



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

- A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Corporate Department for inspection by the Elected Members.

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CIVIC EVENTS IN OCTOBER

**Members and staff of Kilkenny County Council
on educational trip to Northern Ireland**



**Carlow and Kilkenny Local Enterprise Offices
Celebrate Women in Business at
National Women's Enterprise Day 2025**



**Elected members and staff of Kilkenny County
Council at the signing of the agreement with
AtkinsRéalis to progress the Kilkenny City
North Transport project**

PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Summary	Total January to October	
	2024	2025
Planning Applications Received	645	818
Planning Applications Granted	545	625
Planning Applications Refused	47	56
Complaints Received	103	104
Warning Letters Issued	61	87
Enforcements Notices Issued	30	46
Cases Closed	51	116
Cases sent for legal prosecution	3	13
Section 5's Received	66	62
Section 5's Decided Upon	55	69

There has been a significant increase in the number of planning applications in the year to date compared with the same period in 2024. A 24% increase in application numbers being recorded. The figures also indicate increased activity in enforcement with significant increases in the issue of warning letters and enforcement notices with increases of 30% and 35% respectively.

FORWARD PLANNING

Development Plan 2021 – 2027 - Update on Review

The Minister recently published new Guidelines on the implementation of the *National Planning Framework (NPF) First Revision*. (*NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities*) These Guidelines set out the housing demand projections to 2040 for each local authority. Each local authority is required to assess the current City and County Development Plan core strategy and settlement strategy against the objective of the Guidelines. This comprises a review of the adequacy of existing zoned lands to cater for the NPF housing growth requirement figures for the full duration of the existing Development Plan. The 'Chief Executive's Report on NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements' will be issued to the Members for discussion at the November Council meeting. This Report will detail how the objectives of the Guidelines will be secured.

Kilkenny County Council are currently in the process of two variations dealing with Castlecomer and Ferrybank/Belview which will be assessed against the Guidelines. An assessment for the remainder of the County and impacted settlements is also underway.

Pending the outcome of that process, the commencement of the review of the 2021 City and County Development Plan, and preparation of the new Development Plan, will be determined at a future date in consultation with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

Castlecomer Settlement Plan

A Proposed Variation 5 to incorporate a Settlement Plan for Castlecomer into the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan (KCCDP) and align the KCCDP with the Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPRs) of the *Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)* as relevant commenced public display on the 30th May and submissions were accepted up until the 27th June. A total of 15 submissions were received.

The Chief Executive's Report on submissions was considered by members at the July 2025 Council meeting, and it was resolved to materially alter the Proposed Variation. The preparation of the material alteration documents, and associated environmental assessments, will also consider the *NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities* issued in July under Section 28 of the Planning Acts.

Ferrybank / Belview Settlement Plan

Proposed Variation 6 to the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 commenced public display on July 18th, with the closing date for submissions being September 19th, 2025. Variation no. 6 proposes to incorporate a Settlement Plan for Ferrybank / Belview into the current City and County Development Plan.

A total of 77 submissions were received.

A Chief Executive Report is being prepared, and this will consider the proposed variation, the submissions made and the requirements of the *NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities* issued in July under Section 28 of the Planning Acts.

Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan

Planning have commenced a variation to amend zoning in the City to facilitate housing at Upper Patrick Street/Jacobs Street and align zoning in accordance with the process under the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

The proposed changes will be as follows:

- (i) Upper Patrick Street/ Jacob St in Kilkenny City (*area of 0.014 hectares*). Proposal is to **zone 145m2 of land currently part of the public realm as Existing Residential**.
- (ii) Leggettsrath West in Kilkenny City (*are of 1.56 hectares*). Proposal to change the zoning of this site **from 'Existing Residential' to 'Agricultural'**, as part of the implementation of the Residential Zoned Land Tax.
- (iii) Kilcreene in Kilkenny City (*area of 2 hectares*). Proposal to change the zoning of this site **from 'New Residential' to 'Open Space'** as part of the implementation of the Residential Zoned Land Tax.

Environmental Assessments are currently underway and it is anticipated that the Variation will be placed on public display in late November for a 4 week period.

Taking in Charge

Works are progressing on the following Estates:

- Hillview, Bennettsbridge
- Leaca Ard, Fiodh Mor

Active Land Management

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) has come into effect. The Council prepare the RZLT maps, and Revenue administer the tax. The settlements currently liable are Kilkenny City, Rosbercon, Callan and Thomastown. Relevant landowners must have filed a return with Revenue by 30th May, and any queries in relation to payment of the tax should be directed to Revenue.

As set out in Budget 2026, landowners subject to RZLT will have another opportunity to request a change in the zoning of their land. As a result of making such a request, landowners may qualify for an exemption from the 2026 RZLT liability.

Vacant Sites Register

There are 18 Vacant Sites on the Vacant Sites Register, and the number of cancelled entries due to site activation or improvement is 29. The Vacant Site levy (VSL) will be replaced by the RZLT later this year, but any outstanding VSL's will remain due to the Council.

Conservation

The Conservation Office manages all protected structures in Kilkenny County and City. These structures are recognised for the following special interest: Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Artistic, Cultural, Scientific, Technical, Social.

An advisory service on conservation matters is provided to the public and colleagues, while the conservation grants and funding applications are also delivered.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025:

The Built heritage Investment Scheme grants for 2025 have now been completed. Eight projects were supported under the BHIS in 2025, These projects involved works to historic windows, floor upgrades, pointing and wall repair works.

BHIS	Total Grant Allocation for Kilkenny	Amount of Privately Leveraged Funds	Total Project Costs
Eight Projects supported	€253,062.00	€106,157.76	€359,219.76

Across the eight projects detailed above, there was an average of 88% increase in funding from the initial offer to the applicant.

A further seven projects were offered funding, these offers were declined by the applicants.

Thatching Grant 2025: The Cave Bar was the recipient of €23,916.5. This was for a rethatching of the entire buildings, and has resulted in the public remains open. Another thatch cottage was offered funding, however, the Project did not proceed.

The Historic Structures Fund 2026 has recently been launched.

For 2026, the Historic Structures Fund will offer grants from €50,000 up to €200,000, and will focus on larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- (a) A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- (b) A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (*such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary*)

Application forms and Further Information on the grant details are available on the Kilkenny County Council website and from the Planning Department, Kilkenny County Council. The deadline for submission of applications is the Friday 16th January, 2026.

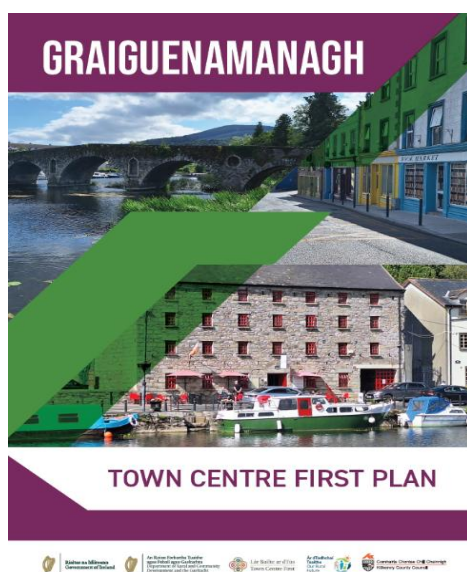
For the month of October, the Conservation Officer has completed reports on the following:

Planning Referrals.....	4
Further Information Requests	0
Clarification of Further Information Requests.....	0
Section 57 Declarations.....	4
Section 5 Declarations.....	1
Post Planning	1
ABP Submission	1

Building Control

Valid Commencement Notices Received	Disability Access Applications Received
October 2025.....291	October 2025 54
October 2024.....302	October 2024 48
October 2023.....273	October 2023 54
October 2022.....297	October 2022 62

TOWN REGENERATION OFFICE



Following on from an extensive engagement, a further meeting was held with the Town Team on 8th October with a view to refining the actions to be included in the Town Centre First Plan for Graiguenamanagh. 16 priority actions have been identified and are included in the Plan. Staff attended in the Library in Graiguenamanagh on 28th October where the final draft was available for viewing. A presentation was made to the Callan-Thomastown Municipal District area at their meeting held on 5th November.

The funding application under the RRDF for design and plan costs for provision of car park, community park and public realm improvements for Urlingford was successful.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

To date the Council have paid out €5.8 million to successful applicants. The following are the full statistics up to end of October, 2025:

Number of Applications Submitted to date	349
Number of Approvals / Approvals in Principle to date.....	262
Grant Drawdown to date	93
Number of Queries during the month of October	87

Derelict Sites

The derelict site at Low Street/Market Street, Thomastown, acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order was put on the market for sale. Notice under Section 183 for disposal of the property is for consideration at the November meeting. Vesting order can now proceed for property in Ballyragget. There were no additions or removals to the Derelict Sites Register in October.

CLIMATE ACTION

Community Climate Action Programme – Phase 2

Applications for Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme will be accepted from Wednesday 22nd October until Wednesday 17th December 2025. The overall objective of the Community Climate Action Programme is to support and empower communities to take climate action and to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets.

Phase 2 of this Programme is very similar to Phase 1 and successful applicants under this scheme will deliver a variety of projects that have a direct climate action impact. Projects will have to address, at least one, of the following five themes: Community Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping and Recycling and Local Climate and Environmental Action. For further information about the Community Climate Action Programme, and how to apply, contact Kilkenny County Council's Community Climate Action Officer, Breda Maher by email, breda.maher@kilkennycoco.ie or visit Kilkenny County Council's [website](#), for full details including the Briefing Note, Terms and Conditions and Guidelines document for communities and how to apply for this Programme.

Retrofitting Council Buildings

Work is continuing on the SEAI Pathfinder Programme, which with the support of the Regional Energy Unit, will allow Kilkenny County Council to access 50% for capital costs of retrofitting Council buildings. The external insulation upgrade on the Watergate Theatre is the first project in Kilkenny to receive approval for funding from the SEAI. Works are scheduled to start in December 2025 and finish in May 2026. A designer team for phase 2 of works will be appointed in Q2 2026.

Fleet Decarbonisation Strategy

The Climate Action Regional Officer and Energy Officer are working with the Roads Section (*Machinery Yard*) to develop the Council's first Fleet Decarbonisation Strategy for Kilkenny County Council Fleet. The emissions from fossil fuels used in the fleet are one of the most significant challenges for the local authority sector. The strategy, which is driven by new EU legislation and is an action of the Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan, is a very detailed look at how we can tackle this in Kilkenny County Council.

It will address the following:

- an audit of the vehicle stock
- eco-driver training for fleet staff
- replacing fossil fuels with renewables/biofuels
- Replacing diesel vehicles with EV's
- Fuel procurement and payment systems
- Route Selection

The strategy document has been completed and currently under review.

Climate Action Training

Since March of this year training has been provided to staff and members of the Climate Action Steering Committee, by the CARO under the Local Authority Climate Action Training programme across the themes of Climate Risk Assessment, Nature-based Solutions, Biodiversity, Weather Forecasting; Green Public Procurement; Biomethane, Energy Performance and Financing of Climate adaptation and Mitigation.

After a break for the summer, more training has been completed from September which focused on the Forestry Programme 2023-2027, Climate Goals in Transport and National Bioeconomy Action Plan and will continue throughout 2026-2027. Since the end of June, all webinar recordings and presentations from the *Local Authority Climate Action Webinar Series* (under the *Building Capacity* training pillar) are accessible via the Climate Action Training Programme LMS available on the **Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) LMS Moodle Platform**.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Green Schools Programme 2025/2026

There are 85 schools registered with the Green Schools programme, of which 71 are active (*in the process of attaining a flag*). 14 have a status of either "long term deferral" or "deferral from the previous year." The deadline for the first-time Green Schools Litter & Waste application is **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**. For schools renewing their Green Flag award, the general deadline for the 2025/2026 school year is **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

8 Kilkenny City Residents Groups Part of New Leaf Mould Project



Kilkenny County Council's Environment Section, in collaboration with the Council's Biodiversity Office and Climate Action Office, has launched a hands-on community initiative to help residents turn fallen autumn leaves into rich, organic compost known as leaf mould.

Over the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October, eight residential estates across Kilkenny City took part in practical workshops to build their own leaf mould cages specially designed enclosures that recycle leaves into valuable compost for use in community green spaces and gardens.

The Leaf Mould Project, funded by Kilkenny County Council and supported by Benton Ecological Solutions & Technology, is a collaborative community action that combines environmental education, biodiversity protection and climate resilience. Each participating estate received training, signage and equipment from the Council's Environmental Awareness team, with support from local volunteers and residents.

This initiative aligns with key objectives in both the Kilkenny Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 and the Kilkenny Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 encouraging natural solutions to waste reduction, promoting the reuse of organic materials and enhancing biodiversity across urban areas.

By keeping leaves out of the waste stream, the project helps to reduce landfill use and transport emissions, while creating a sustainable resource that improves soil health and supports pollinators.

The project also contributes to the delivery of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, which emphasises community participation in waste prevention, local composting, and carbon reduction. Each estate will continue to monitor and maintain their cages, with the finished leaf mould ready for use as mulch or compost within 12 to 18 months. Kilkenny County Council aims to extend the programme to additional residential areas in 2026, inviting more communities to take part in this simple yet powerful example of circular, community-based climate action.

Revibe and Savour Your Wellness Event-Mountain View, Ballyhale Monday 27th October

The Environment, Healthy Kilkenny and Community Department of Kilkenny County Council teamed up to with the staff at Mountain View to organise a Pre-loved & Vintage Clothing Expo event on the October Bank Holiday Monday.

Mountain View, Ballyhale became a feel-good hub for all things sustainable, stylish and soul-nourishing. From 10am to 4pm, it brought together vintage fashion finds, wholesome food and plenty of fresh-air vibes.

There was inspiring talks on sustainable style, food waste, and healthy living, plus energising physical activities to encourage increased mobility and movement.

The event was formally opened by Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and led by MC Kieran Cuddihy from Newstalk with Guest Speakers and Panel Participants including Naomi Fitzgibbon from Vintage Finds You, Ella De Guzman from Siopa Ella, Arran Murphy from the Rediscovery Centre, Aisling Larkin, Modern Lifestyle Food, Dr Leighann Ryan Culleton and more.

This event is rooted in the national drive for a circular economy. Donations from car parking (*included in race entry*), race entries, and stallholder fees went directly to Cois Nore's €2 million fundraising effort.



“Let’s Fix Fashion” Supported by Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny County Council is supporting and sponsoring An Taisce’s “Let’s Fix Fashion” programme, which officially launched on 14th of October. We are encouraging as many schools as possible to participate. It is a student-led climate action where we tackle fast fashion by exploring repair, reuse, upcycling and circular economy thinking. There is hands-on learning with practical workshops and challenges that fit neatly with the Green-Schools themes and whole-school engagement. You can view the programme page: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/the-programme/projects/lets-fix-fashion/>

WASTE

RMCEI Inspection

The waste team are working their way through the almost 2,000 inspections planned for 2025 under the RMCEI Programme (*Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental inspections*). By the end of October the team have completed over 1,400 inspections. Inspections are carried out in the areas of commercial and household waste, construction and demolition waste and illegal waste activities amongst other areas. The team complete this program of works whilst also investigating complaints received by members of the public.

Bring Banks Usage



The Council provides and manages 47 Bring Centres across the City and County. A total of **1554 tonnes** of recyclables were collected from our Bring Centres to date in 2025. Loughboy Shopping Centre (15 tonnes collected) Aldi - Kilkenny City (16 tonnes collected) and Lidl - Johnswell Rd (11 tonnes collected) were the busiest locations in the City in October. Lidl in Thomastown (8 tonnes collected) and Graigue-managh (8 tonnes collected)

were the busiest outside of the City in October. Environment staff are continuing to work very closely with our service providers to ensure the collection service is in keeping with demand, especially around long weekends and holiday period.

Civic Amenity Site - Dunmore

The Civic Amenity site at Dunmore continues to provide a valuable service to the public and operates from 8am to 4.30pm through lunch five days a week whilst also providing a Saturday morning service from 9am to 12 noon.

AIR NOISE WATER

Water Quality - Farm Inspections

Council staff continue to carry out farm inspections with 252 initial inspections completed to date. Farm inspectors are carrying out the onsite inspections and identifying sub basins that have high Nitrates and Phosphates present and focusing the inspection program in areas that are at risk from this pollution. The target for 2025 is 308 inspections.

Septic Tank Inspections

Septic tank inspections are ongoing with 45 completed to date. The target for 2025 is 59 inspections to complete.

Environmental Complaints

All Environmental complaints received are logged on the CRM (*Customer Relations Management*) System. The number of complaints that have been received and logged for October 2025 is 63. The nature of these complaints included littering, illegal dumping, burning of waste and abandoned cars. The majority continue to be related to illegal dumping. Whilst every effort is made to bring unacceptable environmental practice into compliance, Environment Enforcement staff continue to manage significant enforcement cases progressing through prosecution cases.

Noise

Several staff in the Environment Office have completed Noise Monitoring Course in the previous month. This Training will enable staff to deal with noise complaints going forward and will allow Environment Section to be able to act more efficiently on noise complaints from the public.

Air

Two new air monitors have been installed – Butts area and City Centre. Staff will be monitoring the information received from these air monitors. The majority of Air inspections will take place in Q4. Environment staff have completed 30 inspections to date with 50 additional inspections to complete before year end.

RURAL WATER

Rural Water Committee

Kilkenny County Council are progressing the re-establishment of the Rural Water Committee with the intention of reconvening the Committee before year end, 2025.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026

Group Water Schemes who have funding approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are progressing planned works through the procurement phase. Kilkenny West GWS and Highrath GWS are currently proceeding with planned works.

Subsidies for GWS Operations

50 valid GWS subsidy applications were received in respect of operational costs for year 2024. Payments to the value of €246,224 in respect of 32 subsidy claims released to date. Remaining applications under review.

Well Grants - Improvement Works to Private Water Supply

213 applications received to date, year 2025. Funding to the value of €391,836 paid out. 180 applications received in the same period 2024. Funding to the value of €418,613 released.

PARKS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

PROJECTS GENERAL

2024-2025 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

In early November 2025, The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht advised that Kilkenny County Council was successful in securing funding under the Measure 2 and Measure 3 categories of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Programme. Details of the funded schemes are provided hereunder:

Measure	Project Name	Description	Grant Allocated
M2	Kilmacow Community Complex Outdoor Recreational Enhancement Scheme	Refurbishment of existing footbridge over River Blackwater, enhancements to Kilmacow Loop Walk within Kilmacow Community Complex including new connectivity link, upgrades to existing gravel trails, new trail signage including distance markers and age friendly seating and parking provision.	€200,000
M2	Mountain Grove Loop Trail Walk Redevelopment Scheme	Mountain Grove Loop Walk – Rehabilitation of existing 2.5km woodland trail, to include entrance, trail path, drainage, footbridge, signage, seating and car parking enhancement works.	€200,000
M3	Brandon Hill Trail Enhancement and Upland Protection Scheme	To undertake enhancement works along Brandon Hill summit trails to protect upland habitat, address the erosion scar and develop clear delineated walking trails that are fit for purpose and resilient to effects of climate change.	€439,425

When match funding from the Council's own funds is added to each of the above allocations it will see an investment of €933,472 and when added to the successful ORIS PDM and M1 applications, announced in September, a cumulative investment of c.€1.25million will be made across the County enhancing outdoor recreational amenities under this call.

Two Kilkenny locations included in Coillte's Top 20 most visited recreational sites

Out of the 260 forest recreational area's managed by Coillte across nationally, Jenkinstown Wood (9th) and Millennium Woods (16th) have been named in Coillte's Top 20 most visited recreational sites based on 2024 visitor numbers. The data indicates a growing interest from the public in local outdoor recreation, with many visitors enjoying walks through recreational parks and woodlands where they can explore nature and biodiversity. Both locations received significant upgrade works in recent years under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), which was progressed by Kilkenny County Council in collaboration with Coillte.

Jenkinstown Wood welcomed just under 102,000 visitors in 2024 – up from 89,610 in 2023. The redevelopment at Jenkinstown Wood saw the rehabilitation of existing looped trails, the creation of a new fully accessible 1.2km route, upgraded signage, an access ramp connecting to the car park to the enhanced picnic area, and the installation of age-friendly and wheelchair accessible seating.



The newly created trail was named “The Last Rose of Summer Walk”, a tribute to one of Ireland’s most cherished poets, Thomas Moore who wrote his famous poem, of the same name, while staying in Jenkinstown back in 1805. The 61,532 visitors to Millennium Woods in 2024 enjoyed the benefit of significant enhancement works which included 2.6km’s of trail rehabilitation, the addition of a wheelchair accessible toilet as well as car park, entrance and signage improvements.

Both sites are located a short distance from Kilkenny City, highlighting the demand for such facilities and reinforcing the case for investment in the development of existing and new trails. Speaking at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Jenkinstown Wood Enhancement Scheme in June 2025, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD said: *“Facilities like these are vital to our communities. They promote both physical and mental wellbeing, support rural tourism, and bring people together.”*

Updated Capital Delivery Office & Parks Department Page on Website

The Capital Delivery Office & Parks Department Page on the Kilkenny County Council Website has been updated to include information about recent projects, such as those completed under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, as well as reflecting the additional work now being undertaken by the Capital Delivery Office & Parks Department. The page can be found here: <https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/services/capital-delivery-office-parks/>

Participation Nation agus Amuigh Faoin Spéir

Underpinning the Government’s National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, launched in November 2022, The Participation Nation agus Amuigh Faoin Spéir Funding Scheme supports the delivery of more opportunities for the public to be more active in the outdoor environment. Under the fund, Kilkenny County Council, in collaboration with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership, was successfully awarded 100% grant funding for the installation of a Boules Court and biodiversity planting in Slieverue Linear Park along with the installation of an Outdoor Exercise Zone and additional biodiversity planting within the Countryside Park.



Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum



We were delighted to host the filming for this year’s Toy Show Appeal advertisement at Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum. The production team chose Woodstock for its beauty and its recent inclusivity and accessibility additions, which made it an ideal setting to promote the appeal and showcase the Gardens and Arboretum as

a welcoming and vibrant space.

The advert aims to raise awareness for the Toy Show Appeal and highlight some of the beneficiaries of the fundraiser. Through the Community Foundation Ireland, we have reached out to two Kilkenny-based charities to feature in the production. Filming took place in the playground and woodland areas, with a full crew on site, including camera, sound, and production teams. We look forward to seeing the finished advertisement when it airs later this month.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund – Woodstock Gardens

Under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, significant work has been completed at Woodstock Gardens to control invasive species, including Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron ponticum. Woodstock is a site of high conservation value, and these works will greatly enhance the woodland’s biodiversity and native ground flora. The total project cost was €17,350, with Kilkenny County Council contributing 15% of the overall amount.

LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Summary of 2025 Awards to Businesses

- €350,220 in direct financial assistance has been approved for 15 manufacture /export service businesses in located in throughout the County.
 - €238,507 in Business Expansion Grant assistance
 - €60,000 awarded in Business Priming Grant Assistance
 - €19,713 awarded in Feasibility Study Grant Assistance
 - €30,000 awarded in Grad Start Grant Assistance
 - €2160 in IP Grant Assistance
- 15 Businesses have commenced LEAN one to one consultancy programmes to investigate possible resource efficiencies and process improvements their businesses
- 29 businesses have availed of the Digital for Business programme to prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the enterprise.
- 23 businesses have availed of the Energy Efficiency Grant totalling €187,100 to support investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises.
- 37 business have availed of the green for business consultancy support scheme. This scheme supports businesses to become greener and environmentally friendly.
- 6 applicants have been supported to make loan applications to the Micro Finance Ireland loan fund.
- 77 people participating on the Starting Your Business programme
- 351 businesses have availed of specialised business specific mentoring on a variety of topics including finance, marketing, social media marketing and HR.

National Women's Enterprise Day

The Local Enterprise Offices of Carlow and Kilkenny came together to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day 2025 on Thursday, 16th October, with a vibrant event held at the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle. The participants heard from a range of accomplished businesswomen and indeed accomplished women in politics. Event guests had the pleasure of hearing from Ireland's longest standing female Councillor and the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh.

Minister Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Well-Being and the National Drugs Strategy closed the event, encouraging all the women in the room, and speaking candidly about the importance of shinning a light on women in business and National Women's Enterprise Day.



Digital 26: Focus on Craft and Creative

The launch of Digital 26: Focus on Craft and Creative took place recently at Google's Foundry in Dublin. This exclusive event will take place on Thursday 11th November and provides an opportunity to learn from Google and industry experts, exploring the latest digital and AI trends that can transform businesses. Hosted by Google, this partnership event has been organised by Craftwork4all and the Local Enterprise Offices of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Waterford, Wexford, and Wicklow.



BROADBAND DIGITAL UPDATE

Basic IT Training

The Broadband Officer is working in partnership with the KCETB to provide opportunities to rural communities to engage in basic IT training at their local Broadband Connection Point (BCP). Following on from a successful summer course delivered at Muckalee Community Centre, a further six-week KCETB Autumn programme has been completed by seven new and returning learners.

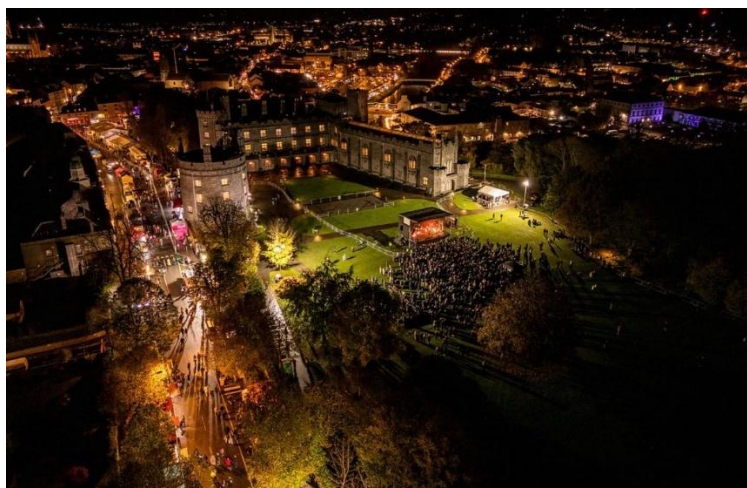
'Our Kids Code' Taster Workshops at BCPs

After a successful series of Trinity College Dublin (TCD) 'Our Kids Code' taster workshops at Kilkenny libraries over the summer, this initiative returns to two Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) for the Autumn programme, coordinated by the Broadband Officer. Muckalee Community Centre taster workshop takes place on Wednesday 19th November, 6pm to 8pm and Ballyouskill Community Hall taster workshop takes place on Saturday 22nd November, 10am to 12 noon. Further details on <https://ourkidscode.ie/>

NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Savour the Night

For the second year running, the NTE supported Savour the Night on Saturday 25th October in partnership with Savour Food Festival. Kilkenny City transformed into a vibrant hub of night-time energy, offering an unforgettable mix of live music, the Savour markets until 9pm, dining events and family entertainment. The Kilkenny Castle Park Concert, witnessed over 2,500 people attend the Bruce Springsteen Tribute show in support of Cois Nore. Aerial footage of the City at night was filmed and a show reel of the evening attracted over 45,000 views online.



NTE: Home of Halloween

The night time economy partnered with the tourism office to support some events as part of the first Home of Halloween programme. David Keenan brought his chasing Myth tour to Rothe House for a wonderful night of music. On Saturday 1st November, a fancy-dress cycle disco took place starting in The Parade and cycling around the City with the support of the Kilkenny Cycling Campaign.

City to City Exchange with Braga

The NTE advisor along with 4 officials visited Braga in Portugal a part of a Urbact City to City Exchange to better understand their approach to topics related to the night time economy. As part of the 3-day visit, the team met the Mayors team of officials, the Mayors Advisor who leads their Sustainability Department, the Head of the Civil protection, the Director of Tourism Braga and the Director of Teatro Circo and Forum Braga which are major event spaces in the City.

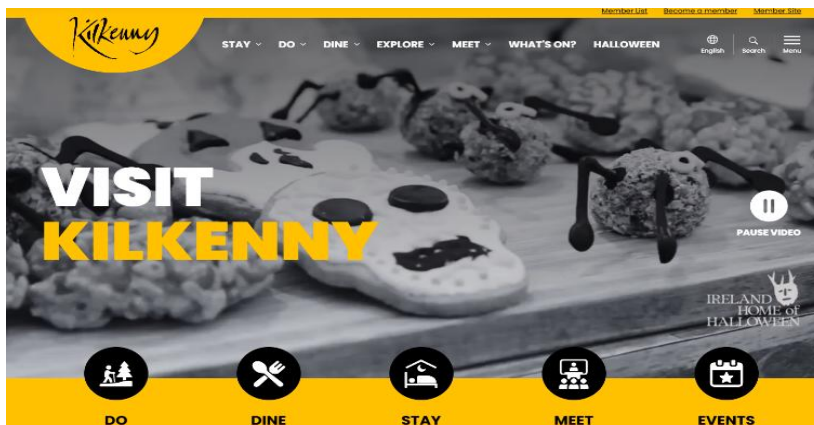
A lot of expertise was shared with the team on their approach to infrastructure, transport, festivals and tourism. Officials from Braga will undertake a return visit to Kilkenny in December during Yulefest to discuss the implementation of the Night Time Economy Action Plan.

Civic Festivals: Yulefest Kilkenny

The first Festivals Committee meeting for Yulefest took place on Monday 20th October. The festival runs from Saturday November 29th November until Tuesday 23rd December.

Our Festivals Director, Marian Flannery, provided the committee members with an update on the programming and planning underway for Yulefest Kilkenny. Marian also updated the committee on the early success of ticket sales for Starlight, the sound and illumination show at St Canice's which takes place between Sunday 14th December and Sunday 21st December.

Kilkenny Tourism and visitkilkenny.ie



After months of development, Kilkenny Tourism launched the all-new Visit Kilkenny website.

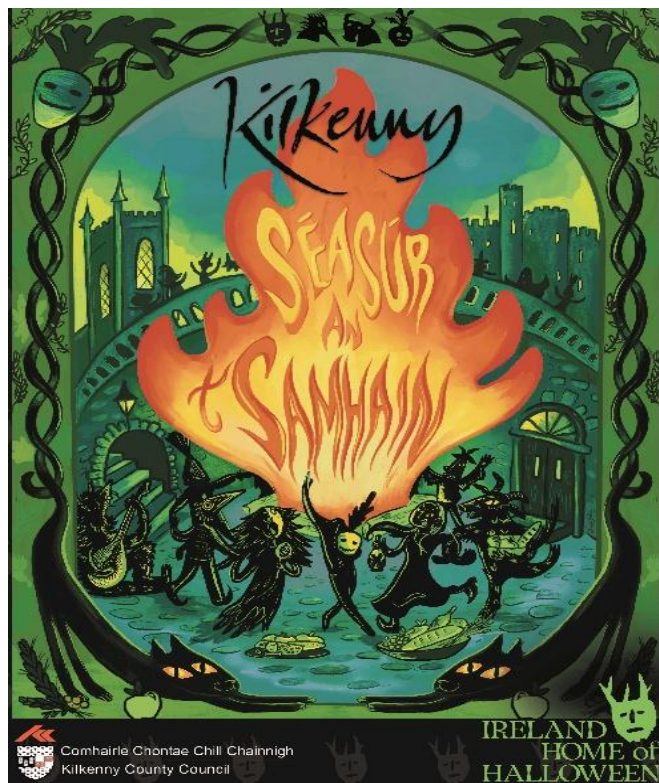
Its soft launch was announced to the Visit Kilkenny audience ahead of the bank holiday weekend.

As well as a completely revamped look, the site has improved functionality for users and members alike - making the site easier to navigate with far less page clutter than the previous site. A new members area will give all members the option to claim their listing to make changes directly, and to pay their annual membership fee online.

Festivals and Events

October introduced Failte Ireland's Home of Halloween pilot project to Kilkenny with a month-long programme of family-friendly events, live performances and night-time spectacles from 17th of October to 9th November. The festivities incorporate our long-standing Savour Kilkenny Food Festival, Kilkenny's Toil and Trouble festival, and includes flagship family friendly activities throughout the County such as the "Witches and Wizards" Festival at Castlecomer Discovery Park, and Halloween fun at Nore Valley Park and Pumpkin Patch.

The programme also brings a mix of family activities, community events, traditional Samhain-inspired celebration, live music, theatrics, late-night fancy dress and guided tours across the City, celebrating Kilkenny's heritage, creativity and community spirit in a safe, inclusive festival atmosphere.



Kilkenny County Council continues to support our year-round calendar of events with October welcoming Savour back to the streets of Kilkenny.

Savour Kilkenny Food Festival returned from October 24th to 27th 2025.

One of Ireland's favourite food festivals, and now a key partner in our Home of Halloween programme, Savour celebrates the produce, food and culture of Kilkenny.



This October, Kilkenny's Toil & Trouble Festival returned.

Funded through the Home of Halloween programme this year, it is our ambition to continue to grow Toil and Trouble from strength to strength in the coming years, extending our tourism season into November annually with ambition to attract visitors from all corners of the globe.

HOUSING

The Directorate of Housing incorporates a wide range of services for applicants and tenants to facilitate and support the provision of independent and supported accommodation. The following information gives the up-to-date progress for October 2025 under the various support services.

HOUSING CAPITAL



Construction of 42 Social and Affordable units at Abbey Hill, Thomastown due for completion in February 2026



Construction of 20 no. social units including a group home at An Tobar, Freshford due for completion in July 2026



Construction of 6 no. social apartments at Teach Aimsire, Dunningstown Road, Kilkenny due for completion in March 2026

AFFORDABLE HOMES

September was an important month in advancing our delivery of affordable housing under the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme. With two active developments, Church View, Kilmacow and Abbey Hill, Thomastown our Team made substantial progress in launching and promoting these schemes. Emphasis was placed on strategic outreach, digital and print marketing, and direct community engagement to ensure strong visibility and accessibility for eligible buyers.

Church View Kilmacow

Kilkenny County Council working in collaboration with Michael Murphy building services and supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

Application portal opened on 10th October, 2025 and applications are currently being reviewed for eligibility and completeness. There are 13 x 3-Bedroom units available with a starting price from €248,475. Target audience includes First-Time Buyers & Fresh Starters.

Engagement efforts and direct marketing activities have been undertaken, which includes outreach to An Garda Síochána (*Waterford Regional Station*) and engagement with staff at University Hospital Waterford as well as local print and digital campaigns, with over 1,600 emails distributed to potential buyers and key organisations.

Abbey Hill, Thomastown

Built by Ormonde Construction and supported by Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Abbey Hill is a stunning new development of 22 units of 2 and 3 bed homes. A total of 22 homes are available for purchase under the Affordable Purchase Scheme - 16 three bed and 6 two bed homes. Two bed from €225,000 and Three Bed from €253,000.

Portal opens on 15th October, 2025 at 12.00 noon. Engagement efforts and direct marketing activities undertaken include outreach to James Stephens Military Barracks as well as engagements with staff at St. Luke's Hospital and State Street Ltd. and local print and digital campaigns, with over 1,600 emails distributed to potential buyers and key organisations.



HOMELESS SERVICES

The Government have put in place a number of measures to prevent homelessness arising from the reactivation of notices of termination of tenancies in June 2023.

We are currently providing advice and directing tenants to the appropriate services required to prevent homelessness. Where a household is in receipt of a valid notice to quit and requires assistance in establishing what options are available to them to avoid potential homelessness they are advised to contact the Housing Office at its dedicated email address NTQEnquiries@kilkennycoco.ie Further details are available on www.kilkennycoco.ie.

Any tenants who may have received a notice of termination or a landlord who has issued a notice of termination to their tenants or who may wish to in the coming months should direct any queries to the dedicated email provided and all queries will be responded to in a timely manner.

HOMELESS SERVICES SUMMARY OCTOBER 2025	
Homeless Presentations	59
Homeless Assessment Outcomes	
Prevention & Interventions	40
Emergency Service	14
Not eligible / Did not avail of service	5
HAP Place Finder Service	
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies at first day of month	147
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies created during month	0
Number of Homeless HAP tenancy breakdowns	1
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies in place at last day of month	146
Other Social Housing Tenancies supported /created during month	12
Provision of Emergency Accommodation	
Households in Temporary Emergency Supported Accommodation at 31 st October	32
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B accommodation	12
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B Accommodation that are families	9
Households (<i>singles/couples</i>) in Transition Emergency Accommodation (<i>Own Front Door</i>)	48
Households (<i>Families</i>) in Transition Emergency Accommodation (<i>Own Front Door</i>)	17

SOCIAL HOUSING PROVISION

SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT APPLICATION SUMMARY OCTOBER 2025	
Number awaiting Social Housing Support on October 31 st <i>Gross Need</i>	1,290
Number awaiting Social Housing Support on October 31 st (<i>Net Need</i>)	641
Number of Social Housing Applications received in October	80
Number of applications incomplete / awaiting further information/clarification	42
Number of applications validated and ready for assessment during the month	41
Number of applications assessed during October	32
Number of applications awaiting assessment as at 31 st October	55

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) SUMMARY OCTOBER 2025	
Total active HAP tenancies	398
New HAP tenancies set up	32
HAP allocated Social Housing	57
Closed HAP tenancies	65
HAP Rent Reviews	179
HAP Other tenancy amendments	799

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS OCTOBER 2025	
LA/RAS/Leasing offers of allocations made in October	27
LA/RAS/Leasing offers of allocations made to date 2025	248

TENANCY MANAGEMENT

Complaints

The Tenancy Management Section of Kilkenny County Council deals with anti-social behaviour complaints in relation to our tenants as outlined in the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. Total number of issues as of the 31st of October 2025 were 38 issues.

Complaint Type	Number of Complaints	Number Investigated	Number Ongoing	Number Closed
Drugs related; Violence; Racism; Threats & Intimidation	12	12	5	7
Damage to property, animal related (dog/horse/fowl); Refuse/dumping/hoarding	5	5	4	1
Noise; Parking/boundary issues; Other	21	21	16	5

MAINTENANCE HOUSING STOCK

The Housing Operations team have commenced a pilot scheme for roll out of a new app for stock surveys to existing housing stock as agreed with the department. The completion of stock surveys will allow Kilkenny County Council to improve the delivery of our planned maintenance programme.

MAINTENANCE CALLS OCTOBER 2025	
Maintenance calls in October	762
Maintenance calls year to date	6,237

PRIVATE HOUSE GRANTS

The 2025 housing grants allocation has been received from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage in the amount of €2,575,197 comprised of €2,188,917 (85%) grant and €386,280 (15%) Kilkenny County Council's contribution.

GRANTS APPROVED & COMMITTED OCTOBER 2025

Scheme	Number	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	139	€1,542,688
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	16	€59,487
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	259	€1,570,440
TOTAL	414	€3,172,615

GRANTS PAID OUT OCTOBER 2025

Scheme	Number	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	63	€697,483
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	8	€27,307
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	151	€839,369

HOUSING LOAN ACTIVITY 2025

Loan Type	Received	Approved	Amount Approved	Number Paid	Amount Paid
Local Authority Home Loan	27	3	€282,400	4	€434,278
Caravan Loan	0	0	€0.00	0	€0
Total	27	3	€282,400	4	€434,278

VOIDS

VOIDS ACTIVITY OCTOBER 2025	
Number of Voids Upgraded Ready for Allocation in October 2025	10
Number of Voids in progress on the 31 st October, 2025	24
Total Number of Voids Upgraded for Allocation to Date 2025	69

COMMUNITY

Community Projects

The Table below outlines in summary ongoing projects and schemes in the Community Department.

Town & Village Scheme			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	October Status
Glenmore CLG Project Development Measure 2022	Develop plans for a building purchased under Building Acquisition Measure. The building will be used as a community shop/café and meeting facility	€49,950	Complete
Callan 2023	King's River Town & Village Project – River bank and amenity area	€247,500	
Dunnamaggin Local Community Group 2023	The transformation of a community green space into and events amenity for all the community knows as Madge's Garden	€247,500	Works progressing
Urlingford Town Team 2023	Refurbishment of Community Hall. Phase 2	€500,000	80% of works complete
Callan Project Development Measure 2024	Develop plans to establish an outdoor classroom community space in Abbey Field and examine the re-development of a derelict cottage in Moate Field and complete biodiversity studies on both sites	€49,950	Surveys in progress, stakeholder engagements commenced
Paulstown Community Group Project Development Measure 2024	Complete feasibility and design studies for the creation of a centre point in the village, consisting of an open public green space with seating and leisure facilities. This will redevelop the village centre and provide accessibility between the main street and residential areas	€49,950	Part 8 being prepared

Rural Regeneration Development Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	October Status
Piltown	Phase 1 of the project comprises of main street urban renewal enhancement, parking bays, EV charging points, and bicycle bays x2	€2,180,931	Community Consultation held on 30 th October 2025 in Piltown Community Centre
Glenmore	Develop the South East Greenway Connectivity Link and Pink Rock Cycle Loop & Amenity Trail	€2,356,423	Design Team appointed
Thomastown	Thomastown Library and upgrade to Community Centre	€4,013,115	Works progressing well

Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme			
Community Group/ Year Approved	Project Description	Grant	October Status
Johnstown Sports Field 2022	Contribution to development of walkway around complex	€40,000	Works in progress
Mooncoin Celtic AFC 2023	LED Floodlighting for extra training area	€20,000	Planning granted
Cois Nore 2024	Develop and Refurbishment of Community Space	€40,000	Works complete
Ballyhale Shamrocks 2024	Upgrade of toilets / disability access	€9,000	Works in progress
Gowran Community Complex 2024	Contribution towards the refurbishment of a community hub	€27,000	Commencing end of November
Glenmore Camogie Club 2025	Contribution towards the re-instatement of walkway	€29,000	Works not yet commenced
Mullinavat Drama Group 2025	Lighting, Sound, Projector, Screen, Curtains	€11,000	Works not yet commenced
Marian Hall Kilmacow 2025	Installation of heating, bathrooms, kitchen	€11,000	Works not yet commenced
Kilkenny Girl Guides 2025	Emergency Lighting & Fire Alarm	€15,000	Works not yet commenced
Kilkenny SOS Lawn Bowls 2025	Fencing, Lighting, Bicycle Bays, shed	€30,000	Tender Live, closing December 2025
Kilkenny Ambers Women's Refuge	New Playground	€35,000	Works not yet commenced
Freshford Town AFC 2025	Floodlighting for all weather pitch	€32,000	Works due to commence in Q1, 2026
Deen Celtic Castlecomer 2025	Refurbishment of shower facility into girls dressing room	€26,000	75% complete
St. Joseph's Athletic Club 2025	Shelter and walking track	€11,000	Works in progress
Graiguenamanagh Rowing Club 2025	Storage racking for rowing boats	€15,000	Procurement in progress
Evergreen Football Club 2025	Spectator Stand	€20,000	Works in progress

Community Recognition Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	October Status
Christian Youth Centre	Development of existing building to provide community space, meeting rooms	€390,607	Contractor to commence November 2025
Fr. McGrath Centre	Installation of Solar Panels, Painting of building	€100,474	Solar Panel project due to commence
Muckalee Community Cafe	Coffee Machine, Tarmac, Tables and Chairs, access fob	€50,000	Works Complete
Castlecomer Community Hall	Repairs to roof, wooden flooring and painting	€50,000	Works Complete
Ballyragget Community Hall	Renovation of CYMS Hall	€173,000	Procurement process ongoing

CLÁR			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	October Status
Galmoy Community Hall 2023	Provision of a MUGA	€30,015	Not yet commenced
Skeoughvosteen Community Centre & GAA 2022	Provision of outdoor public and wheelchair accessible public toilets	€50,000	Works complete
Ballyouskill Community Hall 2024	Upgrades to carpark, roof repairs and replacement of door.	€36,641	Not yet commenced
Windgap Handball Alley 2024	External insulation of two outside walls	€29,419	Seeking a revision of works
Windgap GAA 2024	Works to include tarmacadam to driveway and parking area	€38,307	Not yet commenced on site
Naomh Aodhan Community Centre CLG 2024	Upgrade works on rebuilding and refurbishing of handball alley and ground works	€44,312	Works in progress

KILKENNY AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Over 55's Climate Course

The Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme's six-week Climate Action Course commenced on Wednesday, 17th September 2025 at St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Loughboy, Kilkenny, and is currently ongoing. Facilitated by Jacinta Barrins, the course is designed to build awareness around climate change and empower participants to take practical, individual actions to reduce their environmental impact.

Throughout the course, participants are encouraged to identify and implement their own personal climate actions, with a follow-up session planned to reflect on the outcomes and impact of these efforts. Guest speakers from Kilkenny County Council and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) contributed to the programme, providing valuable information on available grants and home improvement measures aimed at enhancing energy efficiency.

This initiative supports the Age Friendly Strategy's commitment to lifelong learning, environmental awareness, and active community participation.



Attendees of the Over 55's Climate Course

National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards

Kilkenny County Council's Age Friendly Programme was shortlisted for the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2025 under the Age Friendly Community Innovation Award category for its Creative Christmas Connections initiative.

The annual awards celebrate outstanding age-friendly projects across Ireland that contribute to making the country a great place to grow older. In collaboration with Creative Ireland, Kilkenny County Council organised a series of free events aimed at enhancing community connections among older adults through creative engagement.

Activities included festive flower arranging, Christmas crafts, storytelling, embroidery workshops, and a special afternoon event the Rambling House Christmas Show featuring comedy sketches, poetry, and sing-alongs. These events fostered social inclusion, creativity, and seasonal joy for older members of the community.

The award ceremony took place in the Galmont Hotel, Galway on Thursday, 23rd October 2025, recognising and rewarding achievements in age friendly initiatives around Ireland.

Age Friendly Alliance

An Age Friendly Alliance meeting was held on Thursday, 6th October, 2025 in the Council Chambers to consider and priorities actions of the Age Friendly Strategy 2025 -2028 that was launched earlier this year.

Kilkenny Older Peoples Council Annual Conference

The Kilkenny Older People's Council Annual Conference took place on 16th October 2025 at the River Court Hotel, Kilkenny. The event began with registration and an opportunity for attendees to visit a range of information stands, followed by an opening address from Cllr Mary Hilda Kavanagh, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council.

The conference featured a diverse line-up of speakers, including:

- Nickey Brennan, Kilkenny Age Friendly Ambassador
- Anne Marie Shortall, Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme
- Noel McCaffrey, CEO, ExWell Medical
- Ashling Fitzgerald, Nursing Home Support Officer, HSE
- Ellen Brophy, St. Canice's Credit Union – presenting on account management and financial abuse awareness.

The event concluded with a Q&A session, providing attendees the opportunity to engage directly with speakers. The conference was well attended, with very positive feedback and high levels of satisfaction with the content and relevance of the presentations.

Age Friendly Creative Connections Workshops

The Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme in conjunction with Creative Ireland and Kilkenny Carlow ETB are hosting a series of **FREE creative taster classes/sessions** throughout the month of November. The 'Creative Connections 2025' programme of events are targeted for older people to enhance community connections by engaging in creative workshops and events.

The locations and more information are available below. There are **limited places and booking is essential**. To book a place, please email agefriendlykilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie with your name, contact number, workshop location and date you would like to attend or phone 056 7794920.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme in Kilkenny continues to support older people, over 65 years of age, to live in their home for as long as possible.

The Programme accepts referrals from a variety of sources including from:

- The older person themselves
- Local Authority Staff
- Family and friends
- Public Health Nurses, GP's and Occupational Therapists
- Elected Representatives
- Community Organisations

Referrals to the programme can be made via phone on 046-924 8899, email healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie or through the website at <https://agefriendlyireland.ie/healthy-age-friendly-homes-programme/making-a-referral/>

Please note, consent from the older person (*verbal*) must be obtained before the referral is submitted.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes – Kilkenny Programme Delivery:

Below is a summary of the number of participants in the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Kilkenny programme and the supports that have been offered to older people in Kilkenny from January 2025 to October, 2025.

Total Referrals Received (2024 to-date)	380
Total Initial Assessments (January 2025 to-date)	146
Total Additional Visits (January 2025 to-date)	80
Total Visits Overall (January 2025 to-date)	226
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	63
Total Supports Offered (2025 to-date)	727
Medical/Health; Housing; Assistive Technology; Community; Finance and Energy/Climate (January 2025 – 2025 Year to-date)	

Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership – Progress Update

An Induction Meeting for the Local Community Safety Partnership was held on 16th October 2025, marking the first gathering of the newly appointed members. Attendees were introduced to the aims and structure of the Partnership, setting the foundation for the collaborative work ahead.

Members were invited to submit nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair to the Local Community Safety Coordinator by Friday, 31st October, 2025. The election of the Chair and Vice Chair is scheduled to take place at the first official meeting, which will take place in November.

The Community Safety Survey was successfully launched and has received over 700 responses from residents across the County. The insights gathered will directly inform the development of the Local Community Safety Plan and contribute to the National Community Safety Strategy.

INTEGRATION

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continue to provide on-going integration support to people categorised in the following groups living in Kilkenny:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) (Ukrainians)
- International Protection Applicants (IPAs)
- Programme Refugees
- Refugee, Subsidiary Protection or Permission to Remain status

Currently there are 534 Ukrainians in 12 properties under contract with the Department of Justice, Migration & Home Affairs, 199 Ukrainians living in Offer A Home properties and Irish Red Cross pledged properties, of which they avail of the Accommodation Recognition Payment. There are also 205 International Protection Applicants (IPA's) in 4 properties under contract with the Department.

34% of Ukrainians and 68% of IPAs are registered as employed.

In October, the LAIT continued their work providing information, advice and advocacy to:

- 147 Ukrainians with 164 interventions including queries relating to signposting to wider stakeholders.
- 38 IPA's with 77 interventions including queries around the immigration process, work permits and accommodation

In total for 2025, the LAIT have supported 1,637 individuals with 3,125 interventions.

Events:

The LAIT regularly collaborates with partner agencies and is planning more events for the year ahead. Below are a few of the events that took place during the month of October:

- An information session on the Irish Health System on 'Health Awareness and Access' which was held on the 8th October, 2025 and facilitated by the HSE.
- The LAIT were represented at the Kilkenny Mental Health Expo which was coordinated by Lifelink and held in the Market Cross, Kilkenny.
- LAITs attended the networking event 'The Integration Health and Wellbeing Seminar' held in Limerick. This was run by Healthy Ireland and Limerick County Councils Integration Team.
- Black History Month was celebrated with guest speakers Dr. Philomena Mullen, Assistant Professor Black Studies, TCD and Jude Hughes, Association of Mixed Race Irish, in Mayfair Library on 20th October. The talk was aimed at both Primary and Secondary Schools and was opened by Cllr. John Coonan, Mayor.
- The LAIT continues to facilitate a weekly drop-in clinic in the Neighbourhood Hall on Thursday afternoons.
- Information sessions continue at the Wallslough Designated Accommodation Centre with new arrivals ranging from integration information and accommodation supports.



Offer of a Home and IRC Pledged Properties at 31st October 2025:

31 st October, 2025	Number of Pledged Properties	Number of Residents
Offer a Home Scheme	55	186
Pledged Properties (<i>shared and not shared</i>)	3	12
Total	58	198

The 'Offer a Home' Scheme is managed by Local Authorities on behalf of the Government. A Government tax-free Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) of €600 per month is available to property owners offering accommodation to Ukrainians with Temporary Protection status. There was a reduction in the monthly ARP payment from €800 to €600, from June 2025. Further details are available on www.offerahome.ie or you can contact the Kilkenny County Council Ukrainian Response Team. A separate programme is in place run by the Irish Red Cross seeking pledges of spare rooms or accommodation that would be shared with the owner or others. If an owner wishes to pledge a spare room in their house, they can contact the Irish Red Cross at (01) 6424600 or email info@redcross.ie.

Community Recognition Fund:

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting Ukrainians coming to Ireland. This funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in areas within Kilkenny hosting Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The following projects were approved funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2024 and have been successfully completed.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 Window 1

City/Town/Village	Lead Applicant	Project Description	Funding Approved
Bennettsbridge	Bennettsbridge Community Development Association	Upgrade of car park and Tennis Court Elements (i) Re-surfacing of Car Park [€45,000] (ii) Re-lining of Car Park & relining of Tennis Court [€6,000]	€51,000



Before

After

City/Town/Village	Lead Applicant	Project Description	Funding Approved
Knockopher	Knocktopher Development Association	Installation of Pedestrian Crossing, Ramps, Benches and Wall Repairs. Elements: Pedestrian Crossing [€20,000] Ramps [€10,000] Wall Repairs [€18,412] Benches [€1,650]	€52,062

Knocktopher



Installation of Pedestrian Crossing & ramps completed



Wall repairs in progress



Wall repairs completed.

FIRE SERVICES

Fire Brigade Operations

The Fire Service plays a crucial role in making our communities safer, whether it be preventing and protecting people from fire and other risks or responding swiftly and effectively to the incidents and emergencies that occur 24 hrs per day/7 days per week/365 days per year. 858 no callouts were received to date. These incidents included a significant number of road traffic collisions, ambulance assists, outdoor rubbish, chimney fires, and automatic fire alarm activations.

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Fire Senior Fire Officers advise on current Building Regulations in relation to the fire safety standards required for proposed developments. In addition, Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Fire Prevention Officers hold Fire Safety Certificate/Fire Prevention Clinics under Section 18(5) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003. These are held on a weekly basis and/or upon request in Fire Station HQ.

- 94 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received to-date.
 - A Fire Safety Certificate is a certificate issued by the Building Control Authority which states that the works or building to which the application relates will, if constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted, comply with the requirements of Part B of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations 1997.
- A number of risk premises throughout Kilkenny City and County have been subject to review and fire safety certification applications to ensure minimum standards.

Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

- Fire Prevention staff made targeted inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation during the first few months of 2025.
- 53 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.
- 6 licence applications under the Dangerous Substances legislation was assessed to date
- 83 Fire safety inspections of premises have taken place to date.

Recruitment of Retained Firefighters

Our current complement of Firefighting staff in our 7 Fire Brigades are as follows: Kilkenny City (13), Castlecomer (11), Freshford (12), Urlingford (9), Thomastown (11), Callan (12), Graiguenamanagh (12). The WRC recommendation is to have a minimum of twelve firefighters in all Fire Stations. Interviews for Castlecomer, Urlingford and Thomastown has just taken place. Despite our third recruitment campaign, difficulties still remain in recruiting firefighters in Urlingford Fire Brigade. As well as responding to emergency calls and undertaking community fire safety initiatives, Retained Firefighters attend weekly training nights to maintain competency levels and undertake routine checks on their equipment.

Retained firefighters are men and women who are on call to respond to a range of emergencies. Many retained firefighters have other full or part-time jobs but when the call comes, they are ready to drop whatever they are doing and become part of a team, ready to face any emergency.

Training

Kilkenny County Council's Fire and Rescue Service are obliged under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to ensure that our Firefighters and Officers are adequately trained and competent to deal with tasks and varying roles they may encounter in the performance of their duties.

All personnel responding to Fire and Rescue Service incidents require a minimum level of training to meet core requirements. Personnel also require appropriate refresher training in all the above throughout their careers, generally delivered either through on-station training or through specific refresher courses. New recruits have also attended Compartment Fire Behaviour training in recent weeks.

Training has traditionally been delivered at varying levels (e.g. local station, fire authority, region, national and international) and through a variety of arrangements.

Health and Safety

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service are committed to attaining full compliance with the Local Authority Safety Management System (LA SMS). The Fire Service has started its journey in achieving accreditation to ISO 45001 in relation to Health and Safety Management.

Community Fire Safety

Community Fire Safety (CFS) means promoting fire safety in the community, including in the home, whether in houses or apartments and is aimed at complementing the existing services provided by Kilkenny County Council to protect communities from fire. Where opportunities exist, operational crews will promote checks for working smoke alarms in neighbourhoods after attending incidents. Ongoing public messaging campaigns are maintained to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service respond positively to requests for presentations on fire safety from community groups along with distributing and making available fire safety promotional material in Kilkenny City and County.

The fire prevention objectives in domestic premises are primarily addressed by engagement and education in the delivery of Community Fire Safety (CFS) Initiatives across the City and County of Kilkenny.

Fire officers from Kilkenny fire brigade partook in a fire evacuation drill of the new campus CBC School on Dunningstown road, Kilkenny. Over 850 young adults and staff evacuated in a calm, orderly and timely fashion.

Seveso -Exercise

As set out in Regulations 16 and 17 of the Chemicals Act (*Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances*) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 209 of 2015), it is a function of the Local Competent Authorities to prepare and periodically review an External Emergency Plan (EEP) for Upper Tier Seveso establishments which are in operation in, or whose operations may impact upon, their functional area.

In accordance with Regulations 16 and 17, a review of the External Emergency Plan for Trans-Stock Warehousing & Cold Storage Ltd was undertaken by the Local Competent Authorities i.e. An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive South East and Kilkenny Local Authority.

This External Emergency Plan went out for public consultation process. A familiarisation visit of the site and a table top exercise was carried out in October 2025.



Children's Book Festival 2025

Kilkenny County Council Library Service was delighted to welcome a fantastic line-up of authors and illustrators for the Children's Book Festival 2025, held as part of the national Right to Read initiative. The programme featured a rich variety of events designed to inspire, entertain, and spark creativity in young readers of all ages.

Highlights included magical storytelling and creative workshops with Síne Quinn, thrilling adventures from Kevin Moran, engaging Irish-language sessions with Sadhbh Devlin, spooky tales from Erika McGann, and lively illustration and storytelling with Alan Nolan. Natasha Mac a' Bhaird, Niamh Donnellan, and Margaret Anne Suggs also brought warmth, imagination, and artistic expression to their sessions.

In total, nine events took place across the Kilkenny branch network, attracting an enthusiastic attendance of **443** children and families. The festival successfully celebrated the joy of books and the power of imagination, leaving a lasting impression on young readers throughout the County.



Home of Halloween

Throughout October, Kilkenny County Council Library Service delivered a diverse and engaging programme of events celebrating Halloween and the ancient Irish festival of Samhain. Under the themes Fire, Feast, and Folklore, the programme aimed to connect children, families, and communities with Irish heritage through storytelling, creative arts, and historical exploration.

To celebrate, author Ellen Ryan visited Ferrybank Library to share Irish mythology through readings and interactive quizzes. In the Mayfair Library, families explored ancient food traditions in a hands-on medieval bread-making workshop led by the School of Irish Archaeology and children created Samhain-inspired masks with artist, Blaise Butler. Animation workshops by Fabian Erlinghäuser of Cartoon Saloon were also held in Ferrybank and Loughboy Libraries, introducing children and teens to character design and storytelling inspired by the Kilkenny Witch Trials.



Gold Certification for Mayfair Library under the LEED

Kilkenny County Council Library Service was proud to receive **LEED Gold Certification** for the Mayfair Library, recognising excellence in sustainability, energy efficiency, and environmental responsibility. The award highlights the Council's commitment to sustainable development and innovative public spaces, particularly through the adaptive reuse of a historic building in Kilkenny City. Key design features include a high-performance building envelope, advanced HVAC systems, water-saving fixtures, use of environmentally responsible materials, and lighting designed to reduce light pollution. The project significantly reduced embodied carbon by repurposing the existing structure, aligning with the Council's broader sustainability goals and complementing a successful Sustainable Development Week 2025.



New Mobile Library Contract Signing

Kilkenny County Council Library Service signed a contract with Cahill Truck Bodies, a third-generation family business based in Graiguenamanagh, for the development of a new custom-built mobile library vehicle. This investment will enhance outreach services across Kilkenny City and County, bringing library access to schools, creches, nursing homes, and rural communities.



The new vehicle will feature a modern, accessible design and incorporate environmentally conscious elements such as LED lighting, solar panels, and hydrotreated vegetable oil fuel to reduce its carbon footprint. Part-funded under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Libraries Capital Programme, the mobile library is expected to be completed and operational by 2027.

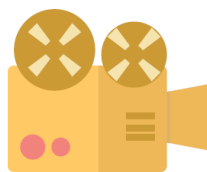
Thomastown Library Update

Concrete finishes are nearing completion, ramps are completed and tarmac finishes are installed. Fitted furniture is complete and shelving is being installed. Wall tiling and painting are progressing well and internal joinery is progressing well. Lift installation is complete and ready for commissioning.



Online Services Usage Oct 2025





Digital Engagement

Library staff prepared, recorded, edited and published **152** posts and videos on our social media platforms in October. Our engagements for the month were **3364** and our virtual newsletter was sent to **7701** email accounts.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



Here are 2 ways in which Kilkenny County Council Library Service helped to further the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in October:



Mayfair Library's Halloween costume swap supported SDG-12 – Responsible production & consumption by reducing waste - preventing perfectly usable items from ending up in landfills and promoting reuse.



By prioritising energy-efficient features and investing in a lower-emission mobile library vehicle, Kilkenny County Council Library Service demonstrates leadership in climate-conscious public service delivery and contributes to Ireland's broader environmental goals.

Image: SDG13

Public Arts

On October 12th, we celebrated the launch of the first of five Public Arts Commissions at Brown Mountain Diamond, an artist-led space nestled in the hills of North Kilkenny. RURAL LIFE 1.0 marked the culmination of five months of creative exploration by six artists who immersed themselves in the rhythms of rural life. Working closely with local community groups including beekeepers, birdwatchers, choirs, farmers, and conservation clubs they developed new works that reflect the unique character of the region.

The resulting exhibition brought together sound, sculpture, film, and installation, each piece shaped by the everyday textures and stories of North Kilkenny. Funded by our Public Arts Programme 2024–2026 and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the project reflects our commitment to ambitious public art that engages communities in meaningful ways.



Paddy Bloomer The Fence Photographer Patricia Guimaraes

Community Arts & Climate Action

Repair to Care – Textile/Clothing Repair Day took place on October 18th, aligning with International Repair Day. The event was designed to be interactive, hands-on, and educational aimed at inspiring and empowering the public to adopt sustainable behaviours that contribute positively to climate action. This impactful initiative builds on the Arts Office’s longstanding commitment to fostering practical skills, personal agency, and the importance of both individual and collective action in addressing environmental challenges.

Participant Feedback Highlights:

“It was a wonderful day! I chatted with lots of new people, rekindled old skills I thought I had forgotten, and learned a few new techniques.”

“The Repair to Care Day was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. People of all ages felt welcome, and the experts were incredibly knowledgeable and supportive.”



Participants at the Repair to Care Day

Breaking the Patterns launch

On October 11th, Capacity Ireland working in partnership with Creative Europe, the Arts Council of Ireland, and the local authority arts services of Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, and Waterford hosted the final exhibition of the two-year *Breaking the Patterns* programme at GOMA Gallery in Waterford.

This exhibition showcased the work of a collective of emerging Irish and international visual artists who participated in residencies in Lisbon and Crete during 2025. Drawing inspiration from their environments, the artists produced a diverse body of work that reflects their engagement with these unique cultural and geographic contexts.

Working across a range of media including film, sculpture, photography, and painting – the artists explored the central theme of *Breaking the Patterns*, each bringing a distinct perspective that challenged conventional approaches and embraced new creative possibilities.

Creative Kilkenny

Many events took place which were funded under the Creative Ireland Scheme.

J.U.M.A. Johnstown and Urlingford Music and Art initiative

The Creative Youth Initiative in Johnstown and Urlingford has delivered a dynamic and impactful programme, offering high-quality, arts-based experiences to young people in communities facing significant socio-economic challenges. Developed through a strong partnership between Music Generation Kilkenny, KCETB Youth Office, Ossory Youth, Foróige, local schools, and community organisations, the initiative was shaped by direct engagement with local youth, ensuring that activities reflected their interests and needs.

Over the course of the programme, participants demonstrated notable growth in confidence, creativity, and social engagement. Feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, with one parent commenting: *"The classes have been amazing. My daughter is benefiting so much socially and emotionally. She loves art, but these classes are bringing out her creativity in such positive ways. It's been a fantastic experience."*

Beyond its immediate outcomes, the initiative has strengthened community connections and laid the foundation for a new UBU-supported youth project. This next phase will ensure sustained support and continued development opportunities for young people in the area.

Age of Creativity

A dynamic and impactful series of workshops has been launched under the leadership of Kilkenny's Age Friendly Officer, as part of the Age of Creativity Programme. This initiative began with Climate Action-themed sessions and has since expanded to include a broad range of creative and digital engagement activities.

Funded through Creative Kilkenny and delivered in partnership with the Climate Action, Healthy Kilkenny, and Kilkenny and Carlow ETB teams, the programme offers a diverse selection of workshops. These include:

- Art Workshops
- Smartphone masterclasses focused on WhatsApp messaging and video calling
- Flower Arranging Sessions
- Health and Wellness Activities

The programme is designed to empower older adults by fostering creativity, enhancing digital literacy, and promoting social inclusion. Participants will gain confidence in using technology, engaging in artistic expression, and building meaningful connections within their communities. In addition, live music performances are planned for local retirement homes, further enriching the cultural and social experience for older residents.

This initiative exemplifies Kilkenny's commitment to inclusion, wellbeing, and active ageing. It brings the Age Friendly Strategy to life in tangible and joyful ways, ensuring that older adults remain active participants in the cultural and social fabric of the County.

Art of Change

The Art of Change programme is progressing successfully across five schools in Kilkenny, engaging students in creative explorations of sustainability and environmental awareness through art.

At Kilkenny Vocational School, students are investigating how we can interact with our environment as makers and creators by developing sustainable art materials. Under the guidance of artist Sheila Jordan, they crafted their own pens and produced vibrant inks using foraged vegetation, fostering a hands-on understanding of eco-conscious creativity.

Thomas Duffy is working with students at Grennan College, using a variety of artistic media to explore personal and collective values, and deepen their connection to the natural world.

At St. Kieran's College, Rudi-Lee McCarthy is leading a group in designing 3D models of the local environment. This project encourages students to consider how built spaces can be designed to support coexistence and thriving ecosystems for both humans and other species.

Lynn Haughton will be facilitating a textile upcycling project at Coláiste Abhainn Rí, promoting sustainable practices through creative reuse.

Meanwhile, Miriam Keegan will deliver a sustainable fashion programme at Loreto Secondary School, inspiring students to rethink clothing production and consumption through an environmental lens.

Together, these projects reflect the programme's commitment to fostering environmental stewardship, creativity, and critical thinking among young people in Kilkenny.



Developing Sustainable Art Materials

HERITAGE

Irish Walled Towns Network Annual Conference: Celebrating 20 years of the IWTN

The IWTN Annual Conference, celebrating 20 years of this Heritage Council Programme, took place in Kilkenny on 3rd October. An esteemed programme of panelists presented key aspects of the IWTN's activities: archaeology and conservation, festivals and events, community engagement, interpretation and its cross-border remit. The Heritage Officer was delighted to present on Kilkenny County Council's newly prepared Interpretation Plan for Kilkenny's City Walls and to lead a guided walking tour along the route of the City Wall to Talbot's Tower where National Monuments Service Archaeologist C  il  n    Drisceoil presented on the excavation and conservation works that were undertaken at Talbotts Tower in recent years.

Education Trip to Armagh and Derry, 7-8 October

The Heritage Officer was delighted to be part of a delegation visit to Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council & Derry City and Strabane District Council. The objectives of the trip were to learn from examples of heritage-led urban regeneration projects and to explore the use of heritage as a tourism asset. The trip built upon a recent visit by ABC Borough Council to Kilkenny where we discussed the process of developing heritage strategy, the development of the Armagh Gaol site and the Navan Centre and Fort offered inspiration for heritage in Kilkenny. In Derry City and Strabane District Council our existing relationship with their Regeneration Officer through the Irish Walled Towns Network was deepened and opportunities for collaboration were explored.



*Kilkenny Delegation at Guild Hall,
Derry City*

Local Authorities Heritage Professionals Seminar, National Gallery Dublin.

The Heritage Officer was delighted to represent Kilkenny County Council at the Local Authorities Heritage Professionals Seminar which took place at National Gallery Dublin on 15th October. The seminar which was opened by Minister James Browne TD brought together professionals from across the Local Authority sector, including Heritage Officers, Archivists, Biodiversity Officers, Architectural Conservation Officers, Archaeologists, and Museum Curators. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on recent developments in heritage practice, share insights, and strengthen collaborative approaches across disciplines.

Remembering the Black Abbey 1225-2025: Life and Death in Medieval Kilkenny

This programme is part of Kilkenny County Council's Public Commemoration Programme for 2025 and is funded by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and administered through local authorities nationally. The purpose of the fund is to support community-led commemorative initiatives to mark the anniversaries of locally significant historical events.

On 23rd October Dr. Niamh Daly and Dr. Martin Reid presented the findings of this research project to a highly engaged audience at the Mayfair Library. The project focused on conducting a series of scientific analysis, more specially, AMS radiocarbon dating and stable isotopic analysis on 14 individuals that were recovered during the archaeological excavation at the Black Abbey in 1996.

BIODIVERSITY

Ponds for Wildlife

In October, a series of three informative talks were delivered to highlight the ecological value of ponds for biodiversity. Two public sessions were held in collaboration with the Kilkenny Library Service, hosted in Kilkenny City and Ferrybank, while a third session was delivered exclusively to Kilkenny County Council staff. The talks were led by Aoife O'Rourke, former Pond Development Officer for An Taisce's *Legacy4LIFE Ponds for Biodiversity* project. Drawing on her extensive experience, Aoife outlined the importance of establishing a national pond network as a strategic response to biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation.

During her visit to Kilkenny, Aoife also met with Tullahought Tidy Towns to provide expert guidance on the ongoing maintenance of their well-established village ponds. This initiative directly supports Objective 6, Action 6.1 of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030, reinforcing the County's commitment to enhancing local biodiversity through education, community engagement, and practical conservation measures.

Hares Corner

The Hare's Corner initiative, developed by the Burrenbeo Trust, supports landowners in creating more space for nature on their land. Named after a traditional farming term referring to awkward field corners left uncultivated and thus naturally rewilded, the project offers practical assistance to landowners to implement biodiversity-enhancing actions. These include the creation of wildlife ponds, mini-woodlands, hedgerows, orchards, and tailored nature plans.

Each year, the Burrenbeo Trust delivers the programme in a select number of counties. In October, Kilkenny County Council successfully applied to participate in the 2026 programme. Through this collaboration, an estimated 50 biodiversity enhancement projects will be established with private landowners across the County. This initiative directly supports Objective 6, Action 6.5 of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030, reinforcing the County's commitment to ecological stewardship and community-led environmental action.

Leaf Mould Collaboration Project

In October, three departments within the organisation collaborated to deliver a series of leaf mould community workshops across eight residential estates in Kilkenny City. These workshops introduced residents to the simple and sustainable practice of creating nutrient-rich compost from fallen leaf litter.

Leaf mould offers an environmentally friendly alternative to peat-based compost, supporting biodiversity, reducing carbon impact, and promoting circular economy principles. The initiative aligns with broader climate action goals by encouraging low-impact, community-led solutions. As part of the wider project, leaf mould composting was also showcased at the Savour Kilkenny Food Festival, helping to raise public awareness and engagement with sustainable practices.



FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of October is set out in Table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €96m compared with the annual budget of €120m.

Table 1	Actual YTD October 2025	Budget Full Year 2025
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	29,874	30,784
Road Transport & Safety	27,826	31,383
Water Services	5,285	7,180
Development Management	12,022	15,417
Environmental Services	14,962	18,991
Recreation & Amenity	7,256	9,425
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	374	354
Miscellaneous Services	7,972	6,938
Central Management Charges for Allocation	2,761	
OVERALL TOTAL	108,331	120,472

Rates Revaluation

Further to Revaluation 2017, 197 customers with a total rate demand value of €4.5m appealed their new valuation to the Valuation Tribunal. To date 191 appeals have been completed. The following is a breakdown of the appeal outcomes to date:-

Decrease in Revaluation on Appeal	149 cases
Appeal Withdrawn	33 cases
Increase in Revaluation on Appeal.....	1 case
No change to Revaluation on Appeal	9 cases
Appeals Outstanding.....	2 cases

The total annual Income lost to date stands at €853k.

Summary Of Major Revenue Collections For 2025

Debtor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2025	Accrued	Adjustments	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/10/2025	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collected
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	2,411,467	24,272,130	478,110	26,205,487	21,900,040	4,305,447	336,787	85%
Rents & Annuities	617,225	10,832,219	17,745	11,431,699	10,759,569	672,130		94%
Housing Loans	349,489	2,616,679	-	2,966,168	2,538,923	427,245		86%

* Specific doubtful arrears

- (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met, and
- (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation

Finance Update

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised in the eleven month period to the end of November.

Budget 2026

Kilkenny County Council adopted its Budget for 2026 at its Statutory Budget Meeting on 3rd November, 2025, with increased investment across the full range of services provided by the Council and it also provided for the continuation of its very ambitious Capital Programme. The total estimated revenue expenditure for 2026 comes to €129.4m, which is €8.9m (7.4%) higher than the comparable figure for 2025. The Budget included increased expenditure allocations across Housing, Local Roads Maintenance, Economic Development, Tourism, Community, Climate Change, Town Regeneration, Fire Service, Libraries and Parks/Open Spaces.

To enable this increased level of expenditure, the Council approved a 4% increase in Commercial Rates. The Council also approved a Rates Waiver Scheme for business with an annual rates invoice of less than €3,000 which account for 57% of the total rates customers. The effect of this scheme will reduce the increase on these businesses to a 2% rates increase. The average increase for these businesses in 2026 will be less than €30. This is only the third increase in commercial rates in 17 years and it was absolutely necessary to reduce the impact of inflation which has increased by 32.2% since January 2010. The net income yield from the combined changes is €780k. The Prompt Payment Incentive Scheme will continue in 2026 whereby rate payers can avail of a grant of 8.3% of their 2026 rates invoice up to a maximum value of €300.