of dogs licensed was 5,107
- 364 dogs surrendered and handled by the Dog Shelter  
(including those picked up by the DWS as strays)
- 77 dogs reclaimed
- 275 dogs rehomed
- 1 dog was put to sleep (PTS)
- 4 horses impounded in 2022 under the Control of Horses Act.

The Dog Shelter experienced an incredibly busy year which seems to be replicated country wide. Figures above show a 99% increase year on year in dogs being dealt with at the Dog Shelter. In October 2022, while the shelter remained operational it was unable to accept surrendered dogs for three days due to reaching full capacity which is 22 dogs. After a combination of successfully reuniting dogs with their owners and finding homes for dogs that were not reclaimed the shelter was once again able to accept surrendered dogs. It is expected that the dog shelter may reach capacity again in the near future due to this ongoing trend nationwide.

Calls in relation to dog control have increased from the public who are now more active in reporting incidences of loose dogs and in particular restricted breeds.

The Animal Welfare Standards Committee continue to provide input and guidance to the Council on the control of dogs and horses.

# VETERINARY SERVICES

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## Food Safety Authority of Ireland Service Contract

The Veterinary Service fulfils the food safety service contract between the FSAI and Kilkenny County Council which includes responsibility for the Local Authority Veterinary Service in the Carlow area.

Activity for the Year is as follows:

- Slaughterhouses under the service's supervision in 2022, slaughtered 5,339 Cattle, 11,880 Sheep and 118,136 Poultry.
- 20 Food Businesses were under the supervision of the service in 2022.
- 217 Hygiene Inspections (other than AM/PM Inspections) were done in food premises under the services supervision.

There were 132 Official Control Samples were taken by the Veterinary Service consisting of the following:-

- 28 for Animal Remedies
- 12 for chemicals in food
- 17 water samples
- 45 Carcass Swabs for microbes
- 30 food samples for microbes
- All of these were sent to designated Official Control Laboratories in accordance with Ireland's National Official Control Sampling Plan

Veterinary Certification for trade with GB for food of animal origin was postponed from July 2022 to December 2023. The Veterinary Service continued to attend BREXIT /TRACES training in 2022 on this subject to enable food businesses to do this trade into the future if required.

The Local Authority Sector were informed in 2021 by the FSA of their intention to enter into a national service level agreement with the DAFM for the delivery of this service. This has now been postponed until Q4 of 2023.



Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils continue to lead the national shared service “The Local Authority Waters Programme” (LAWPRO) that supports and co-ordinates implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 (RBMP). Nationally, the RBMP requires LAWPRO to focus on public participation, stakeholder co-ordination and achieving water quality improvements in 189 priority areas for action. Within Kilkenny, the focus areas are the Dinin River, the Muckalee, the Nuenna, the Duiske and Powerstown Stream, the Breaghagh, the Pococke, the Lingaun and the Erkina.

LAWPRO delivered Modules 2 and 3 of the 8-day catchment science and management course to approx. 100 public sector participants in May/June and October/November.

LAWPRO supported the national public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027 which took place from September 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, with a local level public consultation process. LAWPRO successfully achieved its objective to engage local communities in the public consultation process. This was evidenced by 6,100 unique attendees in LAWPRO’s Virtual Consultation Room, 1,594 attendees at public meetings and 450 local submissions during a time of Covid-19 restrictions. LAWPRO compiled the comments gathered at the 93 public meetings and in the 450 local submissions. A list of the key themes emerged from recurring issues and concerns raised by local communities. A report on the public consultation submissions received by LAWPRO on the Draft Plan was prepared. The virtual public meetings in Kilkenny took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The final plan is expected to be published by DHLGH in early 2023.

LAWPRO, together with The Rivers Trust successfully hosted the *Communities Caring for Water Conference* on the 26<sup>th</sup> November at Collins Barracks. It was a hybrid event with a focus on catchment management planning and proposed catchment community fora as a vehicle to support public participation. A recording of the event is available from the LAWPRO website.

The Community Water Officer for Kilkenny continued to work with community groups in developing awareness of their local waters and supporting various local projects.

Water Heritage Day is a key public awareness and engagement day in the LAWPRO calendar. It occurs each August on the Sunday of Heritage Week and 2022 saw a return to in-person events with a focus on the biodiversity crisis and wide scale loss of nature in our towns and countryside.

Key Kilkenny events this year included:

- Wild Child Day, Eel Monitoring Inistioge
- Boat Trips on the River Nore
- Lingaun River Walk and history of the valley
- Castlecomer Bio-blitz on the River Dinin
- River Safari along the Barrow with Éanna ní Lamhna
- Poet Christine Foley reading her poem *Ode to the River Barrow*

The Community Water Development Fund granted €2,000 to Thomastown Community Rivers Trust for infrastructure repair, installation and facilities upgrade at the Weir Swimming Pool. Funding was also approved for the Nore River Catchment Trust.

The development and roll out of the DHLGH’s nature-based surface water management implementation strategy continued. The focus in 2022 was to promote Nature Based Solution in Local Authority projects receiving significant government funding e.g. Urban Regeneration and Development, Rural Regeneration Development, Town and Village Renewal Scheme, CLÁR, Active Travel, ORIS, etc. LAWPRO continues to work with the funding leads and relevant professionals to

ensure these projects incorporate nature-based surface water management principles. LAWPRO jointly with TII and several Local Authorities is working on developing case studies in the areas of urban regeneration and active travel. LAWPRO has set up a working group with several local authorities to develop a template for rainwater management plans that can assist Local Authorities when putting together Local Area Plans. LAWPRO presented on SuDS and Nature Based Solutions at the Local Authority Biodiversity Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The theme this year was how Local Authorities can address the biodiversity emergency. Recommendations from this conference were presented to the Minister in December 2022.

LAWPRO along with the EPA and National Biodiversity Data Centre continues to progress an online platform for Citizen Science Freshwater Biomonitoring in Ireland. In parallel, a basic level citizen scientist's manual is being developed with UCC & UCD. LAWPRO supported the 2022 Water Blitz, a project run by DCU Water Institute in partnership with Earth Watch Europe and also co-sponsored by Dublin City Council and Smart Dublin. Macroinvertebrate citizen science data continues to be gathered from trained members of the public. The information is mapped and available to view from the LAWPRO website.



*Safari along the River Barrow, August 2022*



*Safari along the Barrow, August 2022*





*Poetry by the River Barrow, August 2022*



*Castlecomer Bio-blitz, August 2022*



*Minister Noonan introduces the Communities Caring for Water Conference, November 2022*



*Catchment Science & Management Training Course participants, October 2022*



## PARKS & AMENITY

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The Project Office & Parks Department oversees the development and maintenance of a wide variety of outdoor recreational amenities in Kilkenny City and County including playgrounds, parks, walking trails, multi-use games areas and sports pitches which are available for use to people of all ages. The Project Office & Parks Department also manages grass cutting, pollinator and biodiversity projects, tree surgery and day to day upkeep of parks and playgrounds in our care. It also has responsibility for the on-going restoration, visitor management and maintenance of Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in Inistioge and is working with Coillte to upgrade trails in the wider estate area and across the County.

### Parks and Playgrounds

The Project Office & Parks Department provided technical assistance throughout the year to local communities to aid in the development of new parks and playgrounds.

The construction of a new playground in Freshford commenced during 2022 and it is expected same will be open to the public in Q2 2023.

Phase 2 of the new Slieverue Linear Park commenced with the expectation that it will be open to the public in Q2 2023.

All playgrounds were inspected weekly during the year.

### Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum

The Project Office & Parks Department continued to look after the day to day maintenance, promotion and planning for future restoration projects for Woodstock Gardens. Some of the year's highlights are listed below:

On the 25<sup>th</sup> May the Woodstock Waterfall Loop Walk was opened. This project saw the restoration of 2.7kms of original Victorian Pathways. This new addition to the trail network added value to the previously restored Woodstock Loop Walk and Ladies Loop Walk, linking the village to the Gardens. In total circa. 8.0 kms of Victorian Pathways have been improved within the Estate since 2018 with an investment of over €615,000.

We continued to provide our outdoor dining offering with the provision of a tented outdoor seating area along with the regular deployment of the Woodstock Coffee Truck. The year also saw the opening of the ice cream parlour.



Invasive species control carried out over c.2.3 acres of Cherry Laurel within Woodstock Gardens and wider Estate. These areas are now planted with native bluebell bulbs to help our early emerging pollinators.

A significant number of interventions to improve accessibility for all were completed over the year.

Woodstock hosted Santa's Woodland Reindeer Trail within the Gardens as part of the Yulefest Christmas Festival.

### **Amenity Grants**

Over 171 groups received grant assistance in 2022 amounting to a total of €140k.

### **South East Greenway**

The construction of the South East Greenway over a length of 24km has been divided into a number of Lots so as to allow the works progress on a phased basis. Lot 1 (from Mount Elliot to Rosbercon), Lot 2 (urban section through Ferrybank) and Lot 3 (from New Ross Boatyard to Glenmore) are now substantially completed.

Design and construction of the remainder of the Greenway will continue in 2023 and 2024.



*Images of completed sections along the Greenway*

### **2021 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

Under ORIS Measure 1, a total of 6 projects were completed in 2022. The projects included:

#### **The Community Loop Walk Network**

**Kells – King's River Walk Enhancement**

**Tory Hill Looped Walk Enhancement Works**

#### **Woodstock Estate, Inistioge**

Continuation of social media marketing campaign to promote Gardens and Trails within the estate.

#### **Outdoor Kilkenny - Promotion & Marketing**

Continuation/development of the promotion and marketing campaign for 'Outdoor Kilkenny' a new brand and website that promotes all outdoor attractions that Kilkenny has to offer.

#### **Silaire Wood - Walking Trail Extension**

Under the ORIS Measure 2 & Measure 3 the following projects were advanced:

**Rehabilitation of the Ardra Looped Walk & Arboretum Walk – Castlecomer Discovery Park**



### **Kilkenny Countryside Park**

The detail design and tender documents were completed and the works tender was advertised in Q3 2022. An negotiated tender process was entered into and it is expected that works will commence in early 2023.

### **Partnership Projects**

Working in collaboration with Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and local communities the following projects were advanced throughout 2022:



The opening of the new Men's Shed workshop and the Abbey Hall Recreational Amenity Area in Graiguenamanagh.

### **Bennettsbridge Riverside Amenity Area & Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge**

A Feasibility Study & Design Options Report for the above was prepared. The draft preliminary plan layouts have been prepared and it is hoped that engagement will commence with the key landowners early in 2023.

### **Woodstock to South East Greenway(SEG) Link**

Punch Consulting Engineers were appointed to undertake a Feasibility Study & Route Selection Report for the above. The Feasibility Study for the proposal was completed in October and the consultants concluded that the Woodstock SEG Link was feasible in meeting the objectives of the brief.

### **Links to Slieverue and Glenmore from South East Greenway**

Following confirmation of the preferred routes in July 2022, the preliminary design and initial environmental assessments proceeded. The Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken in August 2022, the conclusion the ecologist reached was that an Appropriate Assessment was not required and this was confirmed by the competent Authority i.e. the Planning Authority. The preliminary design for both links continued throughout the latter half of the year and it is anticipated the planning for each link will be progressed through Part 8 in 2023.

### **Callan Heritage Trail**

Working with the local community a tender was prepared and advertised towards the end of the year for the procurement of a specialist heritage consultant to lead a design team to deliver the Callan Heritage Trail.

The scope of the brief includes:

- (a) route selection and heritage points of interest identification,
- (b) animation and interpretation of trail signage and
- (c) signage manufacturer and installation.





*On the 25<sup>th</sup> May the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, officially opened the Woodstock Waterfall Loop Walk*



*On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May the new Graiguenamanagh Men's Shed workshop was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, with a big crowd turning out to mark the occasion. The Men's Shed project saw the transformation of the disused toilet block on the Convent Road into a very attractive Men's Shed workshop.*





*On the 25<sup>th</sup> May the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, officially opened the Abbey Hall Recreational Area. The completion of the Abbey Hall amenity works has removed what was essentially a derelict site from the Main Street and brought it back into public use for the free enjoyment of the community and has proven very popular with locals.*



## MINISTER HUMPHREY'S VISIT NOVEMBER 2022



On the 28<sup>th</sup> November the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., in the presence of Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, officially reopened The Ardra Loop Walk and Arboretum Walk in the Castlecomer Discovery Park. The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy was also launched by Minister Humphreys on the day and what a fitting place to launch such a strategy which will shape the future of outdoor recreation in Ireland over.

## 2022 Key Outcomes #MakingitHappen

  
Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office



**1,077 employed in LEO  
portfolio  
of businesses  
in Kilkenny**



**103 Net Jobs created in  
LEO supported  
businesses  
in 2022**



**21 Businesses have  
completed 23  
LEAN one to one  
consultancy projects  
to investigate possible  
resource efficiencies &  
process improvements  
for their businesses**

**A total of €607,110 in direct financial assistance has been approved for 35  
manufacture /export service businesses located throughout the county.**



**€27,931 awarded in  
feasibility study grants  
to 3 businesses**



**€47,778 in Agile  
Innovation Funding to  
support a business to  
carry out research and  
development on a new  
product for their  
business**



**€104,029 in Priming  
Grant (Start-up  
assistance) to 3 new  
business.**



**€374,969 in Business  
Expansion Grant  
assistance awarded to  
14 existing businesses  
with forecasted new job  
creation of 49 jobs.**



**€30,000 in Grad Start  
funding to support  
graduate recruitment  
with one Kilkenny based  
company**



**12 Technical Assistance  
for Micro Exporter grant  
awarded totalling  
€22,402.**



### **Design Kilkenny Conference & Publication**

Kilkenny County Council staged a unique conference event showcasing the past, present, future on how Kilkenny is positioned to drive design excellence. This event celebrated Kilkenny's design legacy on Friday, 18th November at the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle.

Building on the legacy of design in Kilkenny, this conference celebrated the strong history of design in Kilkenny and cast an eye on how this rich legacy could contribute to the future of design in Kilkenny. The event also saw the launch by Minister Malcolm Noonan of a new publication '*Designing for Ireland*' commissioned by KIDCo and authored by Mark Duncan. This book examines the political context of the Kilkenny Design Workshops and design in Ireland.

Event MC, Richard Curran chaired two panels on the morning. The first panel commemorated the history of design in Kilkenny and in Ireland, including Mark Duncan; Mary Mullin and Dr Mary Ann Bolger.

The second panel examined the future of design and included industry experts Aoife Murphy of Tirlan; Carol Gibbons, Enterprise Ireland; Tom Watts, DCCI; Dr. Fiona Chambers and Elisa Luoto representing Young Finnish Design.



### **#CareersKilkenny**

Kilkenny County Council, through its Local Enterprise Office staged a career showcase event on December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Medieval Mile Museum. A range of local businesses in the Life Sciences and Financial Services sectors exhibited including Tirlán, State Street, CluneTech, Loanitt, VHI, Bank of Ireland, UPMC, Asgard Cleanroom Solutions and CF Pharma. Companies were seeking to fill in the region of hundreds of positions across the life sciences and financial services sectors and show the extensive range of career opportunities available in Kilkenny.



# TOURISM INCLUDING FESTIVAL SUPPORT

The objective of Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Team is to support tourism development throughout County Kilkenny, working with key stakeholders – public, private, community and voluntary to implement Kilkenny's Statement of Tourism Strategy and work programme 2017-2022 as well as the Government's Tourism Recovery Plan 2020-2023.

Pre-pandemic, the tourism industry generated close to €10 billion revenue, supported 260,000 jobs in over 20,000 businesses, mostly SMEs, and continues to sustain regional economies and rural communities across the country. The Tourism Industry has long since been recognised as an important economic driver for our local economy here in Kilkenny.

## Festivals and Events

Kilkenny County Council & Fáilte Ireland provided funding for festival organisers to aid with the development and promotion of festivals **with a significant tourism impact** and continued to do so in 2022 with an overall allocation of in excess of €112,000 in financial supports for festivals and events. The main purpose of the Festival Support Grants scheme is to support festivals which drive tourism in Kilkenny, underpinning Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Strategy and enhancing the visitor experience in Kilkenny City and County. 2022 saw the return of our many world-renowned festivals and it was with great pride that we saw festival goers return to the streets of Kilkenny throughout the year;

Taste Kilkenny in collaboration with Kilkenny Tourism hosted a wonderful **#tastekilkenny**



Restaurant Week from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of February. An initiative of Kilkenny County Council and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Taste Kilkenny Restaurant Week offered visitors and local foodies alike a meaningful opportunity to experience some of the County's most sought-after restaurants and a flavour of local produce on local menus. For 10 'dining-packed' days, over 30 participating establishments showcased some of their best loved and most

popular dishes at discounted prices.

Kilkenny County Council supported our St Patricks Day Festival & Tradfest which was a great success and reached massive audiences world-wide through its social media platforms and saw over 100,000 visitors come to Kilkenny over the 5 days of celebrations.



Kilkenny Roots Festival returned in April 2022 with sold out venues throughout the City. Audiences wind their way through our medieval streets sampling a huge range of music in over 30 venues, hosting over 40 Irish and international acts with over 90 ticketed and free shows.



The Cat Laughs Festival returned to Kilkenny from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 supported by the Live Performance Fund of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Kilkenny County Council.



Kilkenny County Council continues to support our year-round calendar of events with August hosting our oldest and most internationally renowned Arts Festival. Since its foundation in 1974, Kilkenny Arts Festival has gathered many of the world's finest musicians, performers, writers and artists in Ireland's Medieval City. For ten days each August, the City's historic churches, castle, courtyards, townhouses and gardens offer a magical setting for unique collaborations and

intimate encounters between audiences and artists.

This year Kilkenny County supported AKA, Alternative Kilkenny Arts, a wonderful Kilkenny Arts fringe festival. AKA was back for its eight year and very excited to bring a dynamic world of music, art, craft and more to the streets and venues of Kilkenny City and County. This year's programme was full of amazing artists, crafts and performances which had something to suit everyone's interests.



September saw the hosting of the fourth Kilkenny Animated programme. The festival is hosted by five time Academy Award® nominated animation studio, Cartoon Saloon and award winning Lighthouse Studios and is set against and inspired by the backdrop of Kilkenny's medieval streets and slipways at the heart of Ireland's Ancient East.

#### October welcomed Savour back to the streets of Kilkenny.

One of Ireland's favourite food festivals, Savour Kilkenny marks the end of autumn and is held in the stunning setting of Kilkenny's Medieval City. Kilkenny is home to some of Ireland's and Europe's best food.

Savour took place over the October bank holiday weekend. The event celebrates the produce, food and culture of Kilkenny and the surrounding rich pasturelands.



**SAVOUR FOOD FESTIVAL  
OCTOBER 2022**







Kilkenny Day 2022 took place on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>. Centred around a family fun day on the Canal Walk in Kilkenny City, visitors and locals were invited to come out and celebrate our county and community. A special event on the day was the unveiling of Adam King's Virtual Hug Installation. Commemorating the challenges endured

during the Covid-19 pandemic, this new installation will offer a tranquil place to reflect and connect for the local community.

November welcomed in excess of 3,000 visitors to the City to enjoy Kilkenomics from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of the month.

The aim of Kilkenomics has always been to take economics out of the conference room and academia and make it accessible to ordinary people's lives. The informal, entertaining formats invites audiences to engage and enjoy.



At year end and as showcase for Christmas in Kilkenny, Yulefest was welcomed back to the streets of the City and right around the County. Beginning on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and running right up to Christmas Eve, Yulefest 2022 saw a packed programme of events for all the family to enjoy. Returning festival favourites included the Yulefest Christmas Market, the Medieval Mile Santa Run, the Bandstand and Yulefest Movie Night.

**2022 was a very successful year for Kilkenny County Council in its efforts to deliver a range of Tourism initiatives throughout the City and the County. We worked to progress and deliver a number of ambitious projects that will greatly enhance the visitor experience going forward.**

### Urban Animation ~ Creative Kilkenny



Kilkenny County Council was successful in securing €439,875 under Fáilte Ireland's Urban Animation Scheme in 2021. "Creative Kilkenny" animates public spaces throughout the Core of Kilkenny to re-imagine our Medieval City for visitors, while also creating vibrant and creative community spaces for our citizens. The project will be completed by summer 2023.

Cartoon Saloon Mural at Michael Street and Abbey Street were completed over the summer of 2022. Artist Kathrina Rupit, inspired by Cartoon Saloons, Wolfwalker and Sounds of the Sea films brought two urban spaces to life with wonderful depth and colour.

**Outdoor Art Gallery:** The installation of digital Culture Screens throughout Kilkenny is to connect with visitors, reminding them that Kilkenny is a City of creativity with so much to offer. Galleries, festivals, artists and venues are now able to share high-quality work from film screenings; digital exhibitions; behind-the-scenes footage; commissioned artworks; to creative interactive engagement as people move throughout the City. Screens have been installed at the Parade, Butler Gallery and MacDonagh Junction.



**Laneway Lighting:** The Council has now installed feature lighting along both Market Slip and Butter Slip - two laneways off Highstreet to attract visitors directly to our newly developed Outdoor Dining Space at Market Square.

The successful implementation of this urban animation project will improve local business viability by providing beautiful, top class additional public realm in Kilkenny. It will increase stay times at these public spaces and will encourage visitors to spend, sit and enjoy the Outdoors in the City.



**South East Food Stories** was launched here in Kilkenny in June to help promote the wide variety of food producers, providers and makers delivering quality foods directly from source to plates across the South East. This pilot agri-food initiative incorporates produce from across Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford and highlights the businesses working hard to keep food sustainability at the heart of what they do. It is a collaborative project of the five Tourism Officers across the region supported by the Department of Agriculture and South East.





## Horizon Irish Open 2022 in Kilkenny



Kilkenny County Council in partnership with the European Tour, Mount Juliet and Fáilte Ireland worked together to maximise the opportunity for Kilkenny's exposure as a tourism destination at the 2022 Horizon Irish Open. Kilkenny County Council dressed the streets of the City as well as surrounding towns and villages close to the event. The "Kilkenny" stand at Mount Juliet displayed many of Kilkenny's wonderful "Made" and "Taste" products as well as reinforcing to all guests during the week to come back and visit Kilkenny again in the future.



*Selection of Kilkenny products on display at the event*



**DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE,  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**Head of Finance: Mr. Martin Prendiville**

# FINANCE

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The Finance Department is responsible for the overall control and management of the Council's finances. The main services being provided under this directorate are Financial Planning and Control, Income Collection, Treasury Management, Property Management, and Motor Taxation

## Income & Expenditure Account Statement

The Income and Expenditure Account summarises the expenditure on the day to day services provided by the Council and provides details of how this expenditure is funded. There was a surplus in the year of €18,230 which resulted in a cumulative surplus at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 of €108,770. Strict budgetary controls were maintained on a total expenditure of €104million.

## Capital Project Funding Arrangements

The total cost of capital projects delivered under the Capital Programme in 2022 was €63.1m. Housing and Roads Projects accounted for 79% of the total expenditure. The outstanding commitments on completed capital projects amounted to €10.7m at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022. The annual budget provides for repayment of this commitment over a period of 8 years.

A total of €3.5m was collected in Development Contributions in 2022.

The Council adopted a Capital Budget for the three-year period 2023 to 2025 in January 2023. This budget sets out the estimated cost of the capital projects under consideration and the related funding sources.

The Council can only initiate capital projects that have an identified funding source.

## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.

The Council has maintained a relatively strong balance sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.

The total bank loans (*excluding housing related loans*) outstanding at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 were €14.2m. The bank overdraft facility was not utilised during 2022. The closing cash balance on hand at the end of December, 2022 was €42.1m of which €21.8m is ring-fenced for match funding of Capital projects.

## Debt Collection

Following a very difficult two years due to covid-19 commercial rates arrears were reduced in 2022 by €542k. The total collection rate increased to 95%. The bad debts provision required has also been reduced. The collection rate on Housing Rents decreased by 1% to 96%. Arrears on Housing Loans remained static during the year.

The historic collection performance since 2015 is set out in the attached table:

	Percentage Collection							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Commercial Rates	92	94	95	93	94	83	87	95
Rents & Annuities	92	93	92	93	95	96	97	96
Housing Loans	82	80	85	88	90	90	90	90

# FINANCIAL TABLE

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure By Division	Note	Gross Expenditure 2022 €	Income 2022 €	Net Expenditure 2022 €	Net Expenditure 2021 €
Housing and Building		24,996,956	25,920,552	(923,596)	(211,372)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		28,631,007	22,035,731	6,595,275	6,268,850
Water Services		7,220,799	6,845,566	375,233	211,708
Development Management		10,621,902	5,161,727	5,460,176	5,248,864
Environmental Services		12,373,226	4,037,913	8,335,314	8,579,387
Recreation & Amenity		7,571,155	907,689	6,663,466	6,424,883
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		629,513	450,831	178,682	189,990
Miscellaneous Services		5,161,024	6,153,478	(992,455)	(381,789)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>97,205,581</b>	<b>71,513,487</b>		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				25,692,095	26,330,522
Rates				20,876,017	20,823,490
Local Property Tax				11,809,350	11,806,494
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer</b>				<b>6,993,272</b>	<b>6,299,462</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>(6,975,042)</b>	<b>(6,253,555)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>	<b>16</b>			<b>18,230</b>	<b>45,907</b>
<b>General Reserve at 1st January</b>				<b>90,540</b>	<b>44,633</b>
<b>General Reserve at 31st December</b>				<b>108,770</b>	<b>90,540</b>



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Key achievements for 2022:

- Completed the rollout of ePlanning Project
- Facilitated Remote Working for many staff
- Audio Visual Systems Upgraded in the Council Chamber and Meeting Rooms in County Hall
- Maintained the Citrix environment for remote working
- Continued the expansion in the use of mobile devices to staff
- Facilitated online public meetings using MS Teams
- Continued support for the Central Credit Register process
- Implemented various online surveys and application forms
- Completed Updates of iHouse , iDocs, iPlan and iReg systems
- Expanded the use of MS Teams Deployment to staff
- Ongoing additions, updates and security enhancements to the various local authority web sites
- Rollout of Blended Working Application System
- Ongoing rollout of new PCs and laptops
- Ongoing rollout of surveying technologies to staff
- Ongoing updates to servers and PCs to maintain security of the network
- Expanded the use of Two Factor Authentication
- Completed the upgrade to the new Core HR System
- Rollout of new Time Clocks
- Upgraded Agresso Financial Management System to Milestone 7
- Tender for new Managed Print Service completed
- Additional Sites added to the Council network
- Installation of the new Library Management System
- Additional Security Systems rolled out
- Exchange Server Updates Completed
- Firewall Upgrade Completed
- Completed update of ePlan and integration with Online planning
- Maintained GDPR compliance for our websites
- Carried out Accessibility improvements on the County Council Web Site
- Continued the migration to cloud services
- Implemented new work flows and document management system for Human Resources
- Implemented new case reports for our customer relationship management (CRM) system
- Updated the public Geographical Information System (GIS) viewers
- GIS support provided for the Residential Zoned Land Tax - Draft Maps
- Updated the internal GIS Portal for staff
- Managed and supported our consultation portal [Consult.kilkenny.ie](https://consult.kilkenny.ie)

# PROCUREMENT

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Kilkenny County Council's Procurement Unit have continued to facilitate the progress of an ongoing flow of contract opportunities in line with the organisation's ambitious public works programme. Approximately €34 million of Kilkenny County Council's Revenue spend and €38 million of capital spend is procured on various works, services and goods from suppliers mainly based locally or nationally.

## **Key achievements for 2022:**

- 52 Tenders loaded and advertised on the *eTenders* procurement portal
- 42 Mini tenders and Quotations advertised on the *SupplyGov* portal
- The Office of Government Procurement and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre work closely with local authorities to provide national frameworks that local authorities can draw from. Kilkenny County Council drew on these frameworks in 2022 in the areas of public utilities, fleet, ICT, professional services and PPE
- Further measures to promote Green Procurement Policies (GPP) including the implementation of electronic tendering for all tenders at national level and the roll out of extensive training in GPP for key tendering sections across the organisation
- Participation by staff at internal and OGP training courses

## **Some of the key tenders delivered in 2022 include:**

- Finalisation of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project for 10 counties in the Eastern Region where Kilkenny is the lead authority
- Finalisation of tenders and award of contracts under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Provision of the Supply, Installation, Maintenance of Solar Powered Pay and Display Parking Machines
- Completion of the tendering process for various Architectural, Structural Conservation, Engineering works and design for special projects such as the former Piltown Garda Station, Shee Alms House, the Pedestrian Link between the Riverside Gardens and the River Nore Linear Park and an Architect led integrated design team Consultancy Services for the Design and Construction of a Water Sports Activity Centre in Kilkenny
- Various housing tenders, most notably for Housing Construction at Crokers Hill.
- Successful completion of several tenders under the Active Travel Programme,
- Provision of Services for Grass maintenance in Kilkenny City and County
- Procurement by way of open tender of a number of machines that will facilitate road maintenance and improvement throughout the City and County
- Award of contracts for Roads Projects following various tender competitions by open tender and by drawing on the South Eastern Pavement Framework which has Kilkenny as the lead authority

## BROADBAND

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Key achievements for 2022:

- Attendance at online Monthly Broadband Officers meetings.
- Ongoing liaison with Broadband Service Operators.
- Ongoing liaison with National Broadband Ireland – assisted in completion of colocation sites in Kilkenny & Johnstown
- Ongoing Digital Strategy Development.
- Ongoing contact with public on broadband and telecoms queries.
- Installation of WIFI4EU scheme across 6 areas of the county
- Connected Communities Broadband Connection Points Opened
- Five Remote Work Hubs Launched Throughout the County



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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### Abbey Quarter

Work on the implementation of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan has continued in 2022.

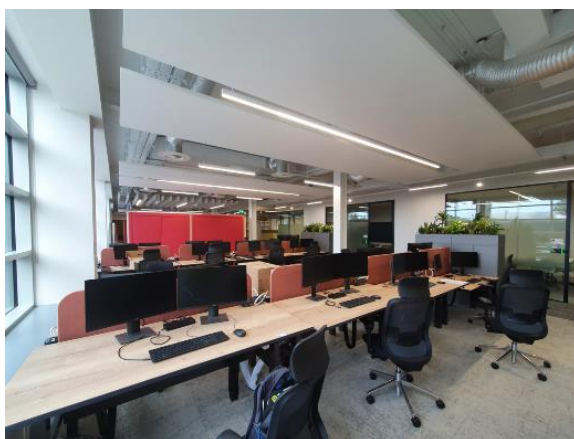
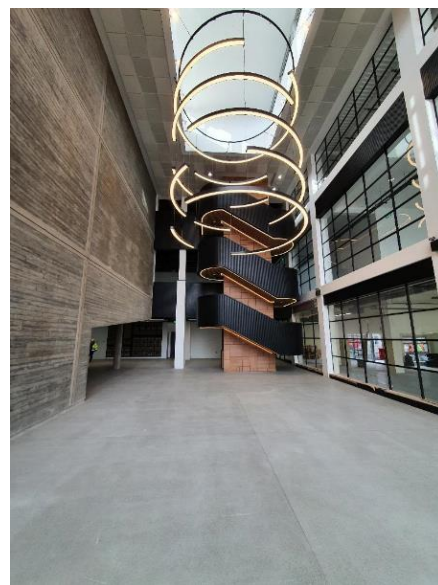
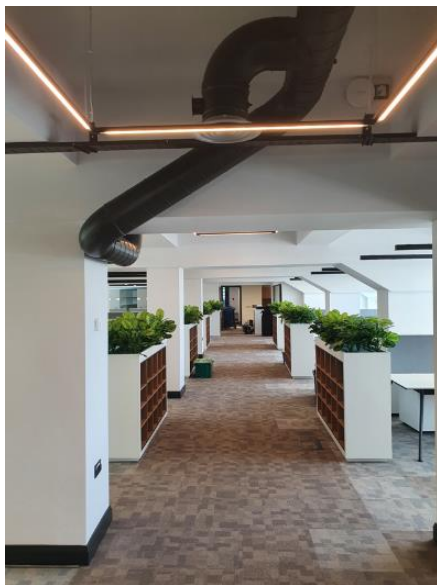
Delays were experienced on construction projects in 2022 due to supply chain issues associated with the war in Ukraine and post COVID.

### Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Ltd

Development proposals for the buildings on the Abbey Quarter Site have been progressed by Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Partnership in 2022. This partnership between Kilkenny County Council and the National Treasury Management Agency through the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) has been established for the development of the building blocks on the former Smithwicks Brewery Site.

### Brewhouse Building

Work on the Brewhouse Building was completed in April 2022, after which the fit out of the office units by the tenants commenced. The first tenants, O'Neill Foley Accountants moved into their new offices at the end of May 2022, followed by Tirlan (*formerly Glanbia Ireland*) in September 2022. The fit out of the final unit was commenced in late 2022, with Security Risk Advisors expected to move into the offices in Spring 2023. The building is fully let.



### Abbey Quarter - New Buildings

A planning application was lodged in 2022 for the first of the new buildings to be developed on the Abbey Quarter Site. This 'L shaped' building, located beside the Brewhouse will complete the boundary of Brewhouse Square. The proposed use of the building will be office use with commercial or retail uses on the ground floor. A request for further information was received from the Planning Authority in response to the planning application and this Further Information is due to be submitted in early 2023.



OFFICIAL OPENING  
OF THE ABBEY  
QUARTER PUBLIC  
REALM-MAY 2022



### Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny County Council is responsible for the redevelopment of the former Mayfair Ballroom and the extensive areas of public realm in the Abbey Quarter Site.



## Mayfair Library

The new Kilkenny City Library is to be located within the Mayfair Building on the Abbey Quarter site. The Mayfair Building is a very significant building in the social heritage of Kilkenny having housed the Mayfair Ballroom from 1943 to 1973.

Duggan Lynch Ltd were appointed as main contractors for the Mayfair Library project in September 2021. The project programme has been adversely affected in 2022 with supply chain issues for construction materials and the project is now due to be completed in Q2 2023 with the Library expected to open in Q3 2023.



## Public Realm Areas

Kilkenny County Council are responsible for the development of the extensive areas of public realm areas in the Abbey Quarter Site with 60% of the former brewery site to be developed as public realm. The development of areas of High Quality Public Realm through the site is considered to be critical to the integration of the former Brewery site into the City Centre.

Funding for these works has been provided through the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme and Kilkenny County Council's own funds.



Tionscaldal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



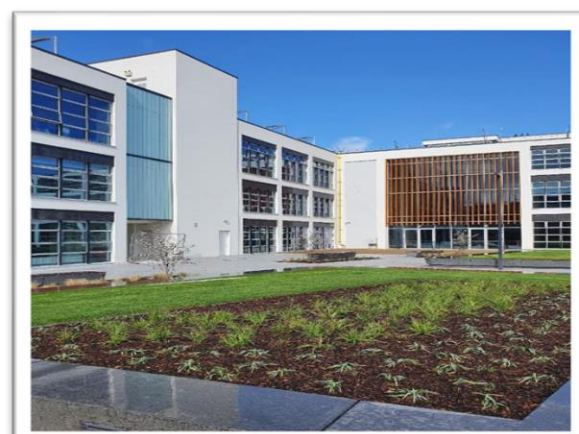
Ireland's European Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014-2020  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## Horse Barrack Lane & Brewhouse Square

The construction contract for the redevelopment of the Brewhouse Building included the redevelopment of Horse Barrack Lane and Brewhouse Square were completed in May 2022 and officially opened by Minister Darragh O'Brien.





### Urban Street and Park Project

Work on the detailed design of the Urban Park & Street in the Abbey Quarter has been completed in 2022. The Urban Park centred around the National Monument of St Francis Abbey will be the central focus of the Abbey Quarter Site and will be designed to accommodate outdoor events associated with the many festivals held in the City throughout the year. The development of the Urban Street which will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority will facilitate the development of the proposed new buildings within the Abbey Quarter Site.

It is expected that the project will proceed to tender in Q1 2023.



### Tea Houses

Conservation works on the two tea houses on Bateman Quay was completed in 2022. The Tea Houses are located at a key entrance to the Abbey Quarter at the start of the Riverside Garden Project. Kilkenny County Council is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for an operator for the Tea Houses.



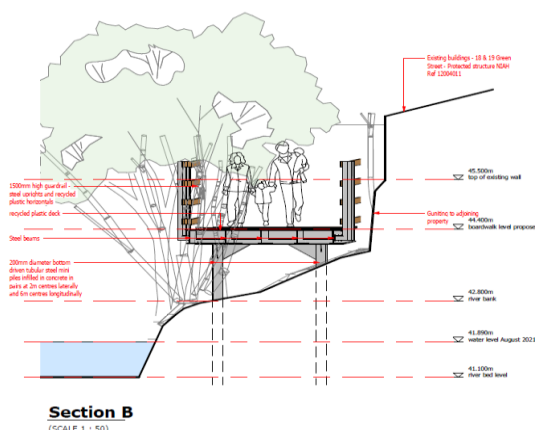
**OPENING OF THE TEA HOUSES,  
SKATEBOARD PARK AND WALKWAY  
MAY 2022**





## Greensbridge Boardwalk

With the completion of the Riverside Garden through the former Smithwicks Brewery site, the last missing link in the existing Riverside walks through the City Centre is a short 150m length of walkway immediately north of Greensbridge. A preliminary design for the walkway has been completed in 2022 and a design team for the project was appointed in 2022 with a view to going to planning in mid 2023 for the project.



## Tholsel Project

Work on the detailed design of the Tholsel Project has been advanced in 2022. The Tholsel is to be renovated and will incorporate a new tourist visitor attraction whilst retaining the civic function of the building. Work on the Visitor Exhibition has also been advanced in 2022.

The project will provide a lift in the building making the building universally accessible and compliant with the requirements of the Disability Act and the Building Regulations.



## THOMASTOWN PROJECTS

### Sessions House

The Sessions House (*former Courthouse*) in Thomastown is currently being redeveloped by Kilkenny County Council for reuse by the Design & Craft Council of Ireland with funding from the Rural Regeneration Fund, LEADER and Kilkenny County Council's own funds. The development offers the opportunity to provide a sustainable new use for the building whilst also promoting the vibrancy of Thomastown as a creative and artistic hub in the region.

Work on the development which is being undertaken by Richard McEvoy Contracting Ltd is due to be completed in Q1 2023. The project was delayed in 2022 due to issues in relation to the availability of construction of materials on foot of the war in Ukraine and post COVID shortages.



### Thomastown Library



Thomastown Library which currently does not meet with the requirements of a modern-day library is to be relocated a short distance from its current location on Marshes Street to the adjoining former Community Sports Hall.

Funding for the project under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was confirmed in 2021. The detailed design of the project has been completed in 2022, with final confirmation of project funding awaited before the project can proceed to tender.