



12th September, 2022.

**TO: AN CATHAOIRLEACH
& EACH MEMBER OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

RE: FESTIVAL & EVENT GRANT SCHEME 2022

A Chara,

Kilkenny County Council approved a Festivals and Events Grant Scheme for 2022 to support the work being done by local community groups and tourism Festivals throughout Kilkenny.

The fund this year is €112,000. €15,000 of the original fund was set aside for the following:

- €5,000 towards Kilkenny Day 2022. Kilkenny County Council aims to build on the previous 2 years in order to engage our local communities and to showcase the spirit and pride that exists in Kilkenny following lockdown and two years of COVID-19 restrictions.
- €10,000 to be set aside to support communities and event organisers to access our recently acquired "Festivals Kit". Festival and Event organisers will be encouraged to use the Kit in their events around the county and Kilkenny County Council ringfenced some financial supports for groups to access this equipment. (costs associated with transport, set up and take down of the kit).

€97,000 available for Festival and Community Grant divided into 80:20 split. Therefore, the amount available for the Festival Grant Scheme 80% of €97,000 is €77,600. The amount available for Community Grants Scheme 20% of €97,000 is €19,400.

To date only one event has accessed the ringfenced "festivals kit" funding. I would expect that Savour and perhaps Yulefest will also access same. This totals €3,000. We have already used this funding to support the recent Rás na mBan event in Kilkenny in the amount of €2,000.

This leaves approximately €5,000 unspent from this budget.

Kilkenny Arts Festival has requested an additional funding allocation from Kilkenny County Council in the current year. The Council approved €45,000 towards Kilkenny Arts Festival in 2022. The Arts Festival is the County's largest and longest running Festival and will celebrate 50 years next year.

The Arts Festival are seeking additional funding as they have suffered a trading loss in the current year as a result of:

- (i) Additional costs incurred as a result of inflation on productions run (e.g. electricity, materials, labour, etc.); and
- (ii) Decline in Box Office Ticket sales this year (i.e. sales down c€20K compared to 2021).

It is recommended that any unspent funding in the Council's Festivals Grant Budget for 2022 be allocated to Kilkenny Arts Festival as a contribution towards the trading loss outlined above.

Mise, le Meas,

**Anne Marie Shortall,
A/Director of Services.**