



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
OCTOBER 2019
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 22nd October, 2019

Seminar on "Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings"

Thursday, 24th October, 2019

The first SPC Meeting for Housing will take place.

Friday, 25th October, 2019

Five Year Draft Corporate Plan is available on our website, Area Offices and Libraries. Closing date for submissions is 25th October, 2019.

Friday, 1st November, 2019

Closing date for receipt of RFA 1 Forms

Wednesday, 6th November, 2019

Closing date for receipt of submission for Draft Retail Strategy.

Sunday, 10th November, 2019

Remembrance Sunday Ceremony will take place at 2.00 p.m. at the War Memorial, Peace Park, Kilkenny

REPORT AT A GLANCE

CORPORATE:	PAGE 2
ROADS:	PAGE 2
PLANNING:	PAGE 3
ENVIRONMENT:	PAGE 4
LAWPRO:	PAGE 7
PARKS:	PAGE 8
LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	PAGE 10
TOURISM:	PAGE 13
HOUSING:	PAGE 14
COMMUNITY:	PAGE 17
ARTS:	PAGE 18
LIBRARY SERVICES:	PAGE 20
HERITAGE:	PAGE 21
CIVIL DEFENCE:	PAGE 21
FINANCE	PAGE 22



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

CORPORATE

Draft Register 2020/2021

The Draft Register of Electors for 2020/2021 is currently being compiled.

Please ensure that RFA 1 forms are completed for each individual voter and returned to Corporate Affairs before the **1st November, 2019**. These forms are available from checktheregister.ie and in all Council Offices.

ROADS

Pavement Schemes

N25: The €2.2m N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is underway with approximately 90% completed. It is expected to be completed in Q4 2019.

Other pavement schemes on the N76 Kilkenny to Callan Road are advancing through detailed design and contract preparation. Tenders are expected to be ready in Q4 2019.

Kilkenny Minor Schemes:

Several schemes are progressing through various stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network.

The N24 Tower Road Junction improvement scheme received planning approval in April 2019. Documents will shortly be finalized in respect of the CPO for that scheme.

The preparation of design and planning documents for the N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme are on-going.

N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme- A preferred route for the scheme will be available in the coming weeks.

Kilkenny Major Schemes:

The Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility on the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme is proceeding. This is a major scheme of approx. 10km linking the soon to be opened New Ross By-Pass and the existing Waterford By-Pass. Atkins made a presentation to the Piltown MD outlining the scope and timelines for the scheme.

N24 Waterford to Cahir Scheme: Kilkenny will be the lead authority on this scheme. The plan is to appoint consultants before the end of Q4 2019.

Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council applied for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála for the Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge on the 9th August 2019. It will be early 2020 before we receive a decision on the project.

Public Lighting on National Road Network

Kilkenny County Council has been approved by TII for the completion of a number of public lighting retro-fits as part of energy efficiency improvements on the National Road network. Locations to be addressed include Ballyragget, Castlecomer, Mooncoin, Kilkenny City (Ring Road) and Callan.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Schemes (LIHAF) October 2019 update

Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure

Construction of the scheme commenced on March 4th. Works are progressing well and are on programme to finish by the planned completion date of September 2020. Main contractor for the scheme is SIAC Construction Limited. The Circular Road is currently closed to facilitate construction of a new bridge over the River Breaghagh. These works are expected to be completed in January 2020, allowing the Circular Road to reopen.

Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park

Approval to proceed with construction of the scheme was received from the Department of



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Housing, Planning, and Local Government on July 25th. The sod turning ceremony to mark the commencement of construction of the park was held on Tuesday October 1st, and officiated by Minister John Paul Phelan TD. The main contractor appointed for the scheme is Tom Beckett Landscaping Limited. The expected date for completion of the scheme is January 2020.



12th September 2019 and submissions were invited until Friday 11th October 2019. The Council earlier made a submission supporting the principles of the Material Amendments and made a further submission on same by the 11th of October 2019. It is anticipated that the final making of the RSES will take place in late October/early November 2019.

City & County Development Plan:

The City and County Development Plan is still paused and the process will recommence following the making of the RSES. Work on various plans/studies is however still in progress.

Nexus Planning consultants are progressing the preparation of the Retail Strategy. A very successful and engaging stakeholder meeting was held on 9th October in the Ormonde Hotel, with 64 representatives of businesses present. Nexus presented their survey results and preliminary findings. An update on the newly formed Kilkenny City Task Force was also presented. Submissions are now being sought on the preparation of the Draft Retail Strategy until 6th November.

Consultants have been appointed for the preparation of a Masterplan for the Loughmacask area of the City, which will replace the existing Local Area Plan in that area. Consultants have also been appointed to compile a Fair Green Masterplan and an inception meeting has taken place.

The plan making process for St. Canice's Hospital lands at Lacken has now commenced. The Masterplan will be drafted internally by the Planning Department. The HSE has given approval for initial background surveys to be undertaken and data to be collected to assist in the preparation of the Masterplan. An appointment for an Ecological and Habitats Study has been made. A tree and woodland survey will also be carried out as part of the background work.

PLANNING

Development Management: September, 2019

Summary	Total to September		% Change
	2018	2019	
Planning Applications Received	644	704	Up 9%
Planning Applications Granted	526	560	Up 7%
Planning Applications Refused	51	54	Up 5%
Complaints Received	79	93	Up 17%
Warning Letters Issued	56	102	Up 82%
Enforcements Notices Issued	38	34	Down 11%
Cases Closed	49	86	Up 75%

- There is a 9% increase in planning applications up to end of September, year on year.
- The number of complaints received is up 17%.
- The number of cases closed by Planning Enforcement has increased over the same period by 75%.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Regional Assembly published proposed material amendments to the Draft RSES on the



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Graigenamanagh Local Area Plan

The Forward Planning team met with the Thomastown Municipal District Members and Carlow County Council officials to initiate a joint Local Area Plan for Graigenamanagh and Tinnahinch. Both local Authorities will enter a Section 86 Agreement under the Local Government Act 2001 for the joint discharge of functions in this case. An issues paper has been produced. This will be published shortly as part of the pre-draft public consultation exercise. Notices will be placed in local papers in both Counties in the coming weeks on the Council's Consult website and social media channels. A public meeting which will be held in early November.

Vacant Sites

There are now 28 sites on the Vacant Sites Register. A total of 14 of these were liable for the 3% levy. Two sites have had their levy discharged to date.

- The number of cancelled entries due to site activation now stands at 10 sites.
- A total of 7 appeals were lodged with An Bord Pleanála against the notices of entry for 2019 and all determinations have now been made by the Bord; the most recent decision was the cancellation of site ref. VSR19-17 in Bolton Green, Callan. The Bord significantly changed its approach on the assessment of Vacant sites since responses to those appeals were submitted.
- An article will be published on the Council page in the near future outlining the progress on, and benefits of, the Vacant Sites Register.
- Work will commence on adding sites to the Register for 2020 shortly.

Conservation

- The implementation of the two conservation grants, the Built Heritage and Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund is continuing.

- Conservation advice and guidance continues on the upcoming conservation and refurbishment works at Inistioge. The works is part of funding allocated through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- A Seminar on "Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings" is planned for 22nd October. The Seminar will include speakers from both the public and private sectors on the best approach for energy upgrade of historic buildings, Government actions as part of the Climate Action Plan 2019, Building Energy Renovation Passport, Training and Grants for home owners and agents;
- The scope of a Survey of the Traditional Shopfronts in Kilkenny City has been agreed and will commence shortly

Taking in Charge

The following development has been placed on the agenda for commencement of the taking in charge process:

- Hunters Wood, Newmarket.

Works have been completed on the following estates and formal bond claims have recently been submitted to the bond holder:

- Brookfield Ballyhale;
- Bellfield, Ferrybank;
- Ard Glas, Ban Ard, Ferrybank; and
- Kingscourt Callan.

Works are scheduled to commence shortly at the following estates:

- The Greens Ballyfoyle;
- Banagher Court Piltown; and
- Clonkil Callan.

ENVIRONMENT

Remediation Works Completed at Historic Landfill in Gowran

Works to remediate the historic landfill in Rockfield, Gowran commenced in June 2019. The Contract was awarded to Priority Construction Limited. Works progressed over the summer and



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

the contract was completed in September. The project was funded by Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment.



During the Works



Completed Works

Enhanced works were also carried out at the entrance to the facility which included the erection of new signage and pollinator friendly landscaping.



Operation THOR

In conjunction with An Garda Síochána the Council's Environment Enforcement Team stopped over 50 vehicles and inspected their cargo and permit authorisations as part of Operation Thor on the 25th September.



Six staff from the Environment Office and one member from the Southern Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities (WERLA) office attended 4 checkpoints on the day. One company was issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of €500 for not have the correct permit documentation available for the movement of waste. The feedback from the public was positive. The Environment Office intend to build on this inter-agency initiative and the co-operation and assistance of An Garda Síochána in this regard is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Dummore Civic Amenity Centre

The summer was a busy period at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Centre with recycling rates up on the 2018 tonnages across all waste streams. This would indicate that the new Waste Management Bye-laws and Enforcement initiatives are changing waste disposal behaviour.

Council commence door to door household inspections for compliance with Waste Management Bye-laws.

Following the adoption of the County Kilkenny Waste Management Bye-laws in December of last year, a national and local awareness campaign outlining householder responsibility in dealing with waste under the new Bye-Laws was run over the summer and an information brochure was distributed to households within the county.

As part of the next stage the Environment Team has recently commenced with door to door inspections, whereby householders have to demonstrate proof that their waste is managed in accordance with the Bye-laws and is disposed of by either an approved waste operator or brought by the householder to an authorised waste facility. Regarding the latter, householders and commercial premises are being advised to retain receipts for waste disposal for inspection purposes. The focus of the inspections is currently on the city but it will be extended out across the county.

The feedback from the households inspected to-date is quite positive with a general acceptance that illegal dumping activity must stop.





KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

National Tidy Towns Results

The National Tidy Town Awards was announced on 30th September. County Kilkenny had 21 entries. Kilkenny City was awarded a gold medal & received Best in County. Keep Kilkenny Beautiful also scooped the All Ireland Pollinator Award for a Large Town in the South East and it was a runner up in the Sustainable Development Award. Inistioge won a silver medal and was highly commended and Tullahought won a silver medal and was commended.

Tullahought also won the All Ireland Pollinator Award for a Small Town in the South East. Ballyragget won the Endeavour Award as it improved its score by 4.5%, it was one of three towns in the county to improve their marks by over ten points which is a brilliant advancement in the competition. Coon village re-entered the competition after a long absence and Listerlin village entered the competition for the first time.

Tidy Towns Forum

The final Tidy Towns Forum for 2019 will take place on 22nd October. Catherine Keena from Teasagc will speak about Hedgerows for Biodiversity and provide an overview of how Tidy Town groups can work with farmers. Following the presentation, Tidy Town groups will discuss their national tidy town results and suggest forum activities for 2020. Elected members are invited to attend: contact Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer for further details.



Greening Savour Kilkenny Festival of Food



Kilkenny County Council received funding from the EPA under the Local Authority Prevention Network to assist Savour Kilkenny to further enhance greening initiatives that commenced in 2018.

A three bin segregation system will operate at the festival this year with Ossory Youth acting as waste ambassadors. There will be a Stop Food Waste Demonstration Stand on the Parade over the weekend highlighting different composting methods assisted by volunteers who undertook the master composting course in Inistioge last spring.

Community Environment Action Fund 2019

The closing date for applications was 27th September and 40 applications were received. The applications are currently being processed and will be forwarded to the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment who will determine the successful applicants.

October Re-Use Month

National Reuse Month is a waste prevention initiative to raise awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of reusing every day items and materials that would otherwise go to waste.

The main emphasis of the month will be the promotion of www.repairmystuff.ie, an online repair directory that promotes local repair services for free.

Three events have been organised to engage the community to think about living a more sustainable lifestyle in association with the Library Service.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

BRANCH	EVENT & DATE
Thomastown	De-Clutter Workshop 17th October
Graignamanagh	De-Clutter Workshop 17th October
Castlecomer	Swap Shop 22nd October Onwards

In addition to the library events, Kilkenny County Council has part funded a series of up-cycling workshops at the KCAT Arts Centre in Callan running from the 28th October to the 1st November via the waste prevention programme.



Green Schools Info. Evening

There were 27 schools represented at the green school information evening on the 24th September. It took place in the Kilkenny Education Centre, organised by the Environment Section and facilitated by the Education Unit of An Taisce.

Up-date Report- RMCEI 2019

(Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan)

RMCEI	No. Inspections undertaken up to end of Sept 2019
WFD Monitoring, op & surveys, samples taken	328
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services	483
Ambient Monitoring	162
Commercial Food Waste Inspections	4
Inspections of existing planning permissions	474
Ground water quality (Planning inspections)	115
Bring bank surveillance	168
Bring bank inspections	125
Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys	47
Inspections under the 2012 Solvents Regs	

Routine Litter Patrols – City	144
Routine Litter Patrols – County	104

CRM – Customer Relations Management

140 complaints were received during September. All complaints have been investigated and appropriate action taken.

LAWPRO

Water Quality and the National Ploughing Championship, Ballintrane, Fenagh, County Carlow, 17–19 September, 2019



In 2019 LAWPRO attended the National Ploughing Championships for the third successive year and collaborated, also for the third year in a row, with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. Our “Water Quality”-themed stand was located in the “Environment, Climate and Sustainability” marquee, which was managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE).

All agencies and public bodies in that space were linked by their connection to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.



The core message this year was built around the idea of “Water Catchment”, a theme chosen in order to highlight links between activities on land and water quality in rivers, lakes and coastal



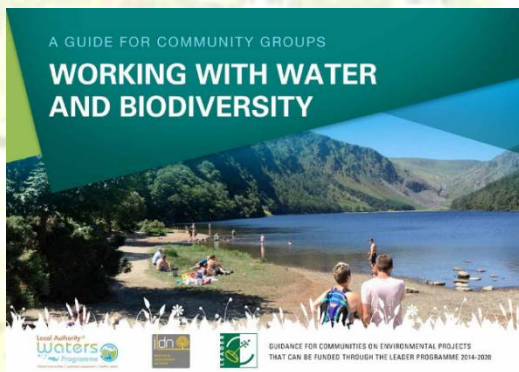
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
OCTOBER 2019
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

waters. The activities referred to include agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, urban wastewater treatment, domestic wastewater treatment, urban run-off and water-based recreational activities.

Instead of focusing on the problems in a catchment, the emphasis is placed on identifying solutions and on the need for communities to work together, in tandem with the work of public bodies.

A Guidebook for Community Groups Working with Water

LAWPRO recently published *Working with Water and Biodiversity*, a guidebook for community groups. This publication was produced in collaboration with the Irish Rural Development Network and provides community groups with guidance regarding environmental projects that can be funded through the LEADER Programme 2014—2020. The guidebook is also a useful tool for LCDs and Community & Enterprise sections of Local Authorities



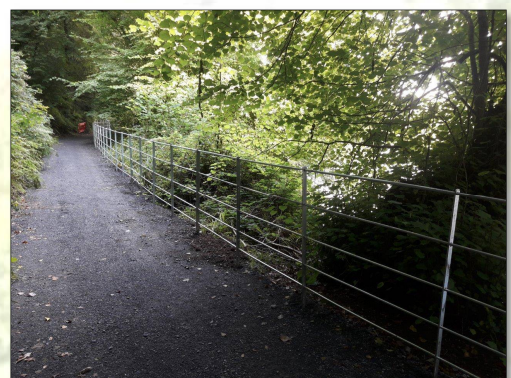
PARKS

Woodstock Gardens

Work is now complete on the rehabilitation of the Woodstock Loop Walks with over 3.5 km of trails completed. The reaction has been very positive encouraging many visitors to the village of Inistioge to venture further into the woodland. In addition, improvement works took place to the

main entrance gates of the Woodstock estate. This includes formal planting, stone kerbing and decorative gravel to enhance the entrance. This project is being carried out with the support of Coillte who manage the wider Woodstock estate and commercial woodlands.

This project is part funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), the aim of which is to improve outdoor trail infrastructure across the country. Funding of €337,500 was received with €84,400 matching funding being provided by the Local Authority.



Woodstock Trails: The Riverside paths have been made safer for pedestrians with the installation of railings where the drop to the river is steep. This rail type is based on the estate type rail typical elsewhere within the Woodstock Estate.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Woodstock Entrance Gates



Before



After



Pollinator Planting

The Parks section with the support of the city parks department continues to promote a more sustainable approach to planting with the aim also of supporting pollinators which are in decline nationally and internationally due mainly to habitat loss. One such project at the Hebron Roundabout, on the link road from the motorway is currently in full bloom and is buzzing with insects attracted to the scented range of perennials.



Colourful blooms providing an attractive approach to Kilkenny city with the added benefit of supporting pollinators.

Playgrounds

Works are underway to give the playground in the Fair Green in Callan a facelift as part of the Fair Green Regeneration Project. This playground is now over 13 years old meaning some items are understandably showing wear and tear. The works which are almost complete will involve upgrading the safety surfacing, replacing fencing around the junior play area and painting of equipment. Two new pieces of equipment will also be added to provide more variety in the play offering. Other works such as tree planting and seating areas will be added in the autumn months.



Newly refurbished play equipment, Fair Green Callan

Following some unfortunate incidents of anti-social behaviour the play items at the Fr. McGrath Centre playground were removed on a temporary basis. The playground equipment is in storage and will be reinstalled once CCTV is provided. The Junior playground remains as it is directly linked to the Fr. McGrath Centre crèche and is in daily use. In lieu of the playground a new macadam surfaced and basketball hoop was provided for informal ball games. Funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative was used to pick litter and tidy up the site, including works to open up the site visibly to discourage dumping and anti-social behaviour.



Colourful pollinator friendly planting enhances the riverside walk through the Peace Park



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

LEO/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

South East Local Enterprise Office (LEO) projects secure allocation from €2.5 million competitive fund

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD announced the results of the new €2.5 million Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Competitive Fund. Sixteen projects have received funding nationally and among those receiving funding was Kilkenny Local Enterprise Office who are leading on 3 of these projects in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Offices from Carlow, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. Three projects have secured total funding of €345,000. The successful projects are:

- **'Green for Micro' Project**, which aims to assist enterprises incorporate sustainable practices to assist them in transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy focused on water, energy, waste, procurement and transport in collaboration with 3 Counties Energy Agency.
- **'Initium South East Project'** which is an innovative series of start-up programmes led by the South East LEOs, Enterprise Ireland, and the Ireland South East Office in partnership with South East BIC and IT Carlow. This project aims to animate, develop and support the creation of 40 new specialised Start Up companies in the South East.
- **'Incrementum South East Project'** which is a targeted business development programme for the LEO Portfolio of clients over 10 employees and aims to increase their engagement in R&D and Export Activity.

The successful applications were selected through a rigorous evaluation process based on criteria, which included economic impacts and value for money, collaboration and participation, Future Jobs orientation, collaboration and building regional strengths and viability and sustainability.



L to R: Mr. Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the Local Enterprise Office Network; Fiona Deegan, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny; Heather Humphreys, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Mark Christal, Manager, Regions and Entrepreneurship, Enterprise Ireland

Two Major Job Announcements for Kilkenny Creating 102 New Jobs

Security Risk Advisors (SRA), the Pennsylvania-based cyber security consulting company, announced in September that it is establishing a European Headquarters and Security Operations Centre (SOC) in Kilkenny. 52 jobs will be created over the next five years. The project is supported by the Irish Government through IDA Ireland and are currently operating from The Abbey Business Centre.



L to R: An Cathaoirleach, Peter Cleere and Chief Executive, Colette Byrne welcome the announcement of 50 jobs in Intellync, AB Agri's data and technology business along with Minister Pat Breen, Minister for Trade, Employment, Business and EU Digital Single Market and Minister John Paul along with the team from the IDA and AB Agri.

AB Agri Ltd, the agricultural division of Associated British Foods (ABF) group which operates in the retail, food and agriculture sectors,



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

is to establish a Technology Centre in Kilkenny, creating up to 50 new roles over five years. The project is supported by the Irish government through IDA Ireland.

Series of Breakfast Briefings held over the past number of weeks

Over 70 stakeholders attended a series of 4 Breakfast Briefings recently targeting business groups, auctioneers and the media under the Invest Kilkenny brand. The aim of the breakfast briefings was to provide information on the vast amount of positive developments which are currently happening in Kilkenny.

Jason Clerkin, CEO of The Abbey Quarter Partnership provided attendees with an outline of the works being carried out on the site, detailing the works happening in Phase I and Phase II of the development. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive presented on other developments happening outside of the Abbey Quarter.

The feedback from attendees was extremely positive and it is intended to hold briefings on a more regular basis going forward.

County Kilkenny Entrepreneur John Duggan represents the County at the National Final of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur

John Duggan co-founder of Loanitt Ltd represented Kilkenny at the National Final of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition on 15th September.



L to R: Sean Mc Keown, Director of Services; Padraig Nolan, Loanitt Ltd. Cllr. Peter Cleere (Cathaoirleach); John Duggan, Loanitt Ltd and Fiona Deegan, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office

Kilkenny Company Envirico Ltd. exhibit at National Ploughing Championships Local Enterprise Village

Kilkenny company, Envirico Ltd, were one of over 30 Local Enterprise Office clients from across the country who exhibited in the Local Enterprise Village at this year's National Ploughing Championships in Carlow recently. Envirico Ltd. offers customized solutions to control and tackle the problems associated with invasive species both on land and in water. Amanda Greer, Senior Project Manager with Envirico Ltd said "The Local Enterprise Village provides a great location and offers great PR opportunities. It has the potential to open doors to meet other sectors that might not have been accessible to us or even on our radar". She added "It was well worth doing; you never know what new business could arise as a result".

David McWilliams Talks All Things Economic

The Local Enterprise Office hosted 'Ready, Set, Brexit', a Brexit preparedness evening on October 2nd in Hotel Kilkenny attended by 90 delegates. Chief Executive, Colette Byrne addressed the gathering, briefing the attendees on Kilkenny County Council developments around the county including the Breaghagh Valley and the Abbey Quarter. David McWilliams, one of Ireland's most recognised and influential economic and social commentators, addressed the local business community about all things economic and shared his own take on Brexit.





KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

LEO Key Statistics for 2019

€450,588 approved to 26 businesses linked to the creation of 66 over a 3 year period;

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

532 participants attended 35 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;

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

90 participants attended 6 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;

16 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €36,035 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;

11 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets, value €17,996.10 with 21 jobs associated.

8 businesses were assisted to make applications for the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme and Microfinance Ireland Fund;

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

4 businesses have been transferred to/from Enterprise Ireland in order to avail of relevant supports;

27 businesses are currently participating in the Growth Mentor programme.

- Planning a campaign – setting objectives and reaching your target audience.
- Measuring success.

This was a very beneficial training session and networking event.

Food Strategy

Rebecca Mackenzie, who pioneered the food tourism sector in Toronto will be the guest speaker for the launch night of the Food Strategy funded by Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP), to be held in Butler House on **October 24th**. Rebecca will meet with local agencies sponsoring the Food Strategy to explore the suitability of the 'Feast On' for County Kilkenny. She will also be meeting with all Kilkenny Foodservice operators and food tourism operators. The objective is to engage them in the concept of a local food verification system.

Local Experts Workshop

Fáilte Ireland engaged the help of the tourism team to organise 'a Local Experts Workshop' in Kilkenny. **Following the success of earlier workshops** which saw more than 80 local business people and tourism professionals join the **KNOW KILKENNY Local Experts Network**.

Fáilte Ireland invited locals to join this network and help grow the local economy by attending one of the **KNOW KILKENNY** workshops. These interactive workshops cover what there is to see and do in Kilkenny and Local Experts receive future social media communications, a Local Experts Pass and the fantastic opportunity to network with other tourism businesses and interests.

Target sectors include: B&B owners, Hoteliers, Restaurants, Pubs, Retail Stores, Taxi Companies, and people active in their local community who deal with visitors on a regular basis.

Taste The Island

The Discover Ireland initiative 'Taste the Island' is a celebration of Ireland's Food and Drink' taking place from September 6th – November 30th 2019.

TOURISM

Tourism Team Attend 'Media Training' Hosted By Fáilte Ireland

The Tourism team attended a Media workshop organised by Fáilte Ireland for Tourism Officers from across the country. The workshop covered:

- Overview of the Irish media marketplace.
- What media to use? – the pros and cons of the different media on offer.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

The Tourism Team worked with local stakeholders from the food and drinks sector to generate ideas and get them involved in this opportunity to showcase the very best of Kilkenny's food and drink culture.

The Tourism Team engaged with restaurants, local craft food and drink producers to festivals and food trails and others, to ensure they were all included in this All Ireland Initiative.

AIB Event Provides An Ideal Showcase For Kilkenny & Local Food Producers



On Tuesday 24th September, Kilkenny County Council supported and facilitated the launch of the 'National Insights Report on the Tourism and Hospitality sector' in the Parade Tower. It was attended by 100 high level executives. MC for the evening was Bobby Kerr.

Following the launch and a busy schedule of presentations and Q&A sessions, Kilkenny Tourism hosted a social reception for the attendees which gave Kilkenny's artisan food and beverage community an opportunity to showcase the best of local food and beverage products at a special reception in the Medieval Mile Museum.



HOUSING

HOUSING CAPITAL DELIVERY

Kilkenny Revised Targets 2018-2021 @ 12/03/2019

	Targets 2018-2021	2019 Targets
Build		114
Acquisition		46
Leasing		30
Sub-Total	599	190
HAP/RAS		184
All Streams		374

Schemes Completed in 2019 to-date:

- 16 Units at Friary Walk, Callan (*Cluid AHB*)
- 4 Apartments Love Lane, Castlecomer (*Co-operative Housing*)
- 54 units Ballybough Street, KK (*Respond Housing*)
- 1 house at St Mary's Group Housing Scheme, Hebron, Kilkenny

Schemes under Construction at 30 Sept. 2019:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan,
- 27 units Walkin Street, KK (*Oaklee Housing*)
- 15 units Nuncio Road, KK (*Respond Housing*)
- 17 Units at Breaghagh Place, Main Street, Piltown
- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan
- 6 Units at New Road and Chapel St, Mooncoin
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett
- 4 units (*Group home*) at Cloghabrody, Thomastown
- 6 units at Bridge St, Callan (*GSC*)

Schemes at Tender Stage

- 18 units at 'Broguemaker', Castlecomer Road
- 5 units at Grennan Villa, Thomastown (*Camphill*)



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
OCTOBER 2019
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Schemes at Detailed Design Stage

- 6 units at Golf Links Road, (Mulhalls Shop) Kilkenny

Schemes at Planning Stage:

- Development of 86 units (houses/apartments) and community facility at Crokers Hill, Kennyswell Road, KK – closing date for submissions Friday 27th September 2019.



38 units under construction at Hoban Park, Callan



17 Units at Breagh Place, Main Street, Piltown

Turnkeys

Kilkenny County Council sought expressions of interest from interested parties to deliver completed units of accommodation by way of 'turnkey'. The closing date was 13th September. Eighteen (18) submissions were received and they are currently being reviewed. Housing Capital Staff will be in contact with the relevant parties in the coming weeks.

September Monthly Statistics

Number awaiting social housing support at 30 th September, 2019 (Gross Need)	1,976
Number of assessment interviews carried out in September:	33

LA/RAS/Leasing allocations in September (offers made):	14
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th September:	871
Number of LA tenancies surrendered in September:	4
Anti-social behaviour cases in September:	75
New Homeless Presentations in September:	26
Maintenance Calls for September 2019	459
Maintenance Calls year to date	3,673
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	11
Amount of Loans Approved to 30 th September, 2019	€1,731,420

Housing List

The current **gross** Housing demand at 30th September is 1,976 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
September 2019	1,976
December 2018	2,067
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744

Private Grants

Minister for Housing by letter dated 11th May notified Kilkenny County Council that it's allocations for the three grant schemes is €1,922,638 in 2019. Kilkenny County Council is required to fund €384,528 i.e. 20%.

Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP) grant was advertised in late 2018 and 280 completed applications were received. The position on all three grants is as follows;



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Grants Approved 30th Sept 2019

Scheme	No.	Amount Approved
HGD: Housing Adaptation Grant	98	€1,143,694
MAG: Mobility Aid Grant	21	€104,755
HOP: Housing Aid for Older Persons	219	€1,118,356
Total	338	€2,366,805

Grants Paid out to 30th Sept 2019:

Scheme	No.	Amount Paid
HGD: Housing Adaptation Grant	65	€714,064
MAG: Mobility Aid Grant	16	€81,448
HOP: Housing Aid for Older Persons	161	€798,290
Total	242	€1,593,802

Housing Loan Activity at 30th September, 2019

	Annuity/ RI Home Loan	Reconstruction Loan	Caravan Loan
Received	29	1	1
Approved	11	1	1
Amount App.	€1,731,420	€10,000	€6,160
No. Paid	14	1	1
Amount Paid	€2,102,995	€10,000	€6,160

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)

At the September meeting of Kilkenny County Council a Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted by Elected Members to ensure the planned delivery of housing to meet the needs of our travelling community over the period 2019 to 2024. During the period 2014 to 2019, 90 Traveller families have been provided with accommodation solutions and this plan sets out the targeted delivery of a further 66 housing solutions for the period up to 2024.

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for the first nine months of 2019 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are set out below. There were 187 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/09/2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	37	29	37	25
February	30	26	32	12
March	18	26	21	16
April	26	25	18	16
May	34	28	29	20
June	31	24	20	14
July	31	34	15	30
August	32	27	26	28
September	27	24	19	26
Total	266	243	217	187

Strategic Policy Committee (Housing SPC3)

At the Annual General Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on 7th June 2019, Cllr Joe Malone was appointed as the Chairperson of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee. The nominated elected members to the Housing SPC are:

- Cllrs Joe Malone, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Eamon Aylward, Martin Brett, Joe Lyons, Denis Hynes & Eugene McGuinness.

The remaining SPC membership must be filled from the National pillars and PPN and closing date for receipt of nominations was 27th September, 2019. The first SPC meeting is arranged for 24th October provided all members have been appointed.

COMMUNITY

Age Friendly Award Judging

The Judges from the National Age Friendly Recognition Awards visited Kilkenny to see the



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

work carried out in Kilkenny. Kilkenny Age Friendly is shortlisted in the Business Innovation category for the 'Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme'. The programme carried out training for businesses in Kilkenny to raise awareness of the needs of older customers and make businesses a friendlier place for older people to do business.

The Judges visited MacDonagh Junction Shopping centre and received presentations on the programme and its success in Kilkenny.

Award winners will be announced on 14th November.

Joint Analysis and Planning Process for North Kilkenny, South Laois and East Tipperary

In the County Kilkenny Local Economic & Community Plan the Johnstown Urlingford area has been prioritised for a socio-economic planning process in 2019. A number of plans have been developed for a villages and smaller towns in south Co Laois. Similarly, in Co Tipperary various planning process can also be observed. Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny LEADER Partnership, Laois County Council, Laois Partnership, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership and Tipperary County Council have started a process of:

1. Analysis/profiling of work and plans that relate to this area within the time frame of the current Local Economic Community Plans.
2. Profiling of the area - a statistical analysis of the population that reflects levels of disadvantage, wealth and opportunity in the area's population. In the profiling the process will explore issues and opportunities in processes of interactive and inclusive consultation with communities and key players in the delivery of services and drivers of local development.
3. Profiling of the infrastructural, community, recreational, cultural and heritage assets in the area. Particular areas to be considered;

- River & Waterways- Turn to the River/ flooding/ biodiversity
- Transport: public (busses/ hackneys) & cycling, etc
- Broadband/ Digital
- Energy
- Shared space enhancement: public realm/ heritage/ tourism.

4. Mapping economic/business activity in the area to produce information about potential new activities, identifying potential opportunities and blockages that will support a collected response that will support increased economic activity in the area.

5. Development of an integrated socio-economic plan for the area in the process that engages the contributors the research process, key decision makers and actors and which links the strategies to tackle disadvantage and create economic movement this region.

Kilkenny County Council's Data Analyst will provide this analysis for application to future plan development for the area.



Volunteer Centre for Kilkenny

The Department of Rural and Community Development has made provision for the

establishment of a Volunteer Centre in Kilkenny. Volunteer Ireland will lead the process to commence the set up of the centre before year end.

The Volunteer Centre will help people who want to volunteer in their communities to find suitable volunteer roles and will help local organisations to recruit volunteers. It will also provide other services like Garda vetting and training in volunteer management.

Volunteer Ireland are now looking for people to get involved as they establish the new centre in Kilkenny. A public meeting was held on Sept 30th in Kilkenny and people who are interested in getting involved should learn more about what



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

the centre will do and how to become a board member by logging on to <https://www.volunteer.ie/about-us/vacancies/new-volunteer-centres-in-8-counties/>.

Volunteer Centres work closely with County Councils, PPNs, Local development Companies, Local Community and Development Committee and the voluntary sector locally and nationally. The PPN and Community Section are committed to supporting Volunteer Ireland in the successful establishment of its centre in Kilkenny which will give huge support to community and voluntary groups around the county.

Grant Information Book

The third edition of the Kilkenny County Council Grant Booklet is presently being developed with the aim of launching the booklet in January 2020. This Grant Booklet and relevant information will also be available online where the general public can access relevant grant details in the **Grants ONE STOP SHOP** portal that is hosted on the Kilkenny County Council website.

The Grants Booklet and ONE STOP SHOP for funding informs community groups of funding streams available to carry out and complete various types of community activities and projects in their areas.

Town & Village 2019

Kilkenny County Council has submitted 12 applications under the 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Funding decisions in relation to these applications are due in Mid-October and will be circulated.

Healthy Ireland

An application has been submitted on behalf of the LCDC for Healthy Ireland Funding.

The proposal consists of:

- (i) A Lone parents support & development worker;
- (ii) A Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator,

(iii) Regional programmes covering Healthy Food Made Easy, Positive Ageing, Tobacco Free, Sexual Health;

(iv) A Social prosccribing & Wellbing Co-ordinator.

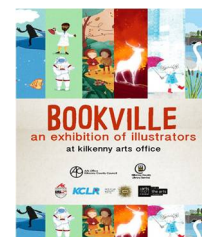
(v) Healthy Communities Development Officer.

Total initiative costs are €246,000 and are fully funded under the Healthy Ireland programme.

ARTS

Bookville

The Bookville Festival was launched on 11th September and to date most festival events are fully booked.



Illustrators Exhibition

As part of the Bookville Festival, the Arts Office is working with six of the illustrators that are or have been involved in the Festival since its inception to mount an illustrator's exhibition. They include Carol Ann Treacy, Chris Judge, Tarsila Kruse, Tatyana Feeny, Wayne O'Connor and Jennifer Farley. We also have an education pack to complement the exhibition which will support the teachers and schoolchildren in better understanding the process undertaken by artists and book illustrators. We have bookings for most of the slots available to schools but we will also have openings for the general public to view this exciting exhibition!

Culture Night 20th September 2019

The Arts Office coordinated Culture Night 2019 in Kilkenny with 13 venues hosting 17 events, with exhibitions, workshops and musical evenings on offer. Over 3,152 adults and children attended Culture Nights events in Kilkenny City and County.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL



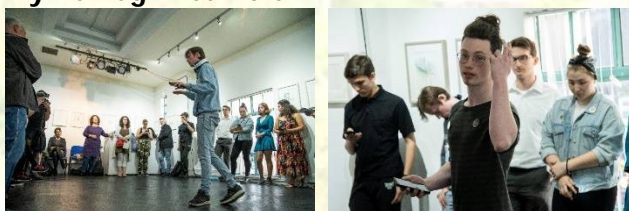
Culture Night in Kilkenny 2019

CPD workshop with Visual Artists Ireland

The Arts Office, as part of our commitment to visual artists, coordinating with Visual Artists Ireland, hosted a Peer Critique / Career Review Clinic for Kilkenny based artists with curator Lucy Newman Cleeve, on Saturday 14th September in the Arts Office Gallery. The clinic was fully booked and the feedback was very positive. The attendees have decided, going forward, to meet up and review and progress what they have learned in the workshop.

Based on their feedback from the workshop, we will assess the potential of liaising with Visual Artists Ireland on future workshops in Kilkenny.

Rhyme Rag Ensemble



The young poets performed as part of the Culture Night celebrations and it is very apparent now how their confidence is growing. We also have a number of new members who have joined the group recently and who attended the workshop with professional writer Jessica Traynor.

The Emerging Curator in Residence Programme has come to an end and it is clear that this programme has been hugely beneficial to both the Curator in her early career development, but also to the 7 artists who exhibited in the gallery this year.

LIBRARY SERVICES



Dormant Account Funding

Dormant account funding of €26,250 was approved for Kilkenny Library Service to develop supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities across the county.

A programme of workshops, talks and supports is currently being developed by the Library Service to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, as well as their parents and teachers. The aim is to establish the library network as a sensory friendly library service.

Culture Night

This year, we celebrated Culture night with Author Niamh Boyce in City Library, John's Quay. Niamh's latest book *Her Kind* was inspired by the true story of our own Alice Kyteler.



The event consisted of an evening reading & discussion, led by Liz Walsh of Stone House books. Niamh discussed her research process, and the historical context of the book, which was of great interest to the audience. The event was preceded by a 2 hour writing workshop with Niamh.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

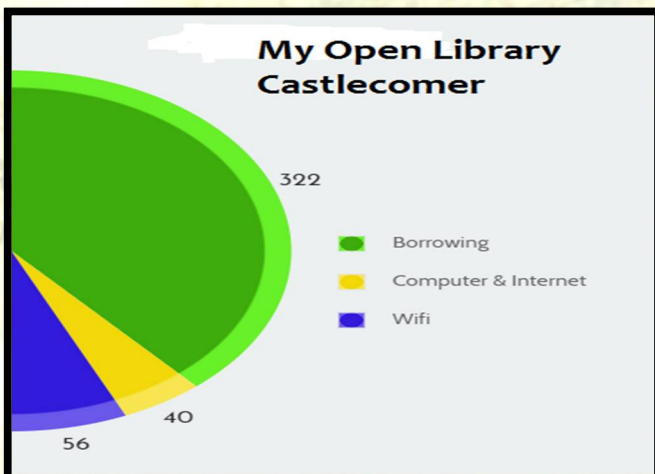
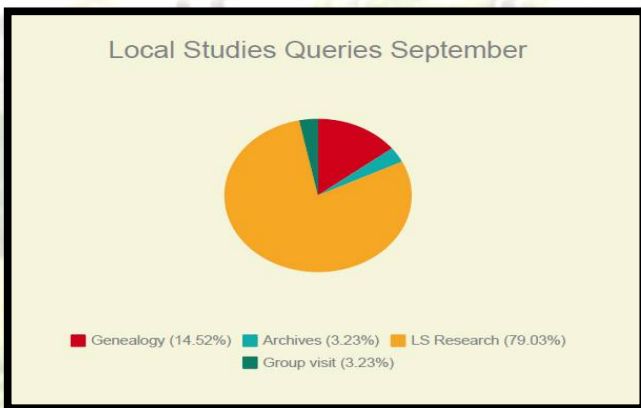
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Communicating our work

- kilkennylibrary.ie**
Pageviews: 14,569
- @kilkennylibrary** (Facebook)
Followers: 3,225
Engagement: 4,223
- @kilkennylibrary** (Twitter)
Followers: 2,100
- @kilkennylibrary** (Instagram)
Followers: 1,195



HERITAGE

Photographic Audit: Shopfronts Kilkenny City

The Heritage Office and Planning Section of Kilkenny County Council have commissioned a photographic audit of a number of shopfronts in Kilkenny City. These shopfronts, many of which date back to the 1900's, contribute to the character, visual appeal, and cultural heritage of the city. It's intended that the project will be used to increase public awareness, and inform discussion on policies and actions to value and protect them. Co-funding was provided under the Kilkenny Creative Ireland Programme. The audit will be complete by Dec 2019.

Glenmore Biodiversity is Mapped

The hedgerows, woodlands, mill stream and old stone walls of Glenmore have been recorded and mapped in a new habitat report commissioned by the Heritage Office. The report, prepared for Glenmore Tidy Towns committee, includes recommendations to support pollinators, and advice on addressing the "Nature & Biodiversity" category in the national Tidy Towns competition. It will also be used to inform future works and grant applications in the village. The final report was presented to the Tidy Towns committee at a meeting in Glenmore Community Hall on 27th September.



CIVIL DEFENCE

KILKENNY CIVIL DEFENCE

In July 2018 a New Civil Defence Officer was appointed to grow the organisation in Kilkenny. Since then the number of volunteers has grown significantly. This has increased the capabilities of



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

the organisation to provide safety boat and casualty cover for community events. Many events rely on the services that Civil Defence provide to comply with Health & Safety. Between January and September 2019, the volunteers have covered 26 duties in the community including the Fairytale Festival, the Homecoming, the Nore Swim, Inistioge Vintage Rally and the Coalface Duathlon, in Castelcomer equating to 100hrs of duties. As well as responding to 3 emergency river search & rescue call-outs.



The unit is now getting Winter ready in preparation for adverse weather conditions with all drivers having undertaken an off-road severe weather driving course and swift water self-rescue.



	July 2018	September 2019
Volunteers	11	27
First Aid Responders (FAR)	5	15
Emergency First Responders (EFR)	3	8
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	2	3
Paramedic	1	1

The volunteers take part in weekly training covering casualty, search and rescue, communications and flooding. An increased number of volunteers have been trained. This year Interagency training took place with the Kilkenny Fire Service and other Civil Defence Units from around the South East and was very successful. Over 200 hours of training has been completed so far in 2019.



Recent additions to the vehicle fleet through the dormant accounts brings the total of off-road vehicles to five; plus as a newly appointed communications Vehicle equipped with Wifi, computer screens and communications base station.

FIRE SERVICES

Community Engagement & Education

Visits by various groups to the Fire Stations were facilitated. First years from Callan CBS visited Callan Fire Station. Castlecomer Fire Station held an open day in the station for the community. The Annual Fire Service Mass was held in Duiske Abbey for past, present and deceased members of the fire service.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
OCTOBER 2019
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Cathaoirleach Peter Chap Cleere presented commemorative medals to Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service held a seminar with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee on Best Practice in Early Years Centres- Ensuring compliance with regulations.



Influencing & Regulating the Built Environment

We have received 79 Fire Safety Certificate Applications to date, 64 have been granted and 15 are being assessed.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers held fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has aided greatly in reducing:

- our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation, and
- our Fire Safety certificate refusal rates.

To-date 73 licensing applications were processed by the Fire Service through the licensing court system.

Fire Service Operations

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have attended 400 incidents (436 incidents were attended for the same period last year 1/9/19).

Picture below shows Castlecomer Fire Brigade carrying out a hazardous materials incident training at Loone Water Treatment Plant as part of their weekly training.

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

- Delivery of a new Fire Brigade Mechanics van has taken place.
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher training was provided to members of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service.
- A number of new recruits have successfully passed their QQI Level 6: Fire fighting Skills course.
- Firefighters from Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service have carried out pump operator training.
- Training in Major Emergency Management has been received by a number of staff.
- Delivery and training of Tetra Radios has been delivered to each of the fire stations
- The Flood Emergency Response Plan has been reviewed and updated.
- The Severe Weather Plan (excluding flooding) has also been reviewed and updated.
- Training was provided to 2 firefighters as Instructors in Compartment Fire Behaviour.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

FINANCE REPORT – OCTOBER 2019

The expenditure by service division to the end of September is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €64.0m compared with the annual budget of €79.7m.

Table 1	Actual YTD September 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	14,755	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	18,887	22,328
Water Services	4,959	6,674
Development Management	6,896	9,718
Environmental Services	8,387	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	4,885	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	387	640
Miscellaneous Services	4,837	6,452
Overall Total	63,993	79,700

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for 78 days in the nine months to the end of September 2019. The maximum overdrawn balance was €5,703k.

Kilkenny County Council collection figures for the main income groups for the end of September 2019 are consistent with the corresponding period for last year and we are expecting to achieve our targets for 2019.

Following the revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny in 2017 by the Valuation office 196 property owners appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal. The total value of the rate demand under appeal is €4.5m representing 23% of the annual rate demand. A total of 102 appeals have been processed to date resulting in a reduction in annual rates income of almost €400k. If this trend continues the estimated loss in annual rates income could exceed €1.1m. Appeal decisions are backdated to the 1st of January 2018. It could take a number of months yet before all appeals are dealt with.

The process of preparing the annual budget for 2020 is underway. Despite the decision taken by Council in September to vary the base rate of Local Property Tax there remain significant challenges to achieving a balanced budget for 2020. The additional income from the Local Property Tax will enable Council to continue to provide discretionary funding similar to the levels allocated for 2019. Additional income will be required to meet the increased expenditure demands across all service areas. The proposed date for the budget meeting is November 25th.