



## Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Halla an Chontae Sraid Eoin Cill Chainnigh  
R95 A39T

Pobail agus Áiteanna Inbhuanaithe a Chruthú

## Kilkenny County Council

County Hall John Street Kilkenny  
R95 A39T



Creating Sustainable Communities and Places

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

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

**RE: FESTIVAL & EVENT GRANT SCHEME 2025**

Dear Councillor,

A provision of €120,000 has been included in the Council's adopted Budget for 2025 for the Festival and Event Grant Scheme. The attached report refers to the recommendations under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme.

The Tourism Festival Grant Scheme was advertised in the local press in January, with a closing date for applications of 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. A total of 20 applications were received and have been assessed.

The 19 festivals recommended for approval in 2025 under the Tourism Festivals Grant Scheme will positively impact on Kilkenny's tourism industry, and Kilkenny County Council will work with these festivals to assist them in their development, programming and marketing.

The festivals represent an integral element of Kilkenny's attraction as a destination with a year-round calendar of activity and they contribute to the overall tourism experience. The grant funding provided is also an investment in our local economy, resulting in commercial activity which will sustain local jobs.

I hereby recommend that 19 applications be awarded funding under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme, as outlined in the attached report.

**Tim Butler,  
Director of Services  
Kilkenny County Council**

## **TOURISM FESTIVAL SUPPORTS GRANT SCHEME 2025**

Kilkenny County Council has approved a Festival Support Grant Scheme for 2025 to support the work being done by local community groups and festival organisers throughout Kilkenny City and County.

The fund this year is €120,000. €12,000 of this original fund has been set aside for the following:

- 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 will ringfence some financial supports for groups to access this equipment. (costs associated with transport, set up and take down of the kit). Further details of equipment available to organisers is attached and applicants will be made aware that they can avail of the kit on receipt of their grant award letter.
- To support and promote the marketing of Kilkenny as a tourism destination through international media coverage vis the Irish Legends Tour 2025 and Ras na mBan 2025, Irelands only womens international stage cycling race.

Therefore, the amount available for the Tourism Festival Supports Grant applications is €108,000.

The closing date for the Tourism Festivals Support Grant Scheme was 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

- 20 applications were received;
- 19 applications have been recommended for approval following evaluation;
- 1 application have been deemed ineligible for funding under the Tourism Festival and Event Grant Scheme and will be directed to alternative funding opportunities, such as the Kilkenny County Council Community Events/Arts/Food Tourism Schemes.

Further to evaluation and review of the applications, the list of Festivals and award amount to be recommended for approval is outlined on table below. The evaluation has taken into account the following:

- Review of 2024 post event report (if applicable)
- Review of Websites and marketing content
- Expected Visitor Numbers for 2025 event
- Seasonality of Festival
- Enhancement of Kilkennys Tourism offering
- Contribution to the local economy with emphasis on Night Time economy activity
- How the festival addresses sustainability and accessibility for all

Ref	Event Name	Date of event	Visitor Numbe	Overall Cost	Amount sought	2025 Grant
2025/F1	Kilkenomics	6th - 9th November	3,530	€260,000	€25,000	€8,000
2025/F2	Kilkenny Animated	25th - 28th September	2,500	€135,000	€25,000	€8,000
2025/F3	Kilkenny Law Festival	16th - 18th May	500	€100,000	€25,000	€1,000
2025/F4	Savour	23rd- 27th October	90,000	€188,000	€30,000	€20,000
2025/F5	Kilkenny Pumpkin Picking	Oct-25	12,000	€70,000	€10,000	€3,000
2025/F6	Subtitle Film Festival	22nd- 29th November	2,050	€125,000	€25,000	€4,000
2025/F7	The Cat Laughs Festival	30th May - 2nd June	5,000	€230,000	€30,000	€15,000
2025/F8	Wellie Race	1st January 2026	7,000	€12,000	€3,500	€3,000
2025/F9	Iverk Show	23rd August 2025	24,000	€250,000	€10,000	€1,000
2025/F10	AKA Fringe	7-17th August	5,000	€18,587	€15,000	€5,000
2025/F11	Kilkenny Tradfest	14th - 17th March	7,000	€69,000	€12,000	€6,750
2025/F12	Kilkenny Roots Festival	2nd – 5th May	10,000	€170,000	€25,000	€14,750
2025/F13	Marble City Music Festival	May - December		€128,280	€19,000	€7,000
2025/F14	Stormfest	9- 18 August	840	€38,280	€3,000	€2,000
2025/F15	Callan Open Doors	22 - 25th May	1,700	€28,010	€1,500	€1,000
2025/F16	Keep Her Lit Folk and Trad Festival	9- 18 August	840	€32,280	€3,000	€2,500
2025/F17	Song of the Scythe : National Scything Festival	22- 24th August	120	€4,200	€2,200	€1,000
2025/F19	St Brigids Festival	31st Jan- 3rd Feb	1,000	€18,500	€4,000	€2,000
2025/F20	Graiguenamanagh Town of books	TBC	10,000	€30,000	€10,000	€3,000
						€108,000
	<b>OVERALL BUDGET</b>		€120,000			
	<b>Festivals Kit 4k</b>		€4,000			
	<b>Master Legends Tour &amp; Ras na mBan</b>		€8,000			
	<b>Grants</b>		€108,000			

*\*The mobile cinema/festival kit will incorporate a 12m inflatable cinema screen with sound equipment and mixer.*

