

**NOVEMBER  
2016**

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001,  
SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER MONTHLY  
MANAGEMENT REPORT**



**To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council**

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

**EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:**

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

**FINANCE:**

Chief Executive Financial Report—(Appendix 1).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **Castlecomer Local Area Plan – Closing Date for pre-draft submissions Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.**
- **Yulefest – 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December.**
- **St. Mary's Medieval Mile Museum will open for Yulefest Events 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December.**

**REPORT AT A GLANCE**

**ROADS: PAGE 2**

**PLANNING: PAGE 2**

**HOUSING: PAGE 3**

**DIAGEO SITE PAGE 4**

**ST. MARY'S MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM: PAGE 4**

**LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PAGE 5**

**LIBRARY SERVICES: PAGE 6**

**KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP PAGE 8**



**ROADS:**

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

**2016 Road Surface Dressing/Surface Restoration / Reconstruction**

The following shows the extent of surface dressing, surface restoration and pavement improvement works that were carried out on the road network in 2016:-

Works Description	Non – National Road Km’s	National Road Km’s	Total Km’s
Restoration / Reconstruction	58.05	9.0	67.05
Surface Dressing	54.73	0	54.73

**Western Environs Road Infrastructure Scheme**

In October 2016, the Council submitted an application to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, for funding to deliver the road infrastructure required to remove the impediment to enable the development of the Western Environs in Kilkenny City. This application was submitted under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund and if successful the Council could be allocated 75% of the scheme cost, which is estimated at €10.9million. The delivery of this scheme is considered crucial to relieving the pressures on the housing market in the City which is vital for its continued growth and success. A decision on this application is expected in late 2016 / early 2017.

The road infrastructure, subject to this application, consists of the following key elements:-

- a) Construction of a roundabout on the N76 Callan Road at the intersection of the proposed Western Environs distributor road.
- b) The Western Environs distributor road, linking the N76 with the existing Circular Rd at Robertshill junction and the upgrade of the existing Circular Road from Robertshill to the R695 Kilmanagh Road.
- c) Construction of a roundabout on the R695 Kilmanagh Road at the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road.
- d) The upgrade of the R695 Kilmanagh Road from the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road to the north-western extremity of the Western Environs footprint.

**PLANNING:**

Planning Summary	Total to October 2015	Total to October 2016
Planning Applications Received	650	724
Planning Applications Granted	517	630
Planning Applications Refused	30	42
Complaints Received	81	84
Warning Letters Issued	61	52
Enforcements Notices Issued	21	27

**Forward Planning:**

**Local Area Plans:**

The Ferrybank-Belview Draft Local Area Plan is being finalised for public display at present. The details of public display and consultation will be circulated to all Members shortly.





The Castlecomer LAP is currently under review. A public consultation meeting was held in the Community Hall Castlecomer on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The pre draft submissions period is now open, submissions can be made in writing, by email to [ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie) or online at [consult.kilkenny.ie](http://consult.kilkenny.ie), until Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**HOUSING:**

<b>Number awaiting social housing support at 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2016</b>	<b>2,012</b>
<b>Number of assessment interviews carried out in October:</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Number of HAP tenancies to 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>689</b>
<b>Number of LA tenancies surrendered:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Anti social behaviour cases:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>New Homeless Presentations:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Maintenance Calls for October 2016</b>	<b>385</b>
<b>Maintenance Calls year to date</b>	<b>3,598</b>
<b>No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Amount of Loans Approved to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2016</b>	<b>€ 3,495,582</b>

**Allocation – Kiln Lane Callan**

Cluid Voluntary Housing Association completed twelve (12) units of accommodation at Kiln Lane, Friary Walk, Callan in association with Camphill AHB. All applicants were approved housing applicants on the Housing Waiting List.

**Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2016 (HNA)**

The Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government directed under s.21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 the preparation of a Summary of Social Housing Assessments to be carried out in each of the administrative areas. The purpose of the **Summary of Social Housing Assessments** is to capture the **total number of households qualified** for social housing support across the county whose social housing need has not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. This Summary was last carried out in April 2013.

This undertaking of the Summary of Assessment was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> September and returned to the Department of Environment on **10<sup>th</sup> October 2016**. This is the last of the three year full Housing Needs Assessment and will be replaced by an Annual Assessment in May 2017. The approved number of housing applicants at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 is 1,732. A total of 751 applicants are removed from the List as they failed to return their application or did not qualify on income grounds. This list does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP.

The current Housing List at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 is 2,012 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number on Housing List</b>
November 2016	2,012
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Last Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876



Then housing demand broken down by bedroom size is as follows:

One Bed	Two Bed	Three Bed	Four Bed
792	689	452	79
39%	34%	22%	4%

**Housing List at 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016**

Area	No of Approved Applicants	Percentage of Total
Ballyragget	38	2.0%
Ballyhale	10	0.5%
Bennettsbridge	29	1.4%
Callan	85	4.2%
Castlecomer	50	2.5%
Clara	1	0.1%
Clogh	8	0.4%
Coon	3	0.1%
Ferrybank	53	2.6%
Freshford	25	1.2%
Glenmore	4	0.2%
Goresbridge	8	0.4%
Gowran	29	1.4%
Graigenamanagh	42	2.1%
Hugginstown	2	0.1%
Inistioge	20	1.0%
Johnstown	21	1.0%
Kells	15	0.7%
Kilkenny City & Environs	1,234	61.3%
Kilmacow	39	1.6%
Kilmanagh	7	0.3%
Kilmoganny	5	0.2%
Knocktopher	6	0.2%
Moneenroe	19	0.9%
Mooncoin	30	1.5%
Mullinavat	4	0.2%
New Ross Environs	13	0.6%
Paulstown	13	0.6%

Piltown	39	1.9%
Fiddown	9	0.4%
Skeoghvosteen	3	0.1%
Slieverue	11	0.5%
Stoneyford	9	0.4%
The Rower	0	0.0%
Thomastown	88	4.4%
Tullaroan	2	0.1%
Urlingford	33	1.6%
Windgap	4	0.1%
	<b>2,012</b>	

**DIAGEO SITE**

Following completion of the demolition works the site will transfer into Council ownership before year end. Planning consents are now in place for the refurbishment of the Mayfair and Brewhouse buildings and the associated public realm works along Horse Barrack Lane and for the Linear Park along by the Nore. The Council will progress delivery of the plans for the public realm for which it is responsible and will work with the Abbey Quarter Development Partnership Ltd. to bring the Mayfair and Brewhouse buildings back to economic use as early as possible.

**ST. MARY'S MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM**

- Main construction work now complete
- Main Contractor snagging underway - to be completed this week.
- Work on glass floors being finalised including Rothe Vault. (see photo)
- Stone floors being cleaned & sealed end of this week External paving complete.
- Site works practically complete.
- Mechanical & Electrical installation testing/commissioning underway.





## LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Community:

#### □ **Kilkenny LCDC**

Kilkenny LCDC members participated in a full day workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> October. The workshop was well attended and productive. Dr. Louise O'Meara facilitated the workshop for LCDC members to review progress to date and focus on priorities and a plan of work for 2017.

#### □ **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

The first reporting period for Community element of the LECP will commence in November, it is expected to have a full report on all actions for 2016 in the first quarter of 2017.

#### □ **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

An indicative allocation of €607,813 has been identified for the SICAP programme for 2017. The LCDC will approve the plan in December. The planning process for the next iteration of SICAP 2018-2020 is to commence and all relevant stakeholders are to be consulted.

#### □ **Public Participation Network (PPN).**

A series of meetings took place between the elected PPN Representatives and the Development Officer to discuss reporting systems, training for representatives and protocols of council meetings. Kilkenny PPN has its own Facebook page where funding opportunities and events are updated daily FB 'Kilkenny PPN'. Representatives of the PPN took part in the National Rural Development Forum recently and the Development Officer gave an interview to the Young Irish Filmmakers of Ireland for a documentary highlighting the challenges of living in rural Ireland.

- 2 High Cross replicas: Ahenny Nth.& Sth. Installed 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> November under supervision of National Museum of Ireland and assistance from OPW.
- Specialist Conservator Ruth Bothwell due on site 21<sup>st</sup> November to carry out work on High Crosses in situ.
- Museum fit-out company Marcon due to commence work on site 21<sup>st</sup> November & completion scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> December.
- Digital/AV content at an advanced stage.
- All archaeological investigations within site complete & post-excavation work practically complete.
- Final excavation of services trench to be completed this week in St. Mary's Lane to facilitate up-grade of ESB supply.



*Ahenny High Cross*



*Entrance to Rothe Vault*



*Rothe Chapel*



**❑ Other Community & Culture Projects:**

**Community, Sports, Arts & Youth Facilities**

**Audit:** The questionnaire for this project will be piloted in November. Nexus have been classifying existing information so the results will have more meaning and usability into the future.

**EU funding opportunities:**

A steering group has been set up to apply for funding under the European Social Fund - Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. The steering group agreed an employment support programme for migrants and third country nationals over a 3 year period. The steering group is made up of representatives from: CKLP, KCC, ETB, FRC's, The Integration Forum, Immigrant Services, and the African Community. Funding will be announced in December.

**Out for the Weekend (OFW):**

In our continued support for the LGBT Community KCC assisted Out for The Weekend with 2 events this year: A Youth Event OFW organised in association with Ossory Youth LGBT Youth Group which involved a Trans information workshop and a Queer Arts Halloween Event OFW in association with Fennelly's in Callan with local and national street performers, local musicians, local actors, local artists, and a diverse production team.



**Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg:**

Kilkenny Comhairle had a busy month in October.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children travelled to the Town Hall, Kilkenny where he officially launched the report 'Mental Health School Flag Project – A summary report of

the findings and learning from a pilot project targeting schools in County Kilkenny'. This launch marked the culmination of four years work by consecutive Comhairlí in Kilkenny since the concept was first mooted at the Comhairle AGM in October 2012. The Mental Health School Flag Is a framework for schools to ensure that mental health and mental health awareness is an integral part of the school environment and to provide recognition for the many ways that schools are positively contributing to the well being of young people's mental health. Over a four year period young people developed the concept into a



practical project which, through support from the Comhairle Steering Committee, local mental health agencies and the

Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), the project was piloted in 3 post primary schools. St. Patricks Mental Health Services

Dublin supported the initiative by carrying out an independent evaluation of the pilot.



On 4<sup>th</sup> October young people from the Comhairle travelled to Dublin where with the

support of Mr. Paul Gilligan, CEO of St. Patrick's Mental Health Services the report was officially handed over to Anne O'Donnell, Head of Citizen Participation, Play, Recreation and Culture from the DCYA. It is hoped that the DCYA will bring this report to the attention of relevant government departments and that the learning from this project will prove useful for all who work towards the mental wellbeing of young people, not just in schools but in the wider community.



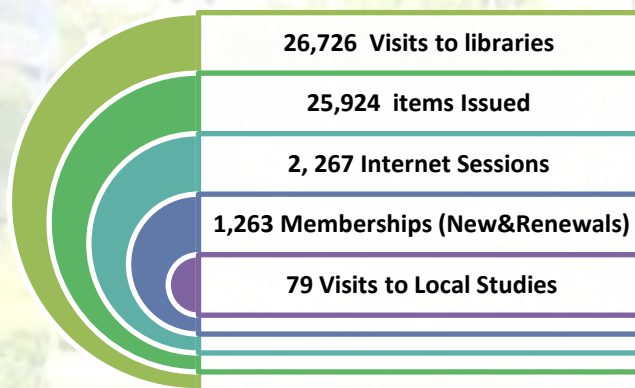


On Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 60 young people from across the county attended the 2016 Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg AGM in Lyrath Estate Hotel. 25 young people expressed an interest in being part of the Comhairle for the coming year. Over the coming weeks Joseph Mguni, Comhairle Coordinator will be working with this group of young people to reaffirm their commitment and to prepare them for fulfilling their responsibility as Comhairle na nÓg member in the year ahead.

**LIBRARY SERVICE**

**PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE**

**Statistics and Performance - October 2016**



**Library Website Usage – October 2016**  
[www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie)

2016	Users	New Users	Return Users	Sessions	Page Views
October	2,368	59.9%	40.1%	4,788	10,849

**Social Media**

- ✓ 1,208 Likes on Facebook
- ✓ 1,339 Followers on Twitter

**Dates for your Diary**

Christmas Programme as part of Yulefest, Kilkenny –12 books of Christmas reading Challenge for families/groups & individuals, Storytimes in all branches, Christmas crafts & customer mornings.

**Programming and Events**

**“Poetry Allowed” @ the Carnegie Library**

Similar to America’s Favorite Poems project, we invited local readers, writers and poets to choose a poem they love, read it before a live audience and explain why it means so much to them. There was lots of interest, with 16 readers on the night, and the audience was fascinated with the stories behind their choices. The event was broadcast by Irish TV for *Kilkenny County Matters*.

“You really put a lot into the night and it paid off! It was most enjoyable and I was delighted to be part of it.” N. Brennan

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**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER MONTHLY  
MANAGEMENT REPORT**



Sanction has been received from the Department for Castlecomer Library to be progressed as a pilot model and plans are in place to purchase, fit and implement the technology required to create a My Open Library service.

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**KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS  
PARTNERSHIP**

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**€40,000 secured towards the development of Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs in Kilkenny.** Kilkenny Recreation and sports Partnership has successfully secured €40,000 from Sport Ireland towards the development of Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs in Kilkenny. The objective of the Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs is to bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations.

The Hubs provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to get involved in and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle.

**Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership Club development and Women in Sport grants**

KRSP is delighted to announce that over €5,500 is available to clubs and organisations in Kilkenny for Women in Sport Initiatives and Club Development Grants. This Sports Ireland funding will assist organisations and clubs across Kilkenny to organise initiatives to increase physical activity opportunities in local communities.

Priority will be given to programmes that may become sustainable in the long term and attract new participants, or participants with a disability or from disadvantaged communities. Club development grants will prioritise new clubs, new initiatives within clubs and programmes that incorporate coach education elements.

<http://www.krsp.ie/krsp-grants/>

**My Open Library @ Castlecomer**

As part of the national public library strategy “Opportunities for All” a pilot initiative My Open Library is currently being progressed for Castlecomer Library.

This initiative will extend opening hours to the community which will improve access to library services so that a larger number of people can avail of library services.

During these extended hours, library services will be available on a self service basis to

- Borrow or return an item
- Use the internet
- Use WiFi facilities
- Print and photocopy
- Individual study
- Community meetings





### **Men on the Move**

Participants from the Men on the Move programme have taken part in nutrition workshops delivered by Jackie Varley of Optimal Health Kilkenny in The Watershed, Thomastown and Castlecomer. The nutrition workshops have proved popular with participants with over 60 men in attendance. It is a great opportunity for men to have their queries answered around nutrition, which is particularly useful when following new exercise programme.

New participants can start at any time and there is no cost to participants.

### **Get Ireland Walking**

Get Ireland Walking is a national initiative that aims to maximise the number of people participating in walking - for health, wellbeing and fitness - throughout Ireland.

Groups will meet at the following locations at no cost!

Kilkenny City, Mondays @7.00pm, starting 10th October, Meeting Point, Canal Square

### **Swim for A Mile Coaching Sessions**

The Swim for A Mile Coaching programme is a partnership between Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership, Swim Ireland, Kilkenny Swim Club and The Watershed. The programme has been designed by Swim Ireland and brings people from 2 lengths to 1 miles in 10 weeks. It has been designed with the World Health Organisation's recommended weekly physical activity in mind and so those who follow the programme will be meeting these standards automatically.

The programme has been hugely complimented locally by the presence of a coach, Pat Boyd, who provides instruction, assistance with techniques and adapts the programme to suit individual requirements.

The Watershed also offers reduced memberships and pay as you go rates to encourage additional

swims outside of the coached sessions. The coached sessions are also open to existing members at no extra cost.

The Coaching sessions take place on Friday nights at 7.30pm or 8.15pm.



### **Sportshall Athletics Programmes**

Sports Hall Athletics has proven to be one of the most successful fundamental and inclusive sports programmes available for children in Ireland. Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP) is currently working with Newpark Family Resource Centre and St Patricks School to deliver the Sports Hall Athletics Initiative, providing children with opportunities to experience a range of sporting activities focusing on the key core principles of agility, balance and coordination and also providing community leaders, childcare providers and parents with additional key skills in the delivery of sport and physical activity for children. This programme will be delivered in national schools in Dunamaggin and Gaelscoil Osrai over the next few months.





**Appendix 1.  
Finance Report – November 2016.**

The expenditure by service division for the nine months to the end of September is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €56.76m compared with the annual budget of €67.18m.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Actual YTD September 2016</b>	<b>Budget Full Year 2016</b>
	<b>€'000's</b>	<b>€'000's</b>
Housing & Building	12,799	14,083
Road Transport & Safety	16,606	16,848
Water Services	5,103	7,603
Development Management	5,463	6,562
Environmental Services	6,661	8,628
Recreation & Amenity	4,511	6,024
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	469	761
Miscellaneous Services	5,153	6,673
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>56,765</b>	<b>67,182</b>

Cash collected on commercial rates and housing rents was 2% higher than the same period in 2015

The Valuation Office has commenced the detailed work on the full revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny. It is important that all property owners respond promptly to any communications they receive from the Valuation Office. Ratepayers can obtain information on the process by contacting the Valuation Office at 01 8171199 or by sending an Email to [ckReval2017@valoff.ie](mailto:ckReval2017@valoff.ie) .

The bank overdraft facility was utilized on 125 days to the end of October and the maximum overdrawn balance was €5.8m.

The 2017 annual budget meeting is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.