



APRIL 2018

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly/Quarterly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the April 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

- 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Closing date for Estate Management Grant Scheme.
- 20<sup>th</sup> April:** Closing date for submissions for The Rower Traffic Management Scheme.
- 27<sup>th</sup> April:** Closing date for receipt of submissions for Broadsheet 2018
- 28<sup>th</sup> April:** Closing date for receipt of applications to be included on Special/Postal Voters List.
- 4<sup>th</sup> May:** Closing date for receipt of applications for Community & culture Facilities Grant Scheme.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Closing date for receipt of applications to be included in Supplementary Register.
- 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Brexit Breakfast Conference Newpark Hotel

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## COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

### COMMUNITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

#### Framework for Town and Village Renewal

The Public Workshop in respect of Callan Town Renewal was held in Callan Parish Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The public workshop in respect of Inistioge Village Renewal was held in Cois Abhainn on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Both workshops were well attended, despite the weather, and were facilitated by Future Analytics Consulting Ltd. The workshop findings will be made available shortly and will be considered by both town/village improvement teams in preparing their town/village renewal plans.

Arrangements are currently being made to hold Health Check public workshops in April in Ballyragget, Freshford and Ballyhale/Knocktopher.

#### Community Grants Information

Booklet-230 copies of the Council's Community Grant Information Booklet have been distributed. The booklet outlines in summary form the relevant details of almost 30 different grant schemes that are available to Community Groups from Kilkenny County Council and from other sources. The booklet has been well received by community groups, elected members and others.



**One Stop Shop-** The Council's interactive ONE STOP SHOP on community grants was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> of March in County Hall and is currently live and available. This online portal compliments the recently published community grants handbook. ISSUE 9 of the Kilkenny County Council Community newsletter was dedicated to Community Grants to inform the wider community of various grants available.

**Information Evenings-** All five Community Grant Information Evenings have now been held and were reasonably well attended. Presentations on the range of grants available were given in Community Centres in Castlecomer, Callan, Thomastown, Mullinavat and in Hotel Kilkenny in Kilkenny City. Copies of the Grant information Booklets were distributed and taken to wider communities by those attending.

### CLÁR

The Scheme for 2018 was notified to the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The Scheme is targeted at designated CLAR areas which have suffered population decline. The designated areas have not been revised for this year. The Scheme has 3 Measures as follows:

**Measure 1: Community Safety measures** to access school and community facilities. Up to 90% of cost is funded subject to a min of €1,000-max of €50,000.

**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.

**Measure 3: Registered First Responder Voluntary Groups.** Application to be made directly to Department.

The Council advertised the availability of Measure 2 and it set a closing date of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in order to allow time to consider proposals. The schedule of Measure 1 proposals includes



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unsuccessful proposals brought forward from 2017 and others notified to the Municipal District Engineers.

The Council may submit up to 15 applications in total in respect of Measure 1 and Measure 2 and the Council is required to prioritise the proposals for the Department. The Closing date for submissions of proposals to the Department is 30<sup>th</sup> April. It is expected that decisions will be made by the Department in May 2018.

#### **Estate Management Grant Scheme**

Kilkenny County Council's Estate Management Grant Scheme was advertised week ending Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The closing date was the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. The Scheme is targeted at established resident associations in Local Authority Housing Schemes who wish to undertake programmes or projects which promote estate management and estate enhancement.

#### **Commercial Premises Paint Scheme**

The closing date for receipt of applications under the Commercial Premises Paint Scheme is 30<sup>th</sup> April. Applications forms may be obtained from any of the Council's Municipal District Offices. Completed applications must be returned to the respective Municipal District Offices.

#### **Community and Culture Facilities Grant Scheme**

The Council's Community and Culture Facilities Grant Scheme was advertised on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The scheme is funded from development levies, which are paid back through the scheme, to community groups that provide capital projects of a community, sporting and cultural nature. It is one of the most successful grants schemes. 69 awards totalling over €3.7m have been paid to community groups in the nine years of the scheme. Application is by way of expression of interest to the Community Department. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

#### **Thomastown-Age Friendly Town.**

Kilkenny County Council is currently working with a local action team to enable Thomastown to become an Age Friendly Town. The process involves the identification and mapping of the towns assets and services available to older people, the gathering of census and other data and its analysis, identification of key routes and walkability audits of those routes , local consultations and surveys of older persons needs in the town, the identification of issues and matters of concern to older persons and the development of an Action Plan with older persons groups and representatives to address the identified needs.

To date the town's main assets have been mapped, key walking routes used by older persons identified, two of four walkability audits have been undertaken which have been ably assisted by Thomastown Senior Citizens group and Thomastown Men's Shed group -both of which were facilitated by An Garda Síochána. The identification and documentation of services is underway. The remaining two walkability audits will be undertaken shortly. It is intended to follow that by on-street surveys and consultation with local groups.

The Thomastown Age Friendly Action Plan will be presented, when finalised, to Kilkenny County Council.

#### **Play and Recreation Grant.**

The Council was notified on 21<sup>st</sup> March of a maximum grant of €20,000 under the Capital Grant Funding for Play and Recreation. The scheme is in respect of capital works to support new and existing innovative play and recreation facilities for children and young people together with refurbishment or upgrading of existing play and recreation spaces. The Council has to apply to the Department for approval in respect of its projects by the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Traditionally the funding has been used to assist projects in which



the Council's Parks Department are involved such as community playgrounds and Council owned playgrounds. It was also used to fund an innovative technology initiative in Ferrybank library.

#### **LECP Advisory Group (Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Group)**

The LECP Advisory Group comprises of 6 members, 3 from SPC 1 and 3 from the LCDC. Its role is to have oversight of the actions to be covered under the economic elements and the community elements of the LECP, to monitor performance, to keep sight of areas of complementary and co-ordinated activity, to take account of the need to reduce duplication and overlap and to maximise the use of available resources within the County.

The LECP Advisory Subgroup is accountable to its representative committees- the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development, Enterprise Supports and Tourism (SPC1).

At it's recent meeting the LECP Advisory group considered a number of matters as follows:

**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 in the LECP for this action. It is intended to commence this work in Q2, 2018.

**Audit of Community Youth and Arts Facilities.** The Audit report is almost complete. It will be considered by the LCDC at its May meeting.

**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 community groups and individuals. The 2018 Action Plan aims to provide supports to 26 community groups and 475+ individuals. The work plan for 2018 was presented to the LCDC at it's March meeting.

**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 was dissolved when the CDB was dissolved. The purpose of the group is to provide an integrated service delivery to Travellers. It is an action in the LECP. The matter is to be considered by the LCDC.

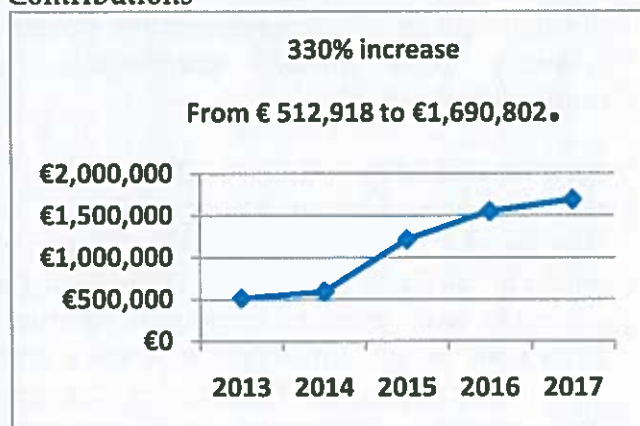
**Mapping of Funding and Resources.** Arising from a LCDC Workshop held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, it had been agreed that the LCDC will undertake a mapping exercise that will analyse allocation of resources (services and funding), identify gaps and identify links between gaps and levels of need and of engagement.

The LECP Advisory meeting was informed that the approach to be taken at present includes the gathering of funding data from each relevant Council Department, the identification of GIS co-ordinates for each grant award location and the county-wide mapping of that data. The meeting was also informed that the current exercise underway 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. It involves 24 funding streams over the 5 year period which were administered in 13 different sections or departments.



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### Amounts of Community Grants and Contributions



Members were informed that for the completion of the Kilkenny County Council data the funding awarded under other grants schemes has to be included. In respect of other LECP Implementing Partner Agencies/Groups a similar data gathering exercise and identification of co-ordinates has to be undertaken and that this would require discussion and agreement at the next meeting of the LCDC. This proposal was agreed.

### Kilkenny Local Community and Development Committee (Kilkenny LCDC)

The Kilkenny LCDC met on two occasions in Q1 2018. At the February meeting, held in Butler House the theme was Family Resource Services. A presentation was made on behalf of the 4 Family Resources Centres -Newpark Close,(Kilkenny City), Fr. McGrath, (The Butts, Kilkenny City), Droichead Family Resource Centre (Callan) and The Mill Family Resource Centre (Urlingford). Members were presented with an overview of the Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme, background on the range of services being provided and an update on FRC LCDC Actions/Objectives. The hard work undertaken by the staff in all 4 FRC's was acknowledged.

Members also discussed and agreed the LCDC Annual Report for 2017. The feedback from the LECP workshop held in November 2017 was

noted, feedback from the Healthy Ireland LCDC Sub Group was noted, and the SICAP end of year process for 2017 was outlined. Members noted the short timeframe for the administration of the Department's 2017 RAPID Scheme and asked that a letter be sent to the Department on the matter. Members also agreed with the Chief Officer's advice that the minutes of the LCDC meetings will from January 2018 be made publically available on-line.

The theme for the March LCDC meeting was Youth Services. At the meeting, which was held in The Drum, McDonagh Junction, the Kilkenny LCDC heard 3 presentations from agencies which work with youth groups, KCETB - Youth Work Plan, Ossory Youth and Foroige- the Drum Youth. Very informative presentations were made by all three.

Kilkenny LEADER Partnership presented its 2018 SICAP work plan, which was approved.

The Final LECP report on actions for the period June -December 2017 was also considered and noted.

The draft LECP Community Implementation Plan 2018-2019 was discussed. It was noted that the vast majority of the actions were now deemed to be 'business-as-usual' which shows the progression of Agencies in including the LECP in its day to day business. It was agreed that a Sub Group will review the list of actions and identify the strategic actions which can be focussed on by the LCDC for 2018/19 while at the same time the business -as-usual actions will be reported on as normal.

The mapping of funding and resource gaps, as discussed at the LECP Advisory group, was also considered and the LECP Advisory Groups recommendation to take a multi-agency approach on this was agreed. It was decided to



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set up an LCDC Sub Group to assist on this work.

Members also noted the Departments response that it will announce the RAPID scheme earlier in 2018 and provide sufficient time to administer the scheme.

It was agreed that the theme for the May meeting will be mental health. Presentations will be given by Life link and Teach Tom which work with mental health.



### Broadsheet 2018

Having completed our research to find a new editor for the 2018 issue of Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet, we have invited Peter Sirr to edit this year's broadsheet and to run a workshop to prepare Kilkenny writers for Broadsheet submissions by teaching poetry writing techniques, self editing, etc. The Council has issued a call for submissions through its usual sources- databases, press releases and the local libraries. The closing date for submissions is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

### Open Circle Community Arts Collective

Open Circle Community Arts Collective develops quality arts engagement for women in Kilkenny both through membership and outreach programmes.

**2018 Membership** - January 2018, twenty two new members were introduced to Open Circle Arts forming two new groups. Both groups will gather at the Open Circle House in Kilkenny, on a weekly basis over the coming 12 months to work with talented artists/tutors across a varied visual arts programme. This ensures consistently high quality, innovative and stimulating workshops including drawing, painting, textiles and printmaking are available to the members. The new members have made a wonderful start with artist Julie Cusack making experimental drawings using natural objects which will lead into abstract painting over the coming weeks.



Two groups from our 2017 members will continue working at the Open Circle house from January to June 2018 working on individual projects. Both groups have also started work on two collaborative pieces which will find a home in patient areas at St Luke's Hospital.

Open Circle also undertakes annual outreach projects which are open to women across the county; to date we have offered textiles, paper-cutting and writing workshops.

This programme is managed and administered by Kilkenny County Council Arts Office and wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of Kilkenny/Carlow ETB, the Arts Council of



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Ireland and the Environmental Awareness office of Kilkenny County Council.

### International Woman's Day 2018

Open Circle Community Arts celebrated International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with an Open House for the women of Kilkenny to drop in and meet other women at the Open Circle House in the city, for a creative morning of art activity, chat and refreshments. One of the current members of Open Circle then facilitated a Tai Chi & Qi Gong lunch time session at McDonagh Junction. The celebrations continued in the afternoon with many past and present members of Open Circle meeting in the National Craft Gallery for a Crafternoon Tea session that included tote bag printing with Print Block Studio, and an opportunity to view the two wonderful jewellery exhibitions Rudolf Heltzel and Bounded + Unlimited.



### Art Gallery Exhibitions

Three exhibitions will take place in the Arts Office Gallery during the coming months. Blackstack Studio group will exhibit a selection of their work in a group show from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. Our second exhibition will showcase the

work of Thomas Duffy's drawings on paper from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## HERITAGE:

### Funding for Heritage Projects

The Heritage Office has been awarded €23,000 from the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme to co-fund 3 projects in 2018: Kilkenny Field Names Project; County Kilkenny Oral Heritage Audit and Kilkenny Heritage Awareness Programme.

### City Walls

An application has been made to the Irish Walled Towns Network for funding to undertake condition surveys on 2 sections of Kilkenny's historic city walls. The condition surveys will be used to inform future conservation and repair works on the walls. Notification of the grant results is expected in April.

## TOURISM & MARKETING

### Council Tourism staff success in Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism and Revenue Management Programmes

Over 40 Local Authority Tourism Officers, Heritage Officers and Visitor Attraction Managers were recognised for their participation in Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism and Revenue Management Programmes. The 7 modular programme was facilitated by international consultants, Fáilte Ireland industry specialists and leaders in tourism. Themes ranged from modules on Project Management, Leading High Performance Teams, Visitor Attraction Interpretation and Selling Internationally to best Practice site visits.

At an event in Enfield, Aisling Hayes, Maura Hickey and Grace Quinn were awarded certificates by Jenny De Saulles, Head of



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Ireland's Ancient East at Fáilte Ireland, for the successful completion of the Regional Tourism Management and the Visitor Attraction Revenue Management programmes. These programmes focused on helping Local Authorities and local tourism providers to find new ways to drive tourism growth in Ireland's Ancient East and diversify the tourism offering to attract more overseas visitors from across Europe and beyond.



#### **Growing Business for Destination Kilkenny - 12<sup>th</sup> April, Parade Tower, Kilkenny**

Kilkenny County Council's Tourism unit, supported by the Local Enterprise Office, held a one day training programme on 12<sup>th</sup> April focusing on a range of key areas including: Sales/Lead Generation; B2B/Sales Channels; Price negotiation; destination branding; business tourism; maximising Ireland's Ancient East; and targeting new opportunities (e.g. accessible tourism.)

#### **Sub County Destination Groups**

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Brian Tyrrell and Grace Quinn held a workshop for the Mullinavat / Windgap Destination Group Committee in County Hall. Topics covered included:-

- Understanding your destination and your visitor
- Defining what your destination has to offer
- Considering how the destination is currently performing
- Identifying what the visitor wants

- Looking at your competitors, best practice and trends

Following this workshop, a site visit was undertaken to progress the viability of their tourism offering. As a result of the workshop, and a number of meetings, the Group are currently undertaking the task of drawing up a 'Reflective Walk' Trail leaflet.



#### **Festival Grants**

102 applications have been received and these are currently being processed and assessed.

#### **Marketing and P.R.**

Travel News - in Trip Advisor's Top 10 Irish Destinations for 2018, Kilkenny was featured at number 6. The Travellers' Choice Awards, now in the 16<sup>th</sup> year, are determined based on "millions of reviews and opinions collected in a single year from TripAdvisor travellers worldwide".

Kilkenny featured in the Canadian Magazine "Nuvo", the article portrays Kilkenny as a centre for arts and culture. It really highlights the County offering - so the One Kilkenny message is getting through - even in Canada!

NUVO distributes 50,000 copies per quarter to the Greater Toronto Area, Greater Montreal, Greater Vancouver, and Greater Calgary and Edmonton Areas and is audited by the Canadian Circulation Audit Bureau (CCAB). NUVO's primary distribution channel is directed toward





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more affluent households. The remaining copies are placed in leading hotels, airline lounges, professional offices, and at key events across Canada. NUVO is also available at select bookstores and magazine stands across Canada and the United States, and by subscription.

## CORPORATE

### Judges Silver Award for the Medieval Mile Museum at the Irish Construction Excellence Awards 2018

Founded in 1993 and reinvigorated for 2018, the Irish Construction Excellence Awards are the original and premier recognition of performance excellence for the contracting sector in Ireland. The Awards provide an opportunity for the industry to highlight best performance across the full range of construction disciplines and project categories.

The standard of entries in 2018 was extremely high and following a rigorous judging process winners were announced at the Gala Awards Event in the Mansion House, Dublin on Friday, 23rd March, 2018 and the Medieval Mile Museum, Kilkenny, was awarded a Judges Silver Award.

The Medieval Mile Museum project combined sensitive restoration and contemporary design to an exemplary standard and the completed building is now the centre-piece of Ireland's Medieval Mile, a concentration of medieval sites and buildings in the core of Kilkenny City.

In addition, the Project has also received an Honourable Mention in the 2018 DOMUS International Prize for Restoration and Preservation and is being featured on the front cover of the next issue of The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland bi-monthly magazine "The Irish Architect".



### CONSTITUTION BILL 2018

FRIDAY 25 MAY 2018

Polling Stations Open: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### ARE YOU ON THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS?

You can check at the offices of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny, Phone: 056 7794070, Email: [info@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@kilkennycoco.ie) and on-line at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie).

If not, there is time to apply for inclusion in the Supplement in order to vote at the referendum

The referendum will take place on Friday 25 May 2018.

A person cannot vote unless you are on the Register of Electors. To get on the supplement to the register you must be 18 years or over on polling day and be ordinarily resident at the address at which you want to register. If you are on the register and have moved address recently, you may apply to get on the supplement at your new address.

Irish Citizens can vote at the Referendum.

Supplement application forms are available from Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny, and on-line at [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie). Completed forms must be received by the registration authority for the area in which you reside by Tuesday 8 May 2018.

Your application must be signed in the presence of a member of the Garda Síochána from your local Garda Station or, if you establish in writing that you cannot do so, then in the presence of an official of your County Council. In either case, photographic and other identification may be required and should be brought with you.



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If neither option is viable due to a physical illness or physical disability, the application form must be accompanied by a medical certificate.

#### Supplement to the Postal and Special Voters Lists.

If you are eligible to vote by post, or are unable to vote in person due to a physical illness or physical disability and resident in a hospital, nursing home or similar institution, and you are not on the Postal Voters List or Special Voters List, you can apply for inclusion in the supplement to these lists. Application forms are available from Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny. Completed forms must be received by the registration authority for the area in which you reside by **Saturday 28 April 2018**.

#### Kilkenny Celebrates International Women's Day

The Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council hosted an International Women's Day Event in The Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle, on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. The keynote speaker at the Event was Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy. Sue Nunn, Station Editor, KCLR96fm, facilitated a panel discussion with the following guest appearances:

- Sergeant Laura Dragoi, An Garda Siochána
- Gillian Grattan, Producer.
- Clare Hughes, CF Pharma, Managing Director and R& D Manager for Human and Animal Healthcare Products.
- Orla Kelly, Designer and Colour Specialist.

Following the panel interviews, an open discussion took place during which transition year students from Secondary Schools in Kilkenny City contributed to the discussion.



#### ROADS:

##### The Rower Traffic Management Scheme

Following local consultations the above Scheme went on public display in March 2018 under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, and the closing date for submissions on same is the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This Scheme proposes to introduce a traffic management regime along the R705 Regional Road on the southern side of The Rower village in the vicinity of Ard Mhuire National School and the Church of the Assumption. Funding of €60,000 to deliver Phase One of this Scheme was secured from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the 2018 Non-National Road Low Cost Safety Improvement Programme, and it is anticipated that works will be undertaken in the summer of 2018 during the school holidays.

##### N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme

Following a competitive tendering process the Technical Consultancy Services contract, to advance this scheme, was awarded to WS Atkins Ireland Ltd in February 2018. This Scheme has been an objective of Kilkenny County Council for many years and with the support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (hereafter TII), this objective, subject to the necessary statutory and funding approvals, will be realised over the next number of years. The programme for 2018 will be focused on planning, design, preparation of contract documents along with the acquisition of the lands required to deliver the Scheme.



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Thereafter, again subject to approvals, the tender process for the construction contract will be undertaken in Q1/Q2 2019. On completion of this process it is anticipated that construction works will commence on site in Q3 2019 with a construction period of 15 months to complete the Scheme.

#### **N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme**

The programme target for 2018 is to complete the Project Appraisal Report along with the Scheme Feasibility & Options Report for this Scheme and progress was made on same during the first quarter of 2018 via the Regional Design Office in Tramore. The proposed Scheme is approximately 2km in length extending westward from the speed limits in Mooncoin Village to the start of the N24 Piltown 2+1 Scheme at Clonmore. This existing section of national primary road is deficient in terms of horizontal curvature, width and sight distance. The proposed scheme will involve the widening and realignment of the road to remove existing bends. An allocation of €210,000 was provided in 2018 by TII to advance this Scheme.

#### **N25 New Ross Bypass**

The PPP Contract has entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and remains on programme to open in 2019. Construction of the Barrow Bridge continues to progress. On the Kilkenny side the central deck of spans 1 & 2 are complete and the cantilevered deck edge sections are progressing. The central deck for Span 3.1 is complete and steel fixing is continuing for span 3.2. On the Wexford side the head of pier 4 (central river pier on main spans) is complete and the form traveller is being assembled. The form travellers allow the bridge deck to be launched incrementally from the each side of the piers with a traveller moving along in each direction in tandem to construct the deck on both sides of the pier while maintaining equilibrium.

Earthworks operations are near completed across the site. Pavement foundation works are progressing on the mainline and pavement (blacktop) layers have commenced at Camlin and the R733 Junction. Drainage works also progressed across the site. The most recent phase of the traffic management at N25 Glenmore became operational in the first weekend of February. Traffic was switched to the opposite side of the roundabout to facilitate completion of the other side of the roundabout. It is anticipated that the roundabout will be complete by May.

Barrow Bridge at Pink Rock - central deck complete for spans 1 & 2 in foreground with wing traveller in place for construction of deck edge sections. Support falsework still in place for span 3.



Pavement and kerbing works for next phase of traffic management at Glenmore Roundabout (now open to traffic).



#### **N25 Graiguenakill to Gaulstown & Luffany to the Rhu Glen Pavement Improvement Scheme**

This Scheme will provide for a structural overlay of a combined length of carriageway of 4.13km, drainage improvements, roadmarkings, signage



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and other associated works and a grant allocation of €2,000,000 was secured for same in 2018. The design and tender documents for this Scheme progressed during the first three months of this year and it is anticipated, subject the necessary TII approvals, works will commence in Q3 2018, on completion of the New Ross By-pass works at the bottom of Glenmore Hill.

#### N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The closing out works to complete this Scheme progressed during the first three months of the year, with works focused on footpaths / cycle-tracks, lighting, landscaping, accommodation works, fencing and signage. The wet weather during March slowed down the completion of the landscaping works but it is anticipated that all works will be completed in May 2018.



*Brownstown Junction*



*New footpaths at Tinnypark*

#### N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee Improvement Scheme

It is proposed to upgrade the section of N77 between Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee, a length of approximately 3.25km's. The proposed scheme will involve a section of realignment and the widening of the existing carriageway. An allocation of €110,000 was secured in 2018 from TII. The programme target for this year includes for the completion of the Project Appraisal Balance Sheet and Design Report in Qtr 2, Planning under Part 8 and the commencement of lands acquisition negotiations.

#### N78 Castlecomer Bridge to Coolbaun South and Coolbaun North to Crettyard Pavement Improvement Scheme

This Scheme will provide for the strengthening of 6.73km's of carriageway, drainage and footpath improvement and other associated works and a grant allocation of €2,150,000 was secured for same. The design and tender documents for this Scheme were completed recently and submitted to TII for approval to advertise this contract. It is anticipated, subject to the necessary approvals that works will commence in Q2 2018.

#### HOUSING:

##### Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 notified Kilkenny County Council of its delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 627 units for the period 2017 to 2021 and a specific target of 113 units for 2018.

A report on housing delivery was discussed at the last Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March and circulated to all elected members. This meeting was open to all elected members to attend. During the first quarter of 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows;

- Construction underway on a rural house at Barna, Freshford. Expected construction period is 9 months.
- Construction in progress on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 self contained 1 bed units
- Purchase of 5 houses - sale agreed in 2018
- Part 8 Statutory Consultation commenced on 22 Units at Station Avenue, Ballyragget and 17 Units at Main St Piltown
- A consultation evening was held in Piltown Community Hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> February for the Part 8 proposal for 17 units at Main St, Piltown



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- Construction work on 4 houses at Wetlands, Kilkenny was completed and the houses were allocated
- A design team was appointed to work on 2 group homes at Blackstaff, Callan and Cloghabrody, Thomastown
- 5 houses completed and allocated at Togher Way, Urlingford
- 8 houses acquired and allocated at Abbeygate, Ferrybank
- 9 houses completed at Side Road, Moneenroe (Oaklee Housing)

#### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the month of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 90 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/03/2018.

Month	2016	2017	2018
Jan	37	29	37
Feb	30	26	32
Mar	18	26	21
April	26	25	
May	34	28	
June	31	24	
July	31	34	
August	32	27	
September	27	24	
October	30	27	
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
Total	349	319	90

#### March 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2018	2210
Number of assessment interviews carried out in March :	20
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	20
Number of HAP tenancies to 28th March :	875

Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	3
Anti social behaviour cases:	12
New Homeless Presentations:	21
Maintenance Calls for March 2018	437
Maintenance Calls year to date	1594
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	3
Amount of Loans Approved to 28th March, 2018	€365,025

#### Housing List

Year	Number on Housing List
March 2018	2,210
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

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

- Expenditure for RAS in 2017 was €5.4 million.
- A total of 548 RAS Properties are now forming part of social housing options.
- 27 properties were taken on in 2017 and 30 left the RAS Scheme in 2017
- The Housing Assistance Payment was introduced in Mid October, 2014. 1160 tenancies were set up since the schemes commencement and 875 are live @ 31/03/2018.
- There are over 250 households on rent supplement in Kilkenny at present

Combined targets for RAS & HAP for 2018 set out by the Department of Housing are as follows:



Total RAS	Total HAP	Weekly HAP	Rent Supplement to HAP	Total New Households to be supported by RAS & HAP
23	120	2	18 (15% of new HAP)	143

### Housing Needs Assessment 2018

We have been informed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government that each Housing Authority is required to prepare a Summary of the Social Housing Assessments (s.21 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009) for its administrative area. This Summary is now carried out annually and the counting date this year is 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Deadline for the return of summary to the Department is 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

This statutory Assessment will identify the number of qualified households on our Housing List whose housing need have not been met. This list does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP. Kilkenny County Council will contact all approved social housing clients being reviewed in the coming months. Advertisement will be placed in local papers and on our web-site to inform the public of the Assessment Process.

### New Rent Scheme and Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in 2018 for all our tenants. It is hoped to have the new rents in place by 1<sup>st</sup> June.

In addition, the proposed new Rent Scheme was discussed at the Strategic Policy Committee that was open to all elected members to attend on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of the revised Rent Scheme is to remove the current anomalies in the two rent schemes and remove certain historical charges in addition to rent. It is estimated that there will be no surplus rental income

arising from the rent review in 2018 as a number of reductions must be provided for in order to amalgamate both rent schemes.

### Estate Management Grant Scheme 2018

To qualify for assistance under the Estate Management Grant Scheme, applications must be submitted on behalf of an established County Council residents association and proposed projects/activities must be deemed to promote the interests of estate management in the community.

Application forms for the Estate Management Grant Scheme 2018 are available and for any further queries please contact Cora Nolan, on 056-7794931 or email [cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie). CLOSING DATE: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018 at 4pm; Assessments of Applications will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2018.

### Private Grants

**Opening of Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018:** The total number of HOP grants received by closing date in December was 227 and are currently being assessed.

The number of Private grants approved in 2018 is as follows;

Scheme	No.	Approved Amount
HGD	27	€341,581.56
MAG	14	€68,187.08
HOP	17	€106,004.46
Total	58	€515,773.10

We have tendered for the creation of a new Occupational Therapist Panel to assess our medical based applications for grant assistance



## PLANNING:

### Development Management:

	Total to March 2017	Total to March, 2018
<b>Planning Summary</b>		
Planning Applications Received	208	200
Planning Applications Granted	178	174
Planning Applications Refused	15	20
Complaints Received	26	25
Warning Letters Issued	31	14
Enforcements Notices Issued	12	13

### Forward Planning:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Local Area Plan for Castlecomer have been assessed and the Chief Executives report on the submissions received is to be considered by the Council at the April meeting.
- Consultants have been appointed for the preparation of a statutory Local Area Plan for Callan. An inception meeting has been held and formal work is in its early stages.
- The Council will publish a notice in the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> April signifying its intention to commence the review of the county and city Development Plans from the 20<sup>th</sup> April onwards.

### Conservation:

#### Built Heritage Investment Scheme Awards 2018

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD., recently announced that 370 heritage projects across the country have been awarded funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018. This scheme, which provides €2 million for the repair and conservation of historic structures, includes grants of €88k for 14 Kilkenny based projects.

### Structures at Risk Fund awards 2018

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD., recently announced €1.3m funding for 76 heritage projects across the country under the Structures at Risk Fund 2018. This fund, which supports conservation works to historic structures with significant risks of deterioration, will support two projects in County Kilkenny totalling €37k.

### Taking-in-Charge

A further estate, namely Aylesbury Estate is to be taken in charge. Aylesbury Estate is a residential development of 50 dwellings located in Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny. The original development was to consist of over 300 units but only phase 1a was completed. Kilkenny County Council worked with the receiver to identify and complete works to bring the development up to the standard necessary for taking in charge. Kilkenny County Council secured funding from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in 2016 and along with funding secured from the development bond substantially completed all works in 2016 and 2017. The taking in charge of the scheme is to be considered by the Council at the April meeting.

## PARKS:



The Parks Department oversees the development and maintenance of recreational amenities in Kilkenny City and County. The Parks Department has delivered a range of recreational amenities including playgrounds, parks and sports pitches which are available for use to people of all ages. The Parks Department is also



responsible for on-going developments, visitor management and maintenance of Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in Inistioge, which is fast becoming a major tourist attraction in the south east.

- **Playground development and maintenance**  
There are currently 28 playgrounds around the County. One community led playground in Clogh is about to commence on site and one for Johnstown at final stages of planning. Planning permission has also recently been granted for a further playground in Tullaroan. Many of these play facilities are maintained with the assistance of local communities and local community employment schemes. All playgrounds are inspected each week by the Council's playground inspector for any potential safety issues and are also cleaned at least once per week, to ensure they continue to be safe and clean to use by children.

- **Park development and maintenance** - The Parks Section have responsibility for the development and maintenance of parks in the City and County. The River Nore Linear Park along with the Newpark Marsh and Garringreen neighbourhood park are the main city parks. The parks provide a range of amenities both passive and active for people to enjoy. The parks continue to be maintained and cleaned weekly. Signage to bring greater awareness to the River Nore Linear park is currently being developed and will be installed shortly with funding assistance from the Outdoor Recreation Grant Scheme and the Healthy Ireland Fund.



Boardwalk at Lacken Walk,  
part of the River Nore Linear park

- **Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park** - Following extensive public consultation, planning permission was granted in September 2017 for the development of a neighbourhood park for Ferrybank in the Aylesbury area. Tenders have now been received for the detailed design of this park with a consultant to be appointed shortly with a view to deliver the project by the end of 2018. The park is to be developed with the assistance of LIHAF funding along with match funding from both Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City and County Council.



Playing games as part of 'Park Life', a public workshop and community day to inform the development of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood park

- **Kilkenny Greenway** - At the March Meeting of the Council the Part 8 Planning applications for the Kilkenny Greenway from Ferrybank to New Ross were approved. A brief is currently being drawn up to secure the services of consultants to develop the detailed design for the Greenway to ensure that it is 'shovel ready' in time for a funding announcement for Greenways expected shortly.
- **Woodstock Gardens** - Following a long winter where the gardens suffered much damage from storms and floods the gardens are finally getting back to normal with planting of the Winter Garden panels underway. The tea rooms re-opened for the season over the Easter





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bank holiday weekend. It will open at weekends only until the summer months after which they will open seven days per week until September. A number of Easter Forest school camps were held in the gardens over the Easter school holidays in spite of inclement weather. These were held in conjunction with Wildtime Forest Schools. Children enjoyed lighting camp fires, den building and developing outdoor skills and most importantly of all running freely in nature.



*Having fun at Woodstock Forest School*

#### ▪ Amenity Grants

The Parks Department is currently administering the 2018 amenity grants scheme, the closing date for which was the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. A total of 142 applications have been received, an increase of 14 on last year. The total budget available for these grants is €127,000. The grants will be presented to the Council for approval at the May meeting.

#### ENVIRONMENT:

##### SE Anti Litter Campaign

This new anti litter campaign targets litter generated from passing vehicles and was developed in collaboration with Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny County Councils. It was launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Over the campaign period, 12,000 tax disk holders will be distributed and the campaign will be highlighted

in regional, local and social media. #Bin it, Don't Fling It.



##### Green Schools

Three schools were assessed for their first green flag award and sixteen schools applied to renew their green flag award in March. Schools will find out if they are successful in April. It is a testament to the success of the programme to see more schools coming on board to join the programme.

##### National Spring Clean

The National Spring Clean has commenced in Kilkenny. By the end of March, 65 groups had registered to participate. The Environment Section is assisting groups locally by supplying materials and arranging refuse disposal from community litter picks.

##### Tidy Towns

Kilkenny City was represented at the launch of the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018 and an official tree planting ceremony to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the competition at the Tidy Towns Grove in the Phoenix Park, Dublin

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY & QUARTERLY**  
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on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018. A tree in respect of each of the last 20 winners was planted including one to mark Kilkenny City's achievement in 2014.

*Tullahought Tidy Towns* received notification in March that the Department of Rural and Community Development has nominated the village to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition. It is an all-island initiative organised jointly by the Department and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council. Judging takes place in May with an Awards ceremony held in Belfast in June.

**Entente Florale**

Inistioge Tidy Towns public meeting to introduce the community to the Entente Florale competition was met with great local support with over 80 in attendance on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Progress is being made by the Entente Florale Steering committee and sub groups have been formed to organise the village for its July adjudication.



Env  
 The water noise action plan 2017-2020 has been submitted to the EPA for comment.

**Activities for Quarter 1**

Title	Quantity
ATM Survey	5
Litter City Patrols	25
Litter County Patrols	15
Bottle Bank Surveillance	12
Litter Fines Issued	12
Prosecutions Secured	4
Prosecutions Pending	3

CRM Complaints	104
Waste Management Notices	2
Nutrient Management Plans	8
Solid Fuel Regulations - Out of hours patrols	5
Solid Fuel Regulations - Inspections	13

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME**

The County Final of the Student Enterprise Programme took place in the Newpark Hotel on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March as part of Local Enterprise Week. Approximately 100 students reached the finals stage of the competition from 12 secondary schools across the County. A total of 644 students participated in the programme in this academic year.

8 teenage entrepreneurs have been selected to represent Kilkenny at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park on the Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. In the Senior category the winners were Colm Dunne and Conor McCarthy, students from CBS Kilkenny with their project KAT Food. A compilation of healthy, easy recipes from our favourite hurling and camogie stars. In the Intermediate category Edward Daly, John O'Brien, Matthew O'Sullivan also from the CBS developed 'Lift Arm Assist' which makes the lives of farmers easier and safer. In the Junior category the winners were announced as Jack O'Shea, Jim Power and Nathan Ryan with their business 'Hot Chills Ltd.' from Coláiste Eamann Rís Callan - hot chocolate products.





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### NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

A waste processing and recycling production business based in Belview Port has won the County Enterprise Award for 2018. Eoin Treacy of Glanway Ltd based in Beview Port will now represent Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards on May 24<sup>th</sup>.



### 2018 LEO STATS FOR QUARTER 1

94 participants have attended training programmes ranging from Facebook for Business to Book-keeping and Taxation;

41 participants completed the Start Your Own Business training;

82 promoters have availed of one-to-one business advisory sessions with LEO executives;

53 business promoters have availed of one-to-one mentoring to address particular issues within their businesses;

12 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling € 19,250 which assists businesses to develop their ecommerce presence;

5 businesses have been assisted with applications for the Smart Options Loan Scheme in association with St. Canice's Credit Union.

## FIRE SERVICES

### Community Engagement & Education

A number of Home Fire safety visits were carried out. Visits by various groups to the Fire Stations were facilitated. Beaver Scouts and Leaders from Inistioge visited Thomastown Fire Station. The Beaver Scouts saw some of the specialist equipment and learned more about home fire safety and the importance of travelling safe in cars.

### Influencing & Regulating The Built Environment

We have received 20 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to date, 13 have been granted and 7 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.

To-date 27 planning applications were dealt with from a fire safety point of view.

### Fire Service Operations

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have attended 112 incidents (108 incidents were attended for the same period last year).

### Training

Kilkenny City Fire Brigade carried out Hazardous Chemical identification training as part of their weekly training.



Breathing Apparatus Maintenance training was also provided to members of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service.

Training was provided by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to a number of staff on Emergency Services Driving.

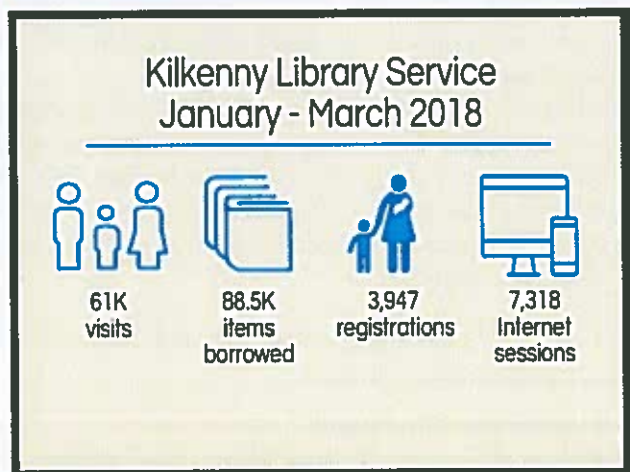
Firefighters from Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have carried out flooding first responder training on the River Barrow.





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## LIBRARY SERVICES:



eBooks

1,485

Up 74%  
on 2017

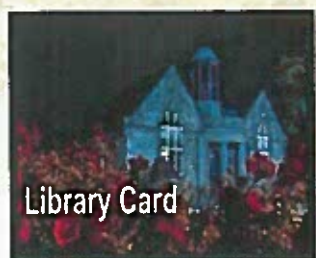
eAudiobooks

1,374

Up 62%  
on 2017

### Sign up Month Success

This year, we designated February as our sign up month and ran a very successful campaign aiming to increase membership figures on February 2017. Through promotion by library staff, advertisements in local media, social media, and targeted promotions to schools in each catchment area, we surpassed our target of 25%, and increased membership by 27%.



Library Card



### Healthy Ireland at your Library

Healthy Ireland at your library is a new national initiative which is being rolled out in 2018, providing resources, supports and programming on various health & wellbeing topics across the library network. Over 300 people attended 19 successful events from January - March on a wide variety of popular subjects from healthy eating for fussy toddlers and storytime massage to blood pressure checks and a healthy cooking event at Thomastown School of Food.



### Other events held:



- Tradfest: "Kilkenny Through The Ages" Exhibitions in 5 branches & Bingo as Gaeilge
- Series of workshops for primary school pupils & adults with Irish Wildlife Trust (under LA21 Funding)
- International Women's Day Exhibition "Inspirational Women" in all branches
- Conversation Salon held in March in Loughboy Library



APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT – APRIL 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of March is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €17.58m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

TABLE 1	Actual YTD March 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	3,864	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	4,464	20,108
Water Services	1,577	6,579
Development Management	2,118	8,693
Environmental Services	2,357	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	1,510	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	134	637
Miscellaneous Services	1,556	6,526
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>17,580</b>	<b>74,151</b>

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the three months to the end of March. IPB have confirmed the payment dates for the capital distribution previously advised. Collection rates on all the main income streams are in line with the previous year.

The draft Annual Financial Statement for 2017 was approved by the Members at the March Council meeting. The Local Government Auditor will be commencing the annual audit in the coming weeks.

