

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
MARCH 2018



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To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

14th March: Public Workshop in respect of Callan Town Renewal will be held in Callan Parish Hall

15th March: Public Workshop in respect of Inistioge Village Renewal will be held in Cois Abhainn.

12th April: Closing date for receipt of Applications for the Estate Management Grant Scheme 2018

Community Grant Information Evenings
12th March: Springhill Court Hotel.

21st March: Thomastown Community Centre

20th March: Community Centre Mullinavat

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COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

Town & Village Renewal

The Public Workshop in respect of Callan Town Renewal will be held in Callan Parish Hall on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm. The public workshop in respect of Inistioge Village Renewal will be held in Cois Abhainn on Thursday 15th March at 7.30pm. Both workshops will be facilitated by Future Analytics Consulting Ltd.

Community Grants Information Booklet

A Community Grant Information Booklet has been issued. It 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.

Community Grants Information - One Stop Shop

As part of Kilkenny County Councils strategy to improve how we communicate grants available from the various Departments we have developed and are launching on the 7th of March in County Hall an interactive ONE STOP SHOP for grants on the Kilkenny County Council website. This online portal compliments the recently published KCC funding handbook. As part of this campaign we will be dedicating ISSUE 9 of the Kilkenny County Council Community newsletter to Community Grants to further inform the wider community of various grants available.

Community Grants Information Evenings

Two of the five Community Grant Information Evenings were held-Castlecomer (26th February) and Callan (27th February). The other three were postponed due to the severe weather. They have now been rescheduled as follows:

Kilkenny City: Monday, 12th March at 7.30pm at The Springhill Court Hotel, Waterford Road, Kilkenny

Thomastown: Wednesday, 21st March at 7.30pm at the Thomastown Community Centre, Thomastown

Mullinavat: Tuesday, 20th March at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Mullinavat

Department of Rural & Community Development - Indicative Schedule of Announcements

Kilkenny County Council has been notified by the Department of Rural and Community Development of the following indicative timeframes:

February	Launch of 2018 LIS Scheme
March	Launch of 2018 CLAR Scheme Launch of Tidy Towns Competition Announcement of final LIS approvals
April	Launch of €38m SICAP 2018-22 Programme Launch of 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme Launch of 2018 Rural Recreation Scheme Closing date for receipt of CLAR applications
May	Launch of new RAPID/Community Facilities Scheme Announcement of successful CLAR projects
June	Closing date for Town & Village Renewal applications Closing date for Rural Recreation applications
July	Announcement of successful Town & Village Renewal applications Announcement of Rural Recreation scheme projects
August	
September	Announcement of Tidy Towns winners

Additional announcements on local projects will be made in the course of the year.

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Estate Management Grant Scheme

Kilkenny County Councils Estate Management Grant Scheme will be advertised week ending Friday 5th March. The Closing date is the 12th 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. Applications forms available from Community Department or from the Councils website.

Ledwidge, Heritage Officer. Tel: 056-7794925.
dearbhalal.edwidge@kilkennycoco.ie



Local Authority Heritage Officers from Kildare, Wicklow, Westmeath & Kilkenny County Council at the Pollinator Conference, Athlone, March 6th.

HERITAGE:

The Heritage Office has applied for funding to the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme for co-funding on 3 projects, including Kilkenny Field names Project; County Kilkenny Oral Heritage Audit; Kilkenny Heritage Awareness Programme. Notification of grant awarded is expected in mid March.

The Heritage Office has provided advice and support to communities and colleagues on a number of key grants schemes and initiatives including Heritage Council Community Grants Scheme; Graveyard Grants Scheme; Historic Towns Initiative; Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme.

Tidy Towns groups are encouraged to enter the *Local Authority Pollinator Award* in the national Tidy Towns competition. The award, co-ordinated by Local Authority Heritage Officers and Biodiversity Officers, has a total prize fund of €9,000. Tidy Towns groups who have won this special award (4 regional awards and one national award) have not only received a generous cash prize, but they have also increased their points in the overall Tidy Towns competition; a win-win situation! Details will be announced at the launch of the national Tidy Towns competition shortly. In the meantime, if you'd like any advice and support on applying for the award please contact Dearbhala

TOURISM & MARKETING

Meeting with Hotel Sector

The Chief Executive had a productive meeting with local hotel owners and managers on 8th February 2018, in Butler House. A presentation on current and future plans for Tourism development in Kilkenny was made and the Chief Executive outlined the Council's role in supporting the trade and set out our ambition for the next five years.

Tradfest / St Patrick's Festivities Launched on 15th February 2018





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Historic Towns Initiative

Kilkenny County Council submitted an application to the Heritage Council for funding under the Historic Towns Initiative, for urban regeneration works at Inistioge, supported by a Public Realm Plan prepared by Shaffrey Architects, and in line with the aspirations and objectives of the Local Development Plan and the current County Development Plan.



Festival and Event Grants 2018

Kilkenny County Council advertised its 'Festival Supports Grant Scheme / Community Event Grants Scheme 2018' in February. These grant schemes aim to promote and support local community events and to assist those events that support tourism, with a closing date of 9th March 2018.

The main purpose of the Festival Support Grants scheme is to support festivals and participative events which drive tourism in Kilkenny, underpinning the Council's Tourism strategy and improving the visitor experience in Kilkenny City & County.

The main purpose of the Community Event Grants Schemes is to provide financial assistance to individuals, groups and organisations engaged in projects, events or developments at local level. The emphasis of the scheme is on providing funding for a diverse range of projects thus ensuring that the limited financial resources available are used to the maximum benefit of the community at large.

Food Directory Launch

The members of #tastekilkenny launched a new food & drink directory on 12th February 2018 at Butler House. This initiative was funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine under the CEDRA Agri-Food Tourism fund and Kilkenny County Council in association with the Local Enterprise Office and Kilkenny Tourism. It builds on what #tastekilkenny has already developed in terms of sales and promotional material, to showcase Kilkenny's food offerings. This directory will act as a sales and marketing tool to showcase the food and drink offering to chefs, food establishments and artisan retail outlets in Kilkenny and further afield.



Marketing & P.R.

Kilkenny features in the March edition of the Travel Ireland Magazine, with a feature and advertorial (prepared by our own Aisling Hayes) for our "Dig a little Deeper" campaign, with a beautiful cover photo of Kilkenny Castle: <https://travelirelandmagazine.com/read-our-latest-issue/> Kilkenny tourism experiences continue to avail of marketing opportunities in international publications, with the assistance of Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, and an example of the type



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of exposure in the French market in 2017 was recently circulated by Fáilte Ireland: <http://foodandsens.com/made-by-f-and-s/voyages/balade-irlandaise/#>

The coverage includes references to Highbank Orchards, Cuffesgrange and Kilfane Waterfall as well as Kilkenny City, and is facilitated by Maura Hickey.

"Chamber Chat"

Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce and Industry host a monthly informal briefing for their members in a local hostelry. The February meeting was devoted to Tourism in Kilkenny and Brian Tyrrell made a presentation on current and future developments, and stressed the fact that in Kilkenny "Tourism is everyone's business"

South Kilkenny Destination Group - "Fam" trip to Kilkenny City

In line with the Council's Statement of Tourism Strategy, we have been working with a group in South Kilkenny to support local tourism development.

We conducted a familiarisation trip on 19th February (led by Grace Quinn) for a number of the group, to showcase the assets of the Medieval Mile and demonstrate the opportunities to be exploited. Attendees spent time at every attraction along the mile to familiarise themselves with what the tourist can expect. In the afternoon they went to visit the tourism offering at Malzard's in Stoneyford.

The group were energised and motivated by all that they saw. They are now busy identifying their own assets / tourism offering in an effort to promote tourism into their own areas. On the day they made good contacts which will be used to cross promote their tourist offering.



Kilkenny's Newest Festival - Kilkenny Animated February - 23rd to 25th

Kilkenny County Council supported Kilkenny's inaugural visual festival - Kilkenny Animated - and provided exhibition space at the Abbey Quarter as well as box office facilities. Kilkenny Animated is a brand new festival of visual storytelling, incorporating cartoons, animation and illustration in a series of exhibitions, talks, performances, workshops and experiences that celebrate the creativity and craft of the visual image.

The festival has been developed in partnership with Fáilte Ireland as part of the Ireland's Ancient East brand and took place February 23rd-25th. The festival was hosted by Academy Award nominated animation studio, Cartoon Saloon and was set against and inspired by the backdrop of Kilkenny's medieval streets and slipways at the heart of Ireland's Ancient East. Kilkenny Animated is the first festival of its kind in the world to bring together so many different aspects of visual storytelling for the enjoyment and appreciation of wider public audience.

ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme

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Pictured at the contract signing (back L-R) Glen Jones, Tramore RDO, Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Tim Butler, Director of Services, Frank Stafford, Senior Exe. Engineer, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach (front L-R) John Ryan, WS Atkins, Richard Neuling, WS Atkins, Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, (absent) Cllr. Ger Frisby and Cllr. Eamon Aylward.

Following a competitive tendering process the Technical Consultancy Services contract for the N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme was awarded recently to WS Atkins Ireland Ltd.

The proposed scheme entails the improvement of the N24 National Primary Route between the Ink Bottle Junction and the Tower Road Junction. It is proposed to close the Ink Bottle junction and to provide a new compact grade-separated junction and associated overbridge at the Tower Road Junction. The existing Tower Road Junction will be left-in / left out only. A new link road and roundabout are proposed to the north of the N24 in order to facilitate the closure of the Ink Bottle Junction. It is proposed to provide two lanes in both directions on the N24 through the Tower Road Junction.

This Scheme has been an objective of Kilkenny County Council for many years and with the support of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, this objective, subject to the necessary statutory and funding approvals, will be realised over the next number of years. The programme for this year will be focused on planning, design, preparation of contract documents along with the acquisition of the lands required to deliver the Scheme. 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.

This scheme is a very important road improvement for Kilkenny and will significantly improve road safety on the N24 route.

N25 New Ross Bypass

The PPP Contract has entered its 3rd 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 (see photo 3 below). 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 approx. 90% complete 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 are also progressing across the site and are estimated to be approx. 60% complete. Works are also progressing on Glenmore & Ballymacar roundabouts on the N25 with temporary diversions and traffic management in place.

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



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complete by May. The N25 climbing lane is closed and a new ghost island junction to the new Ballyverneen Link Road is operational. The L-7513 Ballyverneen Road is also closed for realignment works and a diversion route is in operation.

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 as required.

The eight quarterly project newsletter will be published before Easter, and the project website 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 24hr telephone hotline is also operational 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.



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).

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Schemes in Kilkenny (LIHAF)

Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure Scheme (Total Cost €10.94 million)

The procurement process for the appointment of a contractor for the road construction, commenced in January 2018 and construction is due to start in July 2018. Projected scheme completion date is late 2019. Construction of the Linear Park will follow after the completion of the road scheme.

1. Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park (Total Cost €0.64 million)

Tender invites for the detailed design of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park have been sent out to 6 interested parties. Tenders are due back on the 9th of March 2018 with works on site expected to commence in July following procurement of a works contractor. This park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding with matching funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities.



HOUSING:

Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 5th January 2018 had 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. During

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January 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows;

- Construction continued on a rural house at Barna, Freshford. Expected construction period is 9 months.
- Construction continued on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 no self contained 1 bed units
- A consultation evening was held in Piltown Community Hall on the 13th February for the Part 8 proposal for 17 units at Main St, Piltown
- One property at sale agreed stage

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the 2 months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 69 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 28/02/2018.

2016		2017		2018	
Jan	37	Jan	29	Jan	37
Feb	30	Feb	26	Feb	32
Mar	18	Mar	26	Mar	
April	26	April	25	April	
May	34	May	28	May	
June	31	June	24	June	
July	31	July	34	July	
August	32	August	27	August	
September	27	September	24	September	
October	30	October	27	October	
November	32	November	29	November	
December	21	December	19	December	
Total	349	Total	319	Total	69

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 Amt
HGD	24	€302,294.43
MAG	13	€65,187.08
HOP	10	€65,528.40
	47	€433,009.91

We will be tendering for the creation of a new Occupational Therapist Panel in the coming weeks to assess our medical based applications for grant assistance

February 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 28th February , 2018	2209
Number of assessment interviews carried out in February :	39
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	
Number of HAP tenancies to 28th February :	860
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	
Anti social behaviour cases:	15
New Homeless Presentations:	32
Maintenance Calls for February 2018	584
Maintenance Calls year to date	1183
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	3
Amount of Loans Approved to 28th February , 2018	€365,025

Housing List

The current Housing List at 31st December 2017 is 2,194 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

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Year	Number on Housing List
January 2018	2,194
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

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 **11th June 2018**. Deadline for the return of summary to the Department is **29th 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.

Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in 2018 for all our tenants. Also work has begun on revising the current differential rent scheme(s) to harmonise both schemes.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is a new Government backed mortgage for first time buyers. It is available nationwide from all local

authorities from 1st February 2018. First time buyers can apply to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build their own home.

The maximum loan amount under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is limited to 90% of the market value of the property i.e. maximum loan amount of €225,000. A Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan offers three rate products:

- 2% fixed for up to 25 years (APR 2.02%)
- 2.25% fixed for up to 30 years (APR 2.27%)
- 2.30% variable (subject to fluctuation) for up to 30 years (APR 2.32%)

A website has been set up which gives full background on the new loan with a list of Frequently Asked Questions at www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie. A National Help Desk has been set up to answer queries in relation to the scheme and their contact number is 051-349720

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.

Please note that recipients of grants will be listed on the Kilkenny County Council webpage. **CLOSING DATE: Friday 12th of April, 2018 at 4.00 p.m.**



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PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to Feb. 2017	Total to Feb. 2018
Planning Applications Received	121	138
Planning Applications Granted	123	128
Planning Applications Refused	13	13
Complaints Received	14	14
Warning Letters Issued	7	15
Enforcements Notices Issued	8	10

Forward Planning:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Local Area Plan for Castlecomer were published in February and were on public display between the 2nd February and the 2nd March. A public Information Evening was held in Castlecomer Library on Tue 20th February between 5 and 8 pm, which was attended by approximately 30 people. A total of 20 submissions were received.
- The Council made a submission to the Issues paper, published as part of the preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) by the Southern Regional Assembly.
- Tenders for the preparation of the Callan Local Area Plan were received, and a tender assessment was carried out. The successful consultants will commence the preparation of the Plan in end of March.
- Variation 3 to the County Development Plan was on public display until the 21st Feb. The purpose of the variation is to incorporate the expired local area plans for Piltown, Fiddown and Gowran into the County Development Plan and to amend the settlement boundary for Ballyragget. A total of 6 submissions were received. The CE's Report on

submissions is on the Agenda of the March Council meeting.

- Variation no. 5 to the City Development Plan was on public display until the 2nd March. The purpose of the variation is to allow for temporary car parking on the Abbey Quarter Masterplan area as a temporary/meanwhile use. A total of 12 submissions were received. The CE's Report on submissions is on the Agenda of the March Council meeting.
- A valuer was appointed to carry out Valuations of the 29 sites currently on the Vacant Sites Register, and valuations are currently being carried out.

Conservation:

- The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht announced two conservation grants for remedial works for built heritage nationwide in 2018. The grants were as follows:
 - The Built Heritage Investment Scheme support remedial works to protected structures and buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas with a total county budget of €88,000 available for projects in Kilkenny. A total of 14 projects have been selected for financial support, these have been submitted to the DCHG for approval.
 - The Structures at Risk Fund with total fund of €1,324,000 (countrywide) aims to support protected structures and buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas which are in immediate danger of significant deterioration. Local Authorities are permitted to select five projects from submitted applications. Five projects were forwarded to the



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DCHG for approval and the Council is awaiting a response on same.

Taking-in-Charge

- Works required at Riverside Park in Urlingford were completed in February and a proposal to commence the statutory process to take the development in charge is on the Agenda for the March Council Meeting.

ENVIRONMENT:

RMCEI Plan 2018 (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections)

The plan for 2018 and out-turn report for 2017 was submitted to the EPA on 16th February 2018 for approval. The plan takes on board both regional (WERLA) and local priorities and has regard to the resources available to Kilkenny County Council. This will form the basis for inspections throughout the remainder of 2018

Inistioge Entente Florale (Photo attached)

Inistioge Tidy Towns accepted a nomination from the Department of Rural and Community Development to represent Ireland along with Dungarvan in Co. Waterford in this prestigious competition. Community representatives met with Council officials and will work in partnership to prepare the village for the adjudication day which will take place on the 20th of July 2018. A public meeting is organised for the 8th of March at 8pm in Cois Abhainn, Inistioge to introduce the competition to the community and outline what's involved as community participation is key for success.

Litter Management Plan 2018-2020

The Litter Management Plan 2018-2020 was formally by the elected members at the February Meeting.

February Statistics - Environment

Inspection Type	
Complaints Investigated	143
Litter Patrols	63
Household Inspections	17
Waste Facility inspections	3
Discharge Licenses Premises	0
Septic Tank Inspections	1
Farm Inspections	10
Joint Inspections with TFS Office	0
Out of hours coal patrol	0
Bottle Bank Surveillance	10
ATM Surveys	0
Regulation	
Planning Reports	38
Planning Inspections	6
Tyre Regulations	0
Monitoring	
Historic Landfill monitoring	0
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	0
Priority Site Monitoring	0
Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	0
Groundwater Monitoring	0
Monitoring for Water Services	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEO ACTIVITIES

- 2 businesses have been assisted with applications for the Smart Options Loan Scheme in association with St. Canice's Credit Union;
- 23 business promoters have availed of one-to-one mentoring assistance to address particular issues within their businesses;



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- 39 promoters have availed of one-to-one business advisory sessions with LEO executives;
- 12 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €19,249 which assists businesses to develop their e-commerce presence.
- 41 participants are currently attending Start Your Own Business training;
- 10 participants are currently attending Sage computerised accounts training;
- Facebook Advanced training was completed in February with 15 participants attending;
- 14 Training programmes are due to take place in March.

FIRE SERVICES

Community Engagement & Education

- Preparations for the primary schools fire safety programme for 2018 are well underway with 56 schools participating this year. Primary schools in the Urlingford area were visited by the brigade.

Influencing & Regulating the Built Environment

- We have received 12 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to-date, 9 have been granted and 3 are being processed.
- Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers hold fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has aided greatly in reducing our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation and our Fire Safety Certificate refusal rates.
- 24 No. Planning Applications were dealt with from a fire safety point of view.

Fire Service Operations

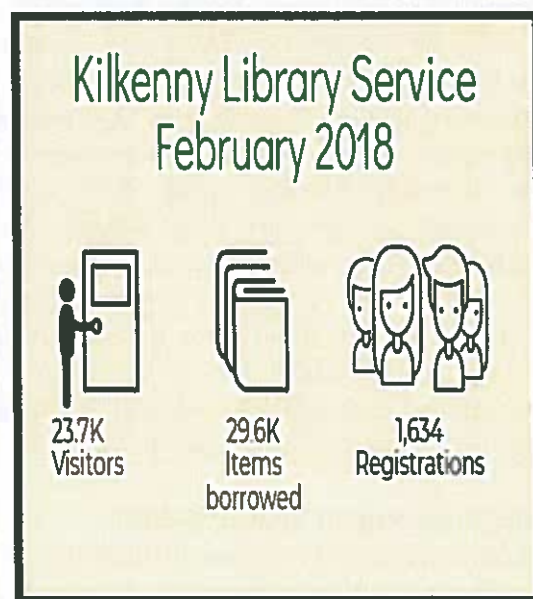
Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service were hugely involved in the Local Authority co-ordinated

response during the recent severe weather event. All 7 No. fire brigade were on standby during Storm Emma. The Brigades were involved in many tasks including clearing footpaths of snow, assisting vulnerable people, transporting essential workers from work to home, etc. During the severe weather we also responded to a house fire, chimney fires, Road Traffic collision on the M8, a number of alarms, assisted An Garda Síochána and the National Ambulance Service.

Facilities & General News, New PPE, New Equipment, New Fire Station Approvals etc.

- The Road Safety Authority (RSA) carried out a report on our fleet maintenance during February. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service got a clean bill of health and met the standards set down by RSA. Great credit is due to all staff involved in the fleet maintenance

LIBRARY SERVICES:





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Healthy Ireland at your Library

Healthy Ireland at your library is a new national initiative which will be rolled out in 2018, providing resources, supports and programming on various health & wellbeing topics across the library network. 13 successful events were run in February, from healthy eating for toddlers and storytime yoga to Irish Heart Foundation blood pressure checks and Mindful Walking.

Coming in March:

- Series of workshops for 12 primary school pupils & adults with Irish Wildlife Trust
- Tradfest: "Kilkenny Through The Ages" Exhibitions in 5 branches
- International Women's Day Exhibition "Inspirational Women" in all branches
- Kilkenny Library & Thomastown School of Food Healthy Ireland morning
- Conversation Salon event in Loughboy Library

Right to Read Initiative

As part of our Right to Read Initiative, we held a very successful series of Storytime training events for parents, staff, teachers and child care practitioners with specialised trainer, Neil Griffiths. This event was co-funded by our partners Kilkenny Education Centre, Carlow Kilkenny ETB and Kilkenny



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT - MARCH 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of February is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €10m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD Feb 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	2,426	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	2,307	20,108
Water Services	921	6,579
Development Management	1,351	8,693
Environmental Services	943	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	865	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	83	637
Miscellaneous Services	1,153	6,526
Overall Total	10,049	74,151

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the month of February. The final results on cash collection for 2017 are as follows: Rates - 95%, Rents - 92%, Housing Loans 85%.

IPB have indicated that they will be confirming the capital distribution previously advised in the coming weeks.

The draft Annual Financial Statement for 2017 will be presented to Council at the March meeting.