



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the September Monthly Meeting.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the Elected Members.

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report [Appendix 1].

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Presidential Election

- Closing date for Postal and Special Voters is Monday the 1st October.
- Closing Date for entry to the Supplementary Register is **Tuesday the 9th October, 2018.**

Draft Register 2019/2020

- RFA 1 Forms to be completed before 1st November, 2018.

Dates for Regional Briefing Sessions - Minor Works Contracts:

- *Monday, 24th September 2018*
Laois County Council Offices, Portlaoise, Co. Laois at 7.00 p.m.
- *Tuesday, 25th September 2018*
Wexford County Council, Newtown Road, Carricklawn Y35WY93

Culture Night.....Friday, 21st September

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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CORPORATE SERVICES

REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2019/2020

Presidential Election

Closing date for Postal and Special Voters is Monday the 1st October.

Please note that the closing date for entry to the Supplementary Register is **Tuesday the 9th October, 2018**. Forms RFA 2/3 are available on line at checktheregister.ie and at all Council Offices.

Draft Register 2019/2020

The Draft Register of Elector is currently being compiled, which will be the register in use for the forthcoming elections in 2019.

Please ensure that RFA 1 forms are completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs before the **1st November, 2018**. These forms are available from checktheregister.ie and in all Council Offices.

War Memorial

Kilkenny County Council in association with the Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee carried out the Official Unveiling of the Kilkenny World War 1 Memorial on Sunday, 15th July, 2018, in The Peace Park, John's Quay, Kilkenny. The Memorial was unveiled by Deputy Charlie Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Justice and Equality in the presence of Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward and Mayor of Municipal District of Kilkenny City, Cllr. Peter 'Chap' Cleere.



Ireland Newfoundland Festival Rothe House on 20th August, 2018

The 13th Annual Ireland Newfoundland Festival, held last month, included a visit of 57 people from Newfoundland to Kilkenny City and to

South Kilkenny. They were accorded a Civic Reception in Rothe House by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Éamon Aylward in the presence of the Mayor, Cllr. Peter Cleere. During their time in Kilkenny they also visited the Smithwick's Experience, the Medieval Mile Museum, Kilkenny Castle and Kilkenny Design Centre.

While in South Kilkenny they had guided tours of Kildalton College, Kilkieran, Knockroe and the farm villages of South Kilkenny. The Aloy O'Brien Tribute Concert in Mooncoin provided a superb night's entertainment featuring the best of local acts as well as from Newfoundland.

They visited Carrick-on-Suir and also attended the Iverk Show on Saturday, 25th August. The festival was grant aided by Kilkenny County Council under the Festival & Events Grant Scheme. Great credit is due to those who hosted the people from Newfoundland in their homes.



*Visit of Hungarian Ambassador
Mr. Istvan S. Palfy & his wife Ms. Judit Toth to Kilkenny
on 13th August 2018*

Minor works contracts worth €100m to be tendered by Local Government Operational Procurement Centre

New frameworks to streamline the tendering process for €100m in contracts for minor building



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works across the entire public service are due to be launched in October.

The contracts will be tendered by the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre and a series of regional information seminars for contractors are planned over the coming weeks.

Dates for Regional Briefing Sessions:

- Monday, 24th September 2018
Laois County Council Offices at 7.00 p.m.
- Tuesday, 25th September 2018
Wexford County Council, Newtown Road.

The frameworks will be advertised in October 2018 and all building contractors are encouraged to engage with the procurement process.

Full details are available at:

www.lgma.eventbrite.ie.

Further information and support is available from the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre Helpdesk at Ph. 076 1064020 or Email: eproc@kerrycoco.ie.

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL & HERITAGE

CLÁR

The Department of Rural and Community Development had approved 11 applications totaling € 303,464.54 as follows:

Muckalee Community Crèche - Parking, Safety Improvements & Connectivity	€50,000.00
Clontubrid - MUGA	€26,974.54
Kilmaganny - Public Lighting, Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€19,710.00
Kilmanagh National School & Church - Parking & Safety Improvements	€27,000.00
Listerlin National School - - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€18,000.00
Crosspatrick Village - Safety Improvement Phase 2	€20,000.00
Castlewarren Village & Sports Ground	€1,980.00

- Safety Improvements	
St. Nicholas National School, Windgap - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€37,800.00
Conahy Community Car Park	€31,500.00
Lisdowney - Safety Improvement & Enhanced Connectivity	€40,500.00
Knockroe - Improved access & parking	€30,000.00
Total funding requested and approved	€303,464.54

Community Enhancement Scheme 2018

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has awarded €136,300 to Community Groups under the 2018 Community Enhancement Scheme.

The funding was allocated by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is administered by Kilkenny LCDC for the purposes of addressing disadvantage areas and targeted groups as identified in the Kilkenny Local Economic Community Development Plan.

30% of the funding was directed towards small capital grants of €3,000 or less and the remaining 70% was directed at medium capital grants to a maximum of €10,000.

Kilkenny LCDC has awarded 47 grants in total, 29 under the small grants scheme and 18 under the medium grants scheme.

Men's Shed Funding

A separate allocation of €8,696 has been made available to Kilkenny LCDC in respect of Men's Shed that are affiliated to the Irish Men's Shed Association. There are 6 such Men's Sheds in Kilkenny and the allocations will be made by Kilkenny LCDC shortly.

Opening of Community Projects.

A number of community projects have been officially opened in recent weeks where Kilkenny County Councils contribution was acknowledged.



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Billy's Tea Rooms in Ballyhale, which is a local community social enterprise, was officially opened on Saturday 8th September. There were many contributors to this project including the local KBK Community group which has to be applauded for this project. Kilkenny County Council also contributed by providing the local community with the original property, with a grant under the Community and Cultural Facilities Grant Scheme 2017, pavement improvement works and advice and guidance.

Thomastown Community Helpers officially opened their recycling shop in Logan Street in Thomastown. The group pride themselves on helping local people & families who are in need of furniture, clothes, electrical goods, food, vouchers, hampers and other good causes. Kilkenny County Council provided advice and guidance and other assistance to this community project at different stages

Kilkenny County Councils contribution was acknowledged at the recent opening of **Mullinavat Park and Playground** which was provided with the assistance of a grant under the Council's Community and Culture Facilities Grant Scheme 2017. The Council's grant under the 2016 Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme and other assistance was also acknowledged at the opening of **Mooncoin GAA new astro-turf pitch**.

HERITAGE

Biodiversity Workshops at Fairytale Festival

Over 250 children and 375 adults took part in workshops organised by the Heritage Office with "Biodiversity in Schools", at the Fairytale Festival in Woodstock to raise awareness about pollinators and Kilkenny's biodiversity. The event was part funded by Creative Ireland.



*Pollinator
Plants &
Biodiversity
Activities at the
Fairytale
Festival*

Heritage & Entente Florale, Inistioge

The Heritage Office was delighted to support Inistioge's entry to the Entente Florale competition, working with the local community to undertake and support the following projects:

- (i) **Inistioge Green Infrastructure Map** - map identifying the Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services in Inistioge (prepared with GIS Project Officer and Area Planner)
- (ii) **Biodiversity Action Plan for St Columcille's National School** - a plan identifying simple biodiversity actions for the primary school to undertake (prepared by *Biodiversity in Schools*)
- (iii) **Inistioge Pollinator Planting List** - a list of pollinator friendly plants and recommendations for different areas in the village (*prepared by Dr. Fiona MacGowan, in consultation with Claire Goodwin, Parks Department*).
- (iv) **Inistioge Heritage Trail Brochure** - a creative and colourful new brochure which guides the visitor through Inistioges heritage (*produced by Inistioge Tidy Towns, designed by Alé Mercado*). The brochure was launched in Cois Abhainn, Inistioge on 23rd August by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Leas Cathaoirleach.



Eileen O'Brien, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Leas Cathaoirleach, and Carmel Cummins at the launch of the Inistioge Heritage Trail brochure, Cois Abhainn, Inistioge.



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Heritage Week [18th to 16th August]

National Heritage Week was a great success in Kilkenny with almost 90 events taking place throughout the city and county.



Cllr Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach, KCCI; Bernadette Roberts, Heritage Office; Cllr Malcolm Noonan, Chair Kilkenny Heritage Forum; Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Cllr. Peter Chap Cleere, Mayor Municipal District Kilkenny City.

TOURISM

Kilkenny Take The Crown As Ireland's Top Foodie Destination

Kilkenny won top prize at Ireland's Foodie Destination Awards on 5th September last. The Foodie Destination Awards are an initiative run by the Restaurants Association of Ireland (RAI) sponsored by BD. The adjudication process was intense and demanded a collaborative approach engaging stakeholders from all agencies, growers, restaurants and the public. In July an esteemed panel of judges visited the city for a packed schedule where the vibrant culinary culture of Kilkenny City and County was experienced firsthand.

The Award was presented at a reception in Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow. The judges lauded Kilkenny's incredible community spirit and real collaboration.

A big Thank You to all of you who voted for Kilkenny in the online poll and everyone who was involved in showcasing the very best of Kilkenny's Food offering.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WEBSITES

Websites comparison January to end August 2018, compared to January to end August 2017.

Site Name	Page Views January to End August		% Difference
	2017	2018	
Invest Kilkenny	7,855	6,481	-17%
Kilkenny.ie	111,115	127,818	+15%
Kilkenny Age Friendly County	2,617	2,601	-0.6%
Kilkennycity.ie	20,259	11,457	-43%
kilkennycoco.ie	765,577	1,093,760	+42.9%
Kilkennylibrary.ie	78,598	156,319	+98.88%
visitkilkenny.ie	756,936	659,951	-12.8%
Kilkennyheritage.ie	6,977	7,384	+5.8%
kmhp.ie	1,142	842	-26.3%
Rhymerag	67	1,269	+1,794%
TOTAL	1,751,143	2,067,882	+16.6%

TWITTER

Account	Followers End August		% Change
	2017	2018	
Kilkenny	7545	7,778	+3%
Visit Kilkenny	5439	5,754	+5.6%
Kilkenny Notices	3908	4,237	+8%
Kilkenny Arts Office	2360	2,456	+3.98%
Invest Kilkenny	1837	1,912	+4%
Kilkenny Library	1630	1,771	+8.3%
Totals	22,719	23,908	+5%

TWITTERFACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

Page	Followers End August		% 2018
	2017	Change	
Tourism	28,121	+3%	29,000
Main County Council	3676	+31.3%	5,037
Kilkenny Heritage	2535	+1.37%	2,570
Environmental Awareness	588	+15.96%	690
Invest Kilkenny	322	+7.47%	347
Dunmore Recycling	249	+17.58%	297
TOTAL	35,491	+6.67%	37,941



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ROADS

N25 New Ross Bypass

The design and construction phase of the PPP Contract is approximately two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in 2019.

The construction of the main spans has commenced from Pier 4 (river pier) using "form travellers". These moveable steel frames were initially assembled side by side on top of the pier and contain the formwork system that casts the concrete deck. The travellers have now separated and moved out in opposite directions from either side of the pier to cast the first deck segments. By this incremental method, the deck is launched, segment by segment, as the separate form travellers move out and away from both sides of the pier. Similar traveller systems will be launched from the piers on the opposite sides of the main spans (i.e. piers 3 & 5) and the separate decks will thus cantilever out incrementally from each pier until they meet in the middle of the span. This process will continue to progress over the coming months. The approach spans on the western (Kilkenny) side continue to progress towards completion, while span 6 on the eastern (Wexford) side is also nearing completion. Night time works on the bridge have commenced following completion of the necessary consultation and approval processes.

The full roundabout on the N25 at Glenmore became operational under temporary traffic management on May 29th. This traffic management will remain in operation until final finishing works are completed which is expected by mid September. At that stage the roundabout will continue to operate without traffic management.

Bulk earthworks are now substantially complete and drainage works are over 75% complete. Pavement foundations are also well advanced

and pavement layers have continued to be constructed over the summer months.

Monitoring, maintenance and emergency regimes continue to be operated as necessary on public roads at interfaces with the site to ensure that road surfaces, temporary management systems etc. continue to operate safely and as required. The site continues to be monitored for the generation of noise, vibration and dust. The very dry summer weather has created challenging conditions for the generation of dust and mitigation measures are being closely monitored to minimise any impacts on neighbouring properties.

The project website www.n25newross.ie continues to provide progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works, and also provides contact details for the project. The 24 telephone hotline continues to operate to deal with any queries or complaints from the public. The number is 1800 815672, and this number has been posted on both the newsletter and website. The Project Liaison Office will continue to liaise and consult with all landowners and other interested parties for the duration of the project.

B12 Maintenance

The Municipal District Offices log defects on the national roads via the NRA Geo App. Kilkenny County Council was successful in obtaining funding of a total of €208,681 from TII to address defects identified at 7 locations on the N24, N78 and N77. The Municipal District Offices are addressing these defects with a view to completing all before mid November.

Capital Maintenance

Kilkenny County Council has been successful in obtaining funding of a total of €313,500 from TII to address defects identified at Kilbride, Kilamery and Kiltallaghan on the N76 Callan to Clonmel Road. The works at each location will involve planning out the existing wearing



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course, laying a regulating course, reinstatement with HRA and replacement of road markings and studs. These works shall be completed via an external contractor before the end of November.

Pavement Schemes.

1. N78. The N78 pavement overlay scheme with a contract value in excess of €2 million is approximately 50% complete. This scheme involves repairs to the existing pavement, a structural overlay, road markings, drainage and footpath works over an extent of approximately 6km between Castlecomer and Crettyard. The works are being completed by LAGAN.
2. N25. The N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is presently out to tender.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Schemes (LIHAF)

Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure Scheme

The procurement process for the construction of the Western Environs enabling infrastructure has been completed and the successful contractor identified. Approval to proceed with the contract on the basis of the lowest tender received is currently being sought from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government (co-funders of project with Kilkenny County Council). It is envisaged that this approval will be forthcoming in early October, followed by the appointment of the contractor and the commencement of construction prior to Christmas.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

A preliminary design for the park prepared by the appointed designers Cunnane Stratton Reynolds Landscape Architects was approved in June. The detailed design and contract documents for the construction are due to be completed in September, with a view to

conducting the procurement process, obtaining Departmental approval to proceed, and appointing a contractor for the park construction prior to Christmas. This park will be funded by a combination of Department of Housing, Planning, Community, and Local Government LIHAF funding, and Kilkenny and Waterford County Councils.

Northern Ring Road Extension

As advised to members on 17th August, 2018, there is a case in the High Court taken by landowners adjoining the proposed An Bord Pleanála decision relating to the Kilkenny Northern Ring Road Extension. The High Court referred certain questions concerning the application of EU Directives by national authorities to the CJEU for clarification, before the High Court takes a decision in the case. No decision has yet issued from the CJEU. However an opinion was issued by the Advocate General in the first week of August, 2018, as is normal in these cases. The CJEU will issue its decision in due course, whereupon the High Court will then make its finding in the matter.

HOUSING

Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 18th April 2018 notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 133 units for 2018.

During the summer months of 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows;

- Rural house at Barna, Freshford completed in August 2018.
- Construction in progress on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 self contained 1 bed units. Expected to be completed in September 2018.



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- Local Authority Purchase of 25 houses - 9 completed and 16 at sale agreed stage.
- AHB Purchase of 59 houses/ Apartments - 29 completed and 30 at sale agreed stage.
- 2 units by Dove AHB constructed and completed in Ferrybank.
- 4 units at Smyths Road, Ballyragget under construction and expected to be completed at end September 2018 (Oaklee AHB).
- Construction commenced on 54 houses at Ballybought Street, Kilkenny (Respond AHB).
- 38 Houses at Hoban Park, Bolton, Callan. Contractor on site 18th June and expected completion date is Q1 2020.
- 1 house at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road - Contractor on site 18th June. Expected completion date June 2019.
- 'Broguemaker' site, Castlecomer Road (18 units)- PART 8 expected to be advertised in early October.
- 4 Units at Cloghabrody, Thomastown - Part 8 to conclude at September Council Meeting.
- 50 units at Nuncio Road to commence as a 3 phased development (Respond).
- 27 Units at Walkin Street, Kilkenny to commence in September.
- (Oaklee AHB). Expected delivery is February 2020.
- Kilkenny County Council has received funding approval from the Dept of Housing for a further 18 Houses at Togher Way, Urlingford. These units will be completed in Q 4 2018.
- 33 units at Donaguile, Castlecomer - tender due back on 19th September.
- Piltown (17 units) tender due back on 3rd October.
- Blackstaff House tender due back on 26th September.
- Station Avenue, Ballyragget (22 units) expected to go to tender in October 2018.
- Crokershill -Part 8 expected to be advertised in Q4 2018.

18 Units under Construction at Togher Way, Urlingford



Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 198 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/08/2018.

	2016	2017	2018
Jan	37	29	37
Feb	30	26	32
Mar	18	26	21
April	26	25	18
May	34	28	29
June	31	24	20
July	31	34	15
August	32	27	26
Sub-total	239	219	198
September	27	24	
October	30	27	
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
Total	349	319	198

Rent Review 2018

Tenants have been notified in writing of the rent review and completed income forms were to be returned by June 15th with follow up reminders.

- 2,808 letters were issued to tenants
- At 10th September we received approx 88% of all completed forms
- Some forms were incomplete and had to be returned in order to comply with GDPR
- A reminder letter issued notifying tenants of penalty if completed forms not returned on time
- Proposed date for implementing the new rent



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increases/decreases is Saturday 29th September 2018.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2023

Kilkenny County Council, in accordance with Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, is currently in the process of preparing a new Traveller Accommodation Programme in respect of the period beginning July 1st 2019.

An advertisement was placed in the local media on the 7th September seeking submissions to the draft programme. These must be made in writing to the Housing Section, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John's Street, Kilkenny by January 31st 2019. A draft Programme will be available for consideration in April 2019. This draft will be published for further consultation.

AUGUST 2018 HOUSING

Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st August, 2018	2046
Number of assessment interviews carried out in August:	27
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (<i>offers made</i>):	12
Number of HAP tenancies to 31 st August:	869
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	3
Anti social behaviour cases:	10
New Homeless Presentations:	26
Maintenance Calls for August 2018	459
Maintenance Calls year to date	3229
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	13
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st August, 2018	€1,618,330

PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total to August	
	2017	2018
Planning Applications Received	570	570
Planning Applications Granted	506	482
Planning Applications Refused	35	43
Complaints Received	86	66
Warning Letters Issued	59	48
Enforcements Notices Issued	31	34

FORWARD PLANNING:

County & City Development Plans:

The Council published the statutory notice on the 20th April signifying the commencement of the review of the County and City Development Plans. The public consultation stage included publication of an Issues Paper and three public consultation meetings in addition to other meetings. Fifty three submissions were received and a Chief Executive's report has been prepared for consideration by the Council.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 includes a provision to suspend the Development Plan making process until after the making of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). This section (s.12) of the Amendment Act has not been commenced to date, but it is understood that it will be commenced shortly. Once the Section (s12) is commenced it will allow the process of making the Development Plan to be suspended until 13 weeks after the adoption of the RSES. A draft RSES is expected to be published in October of this year.

Variation 6

Variation 6 to the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan, to change the zoning on a site (of 0.39 hectares) adjacent to the Parc na Gowan housing estate in Smithland South, Kilkenny from Community Facilities to Phase 1 Residential



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was on public display from 10th August to the 7th September 2018. Three submissions have been received. The Chief Executive's report has been prepared for consideration by the Council.

Local Area Plans:

CALLAN

Work continues on the pre-draft stage of the Callan Local Area Plan. A total of 9 submissions were received to the pre-draft consultation process, and in addition many issues were raised at the public consultation event on the 27th June. An update on the progress of the LAP will be presented to the Kilkenny Municipal District meeting on the 14th September.

THOMASTOWN

Work continues on the pre-draft stage of the Thomastown Local Area Plan. A total of 9 submissions were received to the pre-draft consultation process, and in addition many issues were raised at the public consultation event on the 11th July. An update on the progress of the LAP will be presented to the Kilkenny Municipal District meeting on the 14th September.

Vacant Sites

Work is continuing on the administration of the Vacant Sites Levy. There are now 19 sites on the Register, following another cancellation due to site being activated in August. This brings the total number of sites cancelled due to activation to four. Section 11(1) notices were issued in May, with all the details of the sites currently on the Register. Six submissions were received to these notices. Following that, six Section 11(3) notices were issued in July, and there are currently three appeals with An Bord Pleanála on foot of these notices, for sites ref. VSR11 Callan Rd/Circular Road, VSR16 Chatsworth St, Castlecomer and VSR20 Oak Ridge, Ferrybank. Responses to the appeals have been forwarded to the Bord.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 brought in three main changes to the

Vacant Site Levy. The first was to increase the amount of the levy to 7% from 2019. The second was removing the provision for reductions in the levy for sites in negative equity. The third was clarification on agricultural land, that if the site is being farmed and was purchased prior to its designation as residential land, the owner cannot be levied.

ENVIRONMENT

Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund 2018

Details of the awards under the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund (LA 21) were issued by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) over the summer. 18 Kilkenny projects received the green to start their environment themed projects centred on sustainable development.

These include projects aimed at supporting and complementing national environmental policies on Waste, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development. Projects will be co-funded between the DCCAE and Kilkenny County Council and the total fund is €21,850. The successful applicants have been notified and will receive 50% of their grant before the end of September with the second half of the grant due on receipt of their completion report before end of April 2019.

See Table below for list of awards.

Applicant	Project Title	Total Award
Jennifer Fahy T/A GrassRoots Education	Water Conservation & Efficiency Workshops in Primary Schools	€1,250
Leave No Trace Ireland (Maura Lyons)	River Explorers Programme	€1,500
Eileen Canny	Biodiversity Awareness Workshops in Schools	€2,000
Kilkenny Leader Partnership	Sustainable Social Enterprise	€2,600
Irish Peatland Conservation Co.	Hop To It - Amphibian Facts & Citizen Science Initiative	€508



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Sli na Coille <i>Kilkenny Forest School</i>	The Acorn Project	€1,650
Thomastown Community Network Tidy Towns	Ecological Survey of the Upper Paddock and tree survey of Thomastown	€788
Castlecomer & District Mens Shed	Upgrading Biodiversity <i>(insect hotels & bat resting boxes)</i>	€500
Goresbridge Rural Development	Getting the best out of apples - making people aware what grows in the wild that we can use	€1200
Gavin Harte ESD Training	Pedal Energy Action Days for Primary Level Schools in County Kilkenny	€1500
Gavin Harte ESD Training	Let's Talk Climate Action - A Climate Action Workshop for the Kilkenny Tidy Towns Network	€700
Earthforce Education / Growing Gardens	Teacher Training <i>'Introduction to Forest School Ethos & Principles'</i>	€2000
Good Shepherd Centre - Men's Shed	The Men's Shed - Upcycling Bicycles	€1000
Good Shepherd Centre - Veg Shed	The Veg Shed Community Centre	€584
The Irish Wildlife Trust	Outreach in County Libraries	€1,470
Crann - Trees for Ireland	Easy Treesie Project - school children planting trees on local public lands as a Climate Action as their contribution to a UN Global Initiative	€600
Thomastown Men's Shed	Kindling	€1400
Tullahought Comm. Development	Planting in accordance with Feasibility Study	€600

Anti Litter & Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant 2018

Details of the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme (ALAGS) was issued on the 26th April 2018 by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). DCCAE provided a grant of €23,000 which is 70% of the total contribution, the remaining 30% is to be met by local authority contribution.

The DCCAE provided guidelines on eligible projects to include; projects highlighting awareness of issues regarding dog fouling, plays, puppet shows, interactive workshops, art projects mainly aimed at schools, provision of anti-litter awareness materials, local advertising and projects/activities should seek to promote greater public awareness and education in relation to litter and/or graffiti.

Kilkenny County Council allocated €15,000 towards a community Anti Litter and Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant. The remaining allocation funded activities in 2018 such as anti litter murals, the tidy towns forum, the national spring clean, roadside litter campaign, supported anti dog fouling & litter initiatives and primary schools educational activities.

After advertising the community grant, 19 community Anti Litter and Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant applications were approved for funding.

Group Name	Amount Sought €	Awarded Grant €
<i>Stoneyford Tidy Towns</i>	1,200	980
STT provided a clear outline of costs / activities, however some fell within amenity grant activities and are not eligible for funding, therefore did not receive full grant amount.		
<i>Bonnettstown Community Alert Group</i>	130.34	130
BCAG provided a clear outline of activities. Funded as pilot project, the EAO to follow up with this group to check if successful or not. Could be replicated by other communities in future years.		
<i>Graiguenamanagh Tidy Towns</i>	1,000	910
GTT provided a clear outline of activities. The EAO to follow up with GTT for report as may serve as a case study in the future.		
<i>Thomastown Community Network Tidy Towns</i>	515	515
TCNTT provided & outlined 2 projects, both eligible under funding rules.		
<i>Inistioge Tidy Towns</i>	497	497
ITT provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules.		
<i>Tullahought Community Development Ltd</i>	350	350
TCDL provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules.		



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<i>Freshford Tidy Towns</i>	440	440
FTT provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules		
<i>Skeoughwosteen Rural Development</i>	1,000	500
Some elements of grant were not eligible, funded anti litter activities outlined.		
<i>Goresbridge Rural Development</i>	1,808	1,500
GRD provided a clear outline of activities, however some elements are not eligible for funding.		
<i>Gowran Development Association</i>	1,435	840
No breakdown of some costs or photos to back-up to some elements of funding requested, therefore cannot receive full grant sought.		
<i>Keep Kilkenny Beautiful</i>	357	350
KKB provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules		
<i>Ballyragget Development Association</i>	1,156	970
Breakdown of costs of some items seem very high. Some items can be provided by the Council.		
<i>Paulstown Development Association</i>	582.46	375
PDA provided a clear outline of costs/activities, however some items not eligible for funding.		
<i>Lintown Hall</i>	546	210
Some items not eligible for funding. Also, no back-up documentation/photos to show why funding is required for some elements of this application. Funding allowed for refuse disposal only.		
<i>Castlecomer Tidy Towns</i>	400	400
CTT provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules.		
<i>Glenmore Tidy Towns</i>	450	450
GTT provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules.		
<i>Gathabawn Rural Development Group</i>	815	553
GRDA provided a clear outline of activities, however some items not eligible for funding.		
<i>Bennettsbridge Tidy Towns</i>	900	900
BTT provided a clear outline of activities, all eligible under funding rules.		
<i>The Village Park (Mullinavat)</i>	3,700	1,000
TVP provided a clear outline of project. Matching applicants contribution.		

Entente Florale

The European adjudicators arrived in Inistioge on 20th July to a rapturous welcome. The village was in full bloom and the adjudication team was given a warm welcome. The partnership forged in recent months between the community and Kilkenny County Council will leave a lasting

legacy. The European awards ceremony taking place in Tullamore this September and is eagerly awaited.

Update on the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

On 17th April 2018 Minister Eoghan Murphy TD published the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 - 2021. This sets out the approaches to be taken over the next four years to protect and restore good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters. The processes behind developing this plan involved extensive consultation with the public, water stakeholders, public agencies and Local Authorities.

The Plan establishes a framework for coordination between local authorities and public agencies to achieve water quality improvements that will protect public health and amenities, wildlife, and our economy. A reliable supply of good water quality is vital for industries like agri-food, pharmaceuticals and tourism, across the entire country.

Public consultation on the Plan in Kilkenny was led by Ann Phelan, Community Water Officer with the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office, through public meetings held in Kilkenny (3rd May 2017), Thomastown (4th May 2017), Mooncoin (8th May 2017), Ballyragget (17th May 2017) and Graiguenamanagh (13th June 2017). Members of the public and community groups were invited to make written submissions on local water interests and issues and these were collated and sent to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and have informed the measures set out in the new River Basin Management Plan.

In addition, a South East regional workshop took place in June 2017, organised by the EPA and Local Authorities. Here, representatives from the relevant public agencies and Local Authorities discussed in detail water quality in



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every catchment, and a total of 34 Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) were identified in the South East Region for action under this Plan. 7 of these areas for Action are located in County Kilkenny. The Environment Section held a public engagement and feedback session on these 7 Areas in Kilkenny on 16th October, 2017. A separate session for elected members was held on 23rd October 2017.

The lead Local Authorities (Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils) have now finalised the recruitment of 35 scientists for the country, who have specific responsibility for the local assessment of water catchments and the design of specific site and field scale actions to be taken to ensure implementation of the River Basin Management Plan. This new science team is called the Local Authority Waters Support and Advice Team and they are based in ten different locations across the country, including here in Kilkenny.

The Catchment Manager for the South East Region is Ruth Hennessy, and she and her team work closely with local authority staff, the Waters and Communities Office, the EPA, and other public agencies to drive implementation. In addition, the teams work closely with the 30 advisors in the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme (ASSAP) which is being led by Teagasc and the dairy industry.

The advisors will provide a free service to farmers in the Areas for Action. The teams are currently preparing Implementation Programmes for each region and commencing desk top studies of each of the Areas for Action. It is anticipated that field work will commence in October.

The prioritised Areas for Action in Kilkenny, with tentative scheduling dates, are as follows:

Recommended Area for Action Name	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dinin (<i>South, Main & Muckalee Branches</i>)	✓			
Duiske		✓		
Erkina		✓		
Nuenna		✓		
Breagagh			✓	
Lingaun			✓	
Brownstown (<i>Pococke</i>)				✓

Before commencing work in each Area for Action, there will be engagement with the local communities and stakeholders to explain the process of local characterisation and to share knowledge about the water bodies in the Area. Additional engagement will occur with the farming community, led by the ASSAP advisors.

There will be periodic reporting on progress to the Environment SPC.

Ann Phelan Community Water Officer for South East continues to work with communities on awareness campaigns around water quality and meeting the objectives of the water framework directive.

LAWCO collaborated and participated in the Entente Floral in Inistioge 20th July 2018, to showcase to the judges the level of awareness in the community, and the importance of community involvement in river basin management. LAWCO is now working with LAWSAT Teams.

The KCLR Big Spring Clean-up took place in April 2018, this was a collaboration with local radio, LAWCO Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The purpose of the initiative was to focus attention on cleaning up our rivers. The Saturday Show ran four outside broadcasts from various river clean up locations. Campaign ran over six weeks, involving sports clubs, young people and schools. There also was a colouring competition in the schools using the

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colour of LAWCO office. The schools that participated received their awards in the studio of KCLR and the programme has been nominated for an IMRO award on 3rd Oct on social mobilisation.

There has been a schools' engagement campaign about water quality issues taking place in schools in the Priority Water Bodies of Duiske Graignamanagh and Breaghagh, Kilkenny.

In conjunction with Heritage Council, Heritage Officer Dearbhala Ledwidge, there were several events taking place for Water Heritage Day, which is now firmly established, and allows LAWCO to bring a national focus to our natural Water Bodies, getting community engagement while raising awareness of the RBMP. Several events took place in the Outdoor Activity Centre Graignamanagh, Castlecomer Discovery Park and Thomastown on the River Nore.

Two projects were successful under the community Water Development fund (grant scheme developed by LAWCO) Keep Kilkenny Beautiful invasive species control, and Outdoor Activity centre for engagement of expert in natural flood methods.

Historic Landfill Sites- Up-date

In August, following a competitive tendering process, Consultants Fehily Timoney & Company were appointed to undertake an environmental risk assessment on the five historic landfill sites listed below:

- Thorpes
- Skehana
- Seven-Houses
- Oldcourt
- Talbotsinch

Site investigation works have now commenced at Skehana and Seven-Houses and works on the other three sites is due to start over the coming weeks.

The completion of this stage of the process will determine if further investigation works are required and/or remediation measures necessary.

It is also anticipated that remediation works will commence this year at the landfill site in Rockfield, Gorwan. In addition, the Part 8 Planning process will also commence to facilitate remediation works at Sherman's landfill site which is located south of Ballyragget.

Bring Centres

The Council has recently mapped the Bring Centre locations within the City and County, which includes details on the recycling services provided at each site and when the site was last inspected by the Council or its agents. This information will be available shortly to members of the public through the Council's website via the Environment Section portal.

Works are due to commence on the replacement of the Bring Centre in Bigwood in the coming weeks and a number of new sites are currently being assessed for suitability.

As new Bring Centre sites are rolled out and funding becomes available to upgrade the existing facilities, the Environment Section intends to replace the existing signs with newly designed signs which translate a more positive recycling message. These new signs will include an image of a Bee (*Bombus Hortorum*), the agreed emblem, to raise awareness of the importance of Bees which is a key action in the recently adopted Council's Pollinator Action Plan.





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Update on RMCEI Plan

Inspection Plan	Number of Inspections Undertaken During August 2018
CRM Complaints	82
Litter City Patrols	20
County Patrols	31
Bottle Bank Surveillance	12
Bottle Bank Visits	16
Litter Fines Issued	28
Environmental Planning Recommendations	56
Environmental Planning Site Inspections	12
Hazardous Waste Inspections	1
Nutrient Mgt Plan Assessment	1
WFD Monitoring	39
Ambient Monitoring	6
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	61
Bathing Waters	5
DWWTS under Nip	15
Dwwts engagement activities	15

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Autumn Training Schedule

The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny has launched it's Autumn 2018 Training Schedule for entrepreneurs, owner/managers and employees of micro-enterprises. The schedule is tailored to meet the needs of the entrepreneur and their employees operating in small businesses who require relevant skills to develop the business. The full training programme schedule is now available to view and book online www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2018

€231,961 has been approved to 12 businesses linked to the creation of 72 jobs attached over the next 3 years;

341 participants attended 4 Seminars ranging from GDPR Compliance to Brexit;

236 entrepreneurs received one-to-one mentoring to assist them in relation to issues within their business;

212 participants attended 20 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;

193 entrepreneurs attended Business Advisory Sessions with LEO executives to discuss starting a business or growing an existing business;

91 participants attended 5 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;

27 clients attended 5 Mentor Clinics to seek assistance in relation to issues within their business;

24 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €44,587 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;

8 businesses were approved for Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets;

7 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme;

3 businesses were assisted to make applications to Microfinance Ireland Loan Fund;

3 businesses participated on Lean for Micro in order to assist them to look at their competitiveness and innovation specifically in relation to Brexit;

2 businesses are participating on the pilot Design for Growth programme in the South East. In August they were both approved Design Vouchers to assist them to apply design principles to their business;

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BANK OF IRELAND ENTERPRISING TOWN AWARDS:

August 20th & 21st saw the National Enterprising Town Award judges visit the county. Over the course of two days Kilkenny City; Piltown, Graiguenamanagh and Castlecomer all



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welcomed and showcased the enterprising spirit of their town during a three hour visit to each location which involved a 30 minute formal presentation followed by a Q&A session. Judges were then given an opportunity to meet locals in a social gathering prior to an 80 minute tour of the town which involved key highlights and points of interest from an enterprising view along with visits to a number of local businesses.

The Bank of Irelands National Enterprising Town Awards is designed to recognise and reward towns where small businesses and community groups come together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. With a total prize fund of €157,000, over 34 cash awards are up for grabs with the overall winning town and city village/area being awarded €20,000, a trophy and the significant title of Ireland's Most Enterprising Town. There are also a series of regional prizes and merit awards.



Big congratulations and well done to all four communities who pulled out all the stops in showcasing their local areas. The huge amount of time, energy and hard work that went into the preparation by all concerned was evident in the quality of all four events. These events clearly demonstrated the strong enterprising spirit that these communities live and breathe. Feedback on all four visits has been really positive.

The winners will be announced at the awards night which will be held at The Lyrath Hotel Kilkenny on November 28th next. Kilkenny County Council wishes all four entries the very best of luck.

ENTERPRISE IRELAND - REGIONAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND:

Both applications submitted to Enterprise Ireland for funding under the REDF last June (involving Kilkenny County Council as partners) have undergone the initial assessments and have been successful in progressing to stage two of the process which a competitive pitch. Bid teams involved in the application processes for the development of specialist Enterprise Development / Innovation Hub (Centre for Design) and A Centre of Excellence for Precision Agriculture (PACE) will have an opportunity to meet with the Enterprise Ireland Evaluation Panel over the coming weeks to pitch the projects.

URBAN REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND:

A new Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) has been announced as part of Project Ireland 2040, to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has responsibility for implementing the URDF, which has an application of €2 billion in the National Development Plan up to 2027. A call for proposals is currently open.

Two applications are currently being prepared by Kilkenny County Council namely, to develop public realm infrastructure and related projects as part of the regeneration of the Abbey Quarter and surrounding areas; and in conjunction with Waterford City & County Council for the provision of critical infrastructure in the Ferrybank / Belview area. The closing date for receipt of applications is 28th September next.



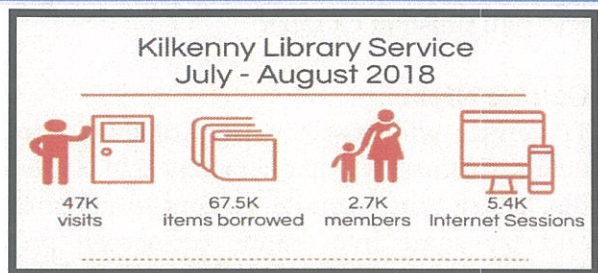
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LIBRARY SERVICES



Agrikids FarmSafety talks in association with Glanbia Agribusiness

Alma from Agrikids visited 5 libraries in July, engaging, educating and empowering children and parents to be Farm Safety Ambassadors. Alma covered all areas of farm safety, from safe play areas, and dealing with animals to tractors, and chemicals.



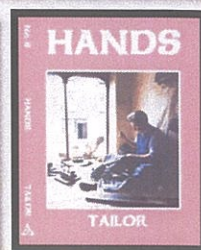
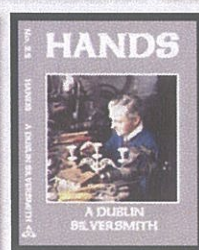
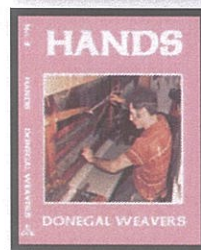
Fairytale Festival

As part of Beat FM's Fairytale Festival, Kilkenny Library Service had Fairy Sarah entertaining children of all ages with 5 very interactive story sessions, with lots of singing, dancing, magic and fairy dust. Over 400 people visited our tent on the day.

Heritage Week

From screenings of *Hands - Archival films on traditional Irish* to talks on the Suffrage Movement in Ireland, Family Research Sources online to stories of life in the army service in *From Kilmaganny to Kolweizi* and Digitising Graveyard inscriptions to Bug hotel making and weaving for children, we had events for all ages. Our most popular events were Research Sources Online talk, given by Library staff, and Digitising

Graveyard Inscriptions with Anne-Karoline Distel.



Summer Stars Reading Challenge

Our annual Reading challenge for children ran throughout July and August, with over 1,960 children participating. Celebration shows will run in September for all those that completed the challenge.

Coming in September:

Culture Night in City Library:

4.30 p.m. Sinead McCoole: *Easter Widows*

5.30 p.m. Dr. Myles Dungan: *The Alpha Male in Irish History*

6.30 p.m. Paths to Freedom Musical evening: The Brook Singers with special guest, soprano Sandra Oman.

Summer Reading Challenge Celebration: 6 children's shows with Reuben from RTE Junior TV.

ARTS

Music Generation

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme that transforms the lives of children and young people through access to high quality performance music education in their locality. Kilkenny has been selected as one



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of the next counties to roll out the Music Generation Programme in 2019.

In preparation for this the position of Music Generation Development Officer Kilkenny has been developed and the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board are now seeking suitable candidates. The Music Generation Development Officer will be appointed by KCETB and will be responsible for managing an extensive performance music education programme on behalf of the Music Education Partnership in the county.

Broadsheet 18

We had a new editor Peter Sirr for the 2018 Broadsheet and workshop. Fifty one poets submitted ninety five poems and twelve poems by ten poets were selected for publication. The Broadsheet launch took place on Thursday 16th August in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle. The Kilkenny City Mayor, Councillor Peter Cleere, officially launched the broadsheet followed by an introduction by the Arts Officer, Mary Butler, Eavan Boland, Poet-in-Residence Kilkenny Arts Festival and Peter Sirr then introduced each of the poets who read their poem.

Adult Writing Workshops Autumn 2018

As part of our on-going commitment to Kilkenny writers, the Arts Office and Kilkenny Library Service hosted autumn workshops in Poetry Writing for Beginners in Urlingford Library and Journalling for Beginners in Thomastown Library. Tutor Lani O'Hanlon, a writer, dance and movement artist/therapist facilitated the Poetry Writing course and helped the participants explore how their own sensual memories could become contemporary poems.

Tutor Tara Heavey, published novelist and short story writer, facilitated the Journalling for Beginners course and helped the participants discover the writer within themselves and led exercises such as the character sketch, captured

moments, guided imagery and dream logs. These six week courses started in Thomastown on 5th September and in Urlingford on 18th September and will finish in October.

Culture Night

11 venues will host a variety of events for this year's Culture Night on Friday 21st September. Blackstack Studio invite visitors to get some ink and try some live, hands on screen printing, mono printing or relief printing. National Design & Craft Gallery invite children to roll up their sleeves and explore their creativity through an inventive use of materials, technology and craft techniques including tote bag printing, exploring wearable technology, making in clay and developing skills to make moving structures. Butler Gallery celebrates Culture Night with a multi-sensory, after-hours, programme of interactive experiences throughout Kilkenny Castles. There will be a Gig on the Parade with music, song and poetry reading.



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APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of August is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €52.76m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD June 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	11,457	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	15,687	20,108
Water Services	4,392	6,579
Development Management	5,594	8,693
Environmental Services	6,499	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	4,270	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	374	637
Miscellaneous Services	4,482	6,526
Overall Total	52,755	74,151

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for three days during the eight months to the end of August 2018.

Collection rates to the end of August on all the main income streams are approximately 3% higher than the comparable figures for the previous year. It is too early to predict if this performance will hold through to the end of the year.

The notice regarding setting a Local Adjustment Factor on Local Property Tax for Kilkenny was published in the Kilkenny People newspaper and on the Council website on the week ending 13th July. A decision of the Elected Members is required before the end of September 2018. This is a very important decision in the shaping of the Council budget for 2019.

