



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

## KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT JULY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

### EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

### FINANCE:

**Chief Executive Financial Report [Appendix 1].**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2018: Closing Date for receipt of applications under the Community Enhancement Programme.**

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018: Visit by Deputy Kevin Boxer Moran, T.D., Minister of State for Office of Public Works and Flood Relief.**

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018: Fairytale Festival, Woodstock.**

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018: Launch of Broadsheet 2018 in the Parade Tower Conference, Kilkenny Castle at 3.00 p.m.**

## REPORT AT A GLANCE

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### CORPORATE SERVICES

#### Civic Events

##### Reception for Vicky Phelan

The Cathaoirleach hosted a reception for Vicky Phelan on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018, in recognition of her bravery and resilience in highlighting the issues of the National Cervical Screening Programme and in so doing has provided a tremendous service to the women of Ireland.



##### Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Eamon Aylward was elected as Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council for 2018/2019 at the Annual Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, in Council Chamber, City Hall, Kilkenny.



### COMMUNITY, CULTURAL & HERITAGE

#### Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018.

The Council has received 19 applications under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2018.

The applications have been evaluated and a report will be circulated at the July Council meeting for consideration and a decision.

#### CLÁR

The Council submitted 11 applications for approval under the 2018 CLÁR Scheme (10 under Measure 1\* and 1 application under Measure 2\*\*).

The Department has approved of the following 8 no. Measure 1 applications:

Kilmaganny - Public Lighting, Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€19,710.00
Kilmanagh National School & Church - Parking & Safety Improvements	€27,000.00
Listerlin National School - - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€18,000.00
Castlewarren Village & Sports Ground - Safety Improvements	€1,980.00
St. Nicholas National School, Windgap - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€37,800.00
Conahy Community Car Park	€31,500.00
Lisdowney - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€40,500.00
Knockroe - Improved access & parking	€30,000.00
<b>Total funding approved</b>	<b>€206,490.00</b>

**Measure 2-Play Areas/Multi Use Games Areas.**  
Up to 90% of cost is funded subject to a min grant of €5,000 and a max of €50,000.)

#### Commercial Premises Paint Scheme

The Council received 36 applications under the 2018 Commercial Premises Paint Scheme. All 36 applications were approved and the approval letters have issued. The total budget is now fully committed.

#### Thomastown Age Friendly Town

An Age Friendly Town involves 4 key stages as follows:-

1. Set up.
2. Audit and consult.



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3. Plan –Draft Plan-Consult on the Draft-Finalise the Plan.
4. Act - Implement the plan. When 3 actions are implemented in full seek recognition as an Age Friendly Town.

### Kilkenny Local Community and Development Committee (Kilkenny LCDC) - Local Economic and Community Plan Implementation

Three LCDC meetings have taken place to date in 2018.

#### Update on May Meeting.

- Presentations were made by Angela Hayes – Teac Tom and by Trish Finnegan – Chair-Lifelink Kilkenny. Both presenters were thanked for very informative presentations on two mental health services.
- Healthy Ireland – *see paragraph below.*
- Following a presentation by Lindsey Butler, Community Department on the Healthy Ireland Community Plan which was prepared by the HI Sub-Group, the Healthy Ireland Community Plan 2018-2021 was adopted by the LCDC.
- The implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for 2018 was considered in the context of the 84 identified actions. It was agreed to focus the work of the LCDC on its more strategic actions. These will be identified and finalised at the July meeting of the LCDC.
- Mapping of Funding – *see paragraph below.*
- The PPN update was given by Elizabeth Dermody. She highlighted that the PPN has now 237 members. It has agreed a 3 year Strategic Plan, which is to be published.

A number of presentations had been made given to the PPN on Kilkenny Tourism, GDPR training, Governance training via Libraries and Community Centres and on the roles and

functions of the Councils SPC's and other committees.

- A presentation was made on the Facilities Audit and Mapping Report. The audit included the identification of Arts/Sports/Community Facilities in the county and was an update of the previous audit undertaken in 2009. It was agreed that the online mapping/GIS elements be finalised and presented at a future meeting at which the report will be launched.

#### SICAP Contract

The Contract for the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme for the period 2018-2022 was awarded to Kilkenny Leader Partnership clg following a competitive tender. The Programme aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through targeted interventions with 26 community groups and 475+ individuals, mainly in areas of high deprivation but also on a county wide basis. The work plan for 2018 was approved by the LCDC at its March meeting.

The Mid Term review process commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> June when the SICAP Sub Group met and reviewed the various reports and information from the reporting system and with the Programme Implementer. Pobail has also undertaken its review. Overall the programme is on target for 2018 and no issues of concern were noted.

#### Healthy Ireland Funding.

The Department of Health and Pobal invited Kilkenny LCDC to apply for funding under Round 2 of Strand 1 of the Healthy Ireland Fund (1 April 2018-31 March 2019). The invitation issued on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Both Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) are eligible to apply.





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The maximum allocation to Kilkenny LCDC is €75,000. The maximum allocation to Kilkenny CYPSC is €37,500.

The primary aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

The objectives of the Fund are:

- To raise awareness of, and support for, Healthy Ireland through the funding of community-based and national health promotion activities.
- To facilitate and resource cross-sectoral and partnership networks that promote health and well-being.
- To resource the development of locally-led, cross-sectoral strategies promoting health and wellbeing.
- To add value to existing health promotion initiatives through the provision of Healthy Ireland resources.
- To support the health and wellbeing of the most disadvantaged groups and areas and those experiencing significant health inequalities through long-term planning.

Both Kilkenny LCDC and Kilkenny CYPSC submitted applications to avail of both allocations by the closing date of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The LCDC submission was as follows:

1. Castlecomer Discovery Park - Natural Connections - Building resilience in young people through outdoor education €11,438.
2. St Patricks Centre-Accessible Transport Study €7,500.
3. St Patricks Centre- Community Dysphagia training for the Hospitality Sector €6,100.

4. Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership - Healthy Inclusive Communities €28,212.
5. Foroige - Be Happy, be Healthy, Kilkenny €16,250.
6. CHO 5 and Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford, Carlow, Tipperary LCDC's - Regional Health and Well- being Training and Awareness Programme €5,500.

The decision of the Department is awaited.

### Kilkenny LCDC Healthy Ireland Community Plan

Kilkenny LCDC with significant assistance from its Healthy Ireland Sub Group has prepared its Healthy Ireland Community Plan. It is a high level strategy that distils Governments National Health Ireland Strategy in to a local plan with locally devised actions. It aims to create a Kilkenny Community where everyone can enjoy and benefit from psychiatric and mental health wellbeing. The plan will inform future allocation of grants under the Healthy Ireland funding stream.

A copy of the Plan will be circulated to Elected Members and a soft copy will be available to download from the Councils website.

### Community Enhancement Programme.

A new Community Enhancement Programme has been announced. The programme replaces the Department's RAPID and Community Facilities Schemes. The programme is to be administered by LCDC's and is targeted at addressing disadvantage, as outlined in the Local Economic and Community Plan. Kilkenny LCDC has received an allocation of €136,319 for 2018. The Scheme provides for two levels of funding as follows:

- Small grants €41,300 (30%) of the allocation is being allocated for small grants up to €3,000,
- Larger grants €95,000 (70%) is being allocated to for grants up to €10,000.



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The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The Kilkenny LCDC will make its decisions at its meeting to be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The schedule of approved applications will be circulated to Elected Members as soon as possible after 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### Callan Socio Economic Plan.

In 2018 it is intended that the Council will facilitate the preparation of a Socio-Economic Plan for Callan. This will entail the identification of both Community and Economic actions as part of an Action Plan involving local consultations and inputs.

### Lone Parent Needs Analysis

The Council is identified as Lead Agency for this Action in the LECP. It is intended to commence this action in Q3, 2018.

### Mapping of Funding and Resources.

Kilkenny LCDC has agreed to undertake a mapping exercise that will analyse allocation of resources (services and funding), identify gaps and identify links between gaps and levels of need and of engagement.

The approach to be taken at present included the gathering of funding data from each relevant Council Department, the identification of GIS coordinates for each grant award location and the county-wide mapping of that data. The exercise undertaken by Kilkenny County Council involves the identification of grants awarded or contributions made by Kilkenny County Council (and former Borough Council) for the 5 years 2013-2017 under relevant headings which involved 24 funding.

Under the auspices of Kilkenny LCDC a Mapping Task Force was established and it met to consider the requirements. Each of the sub

Groups partnering Agencies, and others, have now been tasked with the collection of the relevant grant/funding data from their own agencies and to feed that back to the Task Force.

The Council has recruited a new GIS Officer and she has considered the data gathered in respect of Kilkenny County Council grants/funding awarded for the period 2013-2018. A number of amendments are required to be made to its format so as to enable the transfer of the data sets into the Geographical Information System and this works will be attended to as soon as possible.

The other necessary element of the programme is the recruitment of a Community Data Analyst and this will be further progressed shortly.

### Kilkenny Traveller Integration Group (KTIG)

It is intended to re-establish this group which was originally a sub group of the County Development Board (CDB) but ceased when the CDB was dissolved. The KTIG is an Interagency Group of service providers and travellers, the purpose of which is to provide an integrated service delivery to Travellers. It is an action of the Local Economic and Community Plan-Kilkenny County Council being the lead agency. Its first meeting took place in early July 2018.

### Heritage

#### Biodiversity Grant for Kilkenny

The Heritage Office has been awarded a grant of €8,500 by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant scheme to co-fund 3 biodiversity projects in Co. Kilkenny, as follows:

- A Citizen Science project, in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, to encourage people to gather and submit records of key plant and animal species in





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specific nature conservation sites around the county.

- A Pollinator Awareness Project
- Contribution to a publication on Swifts, in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland and other Local Authorities

### Things to do in Heritage Week 2018

While enjoying the beautiful weather why not think about what you might like to do during this year's Heritage Week which runs from 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August. Guided tours of Heritage sites, stories of the River Nore, tile painting workshops and Bug Hotels for children are just a few of the many interesting things to do. For further details on the above events and other Heritage Week events to <https://www.heritageweek.ie/whats-on/events?where=kilkenny&when=&type=&order=eventFirstDate+asc&q=>

### Pollination Adjudication

The Heritage Officer, along with Heritage Officers and Biodiversity Officers from 8 other Local Authorities, and the National Biodiversity Data Centre, met in Co. Hall Portlaoise to review applications to the Local Authority Tidy Towns Pollinator Award. 69 applications were received, including 4 from Tidy Towns groups in Co. Kilkenny (Keep Kilkenny Beautiful, Thomastown, Inistioge and Tullahought.

The results will be announced at the National Tidy Towns awards ceremony in Dublin in September.



Local Authority Heritage Officers & Biodiversity Officers, with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, met in Co. Hall Portlaoise to review Tidy Towns Pollinator applications

## TOURISM & MARKETING

### Kilkenny Tourism AGM

The annual general meeting of Kilkenny Tourism took place on 13th June, 2018 in the Parade Tower Conference Centre, Kilkenny. Guest speaker was Ciara Sugrue, Fáilte Ireland.

Brian Tyrrell spoke about the supports being provided by Kilkenny County Council.

KKT acknowledged the departure of Maura Hickey from Tourism to Housing, and thanked Maura for her tireless work over the past eight years.

Grace Quinn, as Maura's replacement, was welcomed.

Changes to the Board included the resignations of Colin Ahern, Grace Fegan and Gabrielle Carroll, and the new Board members selected were Elizabeth Keyes, Mairead Rohan, and a hotels nominee is awaited.

### Destination Kilkenny Partnership Meeting

The full Destination Kilkenny Partnership group, which met on 30th April to make progress on the four pillars of activity, and as a follow up a facilitated evening workshop on the "Evening Economy" strategy was held in the Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny on 28th June, 2018. The workshop, hosted by Fáilte Ireland, had representatives from all sectors of the Tourism industry in Kilkenny, and was described as the first step in developing a coherent evening economy offer throughout Kilkenny, ensuring that Kilkenny would become an evening destination which would attract visitors who would wish to avail of early evening experiences. An audit of existing experiences is being compiled, and best practice exemplars being investigated, and the Destination Partnership





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will consider the results for adoption and implementation.

### Suzhou / Huqiu SND visit

Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward, welcomed an official delegation from Suzhou New District, China, to County Hall on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The Chinese delegation was led by Mr Shen Ning Vice Chairman of Huqiu District (SND) People's Congress Standing Committee, who was accompanied by four colleagues from the District's Cultural and Tourism departments.

At the official reception in Kilkenny County HQ, the Chinese visitors were given insights into Kilkenny's Cultural and Tourism developments, with presentations by Mary Mulholland, Director of Services and Brian Tyrrell from the Council's Tourism Department.

Cllr. Aylward welcomed a presentation by the Suzhou delegation, and noted that with the recent commencement of direct flights between China and Ireland, we might deepen existing relationships between the sister cities of Kilkenny and Suzhou, and at the conclusion of the official reception the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive Colette Byrne, and Mr Sheng signed a memorandum which seeks to build on existing agreements which date back to 2012.

The delegation, who stayed in the Newpark hotel, were taken on a guided tour of Kilkenny and visited Kilkenny Castle, the National Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, and paid a visit to Cartoon Saloon, where they heard all about the Kilkenny animation studio's plans for future collaborations worldwide, including opportunities in China.

In the afternoon the delegation toured the Abbey Quarter, where Council Chief Executive Colette

Byrne gave the visitors a presentation on the development potential at the Abbey Quarter, and illustrated the planning and development process involved in developing the site.

The delegation expressed their thanks and invited the Cathaoirleach to visit Suzhou "to further strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two cities".

### Press Coverage June

*Irish Mirror 18th June 2018: 11 reasons why Kilkenny is the best county in Ireland:*

<https://www.irishmirror.ie/lifestyle/travel/kilkenny-best-county-ireland-hurling-9121754>

**Mooncoin is featured:** Situated in the very south of the county Mooncoin is somewhat of a hidden gem being so close to the Waterford border. Best known for the song "The Rose of Mooncoin" which you may know as it is sung each year Kilkenny make it to the final but there is plenty more the village has to offer.

The great Mooncoin has also been home to many brilliant hurlers in its history.



### Walking Trails: Woodstock Loop Walks: Woodstock Loop and Ladies Loop

Kilkenny County Council, with support from KLP, is advancing the development of ways marked looped trails at Woodstock / Inistioge, to encourage visitors to park at the recently opened car park at The Rower Inistioge GAA club premises, walk along the Point Road and by the





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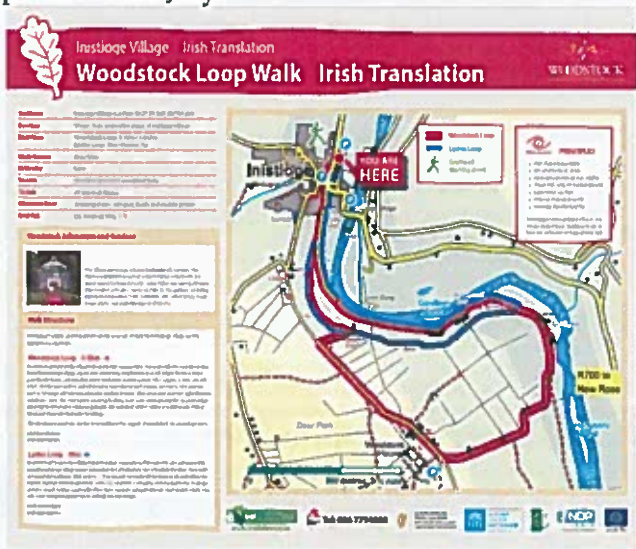
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River Nore, into Woodstock. The trail will be in place in mid July.



experience the state of the art facilities at Walshe’s Distillery. The distillery is dedicated to the production of premium handcrafted Irish whiskeys. The tour was very informative, and enjoyed by all, and is a particular benefit to demonstrate the value of networking to the B&B sector.



### BLOOM 2018

Kilkenny Tourism attended BLOOM 2018 from 31st May –4th June.

119,000 people attended the festival. Bloom gave us direct exposure with our target audience. It also provided us with excellent sales opportunities for all stakeholders. Overall it was great exposure for the Kilkenny brand.



### Kilkenny B&B’s networking

Kilkenny Tourism, in conjunction with Walshe’s Distillery, organised a tour /lunch & networking opportunity for the B&B sector. For many this was the first time they had the opportunity to

## ROADS

### Western Environs Infrastructure Scheme – LIHAF

The closing date for receipt of tenders in the procurement process for Western Environs enabling infrastructure is 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

Tenders will be evaluated subsequently with a view to appointment of a contractor and commencement of works in Q3 2018. Additionally, Kilkenny Carlow ETB has recently received a schedule of accommodation and letter of consent to prepare Design Team tender documents for the Kilkenny School Campus consisting of two second level educational facilities. This is significant progress towards the delivering these educational facilities in the Western Environs.

### N25 New Ross Bypass

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is approximately two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in 2019.





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The construction of the main spans has commenced from Pier 4 (river pier) using “form travellers”. These moveable steel frames were initially assembled side by side on top of the pier and contain the formwork system that casts the concrete deck. The travellers have now separated and moved out in opposite directions from either side of the pier to cast the first deck segments. By this incremental method, the deck is launched, segment by segment, as the separate form travellers move out and away from both sides of the pier. Similar traveller systems will be launched from the piers on the opposite sides of the main spans (i.e. piers 3 & 5) and the separate decks will thus cantilever out incrementally from each pier until they meet in the middle of the span. This process will continue to progress over the coming months. The approach spans on the western (Kilkenny) side continue to progress towards completion, while span 6 on the eastern (Wexford) side is also nearing completion. Night time works on the bridge have commenced following completion of the necessary consultation and approval processes.

The full roundabout on the N25 at Glenmore became operational under temporary traffic management on May 29th. This traffic management will remain in operation until July as finishing works are completed. Final surfacing works on the approaches will then be completed and the roundabout will continue to operate without traffic management. The adjacent Ballyverneen Road Overbridge and Glenmore Road Underbridge are both nearing completion which will allow the respective local roads to re-open. The piers and abutments for the railway overbridge are also progressing to completion. Bulk earthworks are now substantially complete and drainage works are over 75% complete. Pavement foundations are also well advanced and pavement layers continue to be constructed over the summer months.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that road surfaces, temporary management systems etc. continue to operate safely and as required. The site continues to be monitored for the generation of noise, vibration and dust. The recent very dry weather has created challenging conditions for the generation of dust and mitigation measures are being closely monitored to minimise any impacts on neighbouring properties.



Glenmore Roundabout fully open under temporary traffic management. Glenmore Road Underbridge to left, Ballyverneen Road Underbridge to bottom right providing grade separated access for local traffic.



Barrow Bridge-Finished underside of deck at Pink Rock. (Left)



Barrow Bridge - Construction of main span decks from Pier 4 by ‘form travellers’. Approach spans nearing completion at Pink Rock (to right) for commencement of main span deck from Pier 3.





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The ninth quarterly project newsletter was published in June, and the project website [www.n25newross.ie](http://www.n25newross.ie) continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. A further short progress video was released by Wexford County Council in May, and a feature information video will be completed shortly providing detailed information on the project and the construction of the Barrow Bridge in particular. Given the high level of public interest in the project, it is proposed to present this video to local stakeholders and interest groups, including the local authorities, schools, chamber of commerce etc. The 24 hour telephone hotline continues to operate to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.

### B12 Maintenance

The Municipal District Offices log defects on the national roads via the NRA Geo App. Where the costs of funding works are generally up to €50,000, Kilkenny County Council can seek funding from TII to address those defects. Kilkenny County Council has been successful in obtaining funding of a total of €208,681 from TII to address defects identified at 7 defects located on the N24, N78 and N77.

### Capital Maintenance

The Municipal District Offices log defects on the national roads via the NRA Geo App. Where the costs of funding works are in the region of €50,000-€200,000 and beyond the B12 allocations available above, Kilkenny County Council can seek funding under a Capital Maintenance Allocation. This avenue of funding addresses the gap between the funds required to complete

small routine maintenance repairs under B12 Maintenance and larger works more associated with the pavement capital renewals programme. Kilkenny County Council has been successful in obtaining funding of a total of €313,500 from TII to address defects identified at Kilbride, Kilamery and Kiltallaghan on the N76 Callan to Clonmel Road. The works at each location will involve planning out the exiting wearing course, laying a regulating course, reinstatement with HRA and replacement of road markings and studs.

## WATER SERVICES

### Operation and Maintenance

The recent weather event has had a significant impact on the water supplies in Kilkenny over the last number of weeks. The schemes most affected are Bennettsbridge, Castlecomer and Inistioge. Castlecomer and Inistioge supplies have had water tinkered on a number of occasions to supplement the reservoirs and keep the supplies operational. The Bennettsbridge supply has proven more troublesome with the infiltration gallery supplying no water from the Nore for over a week and an over reliance on 3 no. wells. This has been exasperated with daily leaks on the scheme. We are currently shutting down nightly from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. to recharge the wells and will continue with the same process until water levels improve.

### Update on Water Services Capital Projects 2018 Kilkenny City Water Supply Scheme

Kilkenny City WSS - Currently awaiting outcome of Planning Appeal and CPO Oral Hearing held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The project is currently out to tender.





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### Inistioge Water Supply Scheme

Civil work (18.7 Km pipelines, 3 Reservoirs) near completion. River crossing and well drilling ongoing, Mechanical and Electrical works commenced, project completion target date Dec 2018.

### Kilkenny Water Conservation and Network Management Project

4 No sections for Mains Replacement - Newrath, Graiguenamanagh, Cherrymount \Knocktopher and Leggetsrath. Project substantially completed.

### Mullinavat and Inistioge Waste Water Treatment Plants

Projects currently out to tender, appointment by end of 2018, Land and wayleaves ongoing, River crossing at Inistioge being included in the water project above.

### Kilkenny Drainage Area Plan

Consultant appointed, bundled with Wexford, Waterford & Dungarvan, Program start meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Project will include Mapping, CCTV and modelling of the sewer network for current and proposed population growth.

### Water Networks Programme

Patrick street, Kilkenny City - 225m of 200mm and 150mm main laid and tested. Connections on hold until the Autumn: Tubrid, Kilmacow, approx 3km of main to be laid, currently on site. Kilkenny Street and Mill Street, Freshford, works to commence on site in August. Some Site Investigation works to be completed: Doornane, Monnocoin 1.3km of main replacement, works starting in August.

### Backyard services

Bohercrushia Street, Freshford under construction at present to change over 6 houses.

### Lead services

Detailed design underway in a number of locations, works to begin in Thomastown in late August.

### Disinfection programme

Works continuing on various sites around the County.

### Reservoir cleaning and Minor repairs programme

Majority of reservoirs cleaned in the south of county, cleaning on hold due to current weather conditions

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## HOUSING

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### Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing, by letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 133 units for 2018.

During the first six months of 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows;

- Construction underway on a rural house at Barna, Freshford. Completion date July 2018.
- Construction in progress on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 self contained 1 bed units. Expected completion date August 2018.
- Purchase of 16 houses - 6 completed and 12 at sale agreed stage
- Construction commenced on 54 houses at Ballybough Street, Kilkenny (Respond AHB)
- 38 Houses at Hoban Park, Bolton, Callan. Contractor on site 18<sup>th</sup> June and completion date in quarter 1 2020.
- 1 house at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road - Contractor on site 18<sup>th</sup> June. Completion date expected in June 2019.





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- Group Home at Cloghabrody, Thomastown – Planning/Part 8 stage.
- 50 units at Nuncio Road to commence in July 18 as a 3 phased development (Respond).
- 27 Units at Walkin Street, Kilkenny to commence in August, (Oaklee AHB).
- Kilkenny County Council has received funding approval from the Dept of Housing for a further 18 Houses at Togher Way, Urlingford.
- 33 units at Donaguile, Castlecomer to go to tender at end of June.

### 18 Units under Construction at Togher Way, Urlingford



**Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP):** 2018 is the final year of the 5 year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 – 2018. At the end of June 2018, KCC delivered 60 units of accommodation. This Council is on target to meet the target of 65 units of accommodation set out in TAP for this time period.

### **Vacant Homes**

Evelyn Graham, Senior Executive Architect is appointed as the Vacant Homes Officer for Kilkenny and an Action Plan was drafted and submitted to the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Kilkenny County Council has carried out two vacant sites survey in 2015 and 2017. These

surveys focused on sites greater than 0.5 acres and were not limited to residential sites. The subject areas in the 2017 survey were limited to those zoned for residential and regeneration development categories in large urban centres. The survey identified in total 196 sites of which 75 were houses and 15 had the potential for housing development. The 2015 survey areas were in smaller settlements and identified 62 sites containing houses or suitable for housing development.

The focus of attention, under the Vacant Homes Action Plan initially, was to identify housing units that can be brought back to productive use at minimum cost. Over 100 houses/apartments were inspected in the City, scheduled towns and larger villages between April and June 2018.

Categories breakdown of units inspected as follows:

- 18 No./14% Former commercial/residential properties – fair to poor condition
- 40-50% properties inspected unregistered
- 10 letters issued to date-2 confirmed houses occupied or not available
- 1 property in Kilkenny City centre possible CPO - potential for 2 apartments
- 1 house identified to date in Kilkenny Environs as a repossession-good quality house vacant 2 years
- 62/48% vacant properties inspected in very poor condition or semi-derelict
- Potential Urban Regeneration units-2 locations: 1 Kilkenny City & 1 Thomastown - 13 units total
- Vacancies due to residents in Nursing Homes or Fair Deal Scheme -No hard data on this category as yet (anecdotally only)

The survey findings have highlighted a number of issues including:





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- Lack of title with some of the properties, identifying and making contact with the actual owners. It was also noted that some of the properties initially identified as vacant were actually occupied.
- It is also of note that most of the properties inspected were older and require substantial works and investment.
- Some properties are considered unsuitable due to poor condition or other constraints. However, in particular cases a number of houses on a street could be considered as an urban regeneration project which would attract a greater level of funding.
- Some properties inspected were a mix of retail and residential and may have planning implications.
- Some properties may also be left vacant as they belong to older people in nursing homes and may be tied in with the Fair Deal Scheme.

The Compulsory Purchase procedure may have to be used for those properties where title is unclear, unregistered or where no resolution plan is agreed with the owner.

The survey and inspections carried out to date do not support the findings as initially published in media reports based on Census and Geodirectory data.

The Council will use the *Repair to Lease and Buy & Renew Schemes* where applicable to help support property owners to bring their properties back into productive use.

### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 157 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/06/2018.

MONTH	2016	2017	2018
January	37	29	37
February	30	26	32
March	18	26	21
April	26	25	18
May	34	28	29
June	31	24	20
July	31	34	
August	32	27	
September	27	24	
October	30	27	
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>157</b>

### Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) 2018

The CAS scheme is open to all approved Housing Bodies to apply for capital funding to meet the needs of the Elderly, Disabled and the Homeless. There are over 110 units identified to meet these needs and this will help alleviate the growing pressure on hostel and Bed & Breakfast use by the Council over the next 3 years.

### Homeless Policy

At the Housing SPC held on 7th June the draft report on Kilkenny's Homeless Services Policy was considered and the amended draft will be circulated to all members in due course.

### Rough Sleepers Survey:

The six monthly Rough Sleepers Survey was carried out from 12 midnight on the night/early morning of May 29th /30th 2018. The survey was coordinated by Kilkenny Homeless Action Team (KHAT), in accordance with best practice guidelines issued by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive.

On the night in question no persons were found to be sleeping rough in Kilkenny and Environs. Two members of the ROMA community were encountered by volunteers, however they were already known to homeless services as being in Kilkenny to beg. Evidence was also found to





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suggest that a couple may be sleeping in a derelict house. Again the couple in question are known to homeless services and at the time were declining support services offered. The next Rough Sleepers Survey will be carried out in December 2018.

### Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2018

The Housing Needs Assessment (Summary Report) is now completed and reflects the number of approved applicants (Net Need) on our Housing Waiting List as at 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 i.e. 971. The Net Need figure excludes transfers, RAS and HAP. There were 307 households removed from the Housing List of which 245 households did not reply.

### Housing List

The current Housing List at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 is 2,000 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	APPLS	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED
Ballyhale	12	6	3	2	1
Ballyragget	39	15	20	0	4
Bennettsbridge	31	10	14	4	3
Callan	101	37	32	30	2
Castlecomer	54	19	18	16	1
Clara	1	0	0	1	0
Clogh	7	1	4	0	2
Coon	5	1	1	3	0
Ferrybank	68	31	18	17	2
Fiddown	5	2	1	2	0
Freshford	25	10	5	9	1
Glenmore	6	4	2	0	0
Goresbridge	5	2	2	0	1
Gowran	26	9	9	6	2
Graiguenamanagh	46	19	18	7	2
Hugginstown	1	1	0	0	0
Inistlogue	20	13	5	2	0

Johnstown	27	10	8	5	4
Kells	12	4	4	2	2
Kilkenny Both	1194	451	464	238	41
Kilmacow	34	8	14	11	1
Kilmanagh	5	2	1	2	0
Kilmoganny	5	1	3	1	0
Knocktopher	6	3	3	0	0
Moneenroe	20	4	7	8	1
Mooncoin	30	8	10	11	1
Mullinavat	4	1	2	1	0
New Ross Environs	6	2	1	3	0
Paulstown	17	6	8	3	0
Piltown	36	9	9	18	0
Skeoghvosteen	1	0	1	0	0
Slieverue	10	3	2	4	1
St Patricks	1	0	0	1	0
Stoneyford	12	6	3	2	1
Thomastown	82	37	28	14	3
Tullaroan	1	1	0	0	0
Urlingford	43	10	19	10	4
Windgap	2	0	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>80</b>

The current Housing List at the end of June 2018 is 2,000 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
May 2018	2,000
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 <i>(Statutory Assessment 2016)</i>
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 <i>(Statutory Assessment 2013)</i>
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876





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### Rent Review 2018

Tenants have been notified in writing of the rent review and completed income forms were to be returned by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- 2,808 letters were issued to tenants
- At 15<sup>th</sup> June we received approx 33% of all completed forms
- Some forms were incomplete and had to be returned in order to comply with GDPR
- A reminder letter issued on 20<sup>th</sup> June notifying tenants of penalty if completed forms not returned on time.
- Proposed Date for new rent will come into effect on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### RAS and HAP Targets

In addition to the 50,000 units which are to be delivered under Rebuilding Ireland by way of Acquisition, Build and Leasing, the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an immediate form of social housing support and effective mechanism to meet housing need.

The Department has been working with each Local Authority to establish a combined HAP and RAS targets on an annual basis. The Annual target plus a weekly target in respect of HAP together with a HAP rent supplement transfer rate in 2018 for Kilkenny is set out in the following table;

	Total RAS	Total HAP	Weekly HAP	Rent Supp (RS) To HAP	Combined Total RS to HAP & RAS	Total New Hseholds Supported by HAP and RAS
Target	23	120	2	18 (15% of new HAP)	41	143
Delivery to date	17	112		24	41	129

### Estate Management

- National Pride of Place Awards judging to take place in Kilkenny on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August, Kilkenny County Council are presently working with four groups who include, Kells, Slieverue, Thomastown and the Open Circle project in Kilkenny City.
- Funding approved for 60 Resident Associations/Community Groups under estate management grant.
- 9 Large Large Estate Enhancement projects applications were received in June.
- Issue 10 of the Kilkenny County Council Community interactive e magazine is OUT NOW.
- Tidy Estates competition - Kilkenny County Council will be announcing in the 2018 Tidy Estates awards in July 2018.

### June 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018	2000
Number of assessment interviews carried out in June :	29
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations ( <i>offers made</i> ):	9
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 <sup>th</sup> June :	863
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	10
Anti social behaviour cases:	13
New Homeless Presentations:	20
Maintenance Calls for June 2018	381
Maintenance Calls year to date	2442
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	8
Amount of Loans Approved to 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018	€1,040,145

Please note there is a marginal decrease in maintenance calls compared to this time last year i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> January to June 2017.

### Voids 2018

There are 27 vacant units (7 Are new purchases) at end June 2018 i.e. nineteen (19) units currently on site and eight (8) at pre tender stage.





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Breakdown of current vacant units within each district:

District	No. of Vacant Properties at 30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018
Municipal District of Kilkenny City	19
Municipal District of Piltown	6
Municipal District of Castlecomer	2

### Refugee Resettlement

Nationally the government through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme has pledged to offer safety and protection to approximately 4,000 asylum seekers/refugees. The Programme commits Ireland to offering families and children, who have been compelled to leave their homes, due to war and conflict, a place of safety. Kilkenny forms part of that response and has agreed to resettle 140 Syrian Refugees (25/30 families) as part of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

Kilkenny County Council chairs a Statutory Resettlement Committee who have been working together with the Department of Justice and Equality to resettle families in Kilkenny. This process is supported by a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Interpreter, which is all funded through the Department of Justice and Equality, to support families in resettlement as well as to support wider, two way, integration for families and communities.

To date Kilkenny has resettled 63 (12 families) Syrian Refugees in four locations around the county and are working to resettle a further 40 people (6 families) later this year. It is planned to resettle groups of up to four households at various locations as opportunities for resettlement arise. The overall objective to

resettle 140 Syrian Refugees (approx 25/30 families) and will take up to 6 - 12 months.

### Private Inspections

The Department has set a target of 465 inspections to be carried out in 2018. The current position is as follows;

- (i) the total number of inspections carried out in 2018: 195
  - a. First Inspections 141
  - b. Second Inspections 54
- (ii) the number of final inspections achieving compliance carried out in 2018: 80
- (iii) the number of Improvement Notices issued in 2018: 15
- (iv) the number of Prohibition Notices issued in 2018: 2

### Disability Strategy

De-congregation of St Patrick's is progressing where residents are relocated back into community type accommodation. The Sub-Committee Meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June with St. Patrick's, HSE and Local Authority in attendance.

- 24 individuals to be de-congregated in 2018 into **permanent** accommodation.
- 13 individuals to be de-congregated into **private rented** accommodation.
- 17 individuals to be de-congregated during 2019/2020.

Kilkenny County Council has funded Oaklee AHB to provide 4 units at Smyths Road, Ballyragget and 2 units at O'Loughlin Road, Hebron, Kilkenny under the Capital Assistance Scheme.





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### PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total to June, 2017	Total to June, 2018
Planning Applications Received	432	433
Planning Applications Granted	391	360
Planning Applications Refused	26	35
Complaints Received	55	52
Warning Letters Issued	51	42
Enforcements Notices Issued	28	18

#### Forward Planning:

##### Local Area Plans :

###### Callan

Work continues on the pre draft stage of the Callan Local Area Plan. Public consultation stage continues until 20<sup>th</sup> July. A public consultation event was held in the Callan Parish Hall, Green Street on the 27<sup>th</sup> June which although attendance was low the workshop proved very successful building on the consultations and work already done through the town team. Submissions period is open until the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

###### Thomastown

Work has commenced on the Thomastown Local Area Plan. An issues paper has been published and public submissions are invited until Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> July. A public consultation event took place in the Thomastown Community Centre on the 11<sup>th</sup> July.

- **Vacant Sites:** Work is continuing on the administration of the Vacant Sites Levy. There are now 20 sites on the Register. Owners were

notified in May of their site valuations, which can be appealed to the Valuations Tribunal.

- **County & City Development Plans:** The Council published the statutory notice on the 20<sup>th</sup> April signifying the commencement of the review of the County and City Development Plans.
- An issues paper was published for the initial public consultation exercise up until the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- Three public consultation meetings were held - one in each electoral area, namely Kilkenny City, Mullinavat and Ballyragget.
- Fifty three (53) submissions were received during the initial public consultation phase to the City & County Development Plan.
- A Chief Executive's report will now be prepared for consideration by the Council.

#### Conservation

- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme Awards 2018 & Structures at Risk Fund awards 2018** Work is continuing on the administration of both of these schemes and construction works have commenced.
- **Inistioge Castle** - The archaeological survey has been completed and repair has commenced. This project is being funded through the Town and Village Renewal scheme with co-funding from the Council.

#### Taking-in-Charge

- **Aylesbury Estate** is a residential development of 50 dwellings located in Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny. The process to take Aylesbury Estate taken in charge was initiated in April. A contractor has been appointed to complete remedial works in advance of taking in charge.
- **Glenbaun/ Glendine Woods** housing schemes in Kilkenny city was officially taken in charge by the Council at the June monthly meeting





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- Remedial works to Ardglass housing estate in Ferrybank which was delayed due to water conservation measures will now commence in July in advance of taking in charge.

### ENVIRONMENT

Initiatives supported under the Anti-Dumping initiative this year include: Mattress Amnesty - the Council had great success on our mattress amnesty day at Dunmore recycling centre taking in 550 mattresses. These are now being transported to a treatment facility in Co Cork.

The Environment Section is also currently working with the probation service at Newpark Fen cleaning up a litter black spot and will hope to carry out further upgrades to this amenity area over the coming months.

#### Tidy Towns

A tidy town's forum took place on 5<sup>th</sup> June. A tour of Windgap village was provided by the local tidy towns group to see their most recent community projects. Photo attached.



Congratulations to Tuuanought 11ay Towns who were nominated to enter Irelands Best Kept Towns Award, adjudicated in May and with the awards ceremony in June, while they were not fortunate to win their category, their nomination by the Department of Rural and Community Development illustrates their high ranking in the national tidy towns competition.

### Recycling Banks



The rebranding of 280 individual recycling banks at 44 different locations within the City and County was substantially completed over recent weeks. The rebranding signage provides for a symbol of the recyclable item along with bilingual Irish/English text to the front of each bank. This initiative was progressed through the Southern Regional Waste Management Office in conjunction with the Environment Section of the Council.



### Graveyard Grant Scheme

The Graveyard Grant Scheme was launched and publicised widely earlier this year. A total of 21 applications were received. The budget allocation is €10,000. 17 of the applications received approval at the June Council Meeting. The remaining applications are premature, as they require further liaison with The Department of Arts, Rural, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA), the Conservation Officer and/or the Heritage Officer. These applicants have been advised to seek the necessary information so that funding can be considered in Round 2.





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### Draft Noise Action Plan

The Draft Noise Action Plan 2019 -2023 is currently on public display until 11<sup>th</sup> July, and submissions may be made up to 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 as follows:

- online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or
- by e-mail to [noiseplan2019-2023@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:noiseplan2019-2023@kilkennycoco.ie) or
- in writing to the Environment Section, County Hall, Kilkenny.

### Water Safety

#### LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY RIVERS NORE & BARROW

Lifeguards will be on duty from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. each day seven days per week from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at the following locations:-

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

Lifeguards were on duty at weekends only during the month of June, 2018. (Sat/Sun/Bank Holiday only) from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

### Update on Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection Plan (RMCEI)

Inspection Plan	Number of Inspections undertaken during May 2018
CRM Complaints	92
Litter City Patrols	32
Litter County Patrols	15
Bottle Bank Surveillance	16
Bottle Bank Visits	12
Litter Fines Issued	12

Farm Inspections	7
Environmental Planning Recommendations	18
Environmental Planning Site Inspections	3
Nutrient Management Plan Assessments	3
Dust Monitoring	2
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	3
River Bank Walk Farm Inspections	2
WFD Monitoring	39
WFD Investigative Monitoring	13
Ambient Monitoring	22
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	30
Other SW/GW protection inspections	3
Discharge Licence premises	2
Bathing Waters	5
Air pollution licence	1

### PARKS

#### Playgrounds

The Parks Department has engaged the services of a contractor to assist in the necessary repairs in playgrounds around the County. These will be carried out right through the summer and into autumn months, focusing on repairs in order of priority. A funding application to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for funding under the National Play and Recreation scheme for €11,000 was successful. A development is now underway in Woodstock Gardens playground to create a natural play area and outdoor classroom to encourage free nature play.





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Construction has commenced on two new community led playgrounds at Clogh and Mullinavat. Following successful completion and certification Kilkenny County Council will take these playgrounds in charge for ongoing maintenance and include them to our weekly inspection regimes.

A draft design for a proposed playground in Piltown has been prepared for consultation with the local community in the coming weeks.

### Outdoor Recreation Grants

Signage has been erected along the River Nore Linear Park to guide visitor and locals along this walkway. Information panels have been erected at Canal Walk, Lacken Walk and Bishopsmeadows. Way markers with distance indicators will shortly be added. This project has been funded by a combination of Healthy Ireland Funding, the Outdoor Recreational Grant and local funding. Reaction is positive with increased numbers of visitors noted using the walks. In the coming month a number of further applications will be made to this scheme for rural recreation projects around the County.

### Entente Florale, Inistioge

The Inistioge Tidy Towns group with the assistance of the Parks and other Department have been busy preparing for the Entente Florale judging in July. Thousands of flowering plants and trees have been planted and hanging baskets erected. The emphasis is on pollinator plants to promote the struggling bee population. Local residents should be acknowledged for great efforts to keep the new planting alive by watering regularly in this extremely dry weather. Judging will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July.

### Woodstock Gardens

Preparations are well advanced for the Entente Florale in Woodstock in July 2018. After a difficult Spring ground conditions remained poor into May however new planting of shrubs

and trees, removal of fallen trees and repair of grounds is now almost complete with planting of new beds and improvements to signage also underway. The current dry spell is causing difficulty with watering new plants, in particular in the newly planted Winter Garden. Visitor numbers are up and tour groups are visiting regularly along with a number of weddings and wedding photographs booked to take place in the gardens. Works on a new natural play area are almost complete. This will provide a large sand pit with willow tunnels and earth mounds for children to engage in free play in a natural environment.



The Rose Garden in full bloom in June sunshine. This old rose is called 'Rambling Rector' and covers the rose arch with an abundance of white scented blooms.



Aerial view of the Walled Garden

### Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Meetings have been held with the Consultant appointed to develop the neighbourhood park in Ferrybank. The detail design is currently being finalised, this will be followed by tendering, specification and appointment of site contractors. It is hoped that on site works will commence in Autumn 2018. This park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding with match funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities.

### Japanese Knotweed Training

All outdoor staff and those involved in any way have attended a training course on the recognition of Japanese knotweed and its appropriate treatment.





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### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

160 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO executives to discuss starting up or growing their business;

27 clients attended 5 Mentor Clinics to seek assistance in relation to issues within their business;

341 participants attended 4 Seminars ranging from GDPR compliance to Brexit,

91 participants attended 5 Start your own business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;

212 participants attended 20 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;

231 entrepreneurs received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business;

24 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €13,844.50 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;

7 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme;

3 businesses were assisted to make applications to Microfinance Ireland Loan Fund;

7 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets;

3 businesses participated on Lean for Micro in order to assist them to look at their

competiveness and innovation specifically in relation to Brexit;

2 businesses have participated on the pilot Design for Growth programme in order to assist businesses apply design principles to their business;

€231,961 was approved to 12 businesses with 72 jobs attached over a three year period;

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### STEM:

The first regional Calmast STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) forum took place in Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) on May, 10<sup>th</sup> last. Opened by John Paul Phelan, T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform, almost 50 people were in attendance from across the region, from industry, education, government agencies, local authorities and non government bodies. The purpose of the event was to begin a process of looking at ways to shape the future of promoting STEM within the region with a view to encouraging students to study STEM subjects at 3<sup>rd</sup> level thereby providing a pipeline of graduates of STEM in the South East.

**Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards 2018:** A call for applications for the 2018 Bank of Ireland's Enterprising Town Awards has resulted in 4 applications being submitted from Kilkenny. Kilkenny City submitted an application in the Large Town category (i.e. population of 10,000+) while Castlecomer, Piltown & Graiguenamagh made applications under the Small Town category (i.e. <5000 population.).

The total prize money is €157,000. Judging will commence in mid August. Winners will be





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announced at the national awards ceremony taking place this year at the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny in November.

Development Company and Kilkenny LEADER Partnership with support from Glanbia, Cartoon Saloon and Bank of Ireland.

### ABBEY QUARTER LAUNCH:

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD visited Kilkenny on July 4th to launch the Abbey Quarter development to the media. She announced that €12.3m in development loan finance has been approved through the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) to regenerate the old brewery site into top-class office accommodation. A total of €17million will be invested in the site over the next 18-24 months.



- 2) A Centre of Excellence for Precision Agriculture (PACE). The South-East of Ireland is an ideal location for this Centre as it already hosts a number of relevant stakeholders, including Teagasc - the Irish Government's agriculture research agency, the TSSG - one of Europe's leading ICT research centres, global food group Glanbia, Feed Systems experts Keenans, and the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Led by Waterford Institute of Technology with Kilkenny County Council as a partner in this proposal, the Centre will build on the partnership already in place between Teagasc, Glanbia, TSSG, and ICT industry leaders Intel.

It is envisaged that both facilities will be housed within the Abbey Quarter. The closing date for receipt of applications was June 28th with a decision expected in the later part of the year.

### ENTERPRISE IRELAND - REGIONAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND:

Two applications were submitted under the Enterprise Ireland REDF for funding towards the development of:

- 1) A specialist Enterprise Development / Innovation Hub focusing on Design Thinking as a process and strategy for business development. The aim is to position the South-East region as a destination for design, through the development of a dedicated centre of excellence for design-led thinking, design innovation and education and training. Partners involved are Carlow IT, Kilkenny County Council, Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Kilkenny Industrial &

### LIBRARY SERVICES







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### Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg – the new national day of Children and young people’s participation in culture and creativity held Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Kilkenny Library Service coordinated a wide and varied programme of over 20 free events held in library branches, Barnstorm Theatre and the National Design and Craft Gallery.

It was a resounding success with over 420 children attending events all over the county. There was something for everyone from Miriam Lambert’s *Goldilocks and the Three Bears Puppet show* in Ferrybank Library, to The Brickx Club’s Lego workshops in Graiguenamanagh, Insect hotel making in Thomastown Library to theatre workshops in The Barn Theatre, and the National Design and Craft Gallery held a Mini Craft Village providing opportunities for children to try screen-printing, pottery making and much more in the Castle Yard. This initiative was funded by the national Creative Ireland programme.

### RFID Self Service Machines

RFID Self Service and associated self printing services, including mobile WiFi printing are currently being installed and it is hoped that these will be up and running in all branches by the end of the summer. This is part of our ongoing service improvements and enhancements for library users and will allow people to check items in and out, make payments, and check their account on the kiosks.

### Coming soon

- We have joined forces with Glanbia Agribusiness to bring Agrikids farm safety workshops to 5 of our library branches during Farm Safety week in July
- DogsTrust Ireland will bring their roadshow to 5 branches
- Heritage week runs from 18<sup>th</sup> August, with a host of exciting events organised, such as screening of Hands documentaries on traditional Irish crafts, Talks on The Suffrage Movement, A soldier’s experiences in the Congo, and digitising Graveyard Inscriptions.

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### ARTS

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LITERATURE  
Rhyme Rag

We continue to illustrate and publish monthly poems by teenagers on our online poetry journal [www.rhymerag.net](http://www.rhymerag.net)

Illustration for ‘an Irish Parish’ by Aoibhinn Young







(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF  
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## KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT JULY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### Rhyme Rag Ensemble

With funding secured from NYCI and Creative Ireland for a writer in residence for Rhyme Rag, Colm Keegan has been working with the group to support the development of their writing. The residency will culminate in the group's first publication. The young people have also been supported by and worked with other professionals in the development of their ideas for the design of the publication. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the group travelled to Dublin to visit Poetry Ireland where they got a tour of the office s and met with the Director and Education Officer. The rest of the day was spent working with WIR Colm Keegan and gallery visits.



### Broadsheet 2018

12 poems by 10 poets have been selected for publication in this year's Broadsheet. The broadsheet launch will take place on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, at 3.00 p.m. in The Parade Tower as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival. Broadsheet Editor, Peter Sirr and KAF Writer in Residence, Evanne Boland, will attend and officially launch the Broadsheet.

This embeds the Broadsheet and Kilkenny writers in the festival programme and strengthens the profile of poetry as an Arts Festival strand.

### Broadsheet As Gaeilge

The Kilkenny Arts Office is also currently working with a group of writers, that come together monthly in Loughboy library, to produce a Poetry Broadsheet publication in Irish, in celebration of 'Bliain na Gaeilge'. This will be the first ever such publication in Kilkenny. It will

be similar to our annual Poetry Publication. The Broadsheet will also include poems by first and second year students from Pobalscoil, enabling young people's voices to be heard by having their work published alongside the adults involved. The main aim is to demonstrate that Irish is alive and well and to reveal the beauty and breadth of the Irish language in Kilkenny.

### GRANTS

#### The Moth Young Artists & Writers Bursary 2018

The aim of the Residency is to assist and encourage young visual artists and writers, including singer songwriters, who are in the early stages of their career and between the ages of 18 and 30 years old.

Bursaries have been awarded to Rachel Botha and Aoibhin Murphy.

#### Irish Youth Choir Summer Courses Bursary 2018

A call out for Irish Youth Choir Summer Courses Bursary applications went out. This is a dedicated national youth choir that offers training opportunities for conductors and singers from all over Ireland. Intensive training and professional development during its annual residential week culminates in concerts at the end of the week.

This bursary is open to all youths residing in County Kilkenny. Bursaries have been awarded to Kate Cullen and Kate and Aoife O'Connor. We wish them luck.



The organisation of the return of Bookville Festival is well underway. The festival celebrates books, writing, animation, illustration and comedy and all those magical things that come together to create a good story.





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We have secured a number of high profile creative figures once again for the 2018 festival including Shane Hegarty, Writer of the Darkmouth fantasy adventure series - a No. 1 Bestseller in Ireland, shortlisted for the prestigious Waterstones Prize and Irish Book Awards, and which is currently being made into a major animated movie. Alan Nolan of the hurling novel Fintan's Fifteen, and Conor's Caveman and Sarah Webb, an award winning children's book champion and writer for both children and adults. While Tarsila Kruse will show participants how quirky and affectionate her work is with three published books as Gaeilge, Tarsila will create images that translate care and strengthen bonds between people.

Bookville has a specialised schools programme that offers a range of exciting authors and workshops to children across the County. The 2018 festival will take place from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, in many venues countywide such as library branches, The Parade Tower and Kilkenny Arts Office.

### COMMUNITY / PARTICIPATION / LIFELONG LEARNING

#### Bring your own chair

Bring your own chair is an art project taking place in rural towns and villages across counties Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford throughout the summer of 2018. As the heart of small towns in Ireland face decline, Bring Your Own Chair looks to share collective experiences using public space for community gatherings and actions. Activities will take place in each town.

Artist Paul Bokslag is visiting schools in the participating towns to deliver workshops where participants will design Town Motifs through paper cuts based on the nature, buildings and heritage of the towns.

Does your chair tell a story? Residents will be asked to share their stories and history around

chairs that could be antiques, heirlooms or a souvenir in their families. This project will culminate in 12 portrait events across the 12 participating towns and villages; Coon, Goresbridge, Slieverue and Kells are the Kilkenny participating centres.

#### Open Circle

April to June has been a very successful and productive few months for the women at Open Circle. They participated in workshops working in 3D with local artists Julie Moorehouse, exploring wire construction and Artist *threadstories* lead the women in experimental workshops investigating structure and movement in textiles. The women continued working in 3D until the end of June with Saturio Alonso through the medium of paper construction.



#### Professional Development Workshops and mentoring for visual artists

The Arts Office delivered a series of Professional Development Workshops and mentoring for visual artists based in Kilkenny. Workshops tutor was Eamonn Maxwell, curator and cultural consultant. The three workshops, Marketing your Artwork, Artist Mentoring and Securing Funding for your Project were delivered in the Arts Office Gallery during June. These professional development training workshops support artists in their practice and aim to





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address artists' specific business needs working in a professional environment. Positive feedback was received on all three workshops.

## FIRE SERVICES

### 1) Community engagement & education

- A number of community groups visited our stations. The picture below from our aerial platform shows the Graiguenamanagh Fire Station Community Open Day. The local community got to see the new fire station and all its facilities and learned more about fire safety in the home. Kilkenny City Fire brigade attended Danesfort Community Field day.



- Our latest figures show that a total of 1237 primary school children have received the primary schools programme in the 2017/2018 school calendar year.
- Kilkenny city fire brigade personnel took part in Danesfort Schools programme for Active Week 2018 and the students were put through their paces of a "Junior Fire Fighters Assault Course".

### 2) Influencing and regulating the built environment

- We have received 44no Fire Safety Certificate Applications to date, 33 no. have been granted and 11 no. are being assessed.
- Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers held fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has aided greatly in reducing 1) our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation and 2) our Fire Safety certificate refusal rates.
- 36 no. fire safety inspections of premises have been carried out by senior fire officers.
- To date 52 no. planning applications were dealt with from a fire safety point of view.

### 3) Fire Service Operations

- Fire Brigades have reported an increase in grass, ditch and gorse fires during the current hot spell. Compressed air foam system has been used at these fires as it reduces the amount of water to be used. Pictures below shows the effectiveness of the compressed air foam system as it prevented the fire spreading into the neighbouring properties. In order to conserve water supplies, Kilkenny County Council Fire Service has prohibited the washing of fire appliances and the unnecessary use of water during the drought.







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- Kilkenny City Fire station hosted a very successful 8 day RSA -Emergency Services Driving Standards course. Training was provided by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service RSA approved Instructors to 4 no. students from various fire stations in the county. All 4 no. students successfully passed the course.







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# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT JULY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

## APPENDIX 1

### FINANCE REPORT – JULY 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of June is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €30.7m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD June 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	8,405	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	10,990	20,108
Water Services	3,246	6,579
Development Management	4,377	8,693
Environmental Services	5,007	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	3,086	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	277	637
Miscellaneous Services	3,432	6,526
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>38,820</b>	<b>74,151</b>

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the six months to the end of June 2018.

Collection rates on all the main income streams are slightly higher than the comparable figures for the previous year.

The notice regarding setting a Local Adjustment Factor on Local Property Tax for Kilkenny will be published in the Kilkenny People newspaper and on the Council website on the week ending 13<sup>th</sup> July. A decision of the Elected Members is required before the end of September 2018.

Two Loan proposals will be presented to the Council at the July meeting. The first proposal is for a bridging loan facility to assist in the delivery of the Social Housing Capital Programme. The second proposal is for a Term Loan facility to part fund three capital projects contained in the capital programme adopted at the May 2018 Council Meeting. The three projects are the Butler Gallery at Evans Home, the Western Environs road construction and the Abbey Quarter phase 1 public realm works.