

# **Kilkenny County Council**

## **Annual Report 2016.**

# **Mission Statement**

**“ Kilkenny County Council aims to work in partnership with the  
People of Kilkenny and relevant agencies to deliver quality services  
and to promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development  
for current and future generations”**

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## **Statement of An Cathaoirleach.**

It is a great privilege to introduce the Annual Report for 2016. 2016 was a good year with progress made on many important developments. This report details the wide variety of services provided by Kilkenny County Council to the people of Kilkenny City and County. We, the Council, play a key role in providing essential core services such as housing, roads, water, fire and emergency services and in supporting local communities through the arts, heritage, conservation, libraries and community and enterprise functions.

This Council is intent on maximising Kilkenny's attractiveness as a centre of tourism excellence and is determined to take every opportunity to promote Kilkenny as a place within which to live, work or visit. Much progress was made on the Abbey Creative Quarter with planning in place before year end for the re-development of both the Mayfair and Brew-house Buildings and also the Linear Park. I look forward to seeing these projects progress and to see the Abbey Creative Quarter becoming a hub of economic activity, a place of employment to many, an additional experience for our visitors and a place to call home.

We the elected members have had the privilege of visiting St Marys Museum as a work in progress. I look forward to seeing the completed product, which in my view; will be an award winning addition to our tourism product in Kilkenny.

The re-instatement of the Town and Village Renewal scheme gave a much needed boost to the communities in Ballyhale, Piltown, Urlingford and Kells. In addition I welcome the initiative by the Office of Public Works to provide tourist guides at Kells Priory during the summer months.

I compliment all Elected Members and those who serve on the various committees and sub committees of the Council. They continuously dedicate themselves to the business of the Council and to representing their particular and general interests. The extensive range of business discussed and decided is outlined in the report and is testament to their ongoing dedication and service.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all the Council's staff for their work for the people of Kilkenny. I commend their commitment and dedication and we look forward to continued progress, working with all of the people of Kilkenny in making Kilkenny a better place to live in, work and visit.

Whilst we have come through very difficult times and many are still experiencing the consequences of the recession, there is a notable increase in economic activity, evidenced by the increase in planning applications, increase in tourist numbers. I think Kilkenny can look forward to 2017 when we will see many important projects complete and new ones commence.

**Cllr. Matt Doran**  
**Cathaoirleach.**

## Chief Executives Statement

I am pleased to be associated with this Draft Annual Report for 2016 which outlines the extensive range of services provided directly or indirectly by this Council. Within the main body of this report the various activities and delivery of services and infrastructure projects being progressed by Kilkenny County are outlined

I wish to draw attention to the following highlights:

- Plans progressed for the Abbey Creative Quarter, with planning now in place for the up-grade of both the Mayfair and Brew house buildings and for the Riverside Park.
- Plans progressed for the redevelopment of Evans Home as a home for the Butler Gallery and subject to budgets work should commence in 2017.
- The success of Kilkenny's Christmas festival "Yule fest" which gives a good base from which to build a quality festival of regional and national scale.
- Funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to deliver projects prioritised by communities in Urlingford, Ballyhale, Kells and Piltown.
- Successful applications under the CLAR Programme 2017 (CLAR -Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) will see €223,000 spent in the designated CLAR areas.
- Works continued on St Marys Museum which will be opened on Quarter 1 2017.
- Improved % Collection rate across all of our income sources.
- Plans progressed for a new fire station in Graiguenamanagh.
- The main tourist attractions in Kilkenny City and County are experiencing an increase in visitor numbers.
- The allocation of €125,000 to festivals in the City and County.
- Contract for the upgrade of the Callan Rd Realignment signed. Works to commence in Quarter 1 2017.
- Work progressed on the Central Access Scheme and Bridge, which is expected to be completed early in 2017.

There is a high level of commitment across all Departments to delivering the 2016 Service Delivery Plan and in furtherance of the Objectives of the Corporate Plan. Most areas met all of the stated objectives and where the level of achievement was less than 100% it will not have any impact on the Council meeting the objectives of its Corporate Plan. I am satisfied therefore that the Council substantially achieved the objectives as set out at the commencement of 2016 in the Service Delivery Plan and that it did so within the parameters set out in the 2016 budget.

At this juncture, I wish to pay tribute to the work being done at Municipal District level and at SPC level. These committees are invaluable in assisting the full Council in pursuing its objectives and getting through its business. The Commitment of the councillors and external members is evident from the activities outlined in the report. I express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Elected Members, my colleagues on the management team and the staff of the Council. I am confident, given the abilities and spirit of cooperation

that is consistently shown by the elected members and staff that we should be in a position to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We can look forward to a positive 2017.

Finally I would like to particularly thank the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Matt Doran and his predecessor Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, the Municipal District Cathaoirleach- Cllr's Pat Fitzpatrick and his predecessor Cllr Pat Millea, Cllr Ger Frisby and his predecessor Cllr Pat Dunphy and Mayor Pat O Neill and his predecessor Mayor Joe Malone, who have distinguished themselves in their respective roles. I commend this Annual Report and I am confident that it will give an overview to the people of Kilkenny and beyond, of the broad range of activities undertaken and of the Councils achievements in 2016.

**Colette Byrne**  
**Chief Executive**

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# Notable Achievements in 2016

## Economic Development

- Progression of the Abbey Creative Quarter-planning in place for Brewhouse and Mayfair buildings
- 26 Applications approved for financial assistance from the Local Enterprise Office with a potential of 49 new full time jobs
- 250 entrepreneurs participated in 62 core enterprise and training programmes
- 80 people completed a Start your Own Business programme
- 300 entrepreneurs availed of mentoring support
- 5650 students from 13 second levels schools participated in the Student Enterprise Programme
- 270 entrepreneurs attended the South East Bizfest Conference held in Kilkenny and organised by the Local Enterprise Offices of the South East
- 28 more Trading on Line Vouchers approved
- Resourcing of Kilkenny Civic Trust Ltd to ensure it plays a more significant role in Kilkenny
- Plans for improved access to Waterford Port development area

## Tourism

- A successful Yule Fest Christmas Festival was held
- Works continued at The Medieval Mile Museum at the former St Mary Church
- A number of Food Tourism initiative were arranged
- Kilkenny Tourism continues to be supported by the Council .It attended a number of trade shows and events which resulted in increased business for local hotels and business's
- €125,000 was provided in Festival and Event Grants
- Kilkenny Tourism website visits have increased by 33% to 417,000
- Increased numbers visiting a range of attractions including Kilkenny Castle, Smith wick Experience, St Canices Cathedral and Castlecomer Discovery Park

## Library Services

- Free Library membership
- Library Membership is up by 9% to 13,228
- Library visits are up by 4% to 296,901
- 30% increase in Children's participation in Summer Reading Literacy challenge.
- Provision of comprehensive programme of social, cultural , educational, literacy, wellbeing and digital events across all Branch Libraries

## **Community Development**

- Launch of Local Economic Community Plan
- €250,000 awarded to 8 groups under the Community and Cultural Grant Scheme
- Appointment of Public Participation Network (PPN) Development Worker
- Increase in Membership of the PPN by 13%
- 4 Community Workshops facilitated to develop 4 applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme-All applications were successful

## **Comhairle na nÓg**

- Launch of Mental Health School Flag Project
- Design and Production of Awareness DVD titled “Exploring the issues associated with Underage Drinking and Smoking”

## **Age Friendly**

- Launch of Kilkenny Age Friendly County Strategy 2017-2011
- Provision of 10 Age Friendly Car parking spaces in Kilkenny City
- Provision of computing and internet class in our Libraries
- Technology Tips for the Elderly” class provided in Loughboy Library by secondary level students

## **Roads and Transportation**

- Work commenced on the New Ross By Pass
- Pavement Improvement Works undertaken on the N78(Dunmore to Castlecomer) and at Conahy
- Significant progress on the Kilkenny Central Access Scheme and Bridge
- Six schemers completed under the low cost safety scheme
- Phase 2 of the scheme to provide 30kmph speed limits in housing estates undertaken
- Provision of minor flood relief works at numerous locations
- Callan Rd Realignment Contract signed

## **Fire and Emergency Response**

- Numerous Community Fire Safety events held including Fire Station Open days, Communities Groups talks
- 60 Home Fire Safety visits
- The Primary Schools programme delivered to 1300 primary school children
- Review of Major Emergency Plan and the Flood Emergency Plan
- Flood Emergency Response Plan activated in respect of severe flooding along Rivers Barrow, Nore and Suir catchments in December 2015 which remained in place for early January 2016



## **Civil Defence**

- People of the Year Courage Award for Kilkenny Civil Defence
- 15 Volunteers presented with Training Certificates

## **Corporate**

- Departmental approval to the Councils workforce plan and the commencement of recruitment
- An increase of 9 % in the Councils website activity. Face book followers increased by 36% and Twitter by 16%.

## **Parks and Amenity**

- Maintenance and support for 26 playgrounds in the City and County
- Plans progressed on the on neighbourhood park at Ferrybank
- 120 groups availed of Amenity Grants
- 35,000 visitors to Woodstock Gardens

## **Planning and Development**

- The sum of €147,000 paid in Build Heritage and Structures at Risk fund Grants
- Completion of conservation works on the Tea House on Bateman Quay
- Evans Turret and wall walk consolidated and made safe
- 17 Housing Estates taking in charge

## **Heritage**

- An extensive programme of events to commemorate 1916
- Launch of new Kilkenny Heritage Face book page
- Completion of the Kilkenny Field Name Recording Project
- 77 events held during Heritage week
- Distribution of 400 “Kilkenny Heritage News” Ezine

## **Arts**

- Provision of an ongoing programme of literary developments, community educational and inclusion initiatives including Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet, Annual Writing workshops, Open Circle Community Arts Collective, Culture Night, Arts Links and the Arts Acts Grant Scheme
- Issue of fortnightly e-bulletins to 1600 people
- Kilkenny Arts Office currently has 1447 likes on Face book and 1,992 followers on Twitter.

## **Housing and Estate Management**

- Annual Pride of Place Awards to Stoneyford Development Association and Piltown Community Enterprise
- Support for 47 Resident Associations-€100,000 grants paid
- Issue of interactive e magazine for community groups
- Tidy Estates competition -€6,000 in prizes
- 4 Large Scale Community Enhancement projects undertaken
- 53 sales agreed under the Social Housing Investment Programme
- 18 new builds provided,12 Voluntary houses built
- 551 properties now in the Rental Accommodation Scheme
- 414 private rented inspections -an increase of 9%
- 15 Voluntary Bodies approved for funding to provide 100 units of accommodation under the Capital Assistance Scheme
- Phase 2 of St Catherine's Group Housing Scheme completed
- 4124 repairs completed
- 89 houses, that became vacant, were refurbished and re let
- 17 Council houses adapted to meet the needs of disabled and to address overcrowding
- 68 Adaptation Grants paid to the value of €699,300
- 197 Housing Aid for Elderly grants paid totalling €999,155
- 36 Mobility Aid grants paid totalling €176,470

## **Water Services**

- Management and maintenance of 23 public drinking water supplies and 35 wastewater treatment schemes on behalf of Irish Water
- 9.7 billion litres of water supplied
- 100% compliance with microbiological compliance
- 99.8% compliance with chemical parameters
- Completion of Outrath Reservoir
- Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Plants at Freshford, Goresbridge, and Johnstown
- Water Mains replacement at Carrigeen, Ballygriffin, Owing and Belline
- Upgrading of Market Yard pumping Station in Kilkenny City
- €184,000 funding for Group Water schemes

## **Environment**

- Awarded a gold medal in the National Tidy Towns competition to Kilkenny City, Inistioge retained their silver medal and Tullahought received a silver medal for the first time, having won bronze in recent years

- 120 Community groups involved in National Spring Clean
- 71 schools fly a green flag for the environmental education programme
- Local Authorities Water and Communities Office (LAWCO) is a partner with other agencies in the operation of the website **catchments.ie: Water from Source to Sea**. The website was a winner in the 2016 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards in the Excellence in Innovation Category
- Ongoing provision of lifeguard service supervising over 2,000 swimmers in public bathing areas in the County
- Kilkenny County Council won the Public Sector Magazine “Excellence in Business Awards” under the category Waste Management Services in December 2016

# 1. Kilkenny County Council

## 1.1 Elected Members

Kilkenny County Council's membership consists of twenty four members, elected for a five year term of office. The current Council was elected in May 2014 and membership at 31 December 2016 is as follows:

### **Municipal District of Castlecomer**

MARY HILDA CAVANAGH (FG) Whiteswall, Crosspatrick, Via Thurles, Co Kilkenny

PATRICK MILLEA (FF) Gaulstown, Tullaroan, Co Kilkenny

MAURICE SHORTALL (LAB) 42 Maryville, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

JOHN BRENNAN (FG) Crutt, Clogh, Castlecomer

MICHAEL McCARTHY (FF) Buncrusha Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.

### **Municipal District of Kilkenny City East**

ANDREW McGUINNESS(FF) Constituency Office,O' Loughlin Road, Kilkenny.

PETER CLEERE (FF) Aughiletuan, Skeoughvosteen, Co. Kilkenny.

MICHAEL DOYLE (FG) Ballinbarna, The Rower, Co. Kilkenny.

PATRICK O' NEILL (FG) Ballyredding, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.

BREDA GARDNER (NON PARTY) Cloghabrody, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

DAVID KENNEDY (SINN FEIN) Ballyvool, Inistioge,Co. Kilkenny.

### **Municipal District of Kilkenny City West.**

MATT DORAN ( FF) Shrugawadda, Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny.

JOE MALONE (FF) 11 Maiden Hill, Kells Road, Kilkenny.

MALCOLM NOONAN (GREEN PARTY) 38 Cedarwood Drive, Kilkenny

PATRICK MCKEE (NON PARTY) 48 St. Fiacre's Place, Kilkenny.

DAVID FITZGERALD (FG) 24 Patrick Street, Kilkenny.

SEAN TYRRELL (SF) 31 Cypress Grove, Loughboy, Kilkenny

### **Municipal District of Piltown**

MELISSA O’NEILL (SF) 40 Abbeylands, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny.

PAT DUNPHY (FG) Ballygorey, Mooncoin, Co Kilkenny

FIDELIS DOHERTY(FG) Ballyfacey, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny.

EAMON AYLWARD (FF) Ballynooney, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny.

TOMÁS BREATHNACH, (LAB) Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.

GER FRISBY (FF) Treanaree, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny.

## **1.2 Management Structure**

The Council’s Management Structure changed in 2016. Ms Maria Melia Director of Services resigned and the Council welcomed Mr Tim Butler as Director of Services.

The Councils Management Structure is:

<b>Colette Byrne- Chief Executive</b>			
<b>Martin Prendiville Head of Finance</b>	<b>Mary J Mulholland Director of Services</b>	<b>Tim Butler Director of Services</b>	<b>Mr Simon Walton Acting Director of Services</b>

## **1.3 Committees and Subsidiary Bodies**

There is a legal obligation on Local Authorities to establish certain Committees such as Strategic Policy Committees. Local Authorities have discretionary authority to establish other Committees to assist them in performing their roles as elected members.

### **Strategic Policy Committees.**

Kilkenny County Council has developed a Strategic Policy Committee Scheme to parallel the lifespan of the newly elected Council, 2014 to 2019. The role of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC’s) is to assist the Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. Their composition reflect the major functions of the Council within the broader context, are tailored to the size, membership and administrative resources of the Council and have one third of their membership drawn from sectors relevant to the committees’ work. The SPC’s bring together both elected members, and people actively working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies to develop and review policies related to council services. The SPCs provide elected members with external views as they discharge their strategic role in the development of the local authority, including their policy development and oversight roles within the local authority.

**The overall configuration and membership of the Kilkenny County Councils Strategic Policies in 2016 was as follows**

<p><b>SPC 1:</b></p> <p><b>Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism</b></p>	<p><b>Elected Members :</b></p> <p>(7)</p> <p>Pat Millea</p> <p>Pat Fitzpatrick</p> <p>Peter Cleere</p> <p>Patrick McKee</p> <p>Patrick O' Neill</p> <p>Michael Doyle</p> <p>Tomas Breathnach</p>	<p><b>6 Members from External Sectors:-</b></p> <p>Agriculture/Farming – <b>John Bambrick(IFA)</b></p> <p>Development/Construction – <b>Mark Kennedy(Chambers Ireland)</b></p> <p>Environment/Conservation – <b>Charles Wani (Kilkenny Cycling and Walking Campaign)</b></p> <p>Trade Union- <b>Phil Funchion(ICTU)</b></p> <p>Social Inclusion – <b>Teresa Delahunty (Immigrant Services)</b></p>
<p><b>SPC 2:</b></p> <p><b>Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services</b></p>	<p><b>Elected Members:</b></p> <p>(7)</p> <p>Matt Doran</p> <p>Eamon Aylward</p> <p>Michael McCarthy</p> <p>Fidelis Doherty</p> <p>Michael Doyle</p> <p>Kathleen Funchion</p> <p>Tomas Breathnach</p>	<p><b>6 Members from External Sectors:-</b>Agriculture/Farming – <b>Michael Rice (IFA)</b></p> <p>Business/Commercial- <b>Gary Graham (Chambers Ireland)</b></p> <p>Development/Construction – <b>Barry Lynch (Chambers Ireland)</b></p> <p>Community and Voluntary – <b>Billy Walsh (Ferrybank Community Development Residents Groups)</b></p> <p>Social Inclusion – <b>Mairead Phelan (Older Peoples Forum)</b></p> <p>Trade Union- <b>Patrick Kavanagh (ICTU)</b></p>
<p><b>SPC 3:</b></p> <p><b>Planning and Development Policy, Heritage, Community, Arts and Culture</b></p>	<p><b>Elected Members:</b></p> <p>(7)</p> <p>Patrick McKee</p> <p>Pat Fitzpatrick</p> <p>Pat Dunphy</p> <p>David Kennedy</p> <p>Malcolm Noonan</p> <p>John Brennan</p> <p>Andrew McGuinness</p>	<p><b>6 Members from External Sectors:-</b></p> <p>Development/Construction- <b>Denis Carroll (Chambers Ireland)</b></p> <p>Agriculture/Farming – <b>Paul O' Brien (IFA)</b></p> <p>Environment/Conservation – <b>Mary Brennan (An Taisce)</b></p> <p>Community/Voluntary- <b>John Bourke, Martin Brennan</b></p> <p>Business/Commercial- <b>John Hurley(Chambers Ireland)</b></p> <p>Social Inclusion – <b>Pamela Mansell (SOSKilkenny)</b></p>

<b>SPC 4:</b>  <b>Housing</b>	<b>Elected Members</b>  <b>(6)</b>  Andrew McGuinness  Joe Malone  Michael McCarthy  Melissa O' Neill  Fidelis Doherty  Patrick O' Neill	<b>5 Members from External Sectors:</b>  Environment/Conservation – <b>Declan Murphy (An Taisce)</b>  Development/Construction – <b>Brian Dunlop (Chambers Ireland)</b>  Trade Union – <b>Yvonne Moriarty (ICTU)</b>  Community and Voluntary – <b>Mary Egan</b>  Social Inclusion – <b>Margaret Leahy (Older Peoples Forum)</b>
<b>SPC 5:</b>  <b>Environmental Protection, Water Services and Energy</b>	<b>Elected Members</b>  <b>(6)</b>  Ger Frisby  Joe Malone  Pat Dunphy  John Brennan  Breda Gardner  Maurice Shortall	<b>5 Members from External Sectors</b>  Agriculture/Farming – <b>James Murphy (IFA)</b>  Business/Commercial- <b>Owen Sweeney (Chambers Ireland)</b>  Environment/Conservation – <b>Sadhbh O' Neill (Kilkenny Local Environment Network)</b>  Community and Voluntary (PPN) <b>Shem Caulfield</b>  Development/Construction – <b>Clare Murray (Chambers Ireland)</b>

## 1.4 Meetings of the Council

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

### No of Plenary Meetings held in 2016 - 15

#### Main issues discussed/decided

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- Election of Committees and Cub Committees
- Adoption of Budget
- Annual Financial Statement 2015
- Audit Charter, Annual Audit Committee report
- Local Government Auditor Report 2015
- Annual Report 2015
- Service Delivery Plans
- Chief Executive's Monthly Report
- Update on Waterford Boundary Committee
- Housing and other Disposals

- Road Grant Allocations and Road Works Programme
- Speed Limit Review
- Winter Maintenance Plan 2016/2017
- Kilkenny Central Access Scheme Update
- Part 8 reports for various projects
- Section 85 Agreements with other Local Authorities
- Variations to County and City Development Plans
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- 2016 Commemoration
- Abbey Quarter Update
- Waterford to New Ross Greenway
- Allocation for Arts and Festival Grants ,Amenity Grants, and Cultural Support Grants
- Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2015-2017

#### **Presentations made by External Groups**

- Department of Defence
- OPW

## **1.5 Meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Structures**

### **Strategic Policy Committees**

#### **SPC1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Supports and Tourism**

**Number of Meetings held in 2016: 4**

#### **Main Policy Issues considered:**

- Adoption and Monitoring of the economic elements of the LECP Annual Action Plan 2016 – 2017 (49 in total)
- Adoption and Monitoring of the delivery of the LEO Local Enterprise Development Plan for 2016, on behalf of the Council (as per SLA with Enterprise Ireland)
- Nominations to the LECP Advisory Group
- Abbey Creative Quarter
- Failte Ireland’s National Tourism Policy - PEOPLE, PLACE AND POLICY: GROWING TOURISM TO 2025
- Small Business Rate Incentive Scheme
- Vacant Premises Incentive Scheme
- South East Action Plan for Jobs Initiative

### **SPC 2 Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services**

**No of Meetings Held 4**

**Main Policy Issues considered**



- Flooding
- Speed Limits
- Bus Routes/Rural Transport
- Bus Shelters
- Fire Safety Regulations
- Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020
- Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2015-2020.
- Greenways
- Pilot Community Flood Resilience Projects - Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)
- Rural Broadband

### **SPC 3: Planning and Development, Heritage, Community, Arts and Culture-**

**No of Meetings Held 4**

**Policy issues considered:**

1. Callan Local Area Plan
2. Proposed variation to County Development Plans
3. Shop Fronts and Advertising Signs
4. Draft Development Contribution Scheme (Amendment)
5. Vacant Site Levy
6. Solar Farms
7. Building Control
8. National Taking in Charge Initiative
9. Town and Village Renewal
10. Estate Management and Community Information Interactive e-newsletter
11. Estate Management Grant Scheme
12. Heritage Plan
13. Audits of memorials and signs in Co. Kilkenny
14. Library Service 2015/2016
15. National/Regional Cultural Policy – Culture 2025
16. Three Sisters European Capital of Culture (ECOC) Bid 2020

### **SPC 4: Housing**

The SPC Committee report for 2016 is as follows:

**Number of Meeting Held 5**

**Main Policy issues considered:**

- Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme

- Private Grants 2015
- Housing Annual Report 2015
- Homeless Services
- Community and Estate Management
- Service Delivery Plan 2015-2016
- Department Allocations 2016
- Acquisitions Policy
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Presentation by Irish Council for Social Housing
- Housing Needs Assessments 2016
- Housing Voids
- Housing Report 2016
- Traveller Accommodation Programme 14-18

## **SPC5 Environmental Protection, Water Services and Energy**

**Number of Meetings: 4**

### **Main Policy issues considered:**

1. Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan
2. Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2017-2021
3. Litter Bin Survey (Update from previous SPC meeting)
4. Household Waste Management Developments 2016
  - a. Roll out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> bin for food waste
  - b. Introduction of Pay by weight in July.
5. Information on the Grave Yards Grants
6. Pay By Weight
  - a. How it will operate and its impact on householders
  - b. The Regional Awareness Campaign Schedule
7. Waste Management Update
  - a. Pay By Weight – Current Status
  - b. The current and future status of pre-paid refuse and recycling bags in Co. Kilkenny
  - c. The roll out of the third bin for food waste
8. Dog Control and Animal Welfare
9. Burial Grounds - Report update on Improvement Works and Burial Ground Grant
10. Public Consultation on National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022
11. Sustainable Energy Action Plan
12. Waste Management for Householders Update on Recent Development

### **Municipal District of Castlecomer**

**No. of meetings held in 2016**

12

## **Main issues discussed and decided**

- Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach
- General Municipal Allocation and Multi Annual Allocation
- Adoption of Draft Schedule of Municipal Works including Draft Road Works Scheme
- Budge 2017
- Taking-in charge status of housing development
- Incremental tenant purchase scheme
- Public Lighting
- Derelict Sites
- Bring Banks
- Severe Weather Funding
- Speed Limit Review
- Temporary Signage Policy
- Housing Strategy 2015 – 2017
- Community and Estate Management Newsletter
- Community Involvement in Road Works Scheme
- Public Participation Network
- Parks Department – Areas of Responsibility
- Hedge Cutting and Dangerous Trees
- Road Works Programme - Progress Reports and Roads Issues
- Exemption process for continuation of pre paid refuse and recycling bags for householders in 2017
- CLAR Programme 2017 (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)
- Repair to Lease Scheme
- Winter Maintenance Programme
- Gateway Scheme
- Local Authorities Water and Communities Office (LAWCO)
- Nomination to Committee on Naming of Structures
- Castlecomer Local Area Plan
- Upgrade of Waste Water Infrastructure for Clogh / Moneenroe
- Galmoy Rural Water Scheme

## **Municipal District of Kilkenny City**

**No. of meetings held in 2016     15**

## **Main issues discussed and decided**

- Adoption of Schedule of Municipal Works.
- Twinning Arrangements with Malbork, Poland and Formigine, Italy
- Road Works Scheme 2016
- Development at Fairgreen, Callan.
- Funding of St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kilkenny.

- Unveiling of Hurling Monument – Kilkenny City.
- Formation of Woodstock Steering Committee.
- Housing and Planning Quarterly Reports.
- Review of Kilkenny County Council’s Programme of Speed Limits.
- Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Municipal District of Kilkenny City.
- Location of proposed World War 1 War Memorial.
- Proposed refurbishment of Greensbridge, Kilkenny.
- Presentations from Residents Associations, Public Participation Network and other organisations.
- Public Lighting Schemes in Rural Areas.
- Traffic Management Plan – Kilkenny City.
- Tidy Towns Report 2016.
- Declaration of Road at Well Lane, Graiguenamanagh, as Public Road.
- Nomination to Committee on Naming Structures.
- Rural Economic Development Zone – 2016 Funding.
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme – 2016 Funding.
- Adoption of Draft Budget Plan 2017.

Presentations were made at the Meetings by the following groups during the year:

- St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee.
- Presentation on Community eNewsletter.
- Fairview Residents Association, Graiguenamanagh.
- Presentation by Public Participation Network Development Officer.
- Smarter Travel Update – Active Travel Officer

### **Mayor’s Civic Events:**

28<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 1916 Commemoration Event in County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny. Unveiling of Proclamation, Remembrance Service and Flag Raising Ceremony.



3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 Ministerial Review of Troops prior to their departure to the Lebanon.



19<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 Deputy Mayor - Grant Awards Presentation Night for recipients of Festival and Events Grants 2016.



20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 Mayoral Election – Cllr. Patrick O’Neill, Mayor and Cllr. Michael Doyle, Deputy Mayor.

14<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 Battle of the Somme Remembrance Service at Courthouse, Parliament Street, Kilkenny.

19<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 Reception for Visitors from Newfoundland for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ireland Newfoundland Festival.

1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 Civic Reception for Presentation Secondary Choir and their Chorale Director, Veronica McCarron.



6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 Civic Reception for Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny.



29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 Reception for International Visitors to Connollys Red Mills.

28<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 Signing of Pre-Twinning Agreement with Malbork, Poland, at City Hall.



26<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 Turning on of Christmas Lights in Kilkenny City.

## **Municipal District of Piltown**

**No. of meetings held: 24** including joint meetings with:

**New Ross Municipal District: 1**

**Waterford Metropolitan District: 3**

## **Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District: 2**

### **Summary of issues discussed and decided during 2016:-**

- Roadwork's Programme, Winter Maintenance and Roads Issues
- Restoration Improvement Plan 2016-2018
- Flooding in South Kilkenny
- Emergency Funding for Flooding
- Flood Relief Works
- Local Fund Allocation
- Schedule and Adoption of Municipal District Works
- N24 Piltown Bypass
- N25 New Ross Bypass
- Safety at Roundabouts and Junctions
- Pedestrian Facilities at Slieverue Roundabout
- Housing Developments / Unfinished Estates / Taking in Charge
- Homeless
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016
- Waterford Boundary Review
- Waterford to New Ross Greenway
- European Capital of Culture 2020
- Ferrybank Shopping Centre
- Ferrybank Local Area Plan
- Local Economic and Community Plan
- Ferrybank Playground
- Naming of Infrastructure
- Provision of Public Lighting
- Water mains and Water Schemes
- Public Participation Network
- Recycling Facilities – Newrath and Rosbercon
- Black Bag Collections
- Littering on National Routes
- Knockroe/Ahenny – Wind Turbines Proposal
- Sallypark Enhancement
- Active Travel Plan
- Communications with TII and other semi-state bodies
- Speed Limit Review
- Speed Limit Signage and Speed Cameras
- Over Road Bridges
- Suir Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)
- CLÁR funding (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais)
- Abbey Road Junction and Traffic Lights
- Signage on N24, N25 and M9
- Traffic Management
- Policing Issues (Gardaí in attendance)
- Speeding in Fiddown and Owinging Village

- Traffic Surveys
- M9 issues at Garrandarragh, Mullinavat
- Bus Stop – Glenmore and Ard Daire
- Burial Grounds
- Parking issues
- Community Involvement in Roadwork’s Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes
- Taking in charge – O’Connor’s Lane and Clonconey Lane
- Staffing
- Former Council Offices at Newrath
- Kilkenny Alerts
- Poulanassa Waterfall
- Air Pollution
- Election Signage
- Newmarket Village

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit committee is a statutory sub-committee of the Council. It produces an annual report for the Council regarding its work and the management controls of the Council. It meets the Chief Executive and Head of Finance at least once every year and meets the Local Government Auditor every year. It considers financial reports at every meeting.

The Audit Committee has a duty to review with management and the internal auditor the charter, activities, staffing and organisational structure of the internal audit function, its compliance with relevant professional standards and bring any recommendations to the attention of the Chief Executive. The Audit Committee must approve the audit plan and monitor its implementation, review audit reports, findings and recommendations and management responses. This oversight by the Audit Committee adds further weight to the Corporate Governance function of Internal Audit.

**No of Meetings** 4

### **Main Issues considered**

- Housing Assistance Payments,
- Banking Controls Internet Banking,
- Ethics Register
- Irish Water Recoupment’s.
- Presentations by Directors of Services on their areas of responsibility to include the identification and mitigation of risks.
- Presentation on the Councils Risk Register.

## **Joint Policing Committee.**

**No of Meetings held** 2

**Main Issues considered.**



- Hierarchy of Plans that the Joint Policing Committee must feed into.
  - Road Safety Strategy.
  - County Speed Limit Review.
  - The Policing Authority – Submission for Draft Strategy Statement.
  - Presentation by Colin Keating, Co-Coordinator Health Services Executive (HSE) Substance Misuse Services.
  - Presentation by Mr. Tom King, Tenant Liaison Officer, Kilkenny County Council.
  - The Policing Plan.
-

2

Services

## **2.1 Roads, Transportation, Parks, Fire and Emergency Planning, and Corporate Services.**

### **Services provided under this Directorate:**

Corporate Services (including Boundary Commission response, Elected Members support, administrative support to Meetings of the Council and to its Committees).

Roads and Transportation

Road Safety

Parks and Amenities

Fire Services

Emergency Management

Civil Defence

Human Resources

Health and Safety

Internal Audit

Information Technology

### **Corporate Services**

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the provision and management of a broad range of services, which include Elected Member support and administration, County Council Meetings, Building and Facilities Management, Register of Electors and Insurances. Included under this heading is a summary of the Councils response to the Waterford Boundary Committee.

#### **Waterford Boundary Committee**

Following on from the establishment by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government of the Waterford Boundary Committee, in June 2015, Kilkenny County Council set up a Steering Group to lead the response from Kilkenny. This committee met a number of times in 2015 and again in 2016 to prepare Kilkenny County Councils submission to the Review process.

The public consultation period which started in November 2015 closed on Friday 15th of January. There was considerable public interest from the people of Kilkenny and was evident by local press coverage and the airing of a special KCLR96FM broadcast on the Boundary Review from The Rhu Glenn Hotel in Slieverue, Co Kilkenny. In excess of 19,000 public

submissions were received by the submission deadline and these were subsequently forwarded to the Waterford Boundary Committee Secretariat in Waterford.

Kilkenny County Council reassigned their Senior Planner late in 2015 to work full time on preparing its submission. A considerable effort was put in throughout the first few months of 2016 by the Senior Management Team, by Elected Members and support staff to prepare a comprehensive submission from Kilkenny County Council which was delivered to the Waterford Boundary Committee in January 2016. Following publication of the Waterford City and Council submission to the Waterford Boundary Committee, the Steering Group prepared a detail response to the Waterford submission and this was sent to the Boundary Review Committee by the Cathaoirleach for their consideration.

Further information requests were received by the Senior Management Team from the Boundary Committee throughout February and March and these were responded to as per the Boundary Committees timelines. The public submissions and the submissions of Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City and County Council were published on the Waterford Boundary Review Web site [www.waterfordboundaryreview.ie](http://www.waterfordboundaryreview.ie). The web site notes that 19,131 submissions were received by the Waterford Boundary Committee by the deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

The Boundary Committee met the Elected Members of the Steering Group on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and then with the Senior Management Team. Some Supplementary queries received in early April 2016 were responded to by mid April 2016. In May 2016 Kilkenny County Council was advised by the Boundary Committee that work on the recommendation of the committee was ongoing and was awaited throughout the rest of 2016.

The Report of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, dated December 2016 was finally published on Wed 8th February 2017.

## **Register of Electors**

The Annual Register is published on 1<sup>st</sup> February each year and is a list of all persons aged 18 years or over, resident in the State, who are entitled to vote in Elections to the Dail, European Assembly, Presidential, Local Elections and Referenda.

Following the acceptance by the Minister of the recommendations of the Local Authority Boundary Commission Kilkenny Borough Council was abolished in 2014 and the membership of the County Council was reduced from 26 to 24 members which included a reduction in Electoral Areas from 5 to 4 each comprising 6 members as follows: Castlecomer, Kilkenny City East, Kilkenny City West, and Piltown.

The Register of Electors is as follows:

<b>Local Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number of Electors</b>
<b>Castlecomer</b>	<b>18,174</b>
<b>Kilkenny City West</b>	<b>17,516</b>
<b>Kilkenny City East</b>	<b>18,145</b>
<b>Piltown</b>	<b>18,038</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,873</b>

The Register is available in Post Offices, Libraries and Garda Stations which provides people with the opportunity to check if they are on it.  
 A website is also available for this purpose [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie).

## Communications and Social Media

The Council communicates its message through a number of outlets including newspapers, radio and social media. Social Media is playing a growing importance in the Councils communications.

The Council directly manages 15 websites, in addition to overseeing a number of externally provided sites and services

The cumulative number of page views for the Council's websites in 2016 was 2,492,663.

The total number of Face book followers across all of the Council's Face book accounts is 24,531 an increase of 36% on 2016 figure of 18,017.

The total number of Twitter followers across all of the Council's Twitter accounts is 19,996 an increase of 16% on 2015 figure of 17,230.

A breakdown of activity was as follows:

<b>Websites Page views 1/1/16-31/12/16</b>	
<b>kilkennycoco.ie</b>	<b>1,108,658</b>
<b>visitkilkenny.ie</b>	<b>1,032,563</b>
<b>kilkenny.ie</b>	<b>155,373</b>
<b>kilkennylibrary.ie</b>	<b>122,892</b>
<b>kilkennycity.ie</b>	<b>37,653</b>
<b>kilkennyheritage.ie</b>	<b>15,470</b>
<b>investkilkenny.ie</b>	<b>9,131</b>
<b>kilkennyagefriendlycounty.ie</b>	<b>4,486</b>
<b>kmhp.ie</b>	<b>5,202</b>
<b>rhymmerag.net</b>	<b>1,235</b>
	<b>2,492,663</b>

<b>Face book</b>	<b>followers/likes</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Main County Council</b>	<b>1,695</b>
<b>Kilkenny Heritage</b>	<b>2,150</b>
<b>Environmental Awareness</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Invest Kilkenny</b>	<b>222</b>

**Dunmore Recycling** 182

24,531

### **Twitter**

**Kilkenny** 6,754

**Visit Kilkenny** 4,731

**Kilkenny Notices** 3,358

**Kilkenny Arts Office** 2,132

**Invest Kilkenny** 1,630

**Kilkenny Library** 1,391

19,996

### **Bizlocator**

Bizlocator Tourism kiosks, which were part funded by Kilkenny County Council, are installed at various venues across Kilkenny. Bizlocator is a privately owned Kilkenny Company which has developed an app with a tourism function. The app is used by visitors to obtain information on tourism venues around Kilkenny. The kiosks are typically installed in hotel foyers, but are also in venues like Jerpoint Abbey, Nicholas Mosse's, the Watershed, and Castlecomer Demense.

The total number of visits /uses on the Bizlocator app for 2016 was 410,414.

### **Kilkenny Alerts**

Kilkenny County Council offers a FREE text message and email alert service called Kilkenny Alerts, which notifies registered customers of Water Outages, Planning Applications, Road Closures, Floods events and Severe Weather incidents. Registration at <http://alerts.kilkennycoco.ie> requires the user to supply their mobile number, email address, home and work locations. Kilkenny Alerts then delivers alerts that are relevant to the user.

Kilkenny Alerts has almost 1,500 registered users and since its launch in May 2016 it has issued over 230 alerts.

## Roads and Transportation

### Non- National Road Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programme 2016

Under this programme 43km's of non-national road network were reconstructed across the county along with a further 15km's reconstructed under the Severe Weather and Discretionary Improvement allocations, given a total of 58km's reconstructed in 2016.

Similarly, under the Non- National Road Maintenance Programme approximately 54km's of non-national road network was surface dressed during 2016.

Also in 2016 approximately 9.0km's of the National Road network had improvement works carried out by way of road restoration / reconstruction projects. These projects were located on the N78 Dunmore East to Corbett town, Damerstown West to Ballycomy and The Square, Castlecomer, the N77 at Conahy and the N76 at Kilbride. Various other drainage, road marking, signage and delineation projects were also completed across the National Network.

When the Elected Members adopted the 2016 Roadwork's Scheme for County Kilkenny in March 2016 the total value of Maintenance and Improvement Schemes amounted to €22,443,046 million. Over and above the amounts approved in the 2016 Roadwork's Scheme, Kilkenny County Council secured an additional €0.5 million for maintenance and improvement works on the National and Non-National Network.

### Roads Capital Projects and Improvements

#### Major Projects

##### *a) N25 New Ross By-pass*

Works commenced on site in February 2016. Quarterly project newsletters are published and circulated widely at public buildings and local conveniences and a dedicated project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) has been set-up and provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works.



Barrow Bridge - Temporary Impermeable Working Area for Pier 4

Piling Works at Pier 3 at Pink Rock.

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

### **Pavement Improvement and Minor Works Programme**

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

#### ***a) N78 Pavement Improvement Scheme: 6.7km***

This project consisted of two separate sections of carriageway on the N78 .

-N78 Dunmore East to Corbettstown –This section consisted of a 4.85km structural pavement overlay along the N78 from just north of Hennebry’s Cross to a point south of the Cave Bar.

-N78 Damerstown West to Ballycomy - Works along this section of the N78 consisted of a 1.85km pavement overlay from Damerstown West to a point just north of the Deen River bridge crossing and just south of Castlecomer.

Works commenced in early August and were completed at the end of September 2016.

#### ***b) N77 Conahy Pavement Improvement Scheme: 1.6km***

The Council obtained approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to extend the original scheme northwards towards Ballyragget village in May 2016.Works on this scheme were completed in October 2016.

#### ***c) N76 Callan Road Realignment: 4.38km***

The N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme extends 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 and road realignment. The contract was awarded in December 2016.Works are expected to commence in early 2017 with contract duration of 18 months.

#### ***d) N24 Carrick Road Improvement Minor Works Scheme***

The N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme extends from the speed limits in Mooncoin Village to the start of the N24 Piltown 2+1 Scheme at Clonmore. The proposed scheme will involve the widening and realignment of the existing road. A Preliminary Appraisal Report will be prepared early in 2017 for this scheme which will be submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in a bid to advance this project.

#### ***e) N78 Castlecomer Village Overlay Scheme***

The tender for this contract was awarded in October 2016. The works provided for the resurfacing of The Square from the pedestrian crossing on Kilkenny Street to the bridge over the Dinin River. The works were undertaken at night to minimise disruption to the local community and travelling public.



**f) N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee Minor Works Scheme**

The section of N77 between Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee will involve the widening of the existing carriageway, a structural overlay of the existing pavement, drainage improvements, setting back of roadside boundaries, service alterations and other associated works. Planning and design work was undertaken in 2016 and preliminary appraisal report will be prepared 2017 for this scheme which will be submitted for approval to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Other key Infrastructure Improvement Schemes advanced during 2016 included:-

**a) Kilkenny Central Access Scheme**

Phase 1 of the scheme incorporating primarily the construction of the new Central Access Scheme Bridge over the river Nore was substantially completed by the appointed contractor, in July of 2016.

Phase Two of the scheme provides for the construction of the Central Access Scheme roadway from the west side of the new bridge to St. Canice's Place, and from the east side of the bridge to the Castlecomer Road, including the widening of the existing Castlecomer Road, and the reconfiguration of the existing New Road roundabout. The Phase 2 contractor, commenced site works on March 2016, and it is expected that all Phase 2 works will be completed in March 2017.

A separate contract for the bridge lighting was tendered in late 2016. The completion date for the lighting works is expected to tie in with the Phase 2 works; therefore, it is projected that the fully completed scheme will open to traffic in May 2017.

**b) Western Environs Road Infrastructure Scheme:**

The road infrastructure required to remove the impediment to enable the development of the Western Environs in Kilkenny City 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 for this scheme, under Part 8, was obtained in 2005. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the lands required was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala in June 2007.

In October 2016, the Council submitted an application to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, for funding to deliver this road. This application was submitted under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund and if successful the Council could be allocated 75% of the scheme cost. 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 and the delivery of 2 post primary schools. A decision on this application is expected in early 2017.

***c) Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme***

The Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme is targeted at locations along the non-national road network which have been identified as collision prone zones. The works carried out under this programme include improved junction delineation and visibility splays, traffic calming, enhanced roadside delineation and pedestrian crossing facilities within urban areas. In 2016 six schemes were completed under this programme at a cost of €225,000.



*R703 Mong Junction – Before*

*R703 Mong Junction –After*

**Kilkenny City Improvements 2016**

**Medieval Mile Phases 6 and 7**

The final Phases of the medieval Mile commenced in April and September 2016 and consisted of the repaving of the area outside the Bank of Ireland and at Dore’s Steps and the provision of pedestrian portals on High Street. The work included the removal and relocation of the loading bay outside the Bank of Ireland, the realignment of the pedestrian ramp at Dore’s corner and the provision of a new seating area outside the Bank of Ireland.

3 No new raised pedestrian portals were also provided on High St from James St to Dore’s corner, High St outside the Tholsel and at The Parade Junction as part of these works.





### **Relocation of St Canices Head.**

In conjunction with the final phases of the Medieval Mile, St Canices head monument was relocated to the paved area at Irishtown at the foot of St Canices Cathedral Steps.



### **Walkin St Improvements:**

As part of the 2016 Roads programme, Walkin St from its junction with Gaol Road to St Rioch's cemetery was realigned. This work included the removal of the footpath along the Closh side and the construction of a new footpath on the east side, road resurfacing and lining and the provision of a new pedestrian crossing at St Riochs cemetery. These works have



provided the public with a safe footpath to walk on and has also aided in reducing speeds on Walkin Street.



### **Bothernatounish Traffic Calming Scheme**

Works were completed on the Bothernatounish / Outrath junction in August 2016. Works included the construction of a new roundabout, Cycle lanes and footpaths, a new controlled pedestrian crossing on the Bothernatounish road, relocation of the existing pedestrian crossing on the Outrath road along with various traffic calming measures to facilitate this very busy junction and improve safety measures for students and cyclists attending An Goal Scoil, the Presentation School and public. The project has successfully improved traffic flow and reduced speeds along this route.

The project was carried out during the summer holidays and opened ahead of the students returning from Break.



### **Bleach Road**

Funding was secured for flood relief and drainage measures in Q1 of 2016 whereby various projects were undertaken around the city, one of which was the construction of a new retaining wall, flood gates, road reconstruction and safer swimming facilities on the Bleach road which runs along the river Nore. The project cost €150,000 and was completed in Q3 of

2016. This project has benefited the local community during the winter months to prevent flooding of the road which was impassable, as well as the benefit of improved swimming facilities during the summer months.



### **Road Safety**

The Council continues to fund this important function through road safety awareness, the school warden system and the support of community focussed road safety campaigns.

The Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2015 to 2020 was adopted by the Elected Members in July 2015. This Plan sets out a clear blueprint for progress in the area of road safety up to the end of 2020. The Plan is underpinned by a series of defined projects and actions across the core areas of intervention namely, Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Engagement. In all, the plan sets out 45 individual Projects with 54 Actions /Targets running up to 2020 and the relevant lead agencies are working to deliver same.

Kilkenny County Council and An Garda Síochána will continue to cooperate to ensure improvements in road safety in the county.

Phase 2 of the Councils programme of providing 30kph speeds limits in housing estates was completed in 2016. The works provided for the installation of the combined 30km/h Speed Limit and Slow Zone signage in approximately 400 residential areas across the City and County.

### **Public Lighting**

Kilkenny County Council maintains approximately 10,000 public lights. Kilkenny and Carlow County Councils will jointly procure a maintenance contract in 2017 to maintain 10,000 lights in Kilkenny and 6,200 lights in Carlow. This will replace the current regionally procured contract which expires in 2017.

On average the cost associated with the ongoing maintenance and operation of a public light is €110 per light per annum. With the introduction of reduced scale maintenance contract it is anticipated that SME's, involved in Public Lighting, will be encouraged to enter into the tender process, thus, increasing competition and hopefully savings to both Local Authorities.

Kilkenny County Council has purchased a new Asset Management Software "Deadsure" which allows for easier reporting of faults by staff and the general public and an improved management and reporting system for all aspects of the Public Lighting stock.

The gross cost of public lighting provision per annum is €1.13 million of which maintenance accounts for 32% and energy accounts for 68%. Income from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for public lighting in 2016 was €185,000 and the balance of the funds required come directly from the Council's own resources.

### **Energy Efficiency, Energy Conservation and Climate Change**

In April 2014 Kilkenny County Council became city partners in the Intelligent Energy Europe Streetlight EPC (Energy Performance Contracting) project. The [Streetlight EPC](#) project aims to create demand and supply for EPC projects in 9 regions across Europe by setting up regional EPC facilitation services. The project partners aim to implement 36 EPC street lighting projects in the project's lifetime. As city partners Kilkenny County Council has committed to delivering a real life EPC project during the lifetime of this project.

Currently Kilkenny County Council allocates €1.13million annually for the provision of public lighting-€840,000 for energy costs and €290,000 for maintenance. The annual energy consumption for public lighting is 5,300,000kWh and this includes the metered and unmetered lighting stock.

The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2009 – 2020 sets out a target of 33% reduction in energy consumption for the public sector by 2020. Kilkenny County Council has identified the need to reduce our energy consumption from inefficient street lighting as a core objective to reaching our energy efficiency targets. In order to progress streetlight lighting projects beyond conception stage we require financial resources to implement these projects.

It is proposed to carry out a Pilot Project comprising the retrofit of approximately 1000 lighting units to new LED technology. This represents 10% of Kilkenny County Council's public lighting stock and is primarily targeted at traffic route lighting on regional roads and a selection of residential estates.

Kilkenny County Council is actively encouraging the use of LED lighting technology in new public lighting installation and retrofits. In addition, the use of energy efficient technology is being recommended in new planned developments in the County.

## **Parks and Recreation**



The Parks Department was established in 2004 to oversee the development and maintenance of recreational amenities in Kilkenny city and county. Since its establishment the Parks Department has delivered a range of high quality recreational amenities including playgrounds, parks and sports pitches which are available for use to people of all ages. Responsible for on-going developments, visitor management and maintenance of Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in Inistioge also fall within the remit of the parks department.

The core services the Parks Department is responsible for are as follows:-

### **Playground development and maintenance.**

There are currently 26 playgrounds around the county with one further at advanced stages of planning to be completed in 2017. These play facilities were developed in conjunction with local communities and many are also maintained with assistance from local communities and local community employment schemes. All playgrounds are inspected each week by our own in-house playground inspector for any potential safety issues and are also cleaned each week, or more often where required, to ensure they continue to be safe and clean to use by children.

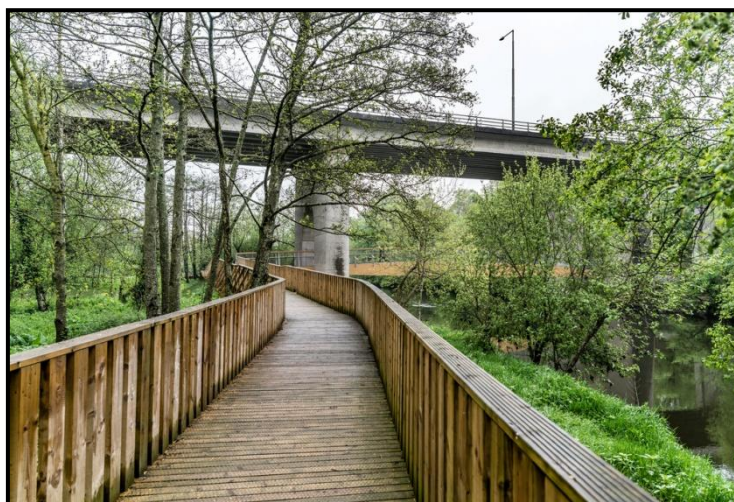


**Woodstock Playground**



### **Park development and maintenance**

The Parks Section has responsibility for development and maintenance of parks in the city and county. The River Nore Linear Park along with Newpark Marsh and Garringreen Neighbourhood Park and the recently developed Bishops Demesne are the main city parks. The parks provide a range of amenities both passive and active for people to enjoy. The parks are maintained and cleaned by litter picking crews weekly and grass is cut frequently in the growing season. Facilities with the parks such as playgrounds and exercise equipment are maintained and added to regularly. In 2016 work began on the development of a neighbourhood park for Ferrybank in the Aylesbury area. It is intended to be delivered in 2017 following public consultation with local residents.



**View of the Lacken Boardwalk connection to the new Ossory Pedestrian Bridge**

### **Pitches development and maintenance**

The Parks Department operate a pitch leasing facility on a number of pitches in the city and environs. These pitches are leased out to clubs for training and matches. We also have a number of very popular all weather mini pitches which are free to use at any time at Newpark, Garringreen and Bishops Demesne.

### **Woodstock Gardens Project**

Since the historic Victorian gardens at Woodstock were restored over the past number of years they have become a major tourist destination in the south east and now attract in the region of 35,000 visitors per year. Parks staff continues to organise events, promote and manage visitors coming to the gardens in addition to carrying out high quality maintenance. The garden staff hosted a very successful Forest School in the gardens in 2016 along with a number of events such as orienteering, foraging walks, Operation Transformation Walks and other family events for Heritage Week. Woodstock is becoming popular for civil ceremonies and in 2016 Woodstock hosted a number of weddings for couples on their big day.





*The Turner Conservatory in Woodstock which houses the tea room and is the venue of choice for many couples on their wedding day*

### **Administration of Amenity Grants**

The Parks Department administered the amenity grants scheme which is available to voluntary community organisations to enhance or maintain local amenities. Over one hundred and twenty groups were in receipt of grant assistance in 2016.

### **Invasive species control**

The Parks Department is concerned with stopping the spread of invasive species on public lands across the county. A programme of Giant Hogweed eradication is continuing in Kilmacow whilst in Kilkenny efforts to eradicate invasive species, particularly Himalayan Balsam are continuing along the River Nore, predominantly along the Lacken Walk and Canal Walk in conjunction with Keep Kilkenny Beautiful.



**Taking on Giant Hogweed in Kilmacow**

### **Sports Capital Projects**

The Parks Department were successful in their application for three grants for the provision of outdoor gym equipment at locations across the city. This exercise equipment is proving very popular particularly when sited adjacent to existing facilities. Following formal approval by the Department of Tourism Transport and Sport under the Sports Capital Programme the outdoor gyms will be rolled out in early 2017 at Pocke Valley, Loughboy Park and Riverside Drive (River Nore Linear Park)



Outdoor exercise equipment at The River Nore Linear Park

### **Sustainable planting**

The Parks Department's focus is moving towards sustainable planting to enhance biodiversity in the urban areas. One such project carried out was the large scale planting of perennial flowering plants to attract insects and butterflies on the roundabout serving the motorway link road. The planting scheme provided a colourful spectacle on the approach to Kilkenny city in the summer of 2016 and will continue to flower year after year. The planting theme focused on a black and amber colour scheme.



**The link road roundabout in bloom**

### **Pollinator Project at Noonan's Folly**

Supporting Pollinating Insects is very much the theme in the Peace Garden Planting carried out in spring 2016 by the Parks Department with the help of a new team of workers under the Gateway scheme. The planting at this location has been designed to provide pollen and nectar from early spring onwards with a selection of bulbs flowering from February to June. The planting will flower and provide a very concentrated resource for insects.

## **Fire Services**

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

### **Capital Projects.**

- Second hand water Tanker was purchased for Kilkenny City Fire Station
- Tenders for a new fire station for Graiguenamanagh were assessed and approved by Department of Housing, Planning Community and Local Government. Work is due to commence in early 2017.

### **Fire Safety Certificates**

- 78 no applications for fire safety certificates were received in 2016. These applications were dealt with in-house by the fire prevention staff. This is an increase from 2015 when 65 applications were received.

### **Fire Services Act**

- Fire Prevention staff made a considerable number of visits to premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation.
- 6 no Fire Safety Notices under the Fire Services Act were served in 2016.
- 1 no Closure Notice under the Fire Services Act was served in 2016.
- The programme to focus on fire safety in Crèches and similar pre-school services premises continued in 2016.
- Over 540 Hydrants were checked in 2016.

### **Community Fire Safety**

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service held Fire Station Open Days in 2016 in all seven Fire Stations.

Ongoing public messaging campaigns will be maintained to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working- Social media (twitter and Face book) used during Fire Safety week and Fire Safety at Christmas in 2016.

Talks to various communities such as Bennettsbridge Community Group. Inistioge Beaver Club, Castlecomer Active Club, Newpark Resource Centre, Clara Cairde Club, Mullinavat Field Day, Thomastown Field day, Stoneyford field day, John Lockes Field day, Older Peoples Forum, Callan CBS, Abbey Community School, Johnswell Community, Graig ICA, Dunmore Community, Kilkenny Ladies Friendship, Club, Age Action Groups,

We have completed over 60 Home Fire Safety Visits, where Smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service continue to deliver the Primary Schools Programme throughout the City and County of Kilkenny over 1300 primary school children each year.

### **Voluntary Fundraising**

Fire-fighters and ambulance personnel partook in the now annual Christmas Charity Collection with the funds going to local charities Michael Butler Trust Fund and the Mother of Fair Love School. The fire-fighters also raised funds at the May Bank Holiday weekend with the Mount Everest Ladder Climb. The Fire Service together with An Garda Síochána and the Ambulance Service held their Annual “Blue Light Ball” and raised funds for other local charities.

### **Major Emergency Management**

- The Major Emergency Management Plan was reviewed in 2016.
- Transtock (Christendom, Ferrybank) was reviewed and tested under the Seveso Regulations in 2016.
- The Flood Emergency Response Plan and the Severe Weather Plan (excluding Flooding) was reviewed in 2016.



Fire Service Personnel at the Kilkenny Age Friendly Association Annual Forum





Visit of Kilkenny Youth Reach to Kilkenny City Fire Station



Fire Safety advice for Graiguenamanagh ICA



*Presentation to Great Grandsons of Kilkenny man Thomas Purcell (CFO Dublin Fire Brigade in 1916) by Cathaoirleach Matt Doran at the Fire Service Recognition Night 1916-2016.*

## **Kilkenny Civil Defence**

Kilkenny Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation that supports the Principle Response Agencies (County Councils, Gardai and HSE) in dealing with severe weather, flooding, major incidents and searching for missing people. It also assists our local communities in events including large events such as homecomings, concerts and festivals and smaller local events such as parades and sports events.

It has volunteers trained in Casualty, Search and Rescue, Auxiliary Fire Service, Welfare and Communications.

### **Callouts**

During 2016 Kilkenny Civil Defence were called to assist with the severe weather in the early part of the year.

### **Community Events**

During 2016 Kilkenny Civil Defence provided assistance to 16 community events ranging from Ambulance cover for equine related events, sports events and charity based concerts. We also provided Safety Boat cover for river based charitable events.

### **Vehicles and Equipment**

In 2016 Kilkenny Civil Defence received funding for a back up boat to the two 5 meter Rigid Inflatable boats we already use. We also secured a Cadaver Search Dog unit in 2016. This dog will assist us greatly in our search and recovery unit.

### **Training**

Kilkenny Civil Defence operates multi-skill training out of its training centre in Kilkenny City. The areas of training we provide for our volunteers are as follows;

- Casualty / First Aid Service
- Rescue – Open Country Search and River-based Search and Recovery
- Auxiliary Fire Service and Flooding
- Welfare Service
- Civil Defence Communications

In 2016, 15 volunteers were presented with certificates for courses completed in:

- Radio Operators
- Power Boat Operators at Levels 1, 2 and 3
- Cardiac and Emergency First Responders
- Swiftwater Technician / Flood water First Responder and Water Awareness

In 2016, Civil Defence volunteer Instructors provided Water based Self Rescue training to the fire service personnel.

## General

In 2016 Ray Regan stepped down as Civil Defence Officer for Kilkenny and the post was taken up by Eileen Lanigan in October 2016.

In 2016, Kilkenny Civil Defence was nominated for an award at the Person of the Year Awards. They were presented with the “Courage” award at the presentation night in November 2016.



*Mary Cody from Kilkenny People presenting the Courage Award to Eileen Lanigan Acting Civil Defence Officer.*

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Department deals with the following areas:

- Human Resource Strategy
- Workforce Planning
- Recruitment and Selection
- Payroll and Superannuation
- Employee Training and Development
- Performance Management
- Leadership Development
- Equality
- Diversity Management
- Work-Life Balance
- Industrial Relations
- Employee Health, Safety and Welfare

### Staffing Levels

The number of staff employed at 31/12/2016 was 641 (Headcount) or 517.53 (Whole-Time-Equivalent).

### Shared Payroll and Superannuation Service

Kilkenny County Council went live with shared payroll service in March 2015. This service continues to be delivered by My Pay the Local Government Shared Services Provider from its offices in Portlaoise Co Laois. Following on from going live for Payroll Shared Services, Kilkenny County Council has commenced on a Superannuation project with a cut over date for a Shared Service in 2018.

## **Training and Development**

Kilkenny Local Authorities are committed to ensuring the professional and personal development of all staff within Kilkenny Local Authorities. Training, learning and development are aimed at helping employees to become more effective in their jobs and developing their potential. A comprehensive training programme was delivered in 2016.

## **Attendance Management**

The Local Government Sectors Attendance Management Policy was revised in 2013 and revised sick pay schemes were introduced for the Sector. Absenteeism levels continue to be managed in accordance with these policies.

## **Gateway Scheme**

The Local Government Sector committed to providing 3,000 places on its Social Employment Scheme entitled Gateway. The Gateway Scheme is provided by Local Authorities country wide and it is an opportunity for long term unemployed persons to work for 19.5 hours per week over a 22 month period. Kilkenny County Council has provided 71 placements to date, 39 of which have completed their contracts, 13 of which left to take up employment in the private sector or to return to education. There are currently 19 people still on the Scheme. In addition the Council provided temporary employment to 13 people following completion of their Gateway contracts.

Participants have been engaged in a variety of work, building walls and pathways, landscaping and tree maintenance, tidying up village approach roads, cleaning graveyards, information technology, marketing, tourism promotion and administration.

During the time spent on the scheme most people have had a positive experience where they learned new skills or honed their existing skills, undertook health and safety courses and certificates and were working as part of a team or on their own but under the umbrella of Kilkenny County Council doing good quality work in the community.

## **Internal Audit**

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function established by the Chief Executive for the review of the internal control systems as a service to the Council. Internal Audit is responsible for giving assurance to the Chief Executive on the existence, adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control and risk management systems and is an essential element of corporate governance and risk management.

- The Internal Audit unit provides reports and updates to the Chief Executive regarding the operation of controls and the mitigation of risks in the Council.
- Internal Audit reports are approved by the Management Team and then presented to the Audit Committee of the County Council.
- In 2016 reports were presented on Housing Assistance Payment, Banking Controls Internet Banking, Ethics Register and Irish Water Recoupment's. Presentations were also made by the relevant Directors of Services on their areas of responsibility to include the identification and mitigation of risks.
- The Councils Risk Register was updated during 2016 and presented to the Audit Committee.



## 2.2 Community, Culture Housing and Planning.

Services provided under this Directorate are:

- Forward Planning and Planning Control
- Conservation
- Derelict Sites
- Community Development and Estate Management
- Arts
- Heritage
- Library Services
- Housing Accommodation and Supports,

### Planning and Development

The role and function of Kilkenny County Council's Planning Department is to determine the physical planning policy of the County, to control new development and building and the promotion of industrial, commercial and other appropriate development.

### Forward Planning

- Amendment to Callan Local Area Plan completed.
- Work progressed on review of Ferrybank/Belview and Castlecomer Local Area Plans. Public Consultation carried out during 2016.
- Variations to County and City Development Plans completed.
- Tenders issued for Urban Design framework for Abbey Creative Quarter
- Urban Design guidelines for Hebron Road, Kilkenny commenced
- Vacant Sites Levy register commenced
- The Chief Executive published the "Two year progress report on securing Development Plan objectives".
- Work progressed on Signage policy with a successful public workshop and the production of a Planning Information Leaflet on Shop fronts and Advertising Signs.

### Conservation

- Kilkenny County Council continues to provide a planning consultancy / advisory system in respect of works to buildings of architectural heritage significance and protected structures in County Kilkenny.
- A total of €146,583.00 was paid to conservation projects in County Kilkenny through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and The Structures at Risk Fund, both funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

## Abbey Creative Quarter

- Work which commenced on the Teahouse roof on Bateman Quay was completed in December 2016.
- Evans Turret and wall walk consolidated and made safe



## Development Control

- 883 planning applications were received in 2016 an increase of 6 % on the 2015 figure of 833.
- € 382, 513 was received in planning application fees an increase of 33% on the 2015 figure of €288,303.
- 297 Commencement Notices under the Building Regulations were received an increase of 36 % on the 2015 figure of 218.
- 54 developments were inspected under Building Control Regulations.
- The Planning Clinic system continues to operate successfully in each of the Area Offices.

## Development Contributions

- Total of € 1.024 m was collected in 2016.

## Enforcement

- A total of 99 new complaints were received during 2016
- The Council issued 74 warning letters during 2016.
- The Council issued 33 Enforcement Notices during 2016.

## Residential Estates

- 17 Housing Estates were taken in charge during 2016 consisting of 866 houses.
- Remedial works were completed on 9 developments to accelerate the taking in charge with assistance of a grant from the Department Housing, Planning, Community and local Government. Grant received amounted to €229,900
- Bonds claimed and agreements reached on 5 residential developments totalling payment of funds to KCC of €800,000. Works will be carried out on these during 2017. Other claims lodged under discussion.
- All unfinished housing sites were monitored for safety works and Developers were contacted where remedial works were required.
- Number of unfinished developments in Kilkenny on the National Survey is 29.

# Community and Culture

## Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

- The Local Economic and Community Plan was launched in February
- The Community Section of the Council hosted a workshop in April with all 29 stakeholders involved in implementing the 87 actions in the community element of the LECP for 2016/2017. An implementation approach was agreed across all stakeholders

## Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Seven meetings of the committee, including two workshops were supported through the provision of information, presentations and discussion to enable the committee to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming,

The key achievements of the LCDC in 2016 were:

- Overseeing the development of the community element of the LECP with the first progress reports submitted in November. There was a 91% response rate. Of those actions reported on 30% are complete with the remainder in progress. Only one action has not commenced.
- Monitoring and oversight of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme for 2016.
- Development of a Local Development Strategy for Kilkenny (unsuccessful in national bid)
- Participated in two independently facilitated workshops in October and December with the purpose of jointly planning and agreeing how the committee will operate and undertake their work over the coming year.

## The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme 2016

20 applications were received with a total of 8 projects successful in being allocated funds from the €250,000 budget. Contracts were issued to all successful applicants while all applicants were notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Name of Applicant	Description of Project	Grant Amount
1. U-Casadh Ltd	Social Enterprise – Development of a Community Kitchen as part of a 3 phase approach of stabilization, training and	€45,000

	education and employment and enterprise for service users.	
<b>2. Castlewarren Community Hall</b>	Upgrade unit to create community hub and cafe	<b>€10,000</b>
<b>3. Graiguenamangh Hall Ltd</b>	The development of the front of the Abbey Hall into a landscaped amenity to enhance the overall space available in the hall facility.	<b>€20,000</b>
<b>4. Ballyouskil Community Hall</b>	Extension to existing community hall	<b>€45,000</b>
<b>5. Mooncoin GAA</b>	Development of outdoor space for multipurpose community use	<b>€45,000</b>
<b>6. Thomastown Community Centre</b>	Work on the balcony area of the Concert Hall area of community centre	<b>€45,000</b>
<b>7. St. Patricks GAA</b>	Works on walking track	<b>€19,000</b>
<b>8. Rower Inistioge GAA</b>	Development of walking track at the Rower grounds	<b>€21,000</b>

## Public Participation Network (PPN)

- A PPN development worker was appointed in July.
- Membership of the PPN has increased by 13%.
- The PPN held successful elections with newly elected representatives in place for the next 2 years.
- The PPN is currently undertaking a piece of research to ascertain the barriers to engagement for groups that are the most distant from engagement in the community.

## Community Workshops

A new Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced towards the latter part of the year. The central aim of this scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order

to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. Four towns / villages were agreed by elected representatives for inclusion in this scheme – Ballyhale, Kells, Piltown and Urlingford.

Community workshops were facilitated and communities were assisting in the preparation of applications for the Town and Village Renewals Scheme. The applications submitted were successful and work will commence in the four locations in early 2017.



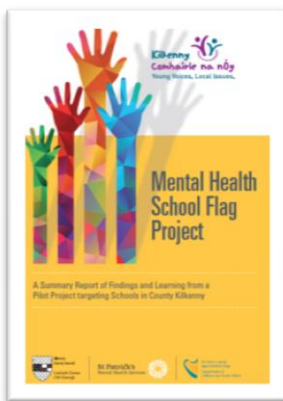
### **Other Achievements:**

International Women’s Day was held in March and was supported.



## **Kilkenny Children’s and Young Peoples Services Committee: (CYPSC)**

The Kilkenny CYPSC has been established since April 2016. This is a county level committee that brings together the main public and not for profit agencies/organisations providing services to children and young people across Kilkenny city and county. The committee is chaired by TUSLA with the County Council holding the Vice Chair position. The role of the CYPSC is to enhance interagency co-operation and collaboration, improving local service provision and support for children and young people in their area. CYPSCs remit is to improve outcomes for children and young people aged 0-24 years in line with ‘Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures’ Ireland’s National Framework for Children and Young People.



## **Kilkenny Comhairle Na NÓG:**

### **Mental Health School Flag Project**

Launch of the report ‘Mental Health School Flag Project – A summary report of the findings and learning from a pilot project targeting schools in County Kilkenny’. 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.

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. Patricks Mental Health Services the report was officially handed over to Anne O’Donnell, Head of Citizen Participation, Play, Recreation and Culture from the DCYA.

### **Awareness DVD:**

The Comhairle researched, designed and produced an Awareness DVD titled ‘Exploring the issues associated with Underage Drinking and Smoking’. The group worked closely with the An Garda Síochána, HSE – Health Promotion Division and Substance Misuse Education Officers to inform the project. The DVD was launched at the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase event held in Croke Park in November, 2016.

### **Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting:**

The Comhairle na nÓg AGM took place in Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny on October 26<sup>th</sup> with 66 young people attending from across the post primary schools and youth clubs across the county. Due to teacher strikes the original date of this event had to be changed, with short notice, which impacted on the attendance numbers.

### **Appointment of New Comhairle Coordinator**

Following calls for the operation of Kilkenny Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of the Council Foróige were successful and have now been awarded the contract for 2017 and 2018. Kate Carroll from Foróige has been appointed the coordinator from January 2017



### **Kilkenny Age Friendly County**

The Council continues its commitment to the Age Friendly County Programme in its support of the Older Peoples Council.

Key activities in 2016 were

- Launch of Kilkenny Age Friendly County Strategy 2017-2022 in December 2016
- Support for the Older Persons Council with grant aid administration and organisation
- 4 Age Friendly Alliance meetings and 4 Older persons Service Providers meetings attended throughout 2016
- 22 members of Kilkenny County Council staff and one member of HSE participated in *Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm training*.
- 10 Age friendly Car parking spaces have been provided throughout the City 4 at St Marys , 4 at St Canices and 2 at the Black Abbey





- Age friendly seating was provided on Parliament Street as part of the Medieval Mile project along with Improvement of footpaths at the end of high street/ start of Parliament Street



- A visit by Planning Section staff and Housing staff to Netwell Casala, Dundalk Institute of Technology and Great Northern Haven, Barrack Street Housing Development on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The Great Northern Haven is a housing project consisting of 16 purpose-built smart homes, each equipped with a combination of sensor and interactive technology to support older people.

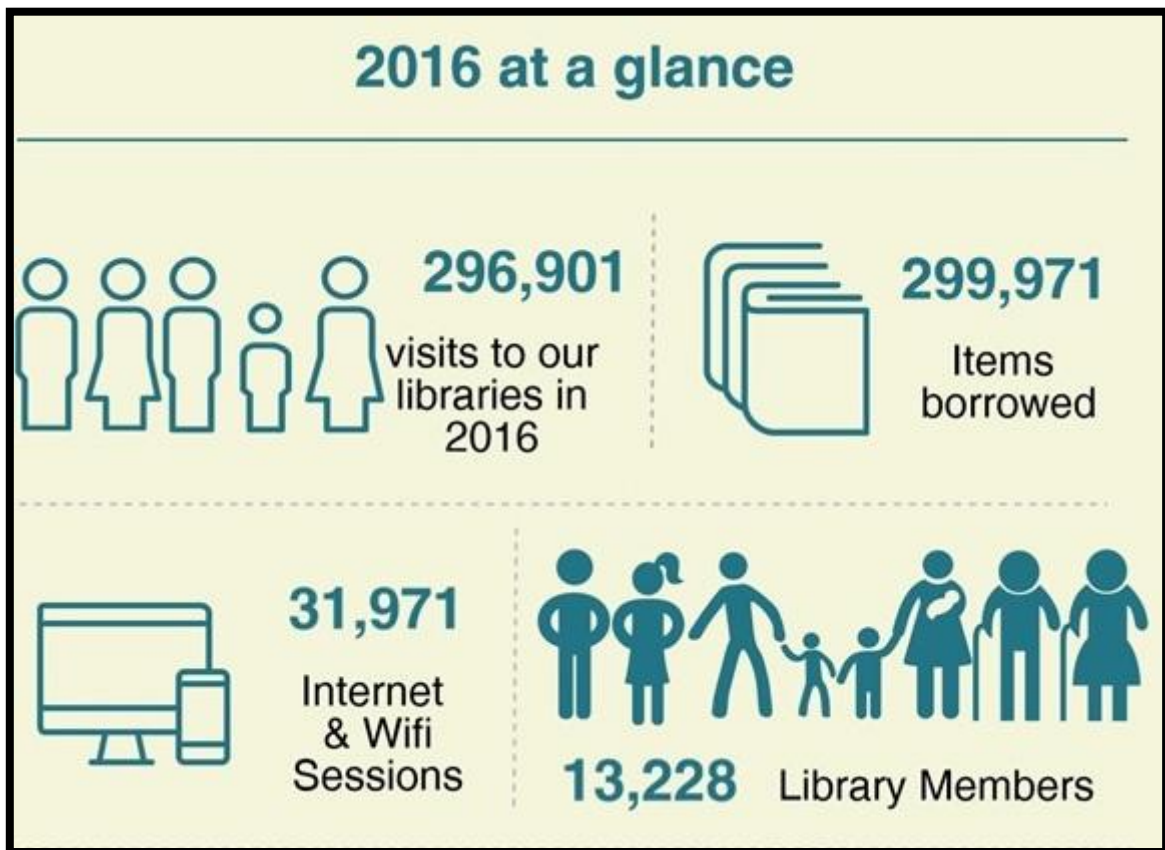
#### Kilkenny Library Service supporting Age Friendly through

- Regular workshops across the library network to teach art and craft skills such as knitting, painting, languages
- Mobile phone classes.
- Digital and Computers
- Regular classes for people to learn basic skills in using computers, internet and other packages
- Loughboy Library ran a very successful “Technology Tips for the Elderly” class where students from the secondary school showed older people various tips about using technology as part of their Gaisce programme.



- Broad programme of events as part of the national Bealtaine Programme. Events range from concerts, health and wellbeing workshops, craft learning, exhibitions
- A range of talks targeted at the needs of older people such as healthy eating, security for living on your own ,basic car maintenance
- Fuss on the Bus – an interactive theatre performance with audience participation
- Sole to Sole workshop – memory based workshop for older people providing them an opportunity to tell their stories.

## Library Services.



[www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie) website hits 122,892

**Face book reach:**

**168,706**

**Twitter reach:**

**163,400**

### Free Membership

The Library Service is one of the most widely used services provided by Kilkenny County Council and membership is free for everyone. It serves a wide range of people of all ages from all walks of life. 54% of our members are Adults, 43.5% are children, with 2.5% from

local groups. Library membership has increased from just over 12,000 to 13,228, an increase of 10%

Libraries offer a neutral, safe and civic space to each community, providing opportunities for all in its branches in Callan, Castlecomer, Ferrybank, Graiguenamanagh, John's Quay, Loughboy, Thomastown and Urlingford. The mobile service stops in over 50 rural communities from Goresbridge to Kilmanagh and Clogh to Slieverue.



### **Cultural Centres**

Kilkenny Library Service provides spaces for people to be creative, for groups to meet and pursue a shared interest or explore new ways of communicating. Through our collections, our online resources and regular event programming, we continue to foster cultural experiences as a powerful agent for strengthening community identity, promoting civic participation and assisting in the integration of all citizens in our community.

In 2016 we provided a varied and comprehensive event programme for adults and children:-

- National Bealtaine Festival
- National Science week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- National Heritage Week
- Culture Night
- Savour Kilkenny
- Graiguenamanagh Town of Books
- Exhibitions and workshops
- Music performances with Lyric FM and local choirs
- Yulefest



## Education and Literacy

Kilkenny Library Service supports learning at all stages of life offering space and support for everyone.

Our collection provides virtually unlimited access to a diverse collection of materials – books, music, film, literacy stock, local history material. Currently the collection contains 137,837 items.

Educational programming to support lifelong learning and literacy includes:-

- Summer Reading Challenge for children with 861 participants in 2016 - a 30% increase in numbers
- Participation in the national Right to Read initiative – story time sessions, mother and toddler mornings, author visits
- Language support groups in Irish and French
- 7 adult book clubs and 3 children’s book clubs
- Creative writing groups



## Digital Literacy

Kilkenny Library Service provides free public access to internet and Wi-Fi in all the branches. This is an essential resource for those who lack the technological confidence and skills to use internet enabled services that may help them find jobs, interact with government or achieve educational goals.

In 2016 there were over 31,000 public internet sessions

Investment in the new national library management system – Sierra. This new and improved Library system offers access to a nationwide collection of books, music and films from across the country. Library cards can be used in all libraries across Ireland.

- A suite of online services which provide opportunities to learn a language, learn a new skill, read an eBook or eMagazine.
- Continued upgrade of ICT infrastructure and ongoing investment in the development of digital technology with increased usage of social media platforms
- All branches are now Wi-Fi enabled



## Wellbeing

Kilkenny Library Service has evolved to cater for the many needs of society –we provide strong supports for economic and personal wellbeing in our communities.

Kilkenny Library Service provides opportunities for individuals and groups to come together, share information and up skill – there are currently 6 weekly craft groups and 1 art group. These are also valuable social gatherings for all ages.

Other initiatives include:-

- Talks on minding your mental health with Teac Tom
- Intergenerational technology classes
- Age and Opportunity courses
- Participation in the national Work Matters initiative to support business and employment

## History and Heritage

Our local studies collection is a highly significant record of the county's heritage and collective memory. In 2016 there were over 800 queries in person to the service with a range of queries over the phone and by email. Users of the service included researchers, historical societies, genealogists and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level students.

Outreach events facilitated by library staff included genealogy workshops, research workshops and primary and secondary school visits.



Primary school workshops focused on photographic collections and Microfilm reader machines. Secondary school workshops concentrated on research methods, primary sources and formulating research topics for their school projects in line with the curriculum.

As part of the 2016 commemorative programme, Kilkenny Library Service provided a range of events including:-

- Theatre show
- Irish classes
- Genealogy road show
- Children's history workshops
- Commemorative 2016 library card
- Investment in a comprehensive legacy collection of 2016 titles

## Heritage

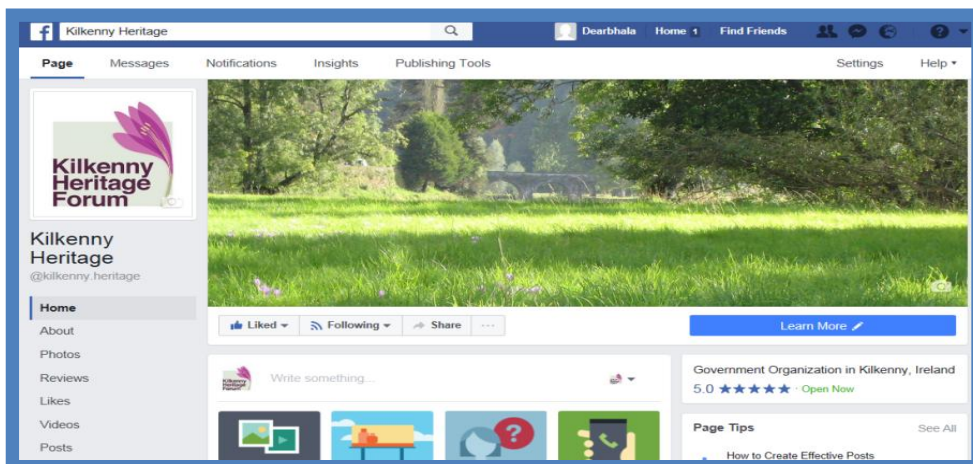
Kilkenny County Councils Heritage Office provides a professional heritage service throughout the city and county. This includes providing advice and information on heritage issues; developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, conservation and enhancement of Kilkenny's heritage; collecting and collating heritage data and promoting heritage awareness and education throughout the county. A key objective is to work with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum in the preparation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Plan.

### New Local Authority Pollinator Award

The Heritage Officer established and chaired a new Local Authority Pollinator Award, in the national Tidy Towns competition, in partnership with Local Authority Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officers and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. With a prize fund of €10,000 the award demonstrates the commitment of Local Authorities to the [All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020](#). Fifty eight communities entered the award, including 4 groups from Co. Kilkenny. It is planned to encourage more groups in County Kilkenny to enter this special award in 2017.

### New Kilkenny Heritage Face book Page

A new Kilkenny County Council Heritage Face book page was launched in April. Over 2,100 people now follow the page.



## Recording Kilkenny Field Names

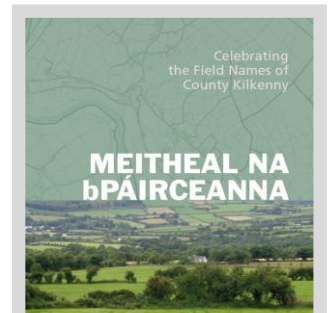
2016 has been a landmark year for the Kilkenny Field Name Recording Project, which commenced in 2010.

90 volunteers have recorded more than 7000 field names from over 200 townlands throughout the county.

230 people attended the launch of the project publication in October. 2000 copies of the book were printed.

The project is co-funded by the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme. The main outputs in 2016 include:

- The publication and launch of the book “*Meitheal na bPáirceanna*”
- Uploading and mapping the field names to the Geographical Information System (GIS) of Kilkenny County Council <http://gis.kilkennycoco.ie/website/KilkennyFieldnames/index.html>
- Training workshop for Stoneyford Field Names Group
- Raising awareness in local media: KCLR LIVE (24/08/2016;04/10/2016); the Glanbia Farm Show (13/10/2016), Kilkenny People and Munster Express, and Ear to The Ground Magazine (Winter 2016).



**Meitheal na bPáirceanna book launched Oct 2016**



## Heritage Week in Co. Kilkenny

**Article re the Kilkenny Field Name Project in “Ear to the Ground Magazine”, Issue: Winter 2016.**

National Heritage Week took place from 20-28<sup>th</sup> August. 77 events took place in 14 towns and villages throughout County Kilkenny.

The Heritage Office partnered with the Jerpoint Abbey, Ferrybank Library, and Woodstock House and Gardens, to host a number of events, including “My Heritage” video; children’s workshops and talks.

The Heritage Office organised, co-ordinated and funded all local press coverage including the following:

**KCLR:** On-air competitions with local heritage attractions; 60 radio adverts; pre-recorded packages and a programme of live studio interviews each day of Heritage Week on “KCLR Live”.

**BEAT FM:** 55 radio adverts; a Face book competition (reached over 90,000 people and gained 800 new “Likes” to kilkennyheritage facebook page).

**Print Media:** ½ page adverts in *Kilkenny People* and *Kilkenny Reporter* on 2 consecutive weeks.

**Information signs:** Commissioned and erected information boards about “Things to do for Heritage Week in Kilkenny” at a number of locations around the city.



### Iverk Show Oral Heritage (Commemorating 190 Years)

The Heritage Office worked with the Iverk Show Committee to advise on their commemoration of the 190 year anniversary of the show in 2016 (the oldest Agricultural Show in Ireland), and commissioned an oral historian to document and archive oral history associated with the shows history and development.

**Information Signs “Things to do for Heritage Week in Kilkenny” installed at a number of locations around the city.**



Launch of Iverk Show, Kildalton College, June 2016



## Kilkenny County Heritage Plan

The Heritage Office was awarded €17,000 from the Heritage Council for implementation of two specific Kilkenny Heritage Plan projects, under the County Heritage Plan Grants Programme. The projects included the Kilkenny Field Names Project, and a digital heritage project.

### Making Digital Heritage Data accessible

The Kilkenny Urban Archaeology Database (a database of over 200 reports on the archaeological investigations which took place in Kilkenny City and Environs between 1968-2006) was updated and uploaded to [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie), an online platform so that it would be accessible to local authority planners, and the public. The data was collated by Kilkenny Archaeology and co-funded by the Heritage Council.

### Tidy Towns Biodiversity Training

The Heritage Office commissioned an ecologist to provide training for Tidy Towns groups on actions to help Pollinator species such as bees and other insects. This is in line with the policies in the [All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020](#). The training also helped Tidy Towns groups to increase the points they are awarded under the “Wildlife” and “Landscaping” categories of the national Tidy Towns competition.

### Heritage Talks

At the request of various groups and individuals, the Heritage Officer gave presentations on projects being undertaken by Kilkenny Heritage Office to the following; Probus (Feb 2016), Water Safety Development Officers Conference (April 2016), Famine Burials at Kilkenny Workhouse Talk (July 2016).

### Kilkenny Heritage Forum

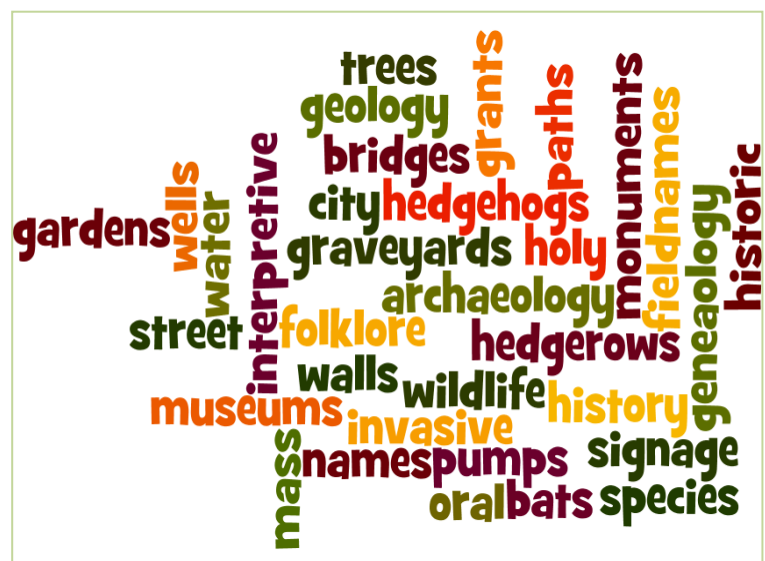
The Kilkenny Heritage Forum met three times in 2016.

### Answering Heritage Queries

Throughout the year the Heritage Officer provided ongoing advice and guidance advice on a broad and diverse range of matters of heritage value.

### “Kilkenny Heritage News” Ezine

“Kilkenny Heritage News” ezines is distributed to approx 400 direct recipients and is uploaded to the [kilkennyfacebook](#) page and is shared with the Kilkenny County Council Community Newsletter.





## 1916 Commemoration Year

Kilkenny County Council took a pro-active role in embracing the Community strand of the Seven Strand National Programme for Ireland 2016, with the appointment of a cross party Commemoration Committee.

The Committee was supported by the 2016 Coordinator and also by the various in-house resources such as Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer, Arts Officer as well as Kilkenny County Council's Local Library service.

These resources were deployed during 2016 to support the work of the Commemoration Committee and service plans for 2016 complemented the listed programme of events, which was heavily influenced by the themes which emerged from the extremely well attended, supportive and engaging public meeting held in April 2015, in City Hall Kilkenny. The public meeting was followed up by direct contact with local interest groups to devise a programme of events reflective of the aspirations of those who participated in the consultation process.

The following is a list of some of Events that took place during the Commemoration Year:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION/VENUE</b>
1st January, 2016	Remembrance Service in County Hall Kilkenny.	Kilkenny County Hall
22nd February 2016	Commemoration Project Website.	Kilkenny
Throughout 2016	Series of publications with Kilkenny People newspaper.	
From February 2016	Library Events throughout the County	Kilkenny City and County
September 2015- March 2016	Callan 1916 Centenary Commemoration events.	Callan
3rd/4th/5th and 11th March	Barrow Valley Community Development	Duiske college and duiske Abbey
7th March, 2016	Special Ceremony for Post Primary Schools	Croke Park Stadium
11th March, 2016	Seven Trees for seven signatories.	County Hall
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Role of women in 1916.	Kilkenny
15th March, 2016	Proclamation Day	Callan C.B.S.
Easter 2016	Dedication of County Hall Garden	Kilkenny County Hall
Easter 2016	Walking Tour of various Volunteer and Military Heritage related sites.	Kilkenny City
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Kilkenny St. Patrick Day Parade.	Kilkenny City
March, 2016	Design and Crafts Council of Ireland	County Venues

March, 2016	Visit of Kilkenny, Minnesota, USA to Kilkenny, Ireland.	Kilkenny
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Pat Walsh Memorial Committee.	Dunamaggin/Kells
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Freshford Community 1916 Commemoration Committee	Freshford
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	The Rower Street Development Committee	The Rower
Easter 2016	Gairdin an Gorta Historical society	Newmarket
Easter 2016	Old IRA Monument Knocknagress, Tullaroan	Tullaroan
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Flying column	Kilkenny City
March, 2016	Seachtain na Gaeilge 2016 to promote the Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain.	Kilkenny
March – September 2016	James Stephen’s Barracks Military Museum.	James Stephen’s Military Barracks, Kilkenny
September 2015, January, March and May 2016	South Kilkenny Historical Society - series of lectures commencing in September 2015.	Mullinavat
5 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016	Musical Drama - "They Stood by Pearse's Side".	Kilkenny Flying Column Memorial Society, Watergate Theatre
24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016	Trad Night in Castlecomer.	Castlecomer Community School
29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Plaque unveiled to commemorate Paddy Bealin, followed by social event in Castlecomer Parish Hall.	Castlecomer
3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016	“Midwives of the Nation” - drama	Watergate Theatre
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Thomas MacDonagh week in Kilkenny.	Watergate Theatre, other locations in city.
7 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Launch Biography of Thomas MacDonagh.	MacDonagh Railway station, Kilkenny
8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016	Paths to Freedom – Musical / Drama	Watergate Theatre
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Findmypast – genealogical research	Carnegie Library, Kilkenny
20 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016	Concert with Na Casaidh and Seán Ó Sé	Duiske Concerts
Summer 2016	Floral Display	Graiguenamanagh
6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016	Conference on Irish Language.	Rothe House, Kilkenny
June to October 2016	Callan workhouse	VARIOUS
July, 2016	Leinster Fleadh Cheoil	Loughboy and Kilkenny City
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	National Day of Commemoration Regional Ceremony.	Kilkenny Castle

21st, 22nd and 23rd July, 2016	The Hell Fire Squad - drama	Watergate Theatre
August, 2016	Explore work of poets and poetry of 1916, during Kilkenny Arts Festival	Kilkenny
Summer 2016	Street Feasts	Kilkenny City
August, 2016	Commemoration to Richard Healy 1916-	Conahy Heritage Society
14/08/2016	Kilkenny and The Somme	Kilkenny city
20th to 28th August	Heritage Week 2016	Barrowvale Local History Group
1st/2nd/5th and 6th Sept	Lectures in NUI Maynooth Campus at St. Kieran's	St. Kieran's College
10th September 2016	Voices of 1916	Kilcumney Players
From Autumn 2016	Barnstorm Theatre Company production of "The Messenger"	Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny/Nationwide
13-22 November 2015 and November 2016	Annual Eigse Sliabh Rua.	Slieverue
31st January 2016	Closing Ceremony - Musical Recital and reflection on the year.	Kilkenny County Hall

## Arts

Kilkenny County Council's Arts Office develop, co-ordinate, motivate, inspire and empower artistic activity throughout the city and county. It promotes the arts as a worthwhile activity for all, providing advice and support for groups and individuals. The Arts Office works to further strengthen Kilkenny's position as a centre of excellence for the arts and ensure a successful and prosperous arts environment within the region. It also has a strong commitment to community arts practice and support and manages a number of community based programmes.

### Literature

The Arts Office is committed to providing literary developments both independently and through partnerships and collaborations as follows:

- Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet 16
- Annual Writing Workshops
- The Story House Bursary
- The Rhyme Rag

### Community, Education and Inclusion initiatives undertaken include the following

- Open Circle Community Arts Collective
- Siamsa
- School Subsidy for visit to Barnstorm Theatre Production
- National Drawing Day at the Butler Gallery

- Culture Night

**Artist Support was provided by means of the following:**

- Arts Act Grants
- Irish Youth Choir Bursary
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Scheme
- Music in Kilkenny
- Blackstack Fine Art Print Studio
- Alternative Kilkenny Arts
- ArtLinks

**Social Media and Direct Mailing**

Kilkenny County Council's Arts Office communicates with its audience via social media platforms Face book and Twitter. These tools provide opportunities to connect us further with the wider artistic community in presenting information relating to events, activities, awards, projects, etc. which may be of interest. Kilkenny Arts Office currently has 1447 likes on Face book and 1,992 followers on Twitter.

**E-bulletin and Databases**

Kilkenny County Council's Arts Office provides a fortnightly e-bulletin to the public. Through databases collated and revised continuously this e-bulletin reaches 1600+ every fortnight. Each bulletin is packed with the latest information on Kilkenny Arts Office activities, county events as well as news and opportunities for arts practitioners from around the country.

**HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION**

The Directorate of Housing incorporates a wide range of services for applicants and tenants to facilitate and support the provision of independent and supported accommodation. This is achieved by offering a variety of '*social housing supports*' by the Housing Authorities, Voluntary and private sector.

**Housing Capital Programme 2015-2017.**

Kilkenny County Council secured **€39.8 million** for the 3 year Housing Capital Programme 2015-2017. This allocation includes the construction and acquisition of accommodation units provided by the Local Authority and Voluntary Housing Bodies (Capital Assistance Scheme) to provide 215 units during the course of the programme. Also included is the return of Voids properties back into productive use. During 2016 this Council secured a further €5m for acquisitions.

**Social Housing Investment Programme [SHIP] 2016:**

- Kilkenny County Council had sales agreed on 53 houses in 2016

- 18 New Builds were delivered in 2016 i.e. Two (2) rural cottages, 10 houses/apartments at Gaol Road and 6 houses at Rosehill, Kilkenny.
- Twelve (12) houses were also completed by Cluid (Approved Housing Body) in Friary Walk, Callan for the elderly and disabled.
- The Council progressed the delivery of 218 units at a cost of €22.5m during 2016 and will continue into 2017 for new Builds, Turnkey schemes and Long term Voids
- Expressions of Interest were sought from developers for Turnkey developments with a closing date 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- Works to 11 Long Term Voids were completed and returned back into productive use.

#### **Rental Accommodation Scheme [RAS] and Housing Assistance Payment [HAP]:**

- Expenditure for RAS in 2016 was €5.1 million which is an increase of 8.5% of the 2015 figure of €4.7m.
- A total of 551 RAS Properties are now forming part of social housing options an increase of 19 from 2015.
- 49 properties were taken on in 2016 and 30 left the RAS Scheme in 2016
- The Housing Assistance Payment was introduced in mid October, 2014. 711 live tenancies are established up to 31/12/2016 an increase of 213 or 43% from 2015
- There are over 300 households on rent supplement in Kilkenny at present
- Increased rates on HAP Payments were introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016

#### **Homeless Referral to KLA Homeless Services 2016**

Referrals	-	180
Potentially homeless Referrals		164
Other		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>349</b>

**This represents a reduction of 50 from 2015.**

#### **Private Rented Accommodation**

- The Council carried out 414 inspections on private rented accommodation during 2016 compared to 379 in 2015.

#### **Voluntary Housing Programme: Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)**

The Department invited applications under a ‘Special Call’ during 2014, 2015 and 2016 the following applicants were approved and are at various stages of completion:

<b>Units</b>	<b>Approved Housing Body and location of units</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Budget €</b>
12	<b>Special Call 2014</b> - Cluid VHA – Friary Walk, Callan	Completed 2016 and allocated	1,488,011
5	<b>Special Call 2014</b> - Camphill Thomastown – Brooke House,	On site 2016	1,327,088

6	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - SOS. H.A. Ltd – Cashel Downs, Kilkenny	House purchased works in progress	500,000
4	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Good Shepherd Centre – Purchases	4 completed and allocated	423,000
5	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Focus Ireland – purchases	5 completed 2016	692,792
12	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Good Shepherd Centre – Wing 52 Project Church lane,	Design and tender stage	1,200,000
16	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Camphill, Callan – Nimble Spaces Project at Prologue,	Design and Planning stage	2,200,000
4	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Belmont Park HA	Withdrawn by VB	
6	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Good Shepherd Centre – construction project	Preliminary Site and planning stage	666,000
4	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Cluid HA	Purchases in progress	606,000
4	<b>Special Call 2015</b> - Camphill, Ballytobin – construction	Design and planning stage	514,361
15	<b>Special Call 2015 – Approved April 2016</b> – Respond! – Golf Links Road	Design stage	2,419,478
5	<b>Extra project approved 2016</b> – Camphill – Grennan Villa, Thomstown	In progress	334,955
5	<b>Special Call 2016</b> – Oaklee Housing – Logan Street, Thomastown	Acquisitions in progress	801,611
2	<b>Special Call 2016</b> – Waterford Dove HA – project at Belmont Road, Ferrybank	2 acquisitions completed and allocated	410,064
5	<b>Special Call 2016</b> – Focus Ireland – purchase of 5 units	In progress	729,705
<b>110</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,313,065</b>

## **Traveler Accommodation Programme**

The 5 year Traveler Accommodation Programme, 2014-2018, was adopted by Kilkenny County Council in March, 2014 and reviewed in December 2016.

- Phase 2 of redevelopment of St. Catherine's Group Housing Scheme at Wetlands commenced construction on 4 houses in June 2016
- To date annual target of 13 units of accommodation has been exceeded. 46 families accommodated in the first three years of the Programme.
- 22 units of accommodation offered to Traveler families in 2016 of which 18 were accepted and 4 refused.
- The total number of Traveller families in the local authority area on the date of the national count was 196 in November 2016, an increase of 39 on the previous year.

### **Assessment of Needs:**

- The 3 year statutory Assessment of Housing Need was carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and returned to the Department on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- A total of 751 applicants/households were removed from the list
- 2,059 applicants remain on the Social Housing List as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- 62% of applicants want to live in Kilkenny City and Environs
- 436 Housing Need Assessment appointments were held in 2016
- 49 new lettings under the RAS Scheme, 30 units left the scheme in 2016.
- 136 offers of accommodation were made during 2016, 77 casual vacancies and 59 new lettings.
- 21 Offers of accommodation were made to applicants who were homeless/potentially homeless
- 20 Offers of transfer of accommodation were made during 2016.

### **Maintaining Housing Stock:**

- Maintenance Budget €1.6ml expended in full on combined housing stock of 2,268.
- 4,664 requests for repairs receive in 2016 of which 171 were invalid and 4,124 (92%) were completed at year end.
- 110 Units became vacant in 2016 with 89 refurbished and available for re-letting
- 21 units were Retrofitted in 2016
- 17 Local Authority houses were adapted and extended in 2016 to meet the needs of the disabled and to address overcrowding.
- 21 (1%) houses were vacant at end of the year i.e. 12 casual vacancies and 9 Long Term Voids

### **Housing Loans:**

- 98 applications for loans made in 2016 compared to 71 in 2015
- 43% of loan applications received approval.
- 32 Annuity Loans approved and €3,696,902 paid out in 2016
- 6 Reconstruction Loan Applications received, 4 loans paid out at a cost of €87,000
- 7 Caravan Loans approved and paid totaling €44,150

- All loans vetted by the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency and in house team.
- Local Property Tax due and paid on Local Authority houses amounted to €196,290 for 2017.
- Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 available from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with 35 Applications Received and 10 Offers to Purchase made

### **Housing Private Grants:**

- An allocation of €1,936,266 was expended in full in 2016.
- 301 applications covering the three schemes were paid out in 2016.
- Housing Adaptations Grant - €699,300 paid out to 68 applicants averaging €10,284 each
- Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant - €999,155 paid out to 197 applicants averaging €5,072 each.
- Mobility Aid Grant - €176,470 paid out to 36 applicants averaging €4,902 each
- HOP grants accounts for 53% of applications paid in 2016
- Advertised the opening of HOP applications in October 2016 with 237 applications received.
- 310 applications on hands at 31/12/2016 estimated at €1,612,142.

### **Community and Estate Management Services:**

- The Council developed an interactive e magazine for communities that focuses on Councils grants, advise, community information and work programmes carried out by community and resident associations in Kilkenny City and County.
- €6,000 support for LA Tidy Estates Competition.
- Winners of the scheme :

<b>Small Estates</b>	<b>Medium Estates</b>	<b>Large Estates</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Fr Raftice Place, Moneenroe	1 <sup>st</sup> St. Mary's Avenue, Urlingford	1 <sup>st</sup> Leaca Ard, Ferrybank
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hillcrest, Piltown	2 <sup>nd</sup> De La Salle Place, Kilkenny	2 <sup>nd</sup> Woodview, Freshford
3 <sup>rd</sup> St Patrick's Close, Mullinavat	3 <sup>rd</sup> Assumption Place, Urlingford	3 <sup>rd</sup> Belfield, Ferrybank

- Estates Management Grants total spend €100,000.
- 47 active Residents Associations in the City and County were supported in 2016.
- 166 complaints were dealt with by the Anti Social Behavior Officer
- Four (4) larger scale estate/community enhancement projects were identified for development and completed at the following locations:



1. Station Avenue, Ballyragget.
2. Church Avenue, Castlecomer,
3. Bishop Birch Place, Kilkenny
4. Nuenna Court, Freshford

### **Pride of Place National Competition**

On 26<sup>th</sup> November two groups from Co Kilkenny were presented with awards at the Annual Pride of Place Awards - Stoneyford Development Association and Piltown Community Enterprise.

## **2.3 Finance and Economic Development**

### **Finance**

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

#### **Income and Expenditure Account Statement.**

The Income and Expenditure Account summarises the expenditure on the day to day services provided by the council and provides details of how this expenditure is funded. There was a surplus in the year of €23,000 which eliminated the deficit brought forward from 2015 of €18,000. Strict budgetary controls were maintained on a total expenditure budget of €79 million.

#### **Capital Project Funding Arrangements**

The Capital Account summarises expenditure by the Council on capital projects and how those projects are funded. The Council requires an identified funding source before it can initiate capital projects. The total expenditure on the Capital Account in 2016 was €33.6million. Projects are funded through a variety of sources and the Council's ability to progress capital projects across all its service areas is very dependent on sufficient funds being available to commit to the projects in question. A new Capital Budget will be prepared in the second quarter of 2017 for the period 2017 to 2019.

#### **Balance Sheet at 31st December 2016**

The Council has maintained a strong balance sheet at the end of 2016. Considerable time and effort is being devoted to debt collection, and the Council's performance in this area compares very well against other Local Authorities. This is reflected in the improved collection levels and decreasing arrears in the major income streams.

The total bank loans (excluding housing related loans) outstanding as at December 2016 was €13.9m. A new term loan of €13.5m was drawn down during the year to part fund a number of key strategic capital projects.

### **Economic Development**

The role of the Economic Development Unit is to promote Kilkenny as a location in which to invest and to conduct business. Economic Development is a combination of the business

environment and the social setting as a place to live, work and play. This is the key of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016- 2021 Vision Statement “*Kilkenny is a great place to live, work and play; offering its citizens dignity, security and the capacity to participate to their maximum potential.*” The LECP is the strategic plan for aligning all Economic development activity and community development over the coming five years. The LECP was adopted in December 2015 by the Council. The plan outlines 9 strategic goals and 64 actions for Economic Development between 2016 and 2021. In 2016 49 actions of the 64 were targeted for implementation, the highlights are outlined here.

### **Small Business Vacant Premises Scheme**

- The scheme was launch in 2016 to assist new and expanding business through a grant payable for the businesses first 3 years of operation.
- The grant is worth up to €3,000 to each business.

### **Retail Support**

- The Economic Unit held a trade show stand at the Retail Excellence Ireland retail retreat promoting Kilkenny as a retail location.
- The Unit also hosted a Town Hall meeting for retailers to share information and developments for the retail community.

### **Commercial Property**

- The economic unit works with commercial property owners to assist in identifying opportunities for potential investors and local businesses.
- The unit also provides assistance for property developers to discuss plans in the context of the local business environment.

### **Promotion**

- The unit through the Invest Kilkenny website and social media channels promote business in Kilkenny and Kilkenny businesses, reaching a wide audience nationally and internationally.
- The unit also sponsored a Kilkenomics event “Digital Kilkenny” and supports the “DesignTeckKK” initiative connecting people in the technology and design industries in Kilkenny.

### **Abbey Creative Quarter**

Comprehensive work has taken place regarding the progress of the Abbey quarter - the partnership with the NTMA and interest in site. The site is of critical importance to the economic expansion of Kilkenny City in the coming years and as such is a key priority for the economic development unit.

## **Belview Port**

The port area is the strategic industrial zone for Kilkenny. The unit has worked throughout 2016 in the promotion of the area for potential businesses locating there and building connections with local stakeholders.

## **Foreign Direct Investment**

The unit worked closely with the IDA throughout 2016 in promoting Kilkenny as a location for foreign direct investment. The unit has been proactive in engaging with companies through the IDA and assisting with and presenting to itineraries of the IDA.

## **South East Action Plan for Jobs**

The unit is involved in South East Action Plan for Jobs, with actions assigned in the plan to Kilkenny.

## **Local Enterprise Office**

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) helps small businesses to start, to develop and to grow. The LEO provides a 'first stop shop' business support service to anyone in business or thinking of setting up a business. The LEO operates under the terms of a service level agreement between the Council and Enterprise Ireland. The LEO is required to develop and implement an annual action plan setting out the key services, actions, projects, programmes and targets it intends to deliver each year. The annual action plan is submitted to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism, and the SPC provides oversight of the implementation of the action plan on behalf of Kilkenny County Council, and LEO staff provides progress reports on the implementation of the Development Plan to the SPC at their quarterly meetings. The LEO also submits an annual metrics return to EI. The LEO has the services of a specialist Approvals and Evaluation Committee to assess applications for financial support.

The LEO delivers a wide range of supports and services to start-up and established business owners, while nurturing the development of a supportive environment for enterprise in the County. The supports provided by the LEO are divided into 2 main Measures, namely Measure 1 (financial supports) and Measure 2 (soft supports). The following is a review of activity and outputs in both Measures in 2016.

## **Review of Activity in 2016**

### **Measure 1**

Measure 1 supports refer to the provision of direct financial assistance to eligible projects.

- 29 project applications received for Measure 1 financial assistance in 2016 of which 3 grant applications were withdrawn.

- 26 applications were approved a cumulative total of almost €490,000 (see Table 1). The 26 projects supported have the potential to create 49 new full-time jobs when fully implemented.
- This represents a cost per job of approximately €10,000.
- The LEO paid out approximately €352,190 in grant payments in 2016 as follows:

<b>Measure 1 Financial Assistance</b>	<b>2016 Output</b>
<b>Number of Grant Applications Received</b>	29
<b>Number of Feasibility Study Grant Applications Approved</b>	5
<b>Number of Priming Grant Applications Approved</b>	8
<b>Number of Business Expansion Grant Applications Approved</b>	13
<b>Number of Grant Applications Withdrawn</b>	3
<b>Total Amount Approved</b>	26
<b>Total Amount Paid Out</b>	€490,000
<b>Number of New Jobs Associated with Projects Approved</b>	49
<b>Average Cost per Job</b>	€10,000

## Measure 2

Measure 2 supports refers to the provision of ‘soft’ supports covering the full spectrum from the provision of business information and advice, through enterprise training and management development programmes to the provision of mentoring services.

- The LEO expended almost €285,232 on Measure 2 supports in 2016 (see Table 2) as follows:

<b>Measure 2 Supports</b>	<b>2016 Output</b>
<b>Number of Entrepreneurs availing of Business Advisory Session</b>	330
<b>Number of Start Your Own Business (SYOB) Programmes Run</b>	5
<b>Number of Participants on SYOB Programmes</b>	80
<b>Number of Entrepreneurs availing of Mentoring Support</b>	300
<b>Number of Schools participating in Student Enterprise Programme</b>	13
<b>Number of students participating in Student Enterprise Programme</b>	659
<b>Number of core Enterprise Training Programmes Run</b>	62

<b>Number of Participants on core Programmes</b>	750
<b>Number of Specialist Support Grants Approved</b>	34
<b>Total Measure 2 Spend</b>	€285,232

- 750 entrepreneurs participated in the 62 core enterprise training and management development programmes organised and delivered in 2016.
- 80 people completed a Start Your Own Business (SYOB) Programmes run by LEO Kilkenny in 2016. The SYOB Programme gives participants an introduction to all of the main issues encountered when starting and running a business, from researching and planning their idea through to developing a sales strategy and preparing financial projections.
- 300 entrepreneurs availed of mentoring support from LEO Kilkenny in 2016. We maintain a panel of specialist mentors and their role is to share their experience and learning to help clients develop the capability to solve their own problems. The mentor helps clients explore their goals and ideas for the future and helps them to realistically appraise their current situation.
- 659 students from 13 second level schools in the county participated in the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) in the 2015/2016 academic year. The SEP is the primary vehicle for exposing young people to enterprise and giving them a better understanding and appreciation of what is involved in running a business.

### **Other Initiatives**

The LEO was involved in supporting a range of other initiatives in 2016 as follows:

- **Microfinance Ireland:** (MFI)we helped 4 businesses to make application for loan finance to MFI;
- **Smart Options Loans:** we continued the partnership (begun in 2009) with St. Canice's Kilkenny Credit Union and assisted a further 17 businesses to make application for a Smart Options Loan;
- **IBYE Competition:** we assisted 35 entrepreneurs with their applications under Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition in 2016.
- **Bizfest:** Over 270 entrepreneurs attended the South East Bizfest Conference held in Kilkenny and organised by the LEOs in the South East (including LEO Kilkenny) in 2016. Bizfest provides an opportunity for business to network and make connections across the region;
- **Trading On-Line Vouchers (TOV)** we approved a further 28 TOVs to local businesses in 2016;
- **National initiative support** undertaken collectively by the LEO Network, including the Student Enterprise Programme Final held in Croke Park in April, the National Enterprise Awards Final held in Dublin in June, the Enterprise Village Stand at the National

Ploughing Championships held in Tullamore, Co. Laois in September, and the National Women’s Enterprise Day Conference held in Kilkenny in October. We will continue to support national events organised by the LEO Network as an effective means of raising the profile of the supports and services we offer.

**Table 3: Summary of Other Initiatives Supported in 2016**

Summary of Other Initiatives	2016 Output
<b>Number of Entrepreneurs assisted to apply to MFI</b>	4
<b>Number of Entrepreneurs assisted to apply to Smart Option</b>	17
<b>Number of Trading On-Line Vouchers (TOV) Approved</b>	28



***Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, Colette Byrne, Margaret Kirwan, Goatsbridge Fish Processors, Acting Head of LEO, Fiona Deegan and Gerard Kirwan of Goatsbridge Fish Processors at the presentation of the County Winner of the National Enterprise Awards***

- Goatsbridge Fish Processors Ltd represented Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards at the Aviva Stadium in June.
- Enterprising young teenagers from County Kilkenny showcased their inventions and real-life businesses at the Student Enterprise Awards National Finals in Croke Park.
- In the Senior Category of the competition, Kilkenny was represented Steven Cahill and Cian Dunne from Duiske College, Graignamanagh with their business [www.fiveasidfinder.com](http://www.fiveasidfinder.com);
- Lorcan Doyle with his business “Paracrafts” from Coláiste Pobail Osraí, represented the county in the Intermediate Category,
- In the Junior Category, the students who represented Kilkenny at the National Finals were: Aaron Denny, Conor Denny and Liam Cleere from All Time Treats at Coláiste Eamonn Rips, Callan.





*Student Enterprise Award presentation to Senior Category Winners, Steven Cahill and Cian Dunne by Cllr. Mary Hilda Kavanagh*



*The Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr Matt Doran; Chair of SPC1 Economic Development, Enterprise Supports and Tourism, Cllr. Pat Millea; Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, Colette Byrne; Head of Finance, Martin Prendiville; Acting Head of Enterprise, Fiona Deegan and Business Advisor, Catherine Hennessy with winning entrepreneurs who participated in the IBYE Awards in 2016.*

- Kilkenny’s best young entrepreneurs were announced at the County Final of Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) competition.
- The overall “best young entrepreneur” for the county was named Mel Clohosey, age 33 from Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny for his business proposal SocialFeedia.
- The other main category winner on the day was Leanne Nolan in the Best Start-Up Category. Leanne established her business Vow2WOW just over one year ago.
- Both Mel Clohosey and Leanne Nolan will now be representing the County at the IBYE Regional Finals, taking place in 2017.
- The category runners-up also shared an investment of €8,000 between their businesses. They were: Laura Fennelly, recently qualified chartered physiotherapist who was awarded runner-up in the Best Idea Category, runner up in the Best Start-Up

Category is a young entrepreneur from Windgap County Kilkenny Luke Dunne with his business Dunne Farm Services Ltd.

### **Annual Employment and Development Survey**

- The Annual Employment and Development Survey (AEandDS) 2016 showed that the 269 companies on our portfolio accounted for a total of 1,120 full-time and 383 part-time jobs (i.e. 1,311 full-time job equivalents<sup>1</sup>).
- This represented an increase of 255 full-time job equivalents compared to the AEandDS for 2016 (Table 4).

<b>Annual Employment and Development Survey</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Total Number of Companies on Portfolio</b>	257	269	+12
<b>Total Number of Full-Time Jobs Associated with Companies on Portfolio</b>	830	1,120	+290
<b>Total Number of Part-Time Jobs Associated with Companies on Portfolio</b>	448	383	-66
<b>Total Full-Time Job Equivalents Associated with Companies on Portfolio<sup>2</sup></b>	1,054	1,311	+255

<sup>1</sup> Note: The Full-Time Job Equivalents are based on 2 Part-Time Jobs equating to 1 Full-Time Job Equivalent

## **TOURISM**

In 2016, Kilkenny County Council strengthened its support to the tourism sector, increasing its financial and administrative support to Kilkenny Tourism, and delivering a number of key strategic infrastructural projects. Kilkenny County Council worked closely with Kilkenny Tourism, Failte Ireland and tourism providers to increase visitor numbers, improve the visitor experience and generate tourism related employment, in line with ‘Ireland’s Medieval Mile’ and ‘Ireland’s Ancient East’ marketing campaigns. Continued investment in Kilkenny's heritage proposition and maximizing the audience reach for Kilkenny's unique offering were key to increasing the economic impact of the tourism in Kilkenny in 2016.

### **Key projects included:**

#### **The Medieval Mile Museum**

A substantial capital investment program has enabled further development of Kilkenny’s Medieval Mile and the continued development of the ‘Medieval Mile Museum’ formerly St Mary’s Hall. This spectacular restoration positions the museum and Kilkenny as ‘hero sites of international standards’ within Ireland’s ‘Ancient East and greatly strengthen Kilkenny in the

market place as a honey pot for international tourism. Huge progress has been made in its renovation and structures.

### **Food Tourism Initiatives**

Kilkenny Tourism with Kilkenny LEO and the County Council successfully secured Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) funding for an Agri-Food Tourism project which raised Kilkenny's profile as a food destination using the #Taste Kilkenny brand.

Kilkenny reached the shortlisted final in the RAI foodie town Award 2016, for the fifth year in succession.

Kilkenny's Festival Calendar went from strength to strength, Savour Kilkenny is firmly established on the national festival map for foodies and celebrated its 10th birthday, realising record number in the region of 30,000.

### **Yulefest**

Kilkenny County Council also successfully established a new Christmas festival – Yulefest Kilkenny- which provided a platform for craft and local food producer to showcase their goods, generated a feel good ambiance for locals and visitors and reached out to the rural towns to be part of the festival of light associated with Christmas.

### **New Marketing and Communications Agency engagement and online audience growth**

Trade show attendance by Kilkenny Tourism members was buoyant and collaborative; Kilkenny Tourism attended the Holiday World Show at the RDS, Over 50's, BITE food event and Bloom in the park. Special promotional material was produced for distribution at these shows.

Kilkenny Tourism also exhibited at the World Travel Market in London under the Tourism Ireland showcase. Participation at national and international trade events led to positive engagement with media, international buyers and domestic visitors.

Kilkenny Tourism greatly increased their reach and engagement with dynamic new marketing campaigns – faces of Kilkenny, which evolved into a video-log project. A record number of delegations, overseas tourism providers and students visited Kilkenny Tourism to discuss visitor models and share visitor experiences which assisted in maintaining Kilkenny's high profile as a visitor destination.

A new Communications Agency TL Marketing and PR Agency Presence PR joined the Kilkenny tourism team to promote Kilkenny as a choice destination, the online and communications strategy and quarterly themed promotions were successful in increasing traffic to the website and increasing Kilkenny Tourism's reach and online presence

- Website visits to Kilkenny tourism up 33% to 417,000

- Face book users up 49% to 20,762
- 12,000 subscribers to the Visit Kilkenny Ezine
- Reprint of Visitor guide (50,000) and 100,000 Medieval Mile Maps
- Print Media- advertorials/features in Irish Times, Irish Independent, Sunday World, RSVP magazine, International magazines, such as Travel Ireland and Spirit of Ireland.

## **Festivals and Events**

Kilkenny County Council allocated funding in the amount of €125,000 to provide Festival and Event Grants to groups and organisations engaged in the development and promotion of events at local level.

These grant schemes aim to promote and support local festivals and Community groups and to support and assist those events that have a tourism, cultural/artistic or community perspective, the objective being to provide funding for a diverse range of projects to ensure that the financial resources available are used to the maximum benefit of the community.

To publicly acknowledge the dedication and hard work across the County of Kilkenny, Kilkenny County Council hosted a Grants Presentation Event in the Ormond Hotel, Kilkenny. 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 this Scheme.



**Recipients of Festival and Events Assistance Grants with Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh.**

## **2.4 Water Services and Environment.**

### **The services provided under this Directorate include**

Operation and maintenance of public drinking water supplies

Operation and maintenance of waste water facilities

Provision of new or improved water and waste water infrastructure

Support to Group Water Schemes

Waste Management Services

Community Involvement and Tidy Towns Support

Water Safety

Veterinary Services

Animal Welfare and Pound facilities

Burial Grounds

Sustainable Energy Programmes

### **Water Services**

Since 2014, Irish Water has been the Water Services Authority for all public water and waste water schemes. Kilkenny County Council continues to be the Water Services Authority for the Rural/Group Water Sector.

Under the twelve year Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and Kilkenny County Council, the Council undertakes the day to day delivery of the public water and waste water services on behalf of Irish Water. Irish Water funds and macro manages the service delivery, while the Council provides the staff and micro manages the service delivery.

The Service Level Agreement covers;

- public water and waste water treatment,
- public water and waste water networks,
- Project management of water and waste water capital projects.

The Council retained responsibility, on a transitional agency basis, for non domestic water billing and revenue collection in 2016. Irish Water expects to take full responsibility for this function, in Q1 of 2017.

Council staff involved in the delivery of water services, continue to be direct employees of the Council. Irish Water has assumed direct responsibility for communications, public relations, reporting to the EPA, procurement and payments of suppliers, as well as overall funding of the sector.

### **Operations and Maintenance:**

Kilkenny County Council manages 23 public drinking water supplies and 35 public waste water treatment schemes on behalf of Irish Water. In 2016, 9.7 billion litres of water (26.5 million litres/day) was supplied through Kilkenny's public water supply network to approximately 65,000 customers.

2015 is latest year for which the EPA has published its Drinking Water Quality Report. The 2016 report will be published later in 2017.

- In 2015, for the fifth year in a row, Kilkenny's Public Water Schemes achieved 100% microbiological compliance (National average 99.9%).
- 99.8 % compliance was achieved for chemical parameters (National Average 99.4%).

In line with recent years, the level of environmental compliance achieved at Kilkenny's waste water treatment plants has continued to improve. This overall trend is illustrated by the improvement in results recorded in the EPA's Annual Urban Waste Water Reports.

### **Capital Programme 2016:**

As the Water Services Authority, Irish Water now has responsibility for the Water Services Capital Programme. Kilkenny County Council staff act as project managers for the various projects approved by Irish Water.

Under the Irish Water/Kilkenny County Council Service Level Agreement:

Irish Water has responsibility for:

- Setting targets, investment plans and objectives and formulating strategy for the overall delivery of the Major and Minor Capital Programmes.
- Overall funding and delivery of the Capital Programmes.
- Procurement, budget management and change approval.
- Project Communications.

Kilkenny County Council has responsibility for:

- Provision of project management services for Major and Minor Capital Projects approved by Irish Water.
- Making available all known information regarding past performance and current status of assets which may be under consideration for capital expenditure.
- Where requested, undertake procurement activities on behalf of Irish Water.
- Reporting on project progress as required.



Irish Water's five year (2017 – 2021) Capital Investment Programme has been published. From an overall €3.5bn investment, in excess of €60m is included for investment in County Kilkenny during the lifetime of the programme.

### **Major Capital Projects**

#### **Outrath Reservoir Upgrade:**

Works commenced in August 2016 on the upgrade of Outrath reservoir and associated works. The contract is due to be completed in Q1 of 2017.



New Reservoir at Outrath

#### **2. Kilkenny City Regional Water Supply Scheme:**

Current daily demand for drinking water supply to Kilkenny City (approx 11,000m<sup>3</sup>/day) has traditionally been met by way of 50% supply from Troyswood (sourced from the Nore) and 50% supply from Radestown (sourced from the Dinan and the Douglas rivers).

In December, 2016, Irish Water lodged a planning application for the proposed upgrade. The proposal outlined in the planning application envisages the entire city supply being sourced from the Nore. An upgrade and extension to the Troyswood Water Treatment Plant, together with a treated water pump station and 2.8 km of treated water rising main from Troyswood to Radestown are proposed. The proposed scheme will provide for the production of all drinking water for Kilkenny City at the Troyswood facility with distribution from the existing reservoirs at Thornback and Radestown.

#### **Inistioge Water Supply Scheme:**

Tenders for this scheme have been submitted and it is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in Q1, 2017. Works should commence on site in Q3, 2017. The estimated project value is in the region of €6m. Ground water will be sourced and treated in Thomastown and



will be pumped into supply in the Inistioge network. The existing treatment plant at Ballygub will become redundant and the Ballygub site will be used as a reservoir site only.

### **Mains Rehabilitation Phase 2 (Leggettsrath, Newrath, Cherrymount/Knocktopher and Graiguenamanagh)**

This project includes for the replacement of approx 8Km of poorly performing water main at the above four locations. The project is expected to deliver a saving of 250m<sup>3</sup> of water per day. The project is due to be tendered in Q1 of 2017 and is expected to commence construction in Q3, 2017. The estimated cost of this project is circa €2.5m.

### **Back Yard Services and Pressure Management (Kilkenny City and Graiguenamanagh)**

A scheme which proposes to replace the existing asbestos water main and remove the lead service connections from the rear of each property with a new main and services is currently being investigated. Approx 4.4Km of services could be replaced as part of this project.

The scheme includes;

St Fiacre's Place, Kilkenny City	97 houses
Fatima Place, Kilkenny City	220 houses
Dean Cavanagh, Kilkenny City	208 houses
High St, Graiguenamanagh	28 houses
<b>Total</b>	<b>553 Houses</b>

The Project will also look at the provision of 2.8Km of new trunk main to provide for improved distribution and pressure management at the following city locations: Dean Cavanagh Pl to Emmet St, Fr Murphy Sq to Ormonde Rd, College Rd to Patrick St and James St to High St. Preliminary estimates indicate a project value of circa €5m.

### **Freshford Goresbridge Johnstown Wastewater Treatment Plants:**

- The upgrade of these three plants was completed in 2016 at a cost of €3m.

### **Castlecomer Stoneyford Urlingford Wastewater Treatment Plants:**

- The upgrade of these three plants is expected to be complete in Q1, 2017, at an expected cost of €3m.

### **Purcellsinch Waste Water Treatment Plant:**

- Upgrade works (screens, aerators, clarifiers etc.) and treatment process enhancements are underway since September 2016 at Purcellsinch waste water treatment plant and works are scheduled to be complete in Q2, 2017. The project value is approximately €1.2 million.

### **Mullinavat and Inistiogo Waste Water Treatment Plants:**

- Planning applications for the upgrade of the above two plants are expected to be lodged in Q1, 2017. The estimated value of the upgrades is approximately €3m

### **Replacement of Backyard Services – Creel Street, Freshford**

- Works commenced on site in June 2016 with the replacement of 19 backyard services on Creel Street Freshford and the laying of a new 110mm PE Watermain.
- Works are substantially complete and will be fully complete in Q1 2017. Project Cost: €70,000.

### **Water Mains Rehabilitation - Carrigeen**

- A section of approx 2.7km of water main was replaced in 2016 in Carrigeen with over 50 new connections from the new main and a new connection into the reservoir.

### **Water Mains Rehabilitation (Ballygriffin, Owing and Belline)**

- Approximately 4.5 km of water main was replaced in 2016 under this contract. This project will be complete in Q1 2017 with surface dressing on the affected road network scheduled for Q2 2017. Project Cost: €550,000

### **Water Mains Rehabilitation (Stoneyford and Goresbridge-2 schemes 1 contract)**

- Phase 1 – Site investigation works were completed in Q4 2016
- Phase 2 – Construction works to replace 950m of water main in Goresbridge are scheduled to commence and finish in Q1, 2017. Works in Stonyford to replace 2.7Km of water main and 56 connections are due to commence in Q1, 2017 and are expected to be completed in Q2, 2017.

### **Water Mains Rehabilitation - Doornane**

- This contract was awarded in Q4, 2016. The works which include the replacement of 1.3km of watermain with 30 new connections are expected to commence in Q1, 2017.

### **Jerpoint Abbey Water Mains Rehabilitation**

- Ministerial Consent has been granted to undertake the proposed works adjacent to the Jerpoint Abbey National Monument.

- Tender for Phase 1 (Route Proving and Archaeological trenching) to be advertised Q1, 2017 and likely completion date Q2, 2017.
- It is hoped that the tender for mains rehabilitation works will be awarded in Q3, 2017 and completed by end 2017. 750m of main is scheduled to be rehabilitated under this contract.

### **Glenmore Reservoir Refurbishment Programme**

- The proposal is to install a new reservoir above ground in Glenmore and to decommission the existing underground reservoir.
- Planning consent was granted in 2016. Land Acquisition is complete and design approval was received in Q4, 2016 with works scheduled to commence on site in Q1, 2017.

### **Disinfection and PH Programme (Kilkenny, Wexford and Carlow Bundle)**

- This programme is a bundle type contract including water treatment facilities in Kilkenny, Wexford and Carlow.
- The scope of the project is in two Phases. Phase 1 includes detailed assessments of existing disinfection and pH correction mechanisms together with the identification of relevant upgrade works for each site. Phase 2 is the implementation of the upgrade and associated works so as to ensure that high standards of disinfection are achieved.
- County Kilkenny has 23 Water treatment facilities included in this programme. Phase 1 works commenced in November 2016.

### **Inlet Works Programme at Piltown and Callan Waste Water Treatment Plants:**

- Works commenced on site in both plants in November 2016 with proposed completion in Q3, 2017.
- The contract consists of the design, supply, installation and commissioning of inlet screens for both Callan and Piltown.
- Works also include the design, supply, installation and commissioning of trickling filter medium at Piltown

### **Flow Monitoring and Sampling Programme for Kilkenny:**

- Waste Water Treatment Plants in County Kilkenny are included under this programme and works are substantially complete.
- Outstanding works include snags, staff training. Final handover is scheduled for Q1, 2017.
- The project involved the installation of flow monitoring equipment both on the inlets and outlets of selected sites, provision of new samplers where required and event recording equipment with all the recorded data hosted on a cloud based software package.

### **Upgrading of Market Yard Pumping Station:**

- The contract consisted of replacing the existing 4 waste water pumps with more modern units, with greater hydraulic and motor efficiency.
- A new suspended floor in the pump room, additional handrail, along with new outdoor access covers were included the contract.
- Works completed in Q2, 2016.

### **Upgrading of Mooncoin Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Works, which commenced on site in June 2016, to replace the existing surface aerators with a fine bubble diffused aeration system and to provide additional process control, are now substantially complete.

### **Rural Water Programme:**

While the EPA is the Supervising Authority for public water supplies, Kilkenny County Council is the Supervising authority for those private water supplies in County Kilkenny, which fall under the drinking water regulations.

In 2016, Kilkenny County Council was the Supervising Authority for the following:

- 195 Group Water Schemes, 125 of which are served from their own sources and 70 which are served from public mains.
- 134 Small Private Supplies (SPS), which typically include schools, food premises and rural housing estates.

The Council also manages and allocates Government grants approved under the Rural Water programme for group water and waste water schemes, as well as grants for private wells.

In 2016 approx €183,579 was paid by the Department of the Environment to Kilkenny County Council for works undertaken as part of the rural water programme as follows:

- € 141,231 for Group Water Scheme Network Upgrades and water conservation and management and € 42,348 for Group Water Scheme water quality improvements
- Subsidies towards the operational running costs of Group Water Schemes totalling €208,042.38 were administered and paid to 52 Group Schemes.
- Approvals were issued for grant applications for the provision of wells to private houses and the sum of €129,921.84 was paid out in 122 well grants.
- Staff costs totalling €90,236 were recouped from the Department to cover the supervision and administration of the rural water programme.

## **Environmental Services**

**The services provided under this Directorate include**

Waste Management Services

Litter Management

Community Involvement and Tidy Towns Support

Water Quality and Pollution Control

Water Safety

Veterinary Services

Animal Welfare and Pound facilities

Burial Grounds

Sustainable Energy Programmes

### **Environmental Services**

The key aims of the Councils Environment Department are:

- To promote sustainable development, to provide an efficient and environmentally sound waste management infrastructure and implement the Joint South East Waste Management Plan and to maintain proper regulatory and monitoring systems for environmental protection and control of pollution
- The Council has responsibility for over 500 statutory environmental functions, which are contained within over 100 pieces of legislation. The key areas dealt with include:
  - Waste Management
  - Waste Management Planning
  - Dunmore Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre
  - Recycling
  - Enforcement
  - Litter Management
  - Education and Awareness
  - Water Quality and Pollution Control
  - Water Framework Directive
  - Pollution Control and Enforcement
  - Coastal Pollution Planning
  - Water Safety
  - Veterinary Services
  - Burial Grounds

## **Waste Management**

### **Southern Region Waste Management Plan**

Kilkenny County Council continues to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the Southern Waste Management Plan which was adopted in 2015.

20 waste prevention projects were completed in 2016 including:

- Working with the Open Arts Circle to support projects promoting re-use and waste prevention including a clothes swap held on International Woman's Day and their "Sewcialising" Programme.
- The second repair directory for Kilkenny held to promote the re-use of materials.
- Design of a Kilkenny City charity shop location map,
- Sports project involving the "The Fit for Life" to promote re-usable sports bottles and
- Waste segregation campaign in Johns Green House.

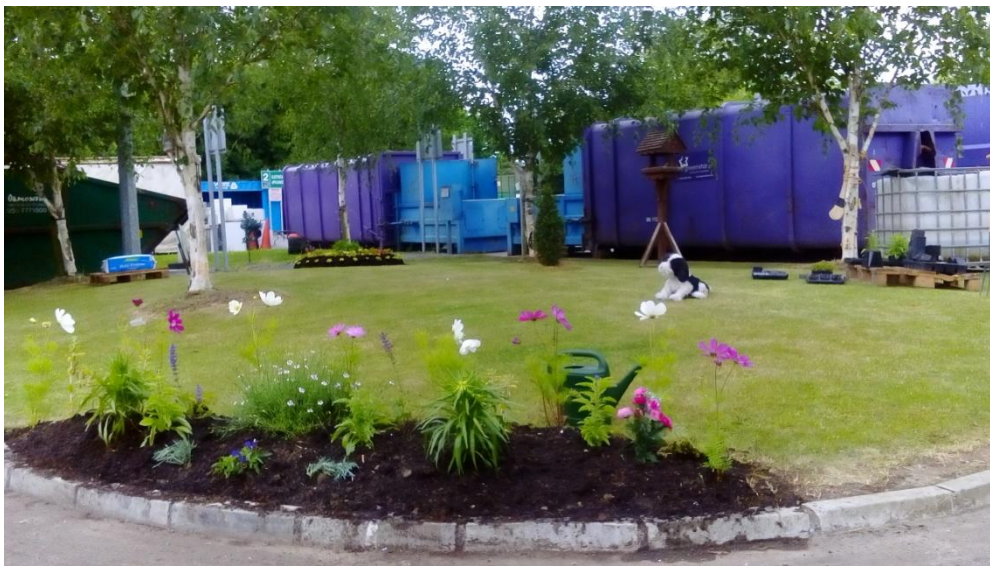
### **Dunmore Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre 2016**

Dunmore Recycling Centre continued to serve the community providing a cost effective waste management service.

- 1174 tonnes of recyclable material was collected in 2016 which is up from 1114 in 2015
- Waste quantities received at the site were up from 2676 tonnes in 2015 to 2926 tonnes in 2016. While the aim is to reduce the amounts of MSW waste, this increase was due to the growth in customers using the site. As is seen above the recycling quantities increased in a similar fashion.
- 34,423 recycling bag transactions and 9,039 weighbridge transactions passed through the Civic Amenity Site in 2016, giving a total of 43,462 transactions through the site in 2016, which is an increase of 4,280 transactions compared to the previous year.
- 2458 tonnes of leachate was disposed of to the waste water treatment plant, this tonnage include complete emptying of both lagoons for testing.
- The use of social media to advertise the site was adopted in 2015 and continues to be used during 2016; the Face book site currently has 181 followers.
- 825 people were reached through social media across 10 posts relating to the site.
- Enhancement of entrance and green areas at the civic amenity site in conjunction with the Parks department



**Fig 1: Entrance to Dunmore Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre**



**Fig 2: Civic Amenity Centre**

### **Council Recycling Services**

- Saturday recycling service continues to operate each Saturday between 10am-3pm accepting mixed paper, cardboard and plastics
- A network of 42 Bottle Banks operate throughout the county and are serviced by a cleaning contractor to ensure they do not negatively impact their local environment.
- Just over 1,459 tonnes of glass and 102 tonnes of cans were collected from these sites in 2016. These figures have all increased on the previous year. The regional tender for servicing of the recycling facilities continued in 2016.
- WEEE Ireland in partnership with Kilkenny County Council completed a number of mobile collections throughout the county to assist the public to recycle their electrical appliances. In 2016 nine collections were completed yielding a weight of 72 tonnes.



## Litter Management Plan

The Kilkenny County Council Litter Plan was adopted in June 2015 and a number of anti-litter campaigns were run to achieve targets and objectives set in the Plan.

- Kilkenny participated in the national Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign.
- The Green Dog Walker programme finished and a new campaign was launched to highlight the health risks associated with dog faeces.
- Urlingford became a pilot town for the placement of wooden dog faeces bins, manufactured locally and installed by the Council; it greatly reduced the incidences of dog fouling.
- The National Spring Clean ran throughout the spring with over 120 groups participated throughout the county.
- A regional radio campaign was launched on BEAT FM radio campaign tackling roadside litter with the Local Authorities of the South East.
- Two anti litter murals were completed by youth groups associated with two family resource centres.
- 11 litter monster puppet shows took place in Kilkenny City in the autumn.



## Enforcement

- 918 Environment Complaints were received, all were inspected and appropriate action was taken to resolve each issue



- The following inspections were completed under the RMCEI plan in 2016.
  - 971 routine and non routine waste inspections
  - 1046 routine and non routine water/wastewater inspections
  - 125 routine and non-routine air and noise inspections
  - 109 producer responsibility inspections
- 155 enforcement actions were taken as a result

## **2016 Awards and Achievements**

### **IBAL**

Kilkenny was assessed as cleaner than European norms and came eleventh in the Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) League table.

### **Public Sector Magazine**

Kilkenny County Council won the Public Sector Magazine “Excellence in Business Awards” under the category Waste Management Services in December 2016.

### **Tidy Towns and Community Awards**

- The Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum continued to provide support to active tidy town groups across the county. 3 Forum meetings were held, each providing an expert speaker and time for groups to discuss topics of interest relevant to their volunteer efforts.
- The national tidy town results for groups across the county saw an encouraging increase of scores. Kilkenny City retained its gold medal, Tullahought was awarded a prestigious silver medal for the first time and Inistioge retained its silver medal. Windgap received an Endeavour Award.

### **Education Awareness**

- Two schools received their first green flag in 2016 bringing the total number of green schools to 71. Two secondary schools started the programme and received assistance from the Environmental Awareness Officer.
- The Spring Educational Campaign is a mechanism to provide additional environmental education support through the provision of environmental specialists to conduct environmental primary school workshops. 15 workshops were organised by Kilkenny County Council in 2016 and covered themes such as biodiversity and water conservation and management.



## **Water Quality and Pollution Control**

### **Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO)**

Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils continued in their role as joint Lead Authorities for the Local Authorities' Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO). The office now has 3 regional co-ordinators, 3 support staff and 12 community water officers, including one based in Kilkenny County Council serving the south east region

Since taking up the position in late September 2016, the Kilkenny based Community water Officer has met with a number of community groups, e.g. in Piltown, Thomastown, Callan, Kilkenny City, Goresbridge and Graiguenamanagh, raising awareness about the office of LAWCO and supporting communities to participate in projects that have a vested interest in the protection and improvement in our natural water environment.

LAWCO also works with other agencies such as the EPA, PPN structure and LCDC, Group Water Schemes across the County of Kilkenny through the Municipal Districts with Local Public Reps and the communities they represent throughout the County to deliver on our responsibilities under the Water Frame Work Directive.

LAWCO is a partner with the EPA and DHPCLG in the operation of the website **catchments.ie: Water from Source to Sea**. The website was a winner in the 2016 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards in the Excellence in Innovation Category.

### **Pollution Control**

- 22 premises which hold a Section 4 Discharge Licence were inspected in 2016.
- 172 First time Farm Inspections were undertaken by Kilkenny County Council under the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the protection of Waters)

Regulations, 2014. Approximately 20% were found to be non-compliant with the regulations. 44 follow up inspections were also undertaken.

- A further 71 Farm Inspections were undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) on behalf of Kilkenny County Council in 2016.
- 32 septic tank inspections were undertaken.
- Extensive Surface Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive was continued
- 22 rivers monitored at 66 different sites throughout the county as part of the requirements for the Water Framework Directorate National Sampling Program. There were 437 samples taken at these sites for analysis over the course of 2016
- 20 premises which hold a Section 4 Discharge Licence were inspected in 2016
- 17 Nutrient Management Plans were received, assessed and approved with conditions in relation to the use of sewage sludge in agriculture.
- 542 written recommendations – primarily providing for the protection of, or improvement to water quality – were issued to the Planning Department in 2016. 33 site inspections were undertaken as part of this work.

## Water Safety

A total number of fifteen lifeguards worked on a rota basis for the months of June, July and August 2016 at the following locations:-

- The Meadows, Kilkenny City
- The Weir, Bleach Road, Kilkenny City
- Graiguenamanagh
- Inistioge
- Thomastown

<b>Statistics 2016</b>	
No of swimmers	2200
Accidents Prevented	75
Rescued people	12
First Aid Procedures	80
Advice given	380
Other	8

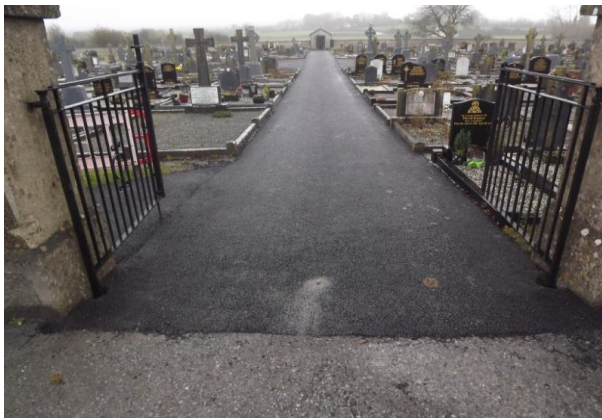
Ring Buoys are checked weekly by KCC staff and Kilkenny Water Safety

## Burial Grounds

Kilkenny County Council has 14 open burial grounds across the County with each having a caretaker in place to manage the record keeping.

Upgrading works were carried out to 6 of these burial grounds in 2016;

- Kilmoganny – Construct new 120mx3m concrete access road, restore footpath, gate repair, landscaping
- Kilbride – Re-surface access road with tarmac
- Ballykeefe – Re-surface access road with tarmac
- Tullaroan – Clean carpark/remove debris and tar/chip overlay
- Mooncoin – Connect water supply and fit push-tap
- Freshford – Construct new tarmac access road, construct centre-piece feature, local footpath repair



*New access road at Freshford Cemetery.*



*Works at Mooncoin Cemetery*

## **Veterinary Services.**

The Veterinary Service fulfils the food safety service contract between the FSAI and Kilkenny County Council which includes responsibility for the Food Safety Section of the Local Authority Veterinary Service in the Carlow area. The Veterinary Public Health and animal welfare functions include providing official controls/ regulation in small to medium throughput slaughterhouses and small meat processing plants, and the regulation of small poultry slaughtering plants (including on farm slaughter of poultry i.e. seasonal slaughter etc).

All animals slaughtered for human consumption, in premises approved under food legislation must undergo an Ante Mortem and Post Mortem inspection. All premises supervised under food legislation must have a Food Safety Management System i.e. generally based on HACCP principles with a prerequisite programme which would include traceability and recall, cleaning and sanitation, pest control etc. Inspections and audits are carried out on a risk basis on supervised premises to verify compliance with legislation. Samples are taken as part of National Control Sampling Plans and sometimes as part of investigations. The County Veterinary Officer is involved in interagency planning at regional and national level.

- Approved Slaughterhouses under the service's supervision in 2016, slaughtered 4,654 cattle, 17,749 sheep and 142,574 poultry.
- 20 food businesses were under the supervision of the service in 2016

- 27 residue samples were taken as part of the National Residue Control Plan.
- 56 meat, swabs and water samples were taken as Official Controls.
- 232 hygiene inspections (other than AM/PM Inspections) were done in food premises under the services supervision.

There are ongoing consultations with new food business start ups, and sometimes with currently supervised food businesses on expansion plans. In these cases the regulatory requirements under food legislation are discussed with businesses and they are often referred onto other relevant state agencies if they require other supports e.g. business mentoring from the Local Enterprise Office etc. In 2016 the Veterinary Service had consultations with 7 small food businesses who wish to either open new businesses or expand present activities.

### **Control of Dogs**

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

- In 2016, the Dog Warden Service was involved in the licensing 5,909 individual dogs. 4 general dog licences and 15 lifetime dog licences were issued for the county.
- There were 17 premises registered on the Dog Breeding Establishments Register on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. There were 32 DBE inspections completed in 2016.

Upgrading works to the Dog Shelter at Paulstown commenced in 2016. Works will include additional kennels, new agility area and enhanced isolation unit facilities.



### **New Agility Area at Dog Shelter Paulstown**

The Consultative Committee on Dog Re-homing and Welfare is multidisciplinary in makeup. It includes elected representatives, Council Officials from Carlow and Kilkenny including the County Veterinary Officer, representatives from Animal Welfare organisations and the Irish



Farmers Association (IFA). Its focus is to maximise dog re-homing and to assist in maintaining dog welfare standards at the Dog Shelter.

- There was a 97% re-homing rate of dogs from the Shelter in 2016.

Kilkenny County Council impounded 52 horses and licensed 4 horses in 2016.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Energy Efficiency Projects:**

**Kilkenny Fire Station Kilkenny City:** 2016 is the third year of energy efficient upgrades.

A new solar photovoltaic system was installed in 2016 along with double glazed windows at the front of the fire station.



*Kilkenny Fire Station 6kWp solar photovoltaic panels*

**Thomastown Fire Station-** the building fabric was insulated walls and attic, a new energy efficient clothes drying system was installed along with smart storage heaters.

**Kilkenny Machinery Yard:** A solar photovoltaic system was installed in the machinery yard in October; the yard is now generating its own electricity, contributing to the base electricity load for the machinery yard.

**Graigenamanagh Library:** A new energy efficient condensing oil boiler was installed with outdoor temperature control and zonal control of the library.

**Urlingford Library:** Installation of a new energy efficient condensing oil boiler with outdoor temperature control and controls.

### **Covenant of Mayors;**

Kilkenny signed up to the Covenant of Mayors in April 2015. The covenant is a European initiative to reduce carbon emissions by 2020 and 2030. The Covenant of Mayors requires signatories to compile a sustainable energy action plan to meet the carbon reduction target of 20% by 2020. Kilkenny County Council held eight workshops in County Hall and invited participants from all sectors in Kilkenny to identify actions to be included into the actions plan. The sectors were Community, Public Sector, Agriculture, Residential, Transport and

Commercial. The progress on the action plan was communicated to SPC 5 and the council meeting in December.

### **Public Lighting;**

The Energy Office, Roads Office and Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency (CKEA) applied to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for technical assistance to update the inventory and compile a base case for the retrofit of inefficient public lighting in Kilkenny. The inventory project was started in March and completed in October. It consisted of merging two inventories with the most accurate data and eventually compiling onto an online management tool, further analysis will be carried out on this in 2017.

### **Streetlight EPC – Intelligent Energy Europe Project**

The Streetlight EPC project will conclude in March 2017. The pilot project being pursued in Kilkenny will act a pilot for the advancement of energy performance projects in Ireland. On the 18th November 2016 Kilkenny County Council held an official contract signing to appoint a lighting consultant to carry out the lighting designs for the Streetlight EPC pilot project in Kilkenny.

From this a “Meet the Buyer” event was organised in Kilkenny County Hall to outline the Pilot Streetlight EPC project to potential lighting suppliers. There were 47 attendees in the Council Chamber on the day.

### **Energy Awareness:**

During Science Week 2016 the Energy Office and CKEA partnered with the library service to deliver “energy talks” to schools these were held in the local libraries. This involved a PowerPoint presentation to the school children and an interactive display of Lego and K’NEX solar energy kits. These talks took place at the following libraries;

Tuesday 15th November - Castlecomer Library

Wednesday 16th November - Loughboy Library

Wednesday 16th November - City Library

Thursday 17th November - Graiguenamanagh Library

Friday 18th November - Ferrybank Library



**Appendix 1 - Schedule of Members Conferences and Training Events**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>2016 Conference Details and Cllr. Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
5-6 Feb 2016	Housing Act 2014 Andrew McGuinness	Galway
5-7 Feb 2016	EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 Breda Gardner	Clonakilty
11 Feb 2016	AILG Training Module 1 - LA Safety Services Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Ger Frisby	Monaghan
13 Feb 2016	AILG Training Module 1 - LA Safety Services MH Cavanagh	Waterford
13-15 Feb 2016	Integrated Roads and Planning Andrew McGuinness	Galway
18 Feb 2016	AILG Training Module 1 - LA Safety Services Patrick O'Neill, David Kennedy, Joe Malone,	Mullingar
11 Mar 2016	The Value of Local Government Fidelis Doherty	Wexford
1-2 Apr 2016	LAMA Spring Training Seminar  MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick O'Neill, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Joe Malone, Patrick McKee, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Sligo
8-10 Apr 2016	Local Economic and Community Plans Maurice Shortall, John Brennan	Clonakilty
14-15 Apr 2016	IPI National Planning Conference Peter Cleere	Athlone
15-17 Apr 2016	Auditing and Governance in Local Government Michael McCarthy, Matt Doran, Ger Frisby	Carlingford
29 Apr 2016	Banking and Money Reform Malcolm Noonan, Fidelis Doherty	Dublin
5-7 May 2016	AILG Annual Conference	Donegal

MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Michael Doyle, Patrick O'Neill, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran, Sean Tyrrell, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby

10 May 2016	Demystifying EU Funding Fidelis Doherty	Waterford
13-15 May 2016	Regulation and Inspection of Septic Tanks Breda Gardner	Clonakilty
20 May 2016	Regional and Local Economic Development Fidelis Doherty	Waterford
20 May 2016	AILG - Module 2 - LA Cultural Services  MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Patrick O'Neill, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran, Joe Malone, Patrick McKee, Sean Tyrrell, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Killarney
20-22 May 2016	Domestic Water and Conservation Techniques Melissa O'Neill	Clonakilty
27-29 May 2016	A Programme for Government Fidelis Doherty	Wexford
8-10 Jun 2016	Entitlement to Health Services Melissa O'Neill, Eamon Aylward	Clonakilty
9-12 Jun 2016	Sean MacDiarmada Summer School 2016 Peter Cleere	Leitrim
14 Jun 2016	AILG Module 3 - LA Planning  MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Michael Doyle, Patrick O'Neill, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Patrick McKee, Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby	Clare
18 Jun 2016	AILG Module 3 - LA Planning Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Matt Doran, Eamon Aylward	Dundalk
24-26 Jun 2016	Housing Grants and Schemes Maurice Shortall, John Brennan	Clonakilty

14 July 2016	AILG Induction Sean Tyrrell	Dublin
16-23 July 2017	MacGill Summer School John Brennan, Maurice Shortall	Glenties
22-24 July 2016	Domestic Water Saving and Conservation Techniques MH Cavanagh	Clonakilty
5-7 Aug 2016	BREXIT - The Economic Consequences for Ireland MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea	Clonakilty
26-28 Aug 2016	Local Economic and Community Plans Michael Doyle	Clonakilty
2-3 Sept 2016	Entitlement to Health Services Pat Millea	Clonakilty
10 Sept 2016	AILG Module 4 - LA Housing and the National Action Plan for Housing  MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Cork
15 Sept 2016	AILG Module 4 - LA Housing and the National Action Plan for Housing Joe Malone, Sean Tyrrell	Longford
30 Sept - 1 Oct 2016	LAMA Autumn Seminar  MH Cavanagh, Pat Millea, Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Michael Doyle, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran, Joe Malone, Sean Tyrrell, Melissa O'Neill, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Cork
4 Oct 2016	National Capital Forum Ireland, Making Nature Count Malcolm Noonan	Dublin
7 Oct 2016	IPI Autumn Conference Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Ger Frisby	Dublin
13 - 14 Oct 2016	AILG Autumn Seminar 2016	Wexford

MH Cavanagh, Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Michael Doyle, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran, Joe Malone, Sean Tyrrell, Melissa O'Neill, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby

22 Oct 2016	AILG Module 5 - National and LA Emergency Planning Maurice Shortall, John Brennan, Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Breda Gardner, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Sligo
27 Oct 2016	AILG Module 5 - National and LA Emergency Planning MH Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, David Kennedy, Patrick McKee, Pat Dunphy	Kilkenny
4 Nov 2016	Local Authority Budgets 2017 Patrick McKee	Letterkenny
15 Nov 2016	AILG Module 6 - Regional Assemblies and their role with LA's and the Housing Bill 2016 MH Cavanagh, Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby	Wexford
16 Nov 2016	Irish Council for Social Housing Malcolm Noonan	Dublin
18-20 Nov 2016	Rebuilding Ireland, Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness Pat Dunphy	Carlingford
19 Nov 2016	AILG Module 6 - Regional Assemblies and their role with LA's and the Housing Bill 2016 Andrew McGuinness, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Matt Doran	Dublin
24 Nov 2016	AILG Module 6 - Regional Assemblies and their role with LA's and the Housing Bill 2016 Pat Fitzpatrick, Patrick McKee, Pat Millea	Ballinaslow
25-27 Nov 2016	First Time Home Buyer Mortgage David Kennedy, Patrick McKee	Clonakilty
2-4 Dec 2016	A Practical Guide for Budget 2017 Joe Malone	Clonakilty
9-11 Dec 2016	BREXIT - The Economic Consequences for Ireland Pat Fitzpatrick	Carlingford
16-17 Dec 2016	Community Development, Achieving Social Inclusion Michael McCarthy, Peter Cleere, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby	Galway

## **Appendix 2**

### **Financial Reports**

**Details in respect of the Income and Expenditure Account Statement for 2016 will be included in the final Report.**