

JULY 2017

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

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
APRIL TO JUNE 2017**



To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

- 20th July, 2017: Civic Reception – FAI Festival of Football – County Hall, John Street at 7.00 p.m.**
- 28th July, 2017: Large Estate Enhancement Grants Closing Date for receipt of applications.
- 4th August, 2017: Closing Date for submissions on Draft Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan.
- 31st August, 2017: Closing Date for receipt of submissions on Draft River Basin Management Plan.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE SERVICES

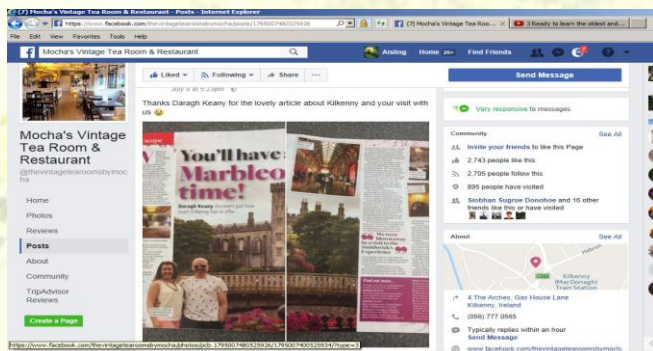
The Constituency Commission Report 2017 was published in June 2017. The Commission is recommending that the part of Carlow which was included in the Wicklow Constituency be transferred to the Carlow/Kilkenny Constituency.

The population in that area is 4,501, giving a revised population of 156,164 in the Carlow/Kilkenny Constituency. There is no change in the number of T.D.s (5) in the Constituency.

TOURISM & MARKETING

The Tourism team are constantly looking for Public Relations and Marketing opportunities for Kilkenny, and understand the importance of profile and reputation. These opportunities include print and digital media and samples of our recent success in this area include:

- A recent travel article in the ‘Sunday World Magazine’ – *Daragh Keany discovers just how much Kilkenny has to offer*
<https://www.facebook.com/thevintagetearooms/bymocha/posts/1795007480525926>



- Samples of videos taken of the ‘Travel Classic Intl. Editors & Writers Conference’ promoting Kilkenny.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0Tu9iG--8&list=PLv_jkKCiDQcTkbrCHTCAC4fgtmwpmeRpd&index=4



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv4mAvfKW2k&list=PLv_jkKCiDQcTkbrCHTCAC4fgtmwpmeRpd&index=3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_oazjr5yBQ&list=PLv_jkKCiDQcTkbrCHTCAC4fgtmwpmeRpd&index=2



We continue to ensure that Kilkenny’s attractiveness is publicised – above is from The Irish Post Newspaper.

Kilkenny Tourism Brochure

The Kilkenny Tourism Brochure was completely redesigned and the pull out map was updated. The Tourism brochure and map was formally launched at the Kilkenny Tourism Annual Meeting, which was held in the Parade Tower Kilkenny on 14th June 2017.



The print run was 50,000, with 100,000 Medieval Mile Maps showing the newly opened St. Francis Bridge. There are 5,000 copies of the brochure currently in distribution.

Kilkenny Tourism AGM 14th June 2017.

The Kilkenny Tourism AGM was held in the Parade Tower on 14th June, chaired by Naoise Nunn, who retains the Chair for another year. A very engaged attendance heard a series of relevant presentations, and the keynote speaker was Rosemary Collier, Principal Officer with OPW.

For information, attached is the current membership of the Kilkenny Tourism Board:

Sarah Fitzpatrick	Failte Ireland
Cllr. Joe Malone	Kilkenny Co. Council
Colin Ahern	Hotels
Gabrielle Carroll	LEADER
Cllr. Pat Dunphy	Kilkenny Co. Council
Jaki Jordan	OPW
Naoise Nunn (Chairman)	Festivals
Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick	Kilkenny Co. Council
Brian Tyrrell	Kilkenny Local Authority
Gareth Alcorn	Outdoor Pursuits
Mark Dunne	Hotels
Michael Prendergast	Self-catering
Gerry Rafter	Vintners
Christopher Heltzel	Crafts
Pat Wallace	B&B's & Guest Houses
Grace Fegan	Heritage
Deirdre Shine	Chamber of Commerce
Frank Curran	Restaurants
Julie Calder Potts	Food Trail
Jimmy Walsh	GAA

Trade Fairs:

Kilkenny Tourism was again represented at one of the most prestigious national festivals "Bloom",

with Council staff manning our Visit Kilkenny stand over the full weekend event.

Failte Ireland engagement:

The Tourism Section continues to engage with Failte Ireland, particularly in relation to Ireland's Ancient East, and we attended a Fáilte Ireland Workshop on the Butler Gallery/Evans Home Project on 21st June, 2017, in Hotel Kilkenny.

Two ancient towns work together to develop and sell tourism:

Kilkenny hosted a delegation at the request of Fáilte Ireland, consisting of a group of tourism trade representatives from Kells in Co. Meath, completing a fact finding visit to Kilkenny on Tuesday 13th June, 2017, to learn more about Ireland's Medieval Mile and how it has developed to bring more visitors to the city.

The group from Kells and District Tourism Network, were supported by Fáilte Ireland and Kilkenny County Council and visited attractions including the newly opened Medieval Museum, St. Canice's Cathedral and the Smithwicks Experience.

The group were welcomed by Brian Tyrrell of Kilkenny County Council who gave a presentation on the development of the Medieval Mile and tourism in the wider County of Kilkenny, outlining the story it tells through interpretation at visitor attractions, the services and experiences they offer visitors and the impact on the City. Sarah Fitzpatrick from Fáilte Ireland outlined how the Kilkenny Brand fits into and supports the Ireland's Ancient East proposition.

YULEFEST KILKENNY

- The Yulefest Kilkenny – Christmas Festival promises to be bigger and better this year.
- The Festival Manager Paula Lawlor and steering group are busy making plans to deliver

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a unique experience for all throughout the City and County.

- This year we will have 3 themed weekends:-
 - Weekend One 1st,2nd,3rd Dec - Theme ‘Get Active / Medieval Yulefest’
 - Weekend Two 8th, 9th,10th Dec – Theme ‘Multicultural – Shine a Light around the World’
 - Weekend Three 15th,16th,17th, - Theme ‘Music, Song, Dance’

FESTIVAL GRANTS 2017

- 60 applications processed to date, with Kilkenny Co. Co. paying out €69,900.00 in grants.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017

As part of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development a new Town & Village Renewal Scheme was announced in April. The focus of this year’s scheme is on projects to enhance and develop towns socially, economically and culturally. The selection of projects which will be undertaken by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and will be by means of a competition process on the basis of applications submitted by Local Authorities. Full involvement by community interests and business interests is an essential factor of successful projects. The application process involved the undertaking of Expressions of Interest and the development of detailed applications in collaboration with community groups.

Kilkenny County Council held an information evening following which 25 Expressions of Interest were received. The Expressions of Interest were examined and a facilitated workshop was held for groups to progress their applications. The

Council developed 13 full applications in collaboration with the community groups and submitted them to the Department on the 30th June.

A number of potential applications were deferred until 2018 and the Council will engage with those groups further in undertaking Village Health Checks or Town Renewal Plans and in developing applications.

Large Estate Enhancement Grant

The Large Estate Management Grant funding scheme has been advertised for Kilkenny County Council Housing estates, the closing date for applications is the 28th July, 2017. This is a new scheme that was started last year and it will fund 4 large estate enhancement projects in Kilkenny County Council Housing Estates.

Kilkenny County Council E-Newsletter (Summer Edition)

The 6th Kilkenny County Council quarterly e-Newsletter was published in June 2017. This interactive online E newsletter provides relevant community information on grants, activities, advice, community structure/plans, good news stories etc.

Please see link to ISSUE 6 e-newsletter
<https://indd.adobe.com/embed/ba388521-d36a-4791-aff4-f321e2a06555?startpage=1>

Tidy Estates Awards

The Tidy Estates awards will be advertised in July. The awards this year will take place in the Parade Tower on the 19th of October, 2017.

Tenant Handbook Update

A design brief for the new Tenant Handbook has been developed. This handbook sets out to explain to tenants the main topics contained in the tenancy agreement, it also explains the tenant’s responsibilities and Kilkenny County Council



responsibilities as the landlord. Deadline for receipt of tender proposals is **12.00 p.m. Wednesday 12th July 2017.**

Heritage

Creative Ireland

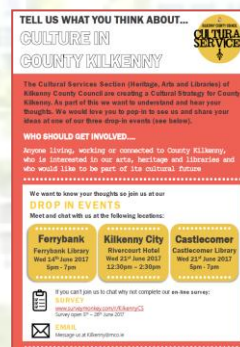
The Kilkenny Culture & Creativity Plan 2017, prepared by the Cultural Services Section of Kilkenny County Council as part of the Creative Ireland Programme, was launched by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D. and Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ms Heather Humphreys, T.D in Dublin Castle on 25th May 2017. The Plan was also launched locally at the June meeting of Kilkenny County Council by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Collette Byrne C.E.O., and members of the Cultural Services Section. The Plan can be downloaded at <https://creative.ireland.ie/en/local-plans/kilkenny>



Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Collette Byrne C.E.O., Dearbhala Ledwidge Heritage Officer, Josephine Coyne County Librarian and Mary Butler Arts Officer launch the Kilkenny Culture & Creativity Plan 2017 at the Kilkenny County Council meeting on June 19th 2017.

Kilkenny Cultural Strategy & Heritage Plan

The Cultural Services Section of Kilkenny County Council has just completed the initial public consultation phase in the preparation of a new 5 year Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny which will incorporate a new **Heritage Plan, Arts Plan and Library Plan**. 3 public meetings were held during June in Ferrybank Library, the Rivercourt Hotel and Castlecomer Library, as well as an on-line public survey. 148 people took part in the consultation process. Key findings and recommendations will be presented to the October meeting of SPC3. The draft report will then be presented to the Council meeting later in the year.



An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ms Heather Humphreys, T.D, Cllr. Matt Doran Caoithearlach, Kilkenny County Council and Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer & County Creative Ireland Co-ordinator, launch the Kilkenny Culture & Creativity Plan 2017 at Dublin Castle on 25th May 2017.

Arts Programme

ArtLinks

- A professional development workshop for ArtLinks members was held at 5, Dean Street for visual artists entitle ‘*Art Projects from Concept to Delivery*’. This was followed by



one-on-one sessions for the attending artists. The workshop was repeated in Wexford and Waterford for ArtLinks members in those counties.

- Nora Brennan, an ArtLinks member who has participated in Arts Office and Library literature activities over the years, was awarded ArtLinks mentoring in 2016 to develop a collection of poetry. This has now been published and was launched on June 6th in the Ormonde Hotel and was wonderfully received.

Arts Act Grants 2017

- 23 of the 25 grants awarded have been paid out and the reports from individual projects are now coming in to the Arts Office.
- **The Moth Young Artists & Writers Bursary**
Two bursaries were awarded earlier this year; one of these was for an Irish language script writing project. One residency has been completed and a report submitted.
- **Bookville**
Preparation for the joint Kilkenny Arts Office/Kilkenny Library Children's Book Festival "Bookville" (October 2017), is ongoing and a number of meetings of the Bookville Committee have taken place. It is planned to have an exhibition and workshop activities for children at 5, Dean Street in tandem with the Library events.
- **Creative Ireland and the Culture Team**
The Arts Office provided material for an *Irish Independent* colour supplement on Creative Ireland on 10th June, 2017; the supplement included a 2-page colour article on Co. Kilkenny including Arts Office, Library and Heritage projects such as Bookville, Open Circle Arts, and Rhyme Rag.
- **Culture Night (Friday, 22nd September, 2017)**

Planning for Culture Night 2017 is ongoing.

Kilkenny Arts Office hosted the Culture Night regional meeting in Kilkenny again this year, attended by Regional Arts Officers, the National Cultural Night Co-ordinator and a representative of the Department of *Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs*.

Kilkenny Arts Office has been awarded €6,000 funding for Culture Night by the Department. This is an increase of 20% on last year.

- **Music Generation**

An extensive, detailed Music Generation application was prepared by Mary Butler, Arts Officer, in collaboration with Paula Phelan and Martha Bolger of KCETB and was submitted for 31st May, 2017, for funding.

The outcome of County Kilkenny's application is awaited.

Preparation of the application also involved meetings with Music Generation in Dublin and consultation sessions with music educators in County Kilkenny.

- **Literature Programme**

Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet 17

After a very successful 2016 Broadsheet, the 2016 editor was invited back to edit the 2017 issue.

A Broadsheet Workshop in April was attended by 16 participants. The evaluations were universally very positive and appreciative of the high quality of the workshop.

54 poets submitted 103 poems to Broadsheet 17. This is consistent with last year's submission, which was a substantial increase



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on previous years; the aim is for this level of submissions to continue.

12 poems by 10 poets were selected for publication and design work is underway.

For the fourth year in a row the Broadsheet will be launched by the Poet in Residence at the Kilkenny Arts Festival. This embeds the Broadsheet and Kilkenny writers in the Festival programme and strengthens the profile of poetry as a Arts Festival strand.

- **Rhyme Rag**

Rhyme Rag in the *Kilkenny People*

The *Kilkenny People* is featuring Rhyme Rag poems and illustrations on a regular basis. 9 poems have been published in 2017 so far.

Rhyme Rag Ensemble: The Rhyme Rag Ensemble is a writers' group for young people aged 14-17 and is a partnership between Kilkenny Arts Office and Ossory Youth. The Ensemble is supported by a development worker Nuala Roche and by regular monthly workshops at Ossory Youth. Ensemble members are being encouraged to develop an event for Culture Night in September.

- **Open Circle Community Arts Collective**

Preparations for the Open Circle exhibition during the Kilkenny Arts Festival 11-20 August are ongoing.

Open Circle has an ongoing collaboration with The Consuming Project, a creative participatory venture exploring our relationship with fashion and clothing. Open Circle members and the wider community using recycled clothing created a costumed set for a public performance in the Goods Shed, MacDonagh Junction, in Kilkenny which ran between 29th June -2nd July.

A doll-making workshop using reclaimed shirts and clothing ran for two weeks in June. The resulting dolls were also used in the Goods Shed performance.

Kilkenny County Council's Waste Prevention Programme allocated funding for a video about The Consuming Project which will be edited and ready for use during Re-use Month (October 2017).

Workshop participants at Open Circle have completed a sequential series of ink paintings, facilitated by Kilkenny based artist Saturio Alonso, and assembled these in book form. The book, WOMANRISE, is currently being printed.

Open Circle Arts has established new partnership with St Luke's Hospital. A dedicated exhibition space with permanent frames is now open in the waiting room of the early pregnancy unit at the hospital and will be used by the women at Open Circle to exhibit work.

A new booklet of examples of the works from the 2016 Open Circle workshop with quotes from the members was printed.

A new booklet of the Open Circle summer 2016 outreach project Sewcialising was printed. The Sewcialising Project explored the (re) making of clothing through re-designing, repairing and mending.

- **Exhibitions**

"Pin Ups", an exhibition of prints by selected illustrators was held over the weekend 28th April-1st May. This was a travelling exhibition, supported by the Arts Council.

An exhibition of drawings by Kilkenny Artist, Gypsy Ray, was held in the gallery in May



2017. The opening night was attended by approximately 70 people and a number of works were sold.

between Tennypark Cross and Brownstown Junction.

ROADS:

Kilkenny Central Access Scheme

Following a public consultation process earlier in the year the new bridge over the River Nore was officially named Saint Francis Bridge the criteria used to select this name was in accordance with the Council's Naming and Commemorative Memorial Policy.

The new bridge and associated adjoining road network was officially opened to the public, by Cllr. Matt Doran Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council in the presence of Cllr. Patrick O'Neill Mayor of the Municipal District of Kilkenny, on the 23rd May 2017.

The cross-section and high specification finish of Saint Francis Bridge provides for a pleasurable experience for users whilst the slim-line design of the structure allows it to sit neatly into its surroundings. In addition the bridge also greatly enhances permeability though the City for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic along with substantially reducing the pressure on Green's Bridge and John's Bridge which heretofore were operating at over capacity during peak times.

N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The contract for the N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme was awarded to SIAC Construction Limited on the 21st December 2016. This scheme extends for 4.38km's from the N76 Callan Road Roundabout, on the Ring Road, to the Brownstown Junction. The Scheme provides for the introduction of on-line footpaths/cycle-tracks and public lighting from the Ring Road to Tennypark Cross and off-line road realignment

The on-line improvement works from the Ring Road to Tennypark Cross has progressed significantly on the East side of the Road with respect to the provision of kerbing, footpath/cycle track, public lighting and drainage. The programme is to complete these works before switching over to undertake similar works on the West side.

The off-line works, i.e. new road construction, from Tennypark Cross to the Brownstown Junction, aided by the dry weather, has progressed well. With the earthworks and drainage 80% and 60% completed respectively. Works has also commenced on the Cattle Underpass at the Brownstown Junction and the Attenuation Pond.

The Contractor and site staff continue to liaise with property owners and accommodation works are now substantially completed in most cases. The traffic is being managed satisfactorily with minimal delays and road users are utilising the alternative routes.

The expected works completion date is Quarter 1 of 2018

Western Environs Road - Construction (First Phase Infrastructure)

Following on from a successful application for funding under the DHPCLG Rebuilding Ireland Programme via the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, the Department notified the Council in March 2017 that a grant of €5.07 million would be made available to part fund this Scheme. A draft Grant Agreement document was issued to the Department in June and it is anticipated that same will be officially signed in July 2017. This agreement sets-out the criteria to allow the successful drawdown of funding.

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Design works have also continued and the target objective remains to advertise the tenders towards the end of this year. A Property Consultant was engaged in June 2017 to assist with the acquisition of lands subject to the confirmed C.P.O.

In May 2017 Irish Water (IW) advised the Council that it will dedicate €50 million nationally in its 2017-2021 Investment Programme to extend water service networks to strategic development areas / sites that will yield a significant number of housing units in settlements with the greatest need. IW also confirmed that the Western Environs Scheme was one of 15 Initial Candidate Sites in the country deemed eligible to benefit from this investment programme. Over the next number of months the Council will work with IW to ensure the timely delivery of this necessary structure which is critical to the realisation of the Western Environs Scheme.

DED ID & Name	Measure Works Proposals	Facility	Funding Approved
7090 & 7092 Baunmore & Galmoy	Provision of public lighting and footpaths.	Crosspatrick & Community Hall	€50,000
7086 Ullard	Provision of public lighting and footpath.	Skeoughvosteen GAA Complex and Community Centre	€36,000
7088 Balleen	Sand based all-weather playing surface to be constructed on existing pitch / play area.	Scoil Naomh Fiacha National School, Clontubrid, Freshford	€29,160
7092 Galmoy	Refurbishment of existing Kitchen, upstairs meeting room and entrance hall.	Galmoy Community Hall.	€46,772
			€161,932

CLÁR Programme

In May 2017, an application for funding was submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the CLÁR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais). As in 2016 the projects put forward were to target small infrastructural works in areas that have experienced significant de-population in the past. Funding applications could be made under the following three categories:

- Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (Up to 90% CLÁR funding);
- School/Community Play Area (Up to 90% CLÁR funding);
- Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (Up to 85% CLÁR funding).

In total the Council submitted 14 individual projects under the three categories and were advised recently by the Department that the following projects will be funded:-

N24 Granny & New Aglish Pavement Improvement Scheme

The above Scheme consists of a 2 km overlay / inlay, the provision of a dedicated right-turn lane at both the Tirlough Junction (Thatch Bar) and Portnahully Junction (Croke's Shop), improvements to the Aglish Junction at Roadstone, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works.

Tender documents for the above scheme were advertised on the 2nd June 2017. It is anticipated that the Contract will be awarded towards the middle of July with works commencing shortly thereafter. The contract period for this Scheme is estimated at six weeks.

N25 New Ross By-pass

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium consortium (the PPIreland Ltd joint venture).

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Works commenced on site in February 2016 and the construction period for same is 36 months. To-date the fencing & site clearance element of the project is significantly completed. Earthworks operations continue to progress throughout the site and are estimated to be approximately 40% complete. Blasting operations are ongoing at four locations at Stokestown, Camlin, Ballymacar and Lacken and prior notifications to local residents is ongoing before each blast event. Barrow Bridge pier stems to the west of the river have progressed with some piers now raised to the soffit of the bridge deck.



Barrow Bridge – Pink Rock piers rising towards deck soffit level



Earthworks on Glenmore side with Pink Rock in background.

It is anticipated that the statutory 60km/h speed limit and traffic management on the N25 at Glenmore will become operational in July to facilitate the construction of a roundabout and a new underpass. These operations will continue on the N25 until 2018. A temporary closure of the L-7501 into Glenmore village has been advertised from July 1st to September 1st to facilitate these works and alternative routes will be signposted. The Pink Rock Road in Co. Kilkenny remains closed to facilitate Barrow Bridge access and construction. A temporary diversion route and traffic management plan will remain in place until June 2018.

Quarterly project newsletters are published and circulated widely at public buildings and local conveniences and a dedicated project website www.n25newross.ie has been set-up and provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed and open to the public in the first quarter of 2019.

Future National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes

Kilkenny received a funding allocation of €99,200 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to advance the design and preparation of contract documents for the following two pavement improvement Schemes:

- **N25 Graiguenakill (New Ross By-pass tie-in) to Gaulstown**, length 3.60km plus an additional 0.53km section from Luffany to the Rhu Glen, combined length 4.13km.
- **N78 Castlercomer Bridge to Coolbaun South and Coolbaun North to Crettyard**, length 6.73km.



A topographical survey of both roads was recently completed and it is expected that the pavement testing analysis will be finished towards the end of July. A consultancy firm was engaged by the Council to provide technical services to advance the design and tender documentation.

Subject to the necessary TII design and funding approvals, it is anticipated that tenders for each of the above Schemes will be advertised towards the end of this year and the contracts awarded with a view to commencing works in Quarter 1 / 2 2018.

owned lands to deliver additional units over life time of Programme.

- LIHAF funding to leverage private sector construction programme in the Western Environs

Acquisitions

The Council relies on acquisitions to meet housing demand subject to Department approval. The Council has finalised 16 acquisitions (€2,589,188) since 1st January 2017 with 13 more (€2,110,380) in progress.

HOUSING:

Capital Programme 2017 – 2019

Under Rebuilding Ireland, Kilkenny County Council has a planned capital programme that is expected to deliver 560 units at an estimated cost of €102m subject to Department approval.

- 55 Homes are completed.
- 45 Homes are under construction.
- 191 Homes are at Planning, Design & Tender Stage.
- The Voluntary Bodies are advancing a number of schemes that will deliver 110 units.
- RAS & HAP will still deliver units but not at the scale or pace as in recent years.
- 16 Acquisitions completed to date in 2017 and a further 13 in progress.
- The demand for type of housing has changed - the provision of 1 and 2 bed units approx. 74%.
- The demand in Kilkenny City & Environs account for 62% of the Housing List.
- There is a need to identify additional development sites particularly in the City seeking to provide sustainable housing development.
- A 'New Homes Task Force' set up.
- Focus is on derelict sites, unfinished estates.
- Rapid Repair to Lease Scheme and State

Municipal District	Closed	€	In Progress	€
Castlecomer	1	€86,700	2	€315,180
Kilkenny City West	7	€1,244,684	2	€380,460
Kilkenny City East	6	€1,039,963	2	€313,140
Piltown	2	€217,841	7	€1,101,600
Total	16	€2,589,188	13	€2,110,380

Repair and Leasing Scheme

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness is the Repair & Leasing Scheme which was rolled out nationally in March 2017. The Scheme targets owners of vacant properties as a possible source of social housing, enables funding to support necessary repairs to vacant properties and also provides the property owners with an income stream that may, otherwise, be unavailable. Following extensive advertising programme Kilkenny County Council has received **11** Expressions of Interest:

- **2** applications were deemed beyond the scope of the scheme due to the level of finance required to bring the property to the relevant standards
- **4** applications have been inspected and request for itemisation and costing of works have issued to owners

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- 1 application was withdrawn as property was sold
- 3 applications have been referred for inspection
- 1 application was incomplete and further information has been requested from the owner.
- The Department decided to set individual targets for each local authority. Target for Kilkenny County Council is 13 units for 2017.

Voids

There are 34 vacant units at 30th June, of which 22 are under repair with 7 at pre tender stage and five recently vacant.

Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2017 (HNA)

An **Annual** Assessment of Housing Need was carried out on **28th June 2017**. This Assessment is due to be returned to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government before the **19th July 2017**.

The approved number of housing applicants at 28th June is 2,137. This number does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP. A comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
June 2017	2,137
December 2016	2,059
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

Housing List at 28th June 2017					
FIRST AREA O FCHOICE	NO APPL.	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
Ballyhale	10	4	3	2	1
Ballyragget	43	14	15	8	5
Bennettsbridge	29	9	9	7	3
Callan	89	30	28	28	1
Castlecomer	59	24	13	19	1
Clara	1	0	0	1	0
Clogh	9	3	3	1	2
Coon	3	0	1	2	0
Ferrybank	65	34	14	10	2
Fiddown	8	3	2	3	0
Freshford	27	10	5	11	1
Glenmore	4	2	2	0	0
Goresbridge	10	6	3	0	1
Gowran	33	11	13	7	2
Graiguenamanagh	47	26	13	5	2
Hugginstown	2	1	1	0	0
Inistiogue	20	11	5	3	1
Johnstown	27	8	9	5	4
Kells	14	5	4	4	1
Kilkenny	1	0	1	0	0
Kilkenny Both	1328	514	480	274	42
Kilmacow	39	11	16	10	2
Kilmanagh	6	2	2	2	0
Kilmoganny	5	2	1	2	0
Knocktopher	3	1	2	0	0
Moneenroe	22	7	7	7	1
Mooncoin	31	8	12	10	1
Mullinavat	4	0	2	2	0
New Ross Environs	13	9	1	2	0
Paulstown	14	6	7	1	0
Piltown	41	11	8	19	1
Skeoghvosteen	2	1	1	0	0
Slieverue	13	2	4	7	0
Stoneyford	10	6	1	2	1

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KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
APRIL TO JUNE 2017



JULY 2017

Thomastown	92	42	26	22	2
Tullaroan	2	1	1	0	0
Urlingford	43	13	12	14	4
Windgap	2	0	2	0	0
Total	2137	837	729	490	81
	100%	39%	34%	23%	4%

being notified. Again there are a number of applicants that must submit additional documentation before a decision can be made on their application.

Housing Loans Activity

01.01.2017 to 30.06.2017

	<u>Applic Recd</u>	<u>No. Appr.</u>	<u>Amount Appr.</u>	<u>No. Paid</u>	<u>Amt Paid</u>
Annuity	26	21	€1,995,436	13	€1,754,316
Tenant Purchase Loan/ Annuity	7	4	€234,740	1	€80,000
Recon-struction Loan	2	0	0	1	€6,150
Caravan Loan	1	1	€11,250	1	€7,500
Total	36	22	€2,241,426	16	€1,847,966

Housing Statistics for June, 2017

Number awaiting social housing support at 30th June , 2017 2,169

Number of assessment interviews carried out in June: 18

LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made): 16

Number of HAP tenancies to 30th June : 804

Number of LA tenancies surrendered: 7

Anti social behaviour cases: 13

New Homeless Presentations: 24

Maintenance Calls for June 2017 376

Maintenance Calls year to date 2527

No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction) 21

Amount of Loans Approved to 30th June, 2017 €1,995,436

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month of 2017 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 are set out below. There were 159 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/06/2017. Of the 159, 13 were couples and are counted as individual presentations.

Housing Adaptation Grants

Applications were invited for submission between 17th October 2016 to 25th November, 2016 and was later extended to 16th December 2016. 224 applications were received.

27 applications to a value of €177,678 were determined as **Emergency** and applicants were notified last week. Applicants still have documentation to supply.

148 applications were determined as Priority 1 to a value of €851,737 and successful applicants are

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	27
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	28
June	31	June	24
Total	176	Total	159

Inspections of Private Rented Accommodation

Table below outlines the inspections completed to date and gives a comparison with previous years.

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Private Rented Inspections	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
RAS	18	100	115	116	233
HAP	224	279	211	0	0
Private	5	35	11	228	2
Voluntary	132	0	35	37	0
Total	379	414	372	381	235

The target for 2017 is 790 and 49% is achieved to date.

Anti Social Behaviour Complaints

The number of complaints that were received and dealt with in the last three years is outlined below;

TYPE	2015	2016	1 st Jan to 20 th June 2017
Alcohol/Solvent Abuse	15	13	6
Boundary/Parking	5	1	0
Damage to property	6	10	3
Dogs	14	22	9
Drug Dealing	4	6	5
Noise	19	27	13
Rubbish/Maintenance	60	62	27
Threats/Intimidation	21	12	6
Violence	1	3	1
Other (horses)	11	10	6
TOTAL	156	166	76

PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total for Quarter 2 2016	Total for Quarter 2 2017
Planning Applications Received	233	224
Planning Applications Granted	189	213
Planning Applications Refused	12	11
Complaints Received	20	29
Warning Letters Issued	15	20
Enforcements Notices Issued	6	16

Forward Planning:

- The Draft Ferrybank/Belview LAP was published on the 9th June, 2017. Submissions will be accepted until the 4th August, 2017. A very successful Information Day was held on June 21st, 2017, in the Ferrybank Library, with approx. 30 people attending with queries about the Plan and process.
- The Council is capitalising on the successful applications under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund for the Western Environs, Kilkenny City and Aylesbury Park in Ferrybank. The Part 8 for the Park was published for display in June 2017 and the closing date for receipt of submissions was 7th July, 2017.
- Proposed Variation 3 to the City & Environs Development Plan commenced public display on the 2nd June, 2017, and finished on 30th June, 2017. A total of 11 submissions were received, and the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions is on the agenda of the July meeting.
- Work is continuing on the preparation of the Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan for publication through the statutory environmental



assessments and compilation of the written plan.

- The draft scheme for the Urban Design and public realm guidelines to facilitate development proposals along the Hebron road is being finalised by Loci Consultants, and will be published for public display in July 2017.
- Work is continuing on the “Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan” by Loci Consultants.
- A register has been established for the implementation of the Vacant Sites Levy as required under the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. Survey work is continuing for the Vacant Sites Register.

- 5 different tidy town events took place, 4 villages received a visit from a professional adjudicator and 1 tidy towns forum focusing on invasive weed species took place.
- Kilkenny County Council lent its support to the national Gum Litter Taskforce campaign in June.



Housing Developments:

6 Developments (179 units) have been taken in charge in Quarter 2 2017. This gives a total of 13 Developments to date this year (417 units).

Work is continuing to progress on a number of other developments around the County with a view to taking in charge before year end.



ENVIRONMENT

Education & Awareness Unit

- 2 anti litter murals were completed at Family Resource Centres (The Mill FRC, Urlingford & Millenium Court FRC, KK City).
- Over 100 groups participated in the National Spring Clean, the Council continues to assist groups throughout the summer.
- 23 schools received a green flag award from An Taisce in May.





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Ballyragget – Wednesday 17th May
Graignamanagh – Tuesday 13th June

Minister Coveney is encouraging all interested parties to provide feedback to the consultation process. It is critically important that the final plan reflects the best approach to protecting and restoring our water environment.



Draft River Basin Management Plan

A special meeting of SPC 5 took place on Thursday 1st June to discuss submissions on the draft River Basin Management Plan.

The public consultation on the draft River Basin Management Plan is co-ordinated through the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) promoting public participation in river basin planning and integrated catchment planning. The recently published draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) has a specific focus on improving public engagement on water. It recognises that raising public awareness of water as an environmental, social and economic resource is essential if we are to improve how we manage this valuable resource. Meaningful public and stakeholder engagement on the draft RBMP, on its implementation and on other water issues is vital to achieving our environmental objectives.

The public consultation is open up to 31st August. It provides an opportunity for local communities, Non-governmental organisations, public bodies and other stakeholders to make submissions on water quality issues.

Public meetings have taken place across County Kilkenny as follows:

Kilkenny City – Wednesday 3rd May
Thomastown – Thursday 4th May
Mooncoin – Monday 8th May



Graveyard Grant Scheme

This scheme is open to any Community Groups/Organisations involved in the management and maintenance of local graveyards. A total of 25 applications were received. 13 applications were approved for funding at the May 2017 Council Meeting (Round 1). A further 7 applications were approved at the June 2017 Council Meeting (Round 2). The total funding committed at this stage is €11,450. Some of the remaining applications required further



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information. They will be considered for Round 3 funding at the July Meeting.

Site Tour

Kilkenny County Council hosted a knowledge transfer tour of the authorised treatment facility operated by Michael Madden at Bonnettstown, Tullaroan Rd on 23rd June 2017. The tour was coordinated in conjunction with the southern WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority) and was attended by local Authority waste enforcement officers from Waterford, Tipperary, Cork and Limerick. The objective of the site tour was to give representatives from the various local authorities an understanding of the best available techniques and protocol in the acceptance, treatment and storage of End-of-life vehicles. The operating procedures, site infrastructure, pollution control and environmental performance measures at the facility were examined. The tour concluded with an open forum on the imminent challenges that face the sector in the treatment and recovery of end-of-life vehicles.

Q2 Statistics - Environment	
Inspection Type	
Complaints Investigated	173
Litter Patrols	93
Litter Fines issued	7
Waste Facility inspections	8
Discharge Licenses Premises	1
ELV Regulations – Unauthorised sites	1
Bring Bank Surveillance	18
Farm Inspections	69
Litter Qualification Surveys	34
Litter Pollution Surveys	11
ATM Surveys	3
Packaging – General	9
Regulation	
Planning Reports	
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	6

WEEE & Battery Regulations	14
Plastic Bag Regs	10
Monitoring	
Historic Landfill monitoring	2
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	56
Priority Site Monitoring	37
Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	124
Groundwater Monitoring	9
Monitoring for Water Services	180
Dust Monitoring	4
Bathing Waters (Non-designated)	10

WATER SERVICES

New wastewater treatment plants at Castlecomer, Urlingford and Stoneyford were officially opened by Minister Of State Mr. John Paul Phelan.

The plant in Castlecomer has a capacity of 2,500 population equivalent (PE), while Urlingford and Stoneyford have capacities of 1,500 and 600 PE, respectively. This increased treatment capacity will support the ongoing growth of these three villages, while also helping to protect the Nore and Barrow rivers and their tributaries. These projects were delivered as part of a €3.1 million project.

A further €2.6 million has been invested to upgrade the wastewater treatment at Freshford, Johnstown and Goresbridge.

The works were carried out by Response Engineering (now Ward & Burke Group) in partnership with Irish Water and Kilkenny County Council.

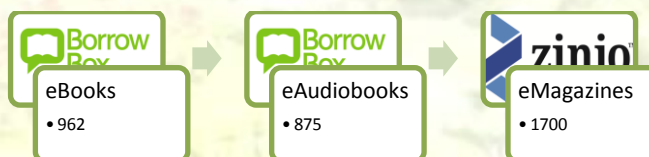
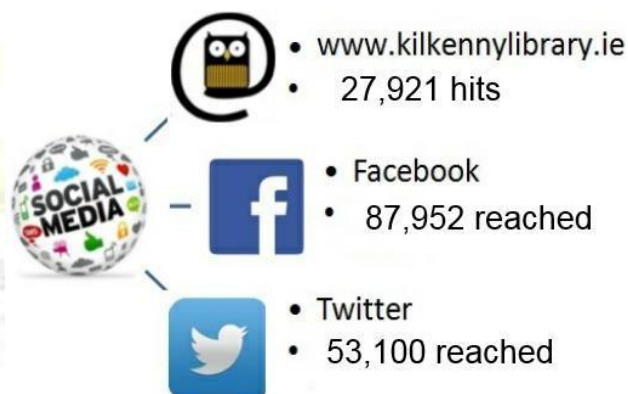


LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

MEASURE 1 UPDATE

- €368,973.50 approved to 19 projects, comprising 3 Feasibility/Innovation Grants; 6 Priming Grants and 10 Business Expansion Grants contributing to the direct creation of 29 jobs with associated projections for the creation of 85 jobs in the next 3 years;
- 19 Trading Online Vouchers approved totalling €40,847, enabling businesses to apply e-commerce to their business and trade online;
- 5 businesses have been assisted with applications for the Smart Options Loan scheme, in conjunction with St. Canice’s Credit Union;
- 5 business have been assisted with applications for Micro Finance Ireland, enabling them to access finance which they otherwise could not access;
- 202 one-to-one mentoring assignments have been allocated to businesses covering a range of topics, including finance, marketing and ICT;
- 231 people have availed of one to-one business advisory sessions with our dedicated Business Advisors;
- 7 business have been approved Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters grant assistance to enable them to look at export markets;
- 1 business has transferred to the Enterprise Ireland portfolio and as High Potential Start-up;
- 3 Outreach Clinics have taken place year to date, 2 in Graiguenamanagh Library and 1 in Ferrybank Library, enabling access to information for all parts of the County.

LIBRARY



EVENTS

Polish School Visit

Loughboy Staff member, Caitriona was invited recently to visit Kilkenny Polish School to speak to their 70 pupils about our library services and read some stories to them. This proved very successful, and we plan to work together with them in the future to build on community integration.

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

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Making a difference to people's lives: Driver Theory Test



Harry Potter 20th Anniversary celebrations

Our Library branches celebrated 20 years since the publication of Harry Potter & the Philosopher's Stone with a range of competitions and workshops for all ages.



**Appendix 1.
Kilkenny County Council**

Finance Report – July 2017.

The expenditure by service division for the six months to the end of June 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €35.8m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

Table 1	Actual YTD June 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	8,401	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	9,297	17,093
Water Services	3,028	6,778
Development Management	3,681	7,894
Environmental Services	4,440	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	2,893	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	316	798
Miscellaneous Services	3,785	6,661
Overall Total	35,841	70,165

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the six months to the end of June.

The total Commercial Rates collected is up by 4 per cent compared with the six months to June 2016. This would indicate that more account holders are availing of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets.

As part of the national revaluation programme of commercial properties the Valuation Office issued proposed Valuation Certificates during the month of May. Property owners had 40 days from the date notified on the proposed valuation certificate to make representations to the Valuation Manager. The closing date for making representations has now expired. Final valuation certificates will be issued in early September and the full listing will be published in the middle of September.

In advance of preparing the 2018 Budget for Kilkenny County Council the Elected Members are required to make a decision before the end of September 2017 on the issue of varying the basic rate of LPT up or down by a maximum of +/-15%. This is the first stage in the annual budgeting process. The impact of the maximum variation of +/- is +/-€1.1m. The value of every % variation is +/-€74k. For the last three budgets the Elected Members decided not to vary the basic rate of LPT. This resulted in there being no change to the level of income available to the Council for each of those years. Each year the Council faces significant funding challenges. A preliminary list of these issues for 2018 will be presented to the Elected Members in early September. It is too early at this stage to say what specific areas would be impacted in the event of a decision to vary the basic rate.