



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

- May:** Bealtaine Festival.
- 16th May:** Public Meeting Mullinavat.
- 22nd May:** Public Meeting Ballyragget.
- 2nd to 3rd June:** Africa Day Activities
- June 2018:** Applications to be submitted for Town & village Renewal Scheme.
- 23rd June:** Cruinniú na nÓg Festival.
- 27th June:** The latest date for receipt of submissions on "Abbey Quarter Temporary Car Park - Planning Submission".

REPORT AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL & HERITAGE	PAGE 2
TOURISM & MARKETING:	PAGE 5
ROADS:	PAGE 6
HOUSING:	PAGE 9
PLANNING:	PAGE 11
ENVIRONMENT:	PAGE 12
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:	PAGE 14
FIRE SERVICES:	PAGE 15
ARTS:	PAGE 16
LIBRARY SERVICES	PAGE 17



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

COMMUNITY, CULTURAL & HERITAGE

Africa Day 2018

The Council has been allocated a Grant of €8,500 by Irish Aid -Department of Foreign Affairs in respect of Africa Day activities in 2018. Africa Day will be celebrated on June 2nd /3rd. A programme of activities has been developed with Kilkenny's African Communities as follows:

June 2nd: Photographic Exhibition
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. in McDonagh Junction - African Youths

June 2nd: Mini Trade Fair
11 a.m. - 6 pm in McDonagh Junction- African Entrepreneurs

June 3rd: Family Fun Day
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. in Kilkenny Castle Park.

CLÁR

The CLÁR Scheme for 2018 was notified to the Council on 16th March 2018. The Scheme is targeted at designated CLAR areas which have suffered population decline.

The Scheme has 3 Measures as follows:

Measure 1: Community Safety measures to access school and community facilities. Up to 90% of cost is funded subject to a min of €1,000-max of €50,000.

Measure 2: Play Areas/Multi Use Games Areas. Up to 90% of cost is funded subject to a min grant of €5,000 and a max of €50,000.

Measure 3: Registered First Responder Voluntary Groups- Application to be made directly to the Department.

The Council submitted 11 applications (10 under Measure 1 and 1 application under Measure 2) by the closing date of 30th April 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 - Safety Improvements	€1,980.00
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	€303,464.54

The decision of the Department is awaited.

Play Area Grant

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) has made available a national allocation of €250,000 in respect of innovative play areas for 2018. Local Authorities were invited to apply for funding of €20,000 which is maximum given to each Local Authority in respect of new and innovative play and recreation spaces or refurbishment or upgrading of existing play and recreation spaces and facilities This funding scheme was introduced in 2013. The evaluation committee comprises of staff from the Participation Play and Recreation and Culture Unit, DCYA and at least one other evaluator with relevant expertise.

The Council has submitted three proposals as follows:



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

▪ Toy Stories at Kilkenny Library Service for pre-school children	€5,000
▪ Woodstock Gardens Outdoor Classroom	€10,000
▪ Stoneyford Community Playground Artificial Grass Area	€5,000
Total	€20,000

The Decision of the Department is awaited.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme for 2018 has been announced. Total funding of €15 million will be allocated nationally to up to 200 towns and villages this year. Selection of projects will be by means of a competitive process, initially at Local Authority level, with the final project selection being made by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Council may submit up to 12 applications. The Council is guaranteed approval for 4 projects.

The Council will be required to advertise for expressions of interest from towns/villages in their area and will select proposals to be developed into more detailed applications to be submitted to the Department by the end of June.

The final project selection will be made in July by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Successful projects will be expected to commence by year-end and can run throughout 2019.

Grant Levels

Up to 80% of the total cost of a project will be provided for any individual project. The minimum grant which is available is €20,000 and the maximum is, generally, €100,000. Up to 10% of the total cost may be provided in the form of "in-kind" contributions (e.g. land lease or voluntary labour); a minimum cash contribution of 10% will also be required.

A higher maximum of €200,000 will be considered for a number of projects where a robust case can be made demonstrating exceptionally strong economic benefit to a town.

Key Selection Criteria

- Towns approved under the 2016 and/or 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the 2015 and/or 2016 REDZ Scheme will only be considered if all 2015/2016/2017 funding has been fully and satisfactorily expended by end-June 2018.
- Successful proposals will include activities which have clear positive economic impacts on the town, rather than just public realm-type actions
- Successful proposals will demonstrate close collaboration between communities and business interests in the design and delivery of proposed projects and must have the support of the Local Authority.

Types of Projects

- Projects that support entrepreneurship (e.g. development of Enterprise Hubs, Hot Desk Facilities, Digital Hubs, Creative Hubs, training facilities).
- Integrated approaches to developing individual sectors within the town and/or its environs (e.g. artisan food hubs, craft hubs)
- Projects which demonstrate collaboration between town centre businesses and the surrounding area to produce economic benefit
- Targeted actions to tackle minor infrastructural deficiencies in access, services, site development works and other infrastructure that may be needed to support town centre housing and commercial development
- Tourism initiatives
- Enhancement of heritage and/or other community assets
- Town safety and accessibility enhancements



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

- Provision/enhancement of leisure facilities (e.g. Town Parks, walking trails)

The following types of activity are eligible for support, but will be considered a lower priority for towns with a population of over 1,000 people unless they can be shown to be an integral part of a higher priority project:

- Enhancement of streetscape and town environment
- Shop front enhancement
- Branding and promotion of the town/village to attract new customers and/or business investment
- Car parking improvements

The Council will shortly be advertising for expressions of Interest under the Scheme

An information night will also be held for interested groups.

Healthy Ireland Funding

The Department of Health and Pobal invited Kilkenny LCDC to apply for funding under Round 2 of Strand 1 of the Healthy Ireland Fund (1 April 2018-31 March 2019). The invitation issued on 24th April. Both Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSCs) are eligible to apply.

The maximum allocation to Kilkenny LCDC is €75,000. The maximum allocation to Kilkenny CYPSC is €37,500.

The primary aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

The objectives of the Fund are:

- To raise awareness of, and support for, Healthy Ireland through the funding of

community-based and national health promotion activities.

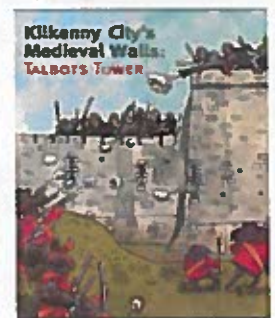
- To facilitate and resource cross-sectoral and partnership networks that promote health and well-being.
- To resource the development of locally-led, cross-sectoral strategies promoting health and wellbeing.
- To add value to existing health promotion initiatives through the provision of Healthy Ireland resources.
- To support the health and wellbeing of the most disadvantaged groups and areas and those experiencing significant health inequalities through long-term planning.

Both Kilkenny LCDC and Kilkenny CYPSC will be submitting applications to avail of both allocations. Kilkenny LCDC is currently finalising its Kilkenny Healthy Ireland Community Plan and the Kilkenny proposals will be based on that plan.

The closing date for the receipt of applications was initially Friday 11th May but has since been extended to Friday 25th May. The Kilkenny LCDC will make its decision on the application for submission at its meeting to be held on 18th May.

Talbots Tower & Kilkenny City Walls Brochure Launched

A brochure, depicting the beautifully illustrated interpretive panels at Talbots Tower, has been produced by the Heritage Office, to coincide with the re-launch of Talbots Tower on 3rd May. It is intended that the



brochure will be a useful educational resource for schools in County Kilkenny and encourage



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

our schoolchildren and visitors to explore our rich medieval heritage.

<http://kilkennyheritage.ie/2018/04/kilkenny-citys-medieval-walls-talbots-tower/> To request a free copy of the brochure please contact the Heritage Office heritage@kilkennycoco.ie.

Kilkenny County Council receives grants for Culture & Creativity Programme 2018

Kilkenny County Council has received an allocation of €96,750, from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, to support the implementation of Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland Activity Plans 2018. We have also received €5,000 towards our Decade of Commemorations programme, and up to €10,000 for a *Cruinniú na nÓg* festival, celebrating creativity in young people, on 23rd June. Further details will be announced shortly.

National Biodiversity Action Plan

Funding for local authorities in support of the implementation of Ireland's third National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017 -2021)(NBAP) has been announced by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. In 2018 grant funding to a maximum amount of €8,000 will be provided to each local authority with a requirements to provide match funding. Each project proposed will be required to contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the NBAP.

TOURISM & MARKETING

Tourism Training Day, Parade Tower

Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Department and Local Enterprise Office (LEO) combined forces to host a one day training programme on Thursday April 12th 2018 in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle - entitled '*How to grow business*

for Destination Kilkenny', which focused on management solutions for the hospitality and tourism sectors, concentrating on ways to grow revenue for tourism businesses through an understanding of collaborative selling, customer diversification, sales channels and market intelligence. A packed schedule was delivered and topics explored included destination selling, market diversification, lead generation, nurturing the business and tracking for growth. The event was fully subscribed with 40 plus participating, including attendees from Kilkenny Tourism and #tastekilkenny. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.



Trainer Julie O'Brien, presenting to a packed audience at Tourism Training Day.

Kilkenny Tourism Department says 'Benvenuti a Kilkenny'

Kilkenny Tourism Department organised a trip for an Italian group of visitors from Formigine, Kilkenny's Italian twin town, on Friday 13th April. The visiting group consisted of Elisa Testoni, an English Teacher, with her 39 mature students who are studying English (Cultural Association La Torre). The group were in Ireland to visit a number of tourist experiences in "*Ireland's Ancient East*" and Kilkenny was their first port of call.

The group were taken on a walking tour of Kilkenny, stopping to visit:- Kilkenny Castle, National Design and Craft Gallery (where they took a workshop on Graphic Design designing their very own Kilkenny Bags), the Medieval Mile Museum, St. Canice's Cathedral and Kyteler's Inn. The group met with the Mayor Cllr Michael Doyle in the Medieval Mile Museum



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

and they were presented with a beautiful book on the history of Kilkenny as a keepsake.

They group were delighted to be in Kilkenny, experience our rich history and culture and getting an opportunity to practice their English. All 39 visitors were impressed with their visit, and thanked all involved in organising it for them, plus they vowed they would love to come back and spend more time in Kilkenny.



Kilkenny hits The New York Times

Rudolf Heltzel featured in 'The New York Times'. Sandra Jordan featured an article in 'The Creative Side' of the newspaper featuring Rudolf Heltzel exhibition 'In Precious Metal'.

"This exhibition was decades in the making. As an artist and artisan of exceptional virtuosity, Rudolf Heltzel has created sculptural adornments which are objects of our future heritage.

These pieces will withstand the test of time through their enduring style and the superiority of their making. They will outlive us and still exist in a thousand years and more. Rudolf Heltzel's work is a significant part of the material culture of contemporary Ireland, as such it is important to honour his practice and invaluable contribution to jewellery, in Ireland. Rudolf Heltzel has played a significant role in shaping the creative arts in Kilkenny, Ireland and beyond".

Destination Kilkenny

The Destination Kilkenny group met on 30th April and agreed on a vision, scope, administrative support and priority actions for

the next twelve to eighteen months. The agreed four pillars of activity are as follows:

- Develop a plan to enhance Ireland's Medieval Mile
- Evening Economy Plan
- Harness Contemporary culture and appeal
- Connect visitors to City and County

Lead members have been appointed for each of the four pillars and working groups will also be established, with a view to coming back by 30th May with an action plan.

New Creative Team appointments by Kilkenny Tourism

Kilkenny Tourism Ltd has made a number of significant creative appointments recently, in the area of Public Relations, Photography, and Marketing, and the new team met recently, hosted by Kilkenny County Council, to ensure clarity of purpose and messaging.

The new appointees are as follows:

1. Public Relations - Purcell Masterson, Kilkenny
2. Photography - Alan Kiely, Dublin
3. Marketing - T.L. Marketing, Dublin

The initial meeting included introductions and sharing of creative campaign messages, concentrating on quality to ensure that Kilkenny continues to attract new visitors, sustaining a countywide tourism industry. New campaigns and newsworthy items will continue to be shared with elected members as the year progresses.

ROADS

Turfmarket Car-park & Public Toilet
Graiguenamanagh



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

The Council is in the process of acquiring a property, by agreement, at Turfmarket, Graiguenamanagh and it is anticipated that same will be concluded shortly. The acquisition of this property will allow for the construction of a new 15 bay car park and public toilet on the site. It has been a long standing objective of the Council to increase the parking provision serving the commercial heart of the town and the identification and delivery of new off-street parking provision is defined as a policy action in the Graiguenamanagh Local Area Plan, 2009.

The provision of 15 additional car parking spaces within such close proximity to the town core and riverbank area will provide for a significant boost to the local economy. In addition, the closure of the public toilets on Convent Road has been an inconvenience to the local community in Graiguenamanagh and also for tourists and visitors to the town. The provision of a new modern toilet within close proximity to the town centre, with parking provision directly beside same, will address this issue and add to the amenity / hospitality offering.

The design stage for this project is now complete and the planning process under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations has also commenced and documentation for same will be available for public inspection from mid May.

The Council has identified the current Town and Village Renewal Scheme rolled out by the Department of Rural and Community Development as a potential funding stream to deliver the construction stage of this project and an application for funding will be made shortly under same.

N25 New Ross Bypass

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

On the Kilkenny side of the Barrow Bridge, the edge sections of the deck have now been constructed on the first two approach spans while post tensioning and pouring of span 3 is ongoing on the Wexford side. The first deck segment of the central spans has been launched from pier 4 following the full installation of the form traveller system.

The central deck box for span 6 on the Stokestown side is progressing and the other approach spans on the Wexford side will follow over the coming months.

The construction of mainline pavement foundations continues to progress and pavement works will develop and expand significantly in the coming weeks. The current phase of the temporary traffic management on the N25 at Glenmore was introduced recently.

The full circulatory roundabout will be operational for this phase which is anticipated to be in place until mid-June. The L-7513 Ballyverneen Road remains closed and the new realigned road is also anticipated to open in May. Also on the Kilkenny side, the Ballyverneen Overbridge and Glenmore Underbridge are well underway and the overbridge to carry the disused Waterford to New Ross rail line is also progressing.



Barrow Bridge at Pink Rock – Full deck (including wing sections) formed on spans 1 and 2 to the left foreground. Wing traveller progressed towards the end of span 2.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL



Temporary traffic management through Glenmore Roundabout. Works continuing on opposite side of roundabout in preparation for next phase in May. Construction of new Ballyverneen Road Overbridge and realignment visible to right of photo

The Elected Members of the Municipal District of Piltown and a number of Council Officials recently undertook a site visit of the project.

N78 Castlecomer Bridge to Coolbaun South and Coolbaun North to Crettyard Pavement Improvement Scheme

This Scheme will provide for the strengthening of 6.73km's of carriageway, drainage and footpath improvement and other associated works and a grant allocation of €2,150,000 was secured for same. Tender Documents were issued to the Southeast Framework Panel on Monday the 30th April 2018 and the closing date for tender submissions is Friday the 18th May 2018. It is anticipated, subject to the necessary approvals that works will commence in late Q2 2018.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Schemes in Kilkenny (LIHAF)

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

The works required to remove the infrastructural impediment to enable the development of the Western Environs in Kilkenny City consists of the following key elements:

- a) Construction of a roundabout on the N76 Callan Road at the intersection of the proposed Western Environs distributor road.
- b) 1.3km Western Environs distributor road, linking the N76 with the existing Circular Rd at Robertshill junction and the upgrade of the existing Circular Road from Robertshill to the R695 Kilmanagh Road.
- c) Construction of a roundabout on the R695 Kilmanagh Road at the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road.
- d) 1.3km upgrade of the R695 Kilmanagh Road from the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road to the north western extremity of the Western Environs footprint.
- e) Provision of Linear Park.

The Councils application under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) was successful with grant funding of €5,070,000 awarded in March 2017 (this represents 75% of the Phase 1 Infrastructure contract costs - the remaining 25% of the contract construction costs and the land purchase costs to be funded by Kilkenny County Council).

The proposed road is single carriageway with lighting, footpaths and cycleways on both sides. Included in the road construction will be all the necessary services required for the future development of the area.

The procurement process for the appointment of a contractor for the road construction (a to d above), is continuing. A total of 8 construction companies have been shortlisted following Stage 1 of the procurement process, with Stage 2 (tender stage) due for publication on June 6th. Construction is planned to commence in Q3 2018. Projected scheme completion date is late 2019. Construction of the Linear Park will follow after the completion of the road scheme.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park (Total Cost €0.64 million)

Tenders for the detailed design of the Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park were submitted on March



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

23rd. Following assessment of tenders the contract for the appointment of a design team has been awarded to Cunnane Stratton Reynolds Landscape Architects. The detailed design, and appointment of works contractor, is expected to take a number of months with construction of the Park planned to commence in Q4 2018. This park will be funded by a combination of LIHAF funding with matching funding from Kilkenny and Waterford Local Authorities.

Abbey Quarter

Public Consultation of proposals for the development of a temporary car and coach park on the Abbey Quarter site commenced on Wednesday 16th May. The proposed temporary development will see the provision of 132 car parking spaces and 7 coach parking spaces on the area of the site between the River Breaghagh and St Francis Bridge. It is proposed that the development will be for a period of up to 5 years, while development proposals for this site are being considered in line with the provisions of the Abbey Quarter masterplan. The proposed development will allow the site to be used in the short term to the benefit of the local community and the local economy.

The provision of coach parking in this area will provide an alternative to the current coach parking facility at Kilkenny Castle, and will provide much needed parking facilities for the tourist attractions at the Northern End of the Medieval Mile including St. Canices Cathedral, Rothe House and the Smithwicks Visitor Experience.

The provision of car parking will also facilitate visitors to the Northern end of the Medieval Mile, as well as future occupiers of the first buildings to be developed on the Abbey Quarter Site.

Details of the proposed development will be on public display from Wednesday 16th May to Wednesday 13th June 2018. Details can be found at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie> & www.kilkennycoco.ie and will also be on display in the Planning Department in County Hall and in the Carnegie Library on Johns Quay.

Submissions/observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be carried out, may be made online at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/>, in writing to the Planning Section, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny or sent to the following e-mail address:

Abbeyquarterparking@kilkennycoco.ie.

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the development is Wednesday 27th June, 2018. Submissions should be clearly marked "Abbey Quarter Temporary Car Park - Planning Submission"

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 first four months of 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows:

- Construction underway on a rural house at Barna, Freshford. Expected completion date July 2018.
- Construction in progress on the conversion of Greensbridge B&B and adjoining house to 5 self contained 1 bed units. Expected completion date August 2018.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

- Purchase of 7 houses - sale agreed to date in 2018.
- Part 8 planning permission was granted for 17 Units at Main St Piltown at the April Council meeting.
- A consultation evening was held in the Canon Malone Hall on the 11th April for the Part 8 proposal for 22 Units at Station Avenue, Ballyragget - Part 8 on Agenda for May Council Meeting.
- Stage 2 approval was received for 17 units at Piltown and 22 at Station Avenue, Ballyragget.
- Stage 4 approval was received for 38 Houses at Bolton, Callan. Pre-award discussions have commenced with the contractor.
- Tenders received for 1 house at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road.
- Construction work on 4 houses at Wetlands, Kilkenny was completed and the houses were allocated.
- A design team was appointed to work on 2 group homes at Blackstaff, Callan and Cloghabrody, Thomastown.
- 5 houses completed and allocated at Togher Way, Urlingford.
- 8 houses acquired and allocated at Abbeygate, Ferrybank.
- 9 houses completed at Side Road, Moneenroe (Oaklee Housing) and will be allocated in late May.

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the month of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out

below. There were 105 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/04/2018.

MONTH	2016	2017	2018
January	37	29	37
February	30	26	32
March	18	26	21
April	26	25	15
May	34	28	
June	31	24	
July	31	34	
August	32	27	
September	27	24	
October	30	27	
November	32	29	
December	21	19	
Total	349	319	105

April 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 30 th April, 2018	2222
Number of assessment interviews carried out in April:	29
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	6
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th April:	861
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	10
Anti social behaviour cases:	11
New Homeless Presentations:	15
Maintenance Calls for April 2018	417
Maintenance Calls year to date	715
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	5
Amount of Loans Approved to 30 th April, 2018	€627,245



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Housing List

The current Housing List at 30th April 2018 is 2,222 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
April 2018	2,222
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

Housing Needs Assessment 2018

We have been informed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government that each Housing Authority is required to prepare a Summary of the Social Housing Assessments (s.21 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009) for its administrative area. This Summary is now carried out annually and the counting date this year is 11th June 2017. Deadline for the return of summary to the Department is 29th June, 2018.

This statutory Assessment will identify the number of qualified households on our Housing List whose housing need have not been met. This list does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP. Kilkenny County Council has made contact with all applicants in recent weeks and are currently reviewing each application. We will be contacting all applicants again in the coming weeks to inform them of the outcome of their review.

New Rent Scheme and Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in 2018 for all our tenants. It is hoped to have the new rents in place in July 2018.

In addition, the proposed new Rent Scheme was discussed at the Strategic Policy Committee that was open to all elected members to attend on Thursday 29th March. The purpose of the revised Rent Scheme is to remove the current anomalies in the two rent schemes and remove certain historical charges in addition to rent. It is estimated that there will be no surplus rental income arising from the rent review in 2018 as a number of reductions must be provided for in order to amalgamate both rent schemes.

PLANNING

PLANNING SUMMARY	Total to April	
	2017	2018
Planning Applications Received	272	263
Planning Applications Granted	258	236
Planning Applications Refused	19	28
Complaints Received	35	38
Warning Letters Issued	42	27
Enforcements Notices Issued	14	14

Forward Planning:

Local Area Plans : The Local Area Plan for Castlecomer has been adopted by the Council at its April meeting.

Work has commenced on the Local Area Plan for Callan. A briefing will be given to the Municipal District on the 18th May outlining the process involved in making the plan.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Vacant Sites: There has been considerable interest generated as a result of a number of sites included on the Council's Vacant Site Register. Specifically the inclusion of land that is zoned residential but currently being used for agricultural purposes.

Following discussion at the SPC3 Planning Meeting and at the Council Meeting, the Council's legal advisor was asked to advise on the definition of 'vacant or idle' land under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

Following receipt of the legal advice, a review of the Council's vacant sites register has been undertaken and a number of sites have now been removed from the register.

Valuations have been carried out on the remaining sites on the register and notices of these valuations and the inclusion of the sites on the register will be sent to land owners in the coming weeks.

County & City Development Plans : The Council published the statutory notice on the 20th April signifying the commencement of the review of the County & City Development Plans.

An issues paper has been published for the initial public consultation exercise up until the 15th June 2018.

The first of three public meeting was held in the City Hall on the 10th May where between 50 & 60 people attended.

Two further meetings are planned for Mullinavat on Wed 16th and in Ballyragget on Tuesday 22nd of May.

ENVIRONMENT

National Spring Clean

April was National Spring Clean Month organised by An Taisce and supported by

Kilkenny County Council. Current registrations stand at 120 community groups, however the Council will continue to support community groups throughout the summer should they be completing litter picks on public areas. Litter picking packs remain available from many of the libraries, Ferrybank and Thomastown Area Offices and directly from the Environment Section in County Hall.



Anti-Dumping Initiative

Having secured funding of €40,000 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, Kilkenny County Council will be using some of this funding to arrange a "Free Mattress Drop-Off Day" on Saturday 16th June 2018 from 12.00 to 16.00 at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Site. Members of the public will be able to dispose of old mattresses for free.

Graveyard Grant Scheme

This scheme is open to any Community Groups/Organisations involved in the management and maintenance of local graveyards. A total of 20 applications have been received to date. It is hoped to present a number of these applications for approval at the June Council meeting. Some of the remaining applications require further information and pending the receipt of same, they will be considered for funding at a later stage.

Amenity Grants

This scheme provides small grants to community groups and residents associations to maintain their recreational and outdoor amenities. A total of 152 applications have been received in 2018 and the total budget available is €127,000. A short presentation on the scheme was given to



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Councillors at a workshop held on 30th April. Applications for funding will be decided at the May council meeting.

Enforcement Action

The Environment Section secured one prosecution with costs awarded to the Council under the Litter Act in the last month. Two further prosecutions are pending and are due to be heard in court shortly. The Environment Section also decommissioned and removed one unauthorised Pay to Use Facility. The Enforcement Team remains committed to tackling all illegal dumping and illegal activities around the city and county.

Granny Recycling & Waste Disposal Centre

The Granny Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre officially opened on 4th May, 2018. The opening was officiated by Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Chair of the Piltown MD and attended by Minister John Paul Phelan, Cathaoirleach Cllr. David Fitzgerald and elected members from the Piltown MD, along with members from SPC5 Environment. Centre has been operating successfully since the 15th November last, accepting a wide variety of waste for recycling and disposal. While the Centre is operated by Crystalhill Inns Ltd, t/a CHI as a privately run centre, Kilkenny County Council makes an annual contribution towards the operational costs of the facility.



LAWCO

Continuing to work with communities, LAWCO is participating in the Big Spring clean up concentrating on our Rivers in Carlow and Kilkenny, working with KCLR radio and schools art competition, which will conclude at end of May 2018, with entries posted on Social Media.

LAWCO have also embarked on an awareness raising initiative in the schools on the importance of water quality and communities, around the River Bregagh which is a priority water body. Following on from the WERLA anti-dumping initiative in Sept 2017, removal of plastics from the River Barrow, Graignuenamanagh Boys National School have removed plastic bottles from their school environment. Participating in same initiative again this year extended to River Nore. LAWCO is also participating with Inistioge Entente Floral on water quality.

Update on RMCEI Plan

Inspection Plan	Number of Inspections
CRM Complaints	108
ATM Surveys	2
City Patrols	28
County Council Patrols	17
Bottle Bank Surveillance	12
Bottle Bank Visits	28
Litter Fines Issued	3
Prosecutions Secured	1
Prosecutions Pending	2
Septic Tank Inspections	4
Environmental Planning Assessments	48
Solid Fuel Regulations Inspections	5
Deco Paint Regulations	2
ELV Inspections	2



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

Ireland's largest celebration of secondary school entrepreneurs took place in Croke Park at Student Enterprise National Final on Wednesday 2nd May 2018, co-ordinated by the Local Enterprise Offices.

All participating Kilkenny students were winners at the National Final this year, with the project 'Life Arm Assist' from CBS Kilkenny scooping the first prize in the Intermediate category. Students from Coláiste Éamann Rís Callan were presented with Best Display in the Junior Category while 'Kat Food' also from CBS Kilkenny won the Special Merit Award in the Senior category. The students were presented with their awards on stage by the Minister for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Pat Breen T.D. and Sheelagh Daly, Chair of the Local Enterprise Offices.

The winning students in the Intermediate category were: Edward Daly, John O'Brien and Matthew O'Sullivan who worked under the guidance of their teacher, Mr. Pat Downey to develop their awarding winning innovative product "Life Arm Assist". They developed an innovative hydraulic ram that replaces the life arm stabilizer on the back of a tractor. It has been developed as a labour saving device but also reduces the incidence of serious accidental injury.

In the Senior Category, the Special Merit award was presented to KAT Food project developed by Conor McCarthy and the late Colm Dunne, under the guidance of Ms. Anna Culleton also from CBS Kilkenny. These students published a compilation of healthy, easy recipes from our favourite hurling and camogie stars. KAT Food cookbook arose as a combination of respective

interest from Conor & Colm - Colm has a passion for GAA and Conor has an interest in culinary skills. Colm who sadly passed away recently was proudly represented by his brother Peter at the National Final.

From Coláiste Éamann Rís, Callan the Junior Category award winners are: Jack O'Shea, Jim Power and Nathan Ryan who won Best Display for their hot chocolate products.



P
N

er for Higher Education launched the Council's report on third level education on 30th April. The report entitled "From Charter to Framework: The case for higher education provision in Kilkenny" concludes that there is a very convincing educational, social and economic case for locating a third level education campus in Kilkenny. The report concludes that demand for third level education places nationally over the next 10 years supports the case for third level capacity expansion in general, and for a campus facility in Kilkenny in particular. The Report states that one of the options to achieve this is through the development of a campus facility in Kilkenny as part of the proposed Technological



Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor. Minister for Higher Education, with Minister John Paul Phelan, Colette Byrne, Chief Executive & Elected Members of Kilkenny County Council & Members of TUSE Steering Group

University of the South East (TUSE). This is the preferred option of Kilkenny County Council and indeed the Council now intends to engage with the Steering Group for the TUSE and hopes that the Steering



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Group will favourably consider the recommendations in the report.

The 3 Ports of Ireland's South East Region

The three County Councils of Kilkenny, Wexford, and Waterford have collaborated with the three ports in the south east (Belview Port, Rosslare Europort & New Ross Port) to produce a promotional video 'The 3 Ports of Ireland's South East Region'. This video showcases the 3 ports, the services they provide and the complementarities between the three. While each port provides a different service, all three have a role to play in facilitating economic trade within the region. Working collectively strengthens their case as the ports work to capitalise on opportunities as they arise.

<https://youtu.be/OICLwr9yxAI>



specialist equipment and learned more about fire safety in the home.

The Fire Service took part in a Multi-agency pre tenancy presentation meeting in John's Green House.



Influencing & Regulating the Built Environment

- We have received 34 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to-date, 21 have been granted and 13 are being assessed.
- Kilkenny Fire & Rescue Service Fire Prevention Officers hold fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has aided greatly in reducing 1) our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation and 2) our Fire Safety certificate refusal rates.
- To-date 37 planning applications were dealt with from a fire safety point of view.
- A nighttime inspection was carried out by Fire Officers together with An Garda Síochána on a premises recently.

FIRE SERVICES

Community Engagement & Education

A number of Primary School fire safety visits for 3rd class were carried out. Visits by various groups to the Fire Stations was also facilitated. Picture shows Callan Fire Brigades visit to Kilmanagh Primary school. The children got to see some of the



Facilities and general news, new PPE, new equipment, new fire station approvals etc.

- Tenders for new road traffic collision equipment was published on etenders.
- Tenders for a design consultancy team for a new fire station for Urlingford was also advertised on etenders.
- Contracts were signed for the supply of Structural Fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Kilkenny Fire Service with Hunter Apparel Solutions Ltd. Unit 9,



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Springtown Industrial Estate, Springtown Road, Derry. Each fire fighter will receive 2 Structural Fire Personal Protective Equipment.

ARTS

Rhyme Rag

A number of workshops have been facilitated for the Arts Office Rhyme Rag Ensemble this year and the group also participated in outings to the new Kilkenny Animated Festival.

The Arts Office successfully secured funding from NYCI for a writer in residence to work with the group over the coming months with a view to producing a publication.



Poetry Broadsheet 2018

51 local poets have submitted poems for our 2018 Poetry Broadsheet. 2018 editor Peter Sirr has also facilitated a workshop and is now in the process of editing this year's publication.

Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary

Ten applications were received. Three bursaries were awarded to support artists working in Literature and the Visual Arts.

Bursary

Thirteen applications for ArtLinks Bursaries were received. The applications made related to projects in Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, Literature, Film and multidisciplinary projects. An independent assessment panel selected eight successful applicants.

Professional Development Workshops and mentoring for visual artists

A series of Professional Development Workshops and mentoring for visual artists based in Kilkenny have been organised for June. They will be delivered by Curator and Cultural Consultant Eamonn Maxwell. These professional development training workshops support artists in their practice and aim to address artists' specific business needs working in a professional environment. Workshop will cover areas such as marketing, selling your art work, securing funding and gallery representation as well as individual mentoring sessions.

Open Circle Community Arts Collective

Open Circle Community Arts Collective develops quality arts engagement for women in Kilkenny both through membership and outreach programmes.

2018 Membership - twenty two new members were introduced to Open Circle Arts forming two new groups. Both groups will gather at the Open Circle House in Kilkenny, on a weekly basis over the coming 12 months to work with talented artists/tutors across a varied visual arts programme. The new members have made a wonderful start with artist Julie Cusack making experimental drawings using natural objects which will lead into abstract painting over the coming weeks.



Two groups from our 2017 members will continue working at the Open Circle house from January to June 2018 working on individual projects. Both groups have also started work on two collaborative pieces which will find a home in patient areas at St Luke's Hospital.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Open Circle has been nominated for the 2018 Pride of Place awards

Bookville

Research and preparations for the joint Kilkenny Arts Office/Kilkenny Library Children's Book Festival is underway. Brochure deadline is May 2018 with most events secured at this point. Events will be rolled out in Kilkenny City and County libraries, the Kilkenny Arts Office and the Parade Tower.

Other

The Creative Ireland 2018 programming:

- Poetry Broadsheet 'As Gaeilge' celebrating Bliain na Gaeilge 2018.
- Bring Your Own Chair: This is based around reclaiming public space for collective experience and action and is a partnership between Callan Workhouse Union, the Arts Council of Ireland, Create/CAAP, DCCOI, Kilkenny County Council, Waterford County Council, Wexford County Council and Kilkenny Leader Partnership. The towns selected for Kilkenny are Slieverue, Kells, Cuan and Goresbridge. This project was featured in the Irish Examiner on 24th March.
- Bealtaine: Visual artist Allana O' Kelly has been selected to work with communities across Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford to produce work for exhibit in May 2019.

Spring into Storytime

Spring into Story time is a national project under the umbrella of Right to Read initiative allowing each local authority library service to champion their children's story-time sessions and encourage more children and parents to celebrate reading together and sharing stories.

We held storytimes in all branches, with 18 sessions in total for children throughout the month with 219 children enjoying some fabulous stories and crafts with staff.

3rd highest users nationally of eBooks and eAudiobooks

Kilkenny library service offers free online services which are accessible anytime from anywhere at the press of a button. One of the more popular services is called BorrowBox which has access to over 10,000 ebook titles and 3,800 audio titles. This service is available to all library members.

Irish Wildlife Trust

Kilkenny Library recently hosted a series of workshops in 4 our libraries as part of an outreach programme under LA 21. Primary school classes and the general public were invited to talks on Biodiversity, Wildlife Gardening, Bees & Butterflies and Ireland's Reptiles. Over 350 people attended these very successful workshops.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Kilkenny Library Service April 2018



21K
visits



28K
items
borrowed



1,014
registrations

Coming in May:

- Bealtaine Festival - coordinated by Kilkenny Library, over 60 free events.
- Irish Heart Foundation Mobile visit to Castlecomer Library.
- Marie Keating Mobile Visit to City Library.
- Tablet Classes with Digitise the Nation in Loughboy Library



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT MAY 2018
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

APPENDIX 1

FINANCE REPORT - MAY 2018

The expenditure by service division to the end of April is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €24.4m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

Table 1	Actual YTD Feb 2018	Budget Full Year 2018
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	5,117	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	6,638	20,108
Water Services	2,138	6,579
Development Management	2,781	8,693
Environmental Services	2,972	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	1,961	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	183	637
Miscellaneous Services	2,648	6,526
Overall Total	24,438	74,151

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the four months to the end of April. Collection rates on all the main income streams are slightly higher than the previous the previous year.

The draft Annual Financial Statement for 2017 was approved by the Members at the March Council meeting. The Local Government Auditor commenced the annual audit on 4th May 2018.

The draft three year capital budget for the period 2018 to 2020 will be presented to Council at the May meeting.