

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE MONTHLY
MANAGEMENT REPORT



JUNE 2016

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

Pay by Weight introduction July 1st 2016, please register with a permitted waste collector or visit [Kilkenny Co Co.ie](http://KilkennyCoCo.ie) for more information.

Three Sister 2020 - European Capital of Culture 2020 – Judging, Presentation and Result July 13th, 14th and 15th. Congratulations to all working on the bid process for the epic job so far and please support in the coming weeks on social media, #BitForTheBid, #ThreeSisters2020, www.threesisters2020.ie

Heritage Week (20th – 28th Aug) Open for Registration
Event registration is now open at www.heritageweek.ie.
Registration closes for the printed event guide on 10 June 2016.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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DIAGEO SITE

- DIAGEO are continuing works on the decommissioning and demolition of the former brewery buildings, with these works now expected to be completed in the early Autumn, with Kilkenny County Council due to take possession of the former Brewery site shortly thereafter.
- Work is progressing on the development of a Low Carbon Energy Strategy for the implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. Noel Lawler Consulting Engineers, Patrick Street, Kilkenny have been appointed to prepare the strategy.
- Archaeological Management Solutions were appointed in May 2016 to prepare an Archaeological Assessment (Testing) Strategy for the implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. This strategy will be developed in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and the National Monuments Service.
- Consulting Engineers will be appointed in mid June to prepare a preliminary design for the Utility Services in the Masterplan Area.
- A decision from An Bord Pleanála is awaited in relation to the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Brewhouse Development.

ROADS:

2nd Tranche Severe Weather (Flooding) Allocations

Elected Members will recall that, following the severe flooding of late 2015 and early 2016, Kilkenny County Council was invited to submit to the Department of Transport an initial estimate of requirements for flood repair and flood preventative measures.

As required and as previously notified to Elected Members, the initial submission was made on the 5th February in the sum of €5.129 million. An allocation of €3.0m was notified to the Council on the 18th February in respect of that submission.

A second submission, in the sum of €3.743m (including the shortfall between the initial application and allocation) was made on the 29th April. By way of Circular RW9/2016, dated 27th May, 2016, Kilkenny County Council was notified of an allocation of €300,000.

For the information of Elected Members I confirm that, across the two submissions, the total amount sought by Kilkenny County Council for flood repairs was €6.743m and the total amount received was €3.3m. The allocation of the recently announced funds will be discussed at Municipal District Committee Meetings.

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PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to May 2015	Total to May 2016
Planning Applications Received	310	341
Planning Applications Granted	233	345
Planning Applications Refused	13	23
Complaints Received	33	35
Warning Letters Issued	18	27
Enforcements Notices Issued	11	14

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation of Castlecomer Local area Plan. Pre- draft documentation is being compiled. Public consultation will be held during 2016.

HOUSING:

HOUSING

Number awaiting social housing support at 31st May, 2016 **2,792**

Number of assessment interviews carried out in May: **34**

LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made): **15**

Number of HAP tenancies to 31st May **592**

Number of LA tenancies surrendered: **2**

Anti social behaviour cases: **17**

New Homeless Presentations: **35**

Maintenance Calls for May 2016 **336**

Maintenance Calls year to date

2236

No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction) **14**

Amount of Loans Approved to 31st May, 2016 **€1,839,075**

Housing Needs Assessment 2016

Each Housing Authority is required to prepare a Summary of the Social Housing Assessments (s.21 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009) carried out in its administrative area. This assessment was last carried out in April 2013. The current assessment will be carried out on **21st September 2016**. Housing Authorities are required to assess **all** applications for social housing supports in accordance with the Assessment Regulations. This process will commence in June and further information will be circulated over the summer.

ENVIRONMENT:

Regional Roadside Litter Campaign Launched

The City & County Councils of the South East have joined forces to tackle the issue of roadside litter, the campaign was launched in Waterford City Hall on Tuesday 3rd May. The campaign will use both traditional advertising and social media outlets. The campaign included a radio campaign in May and more activities are to follow during the summer.





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Green Flag Awards

22 schools were awarded their renewal green flag in May while two schools received their first flag. CBS Boys NS, Kilkenny City received their flag at a special award ceremony in Dublin as they also received a special regional water award for their efforts to conserve water in their school.



Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum

Kilkenny Tidy Towns met in May to discuss a number of topics and Bennettsbridge Tidy Towns gave a tour of their newly established community garden funded last year through the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. The forum will meet again in June and an ecologist will speak on the National Pollinator Plan.



Environment Grant Announcements in May

The Environment Section made a call for submissions for the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund and the Anti Litter and Anti Graffiti Grant. Application forms and guidelines have been circulated to each elected member.

Environment Stand at Public Events in June

The Environmental Awareness Officer attended the following events this June to highlight the implementation of the Pay By Weight for household kerbside collections which is scheduled to be rolled out on the 1st of July onwards.

- 11th June – Veg Shed Plant Sale, Kilkenny City
- 12th June - Ciclovía, High Str. Kilkenny
- 15th June – Goresbirdge Party in the Park
- 19th June – Bennettsbridge Field Day

Amenity Grants 2016

The Amenity Grants for 2016 were approved at the May Council Meeting. Members were notified at that meeting that there were 3 additional applications for funding.

Approval of the members is required for the following:-

Ref No.	Applicant	Location	Description of Project	Grant Award
AG/16/128	Conahy Ladies Club	Conahy	General Maintenance	€400
AG/16/129	Clogh Community Council	Clogh	Walking Track Development	€1,500
AG/16/130	Clogh Parish Centre	Clogh	General Maintenance	€1,000

This brings the total allocation for 2016 to €120,000.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Ras na mBan

Ras na mBan is Ireland's premier women's bike race attracting up to 25 teams and 120 participants from across the globe.



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The 2016 Ras na mBan, the 30th anniversary of the event, will be based in Kilkenny and will include a five day race which begins on **Wednesday 7th September concluding on Sunday 11th September**. The Organising Committee has been liaising with Kilkenny County Council and An Garda Síochána and has designed routes that will showcase County Kilkenny, provide challenging routes for the cyclists and attract a large local and visitor interest.

A brief summary of the 6 Stages is set out below:

Stage 1: (07/09/2016) – Springhill
Hotel/Bennettsbridge/Thomastown/Graiguenam
anagh/Goresbridge/Gowran/Kilkenny.

Stage 2: (08/09/2016) – Castlecomer Discovery
Park/Hennebrys
Cross/Ballyragget/Castlecomer/Coolcullen/Ross
more/Crettyard/Castlecomer.

Stage 3: (09/09/2016) – Springhill
Hotel/Paulstown/Leighlinbridge/Bagenaltown/B
orris/Kiltealy/Bunclody/Ballon/Myshall/Mount
Leinster.

Stage 4: (10/09/2016) – **Individual Time
Trial** Kilkenny Rugby Club/M9 Danesfort
Interchange/Kilkenny Rugby Club.

Stage 5: (10/09/2016) – **Criterion** The
Parade/Castle Road/Nuncio Road/Waterford
Road/Patrick Street/Parade.

Stage 6: (11/09/2016) – Springhill
Hotel/Kells/Dunnamaggan/Knocktopher/Thoma
stown/Inistioge/Dungarvan/Gowran/Kilkenny
Castle.

The race will be covered by Eurosport TV. For details of recent press releases etc. in respect of the event log onto www.rasnamban.com.

In the coming months Kilkenny County Council and An Garda Síochána will be working closely with the event organisers to address the logistical challenges an event like this presents.

Grants Awards Presentation

Kilkenny County Council provided funding in the amount of approximately €530,000 for festival and event organisers to aid with the development and promotion of events in Kilkenny during 2016, and to Community and Cultural organisations, throughout the City and County of Kilkenny.

To publicly acknowledge the dedication and hard work across the County of Kilkenny, Kilkenny County Council recently hosted a Grants Presentation Event in the Ormonde Hotel, John Street, Kilkenny on Thursday 19th May, 2016. At this event, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and other Elected Members of Kilkenny County Council, presented Grant Award Certificates to all groups and organisations that were allocated funding under these Schemes. 78 no. Awards Certificates were presented on the night.



Unveiling of Hurling Sculpture

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Mayor of Municipal District of Kilkenny City,



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Cllr. Joe Malone, unveiled a sculpture honouring Kilkenny's Hurling Heritage at Canal Square, Kilkenny, on Thursday, 26th May, 2016. This sculpture will symbolise for years to come the pride of Kilkenny in its distinct sporting heritage and its outstanding achievements in the sport of hurling through its players, clubs and communities over the past 130 years.



troops bound for the Lebanon as part of an ongoing U.N. Peacekeeping mission.



IRELAND 2016

Thomas MacDonagh Week

The Kilkenny 2016 Commemorations honoured Thomas MacDonagh, a signatory to the Proclamation, who was amongst those executed after the 1916 Rising. Kilkenny County Council's all party Commemorations Committee decided to promote a series of events centred on the life and times of MacDonagh and the places, people and events in Kilkenny which had a significant influence on him. Seachtain Mhic Dhonnchadha or MacDonagh Week commenced on April 30th and ran to May 9th 2016.

One of the highlights of Seachtain Mic Dhonnchadha was held on May 3rd, MacDonagh's 100th Anniversary, when Kilkenny City will hosted a March Past by

ST. MARY'S MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM

- Work progressing well - site services installation underway.
- Kilkenny Room extension cladding & glazing complete- work advancing on floors & interior studwork.
- All doors & windows now fitted throughout building.
- Painting of interior well underway.
- Underfloor heating & boilers installed.
- Work has commenced off-site on the restoration of 52 monuments which will form part of finished museum.
- Museum Digital Content tender now awarded
- Exhibition fit-out package award about to be made.



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Nave looking East



Kilkenny Room Window

and vocal coaches. The week culminates in a number of performances by the choir.

- **Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet**

The deadline for the call for submissions to the Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet was Tuesday 17th May. 55 writers submitted 106 poems. This is the greatest number of writers submitting work since 2008. Submissions are now with the editor Kimbery Campanello to shortlist, select and provide feedback. The Broadsheet will be launched once again as Kilkenny Arts Festival this year.

- **Literature programme**

Due to popular demand the second Short Story Writing weekend with Dr Hilary Lennon took place on the 22nd and 23rd May in Butler House with a total of 12 participants.

Rhyme Rag Outreach: Due to the huge success of our Spring school workshops with poet Stephen Murray plans are underway for the academic year 2016/7. 347 young people from five Kilkenny schools participated in the Spring programme.

Inspireland (inspireland.ie/) are Ireland's leading providers of secondary school poetry slam workshops for teenagers of all abilities. Inspireland have just published the thirty best poems of 2015/16 from over 2,000 submissions received over the school year. Inspireland says 'It was an incredibly difficult task for our review team considering the quality of work received, which is a credit to all the students who submitted poems.' Four Kilkenny poets make the listing. These are: Elizabeth Lebedová and Emma Holland – St. Brigid's, Callan, Co. Kilkenny; Emma Kelly – Castlecomer Community School, Kilkenny

CULTURAL SERVICES

Arts Programme

- **Irish Youth Choir Tuition Bursary**

Kilkenny County Council Arts Office is pleased to offer three tuition bursaries to attend the Irish Youth Choir Residential Week which takes place from 27th June to 4th July 2016 on campus at the University of Limerick. These bursaries are open to the ten Kilkenny singers who've been selected by the Association of Irish Choirs to participate on the programme. Participants will undertake intensive training and professional development with expert tuition from Artistic Director Greg Beardsell and a team of tutors



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and Chloe Dalton – Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny. All these students have been involved in Rhyme Rag and REVERSE workshops.

• **Open Circle programme**

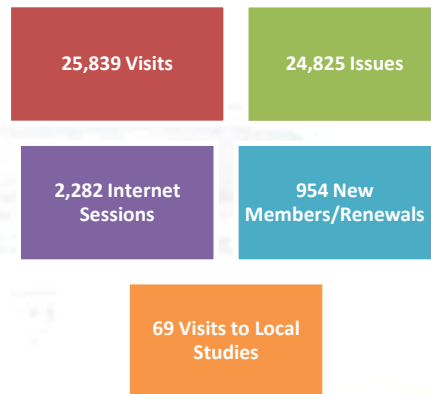
Open Circle summer outreach project Sewcialising – The Sewcialising Project investigates our relationship with our clothes. The series of workshops for the month of July explores the (re) making of clothing through re-designing, repairing and mending.

Confirmed activity includes:

- * A talk by Rosie O'Reilly, Re-dress, Tuesday 14th June. Rosie will address the group on sustainable fashion practices and this will serve as our introduction to the workshop programme.
- * **Abhainn Ri Festival will host our first workshop with a 'Mend and Repair' workshop on Saturday 2nd July at Callan Workhouse Union.**

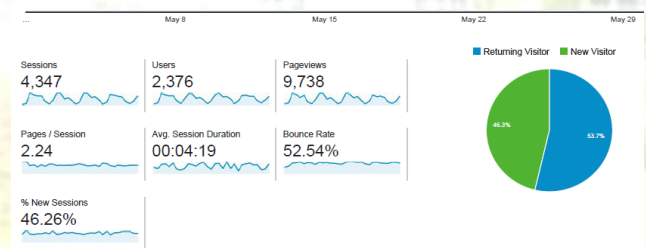
Funding to support this project has been secured from Kilkenny County Council's Waste Prevention Programme and Carlow Kilkenny ETB.

- 954 new members/renewals (+10% from May 2015).



Library Website Usage (May 2016)
www.kilkennylibrary.ie

2016	Users	New Users	Return Users	Sessions	Page Views
May	2,376	1,100	1,276	4,347	9,738



Online Resources

LIBRARY SERVICES

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Statistics and Performance (May 2016)

- 25,839 visits across the library network
- 24,825 items issued
- 2,282 public Internet sessions
- 69 visits to Local Studies



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eBooks

eAudiobooks

eMagazines

Online Learning

Online Languages

Online Encyclopaedia

Online Music Library

International News Database

Irish Newspaper Archive

Programming and Events

- As part of the national Bealtaine Festival, a comprehensive and broad range of events covering a range of topics from health and well being, creative writing, music and theatre. 28 events in total across the county library network during May.
- 20 Years of Urlingford Library – a day long celebratory event for the community of Urlingford with KCLR broadcasting from the library and a surprise visit from the High Kings.
- 2016 Commemorative events in Loughboy and the City Library.

Stoneyford Farmers Join Kilkenny Fieldnames Project

An enthusiastic group of farmers came to a meeting in Stoneyford Community Hall organised by the Heritage Office on 17th May and have joined our growing group of volunteers who are mapping the old fieldnames of the county. Townlands around Stoneyford such as Stonecarthy, Floodhall, Ballycaum and Oldtown will be mapped.

Heritage Week (20th – 28th Aug) Open for Registration

If you would like any support or information about organising an event in Kilkenny for Heritage Week, please contact Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, Kilkenny County Council. Dearbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie
Tel: 056-7794925.

What can your community do to help pollinators?

A helpful new document is now available that explains 24 things local communities can do to help pollinators. It is aimed primarily at Tidy Towns groups, green communities, local wildlife groups, residents associations etc. www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan This project is supported by the Local Authority heritage Officers.

Heritage Grants Schemes

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016

A total of 13 grant applications were awarded grants from the **€88,000 Built Heritage Investment Scheme** allocation from the Department of Regional Development Rural Affairs Arts and the Gaeltacht in January 2016. Applicants were notified of the decision in

HERITAGE

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February 2016. The max amount of grant allocated was €7,500.

Works are completed on two of these projects and are underway at a further three. Works are due to start on the remaining eight projects before the end of July. An interim progress report to the DRDRAAG was submitted on the 29th April 2016 and a further progress report will be submitted before the deadline of the 29th July 2016. Type of works include timber sash window repairs, roof repairs, rethatching, railing repairs, chimney repairs, stained glass window repairs and re-rendering external walls. All buildings are either protected structures or located in Architectural Conservation Areas.

Structures at Risk Scheme, 2016

Each local authority was invited to submit two applications for the **Structures at Risk Scheme 2016**. Kilkenny County Council received 4 applications in total and two of these were chosen according to the assessment criteria set out in the Department's Structures at Risk circular. The Department notified the County Council on Thursday the 2nd June 2016 that both of these applications were successful and between them would be receiving a total of **€34,085** in grant funding. Both of these protected structures are mill buildings and urgent roof works are required to both. Without these funds the future survival of these buildings would be in doubt.

Heritage Management Grants Scheme 2016

The conservation officer of Kilkenny County Council assisted the KBK Community Project community group from Ballyhale in submitting an application to the Heritage Council for a **Heritage Management Grant** for carrying out a Conservation Management Plan for the protected structure known as Billy Kiely's Cottage in Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny. This

property is owned by the County Council and leased to the community group. Their application was successful and the community group was granted **€4,000** to assist them in making a planning application for change of use of the cottage to a community hub/cafe and to produce detailed designs for cafe fit-out and conservation works. This will provide Ballyhale, which is currently without a shop or a cafe, with a valuable and much needed community hub, while simultaneously giving further life to a publicly owned protected structure which contributes significantly to the character of the streetscape in Ballyhale. The conservation office is currently liaising with Brid Hynes of the Community Section of Kilkenny County Council to give further assistance to the community group to prepare an application for CCFCS **capital funding in June 2017** to carry out the change of use and conservation works next year.

Summary

A total of 16 protected structures in Co. Kilkenny will receive either DRDRAAG funding or Heritage Council funding towards conservation works in 2016. **A total of €126,083** will be spent on conservation of the built heritage of County Kilkenny in 2016 from the above sources.

KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Participation Programmes and Empowerment of Communities

County Go for Life Games

46 participants attended the County GFL Games on the 9th of May in The Watershed. As well as the usual Scidil, Flisk and Lobbers, participants were introduced to Parachute Games and Nordic



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Walking. A great day of fun, laughs and physical activity was had by all. Feedback was very positive.



County Go for Life Games 09.05.16

Out to Play Conference – 14th May 2016 from 9.30am – 4pm Castlecomer Discovery Park

KRSP in collaboration with Carlow and Kilkenny County Childcare Committees, HSE and Carlow Sport Partnership organised an Out to Play – Physical Literacy Conference aimed at pre-school practitioners and teachers of infant classes in primary school. Carol Archer, co-author of “Encouraging Physical Development through Movement Play” was the keynote speaker in addition to practical workshops on Movement Play, Physical Literacy and Forest School. Feedback has been extremely positive.

“Fun learning that is easily transferable back to setting”

“Practical hands on learning from people who are so enthusiastic.”

“Actually feel very affirmed of the value of play and just how essential it is.”



Bealaine Festival for Older Adults, Thursday May 26th, Kilkenny County Library, Loughboy.

KRSP presented to older adults on the benefits of physical activity throughout the lifespan followed by a gentle 30 minute exercise to music class.

Continuing Professional Development - June 1st, Ormonde College, Kilkenny.

KRSP made a presentation to staff on the benefits of physical activity and the physiological responses to physical activity.

Bikeweek 2016

In the build up to Bikeweek 2016, a number of preparation events were organised in May.

Couch to 40k Cycling Spins

Following a fully booked Monday night beginners spin course, an additional course has been organised for Tuesday nights. An experienced and qualified cyclist leads and guides the groups (which includes a number of older adults) on spins that take place in a fun / social and non-competitive environment around Kilkenny City and County. The initial spins was done off road and subsequent spins progressed to 15K including road safety for cyclists. It is hoped that most of the participants will take part in the third Castle to Castle 40k cycle spin.

Schools Cycling Programme

Four primary schools have signed up for cycle training with KRSP with delivery by experienced tutors supported by a KRSP placement student. The programme reinforces cycle training basics followed by introduction to cycling on the road including road safety.

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

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Dates for June 2016

Bikeweek 2016 see a number of events organised over the week of 11th – 19th June 2016.

Ciclovia – Open Street Festival in Kilkenny High Street from 2 – 4pm on Sunday 12th & 19th June.

For the third year, this open street festival held on a pedestrianised high street celebrates cycling and sports activities (free) suitable for all the family. A family orientated cycle around Kilkenny city will be guided so bring your bike along and join in.



APPENDIX 1

Kilkenny County Council
Finance Report – June 2016.

The expenditure by service division for the three months to the end of April is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €29.646m compared with the annual budget of €67.18m.

Table 1	Actual YTD May 16	Budget Full Year 2016
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	6,843	14,083
Road Transport & Safety	8,229	16,848
Water Services	2,886	7,603
Development Management	2,842	6,562
Environmental Services	3,180	8,628
Recreation & Amenity	2,402	6,024
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	270	761
Miscellaneous Services	2,994	6,673
Overall Total	29,646	67,182

Cash collected on commercial rates for the first five months was €120k higher than the same period last year. Collection on housing rents was in line with the same period last year. The bank overdraft facility was not utilized during the period to the end of May.

Kilkenny County Council received special development contributions on the central access scheme from 2005 to 2007. S48(12) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 provides that if the proposed works have not commenced within five years of the date of payment, or have commenced but have not been completed within seven years of the date of payment the Local Authority is obliged to refund the special contributions. Following receipt of two applications, refunds amounting to €703k plus interest have been processed. Payment was made following receipt of legal advice on the matter. These contributions were not allocated to the project therefore there is no impact on the funding proposal for the project.