

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
JANUARY – MARCH 2017



APRIL 2017

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

27th April, 2017: Creative Ireland Programme share information Open Meeting, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny, at 6.15 p.m.

9th June, 2017: Closing Date for receipt of applications for Kilkenny County Council Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme.

11th June, 2017: National Street Fest Day.

30th June, 2017: Kilkenny LCDC: Closing for applications for DHPCLG's Community Facilities Funding Scheme Community Facilities and LCDC Applications

Draft River Basin Management Plan – Note Consultation Dates on Page 7.

CLÁR 2017: Closing date for receipt of applications to the Council is 28th April, 2017. All applications received by the Council to be submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government before 5th May, 2017.

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ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects for the first three months of 2017 in County Kilkenny:-

Kilkenny Central Access Scheme Phase 2

The construction of the CAS Bridge, under Phase One of this Project, was completed in mid 2016. Phase Two of the scheme provides for the construction of the Central Access Scheme from the west side of the Bridge to St. Canice's Place and from the east side of the Bridge to the Castlecomer Road, including the widening of the Castlecomer Road and the reconfiguration of the New Road Roundabout. Works on this project are nearing completion and it is expected that the new street and bridge will be opened up to the public in May 2017.

N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

The contract for the N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme was awarded to SIAC Construction Limited on the 21st December 2016. This Scheme has been an objective of Kilkenny County Council for many years and there is no doubt, when completed, will greatly enhance the lives of the residents living along the road, improve road safety and provide for a more attractive approach into Kilkenny City.

The scheme itself extends for 4.38km's from the N76 Callan Road Roundabout, on the Ring Road, to the Brownstown Junction. The Scheme provides for the introduction of on-line footpaths/cycle tracks and public lighting from the Ring Road to Tennypark Cross and off-line road realignment between Tennypark Cross and Brownstown Junction. It is noted, a significant number of landowners were affected with respect to the acquisition of the lands required to deliver

this scheme and their co-operation in this respect is acknowledged.

SIAC Construction Limited commenced works on site in February 2017. To-date, at the southern end of the project, a substantial amount of site clearance works has been undertaken off-line along with the erection of new roadside boundary fences. In conjunction with this, online improvement works to facilitate the upgrading of the existing drainage and services network, along with the installation of public lighting and footpaths/cycletracks, between the Callan Road Roundabout and Tennypark Junction are progressing well. The expected works completion date is Quarter 2 of 2018.

N25 New Ross By-pass

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium consortium (the PPP Co.) in January 2016. The PPP Co's contractor for the works is a BAM Civil Ltd and Dragados Ireland Ltd joint venture.

Works commenced on site in February 2016 and the construction period for same is 36 months. To-date the fencing & site clearance element of the project is significantly completed. Works are now focused on earthworks, the provision of road and agricultural underpasses and the installation of stream culverts. With respect to the Barrow Bridge piling and foundation works for the bridge are progressing well.



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

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Barrow Bridge - Temporary working platform and piling operations at river pier (pier 4)



Photomontage elevation from Kilkenny side

The 'Pink Rock' Road (LS7512) on the Kilkenny side has also been closed since June and will remain so until June 2017 to facilitate access to the bridge site and also for the construction of a bridge pier. Further traffic management operations will proceed over the coming months, including on the N25 to facilitate the construction of the N25 Glenmore Roundabout.

Quarterly project newsletters are published and circulated widely at public buildings and local conveniences and a dedicated project website www.n25newross.ie has been set-up and provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed and open to the public in the first quarter of 2019.

Special Speed limit Bye-laws 2017 for County Kilkenny

Since late 2015 an extensive review and consultation process has been undertaken with respect to the Speed Limit Bye-laws for County Kilkenny. This process concluded on the 20th March 2017 when the said Bye-laws were ratified by Kilkenny County Council and subsequently came into force on the 31st of March.

Belview Port

In recognition of the strategic importance of the port area, the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020 has the following objective:

“To develop and agree an appropriate planned policy response to access from the N29 Port Road to industrial zoned lands in the Belview area in conjunction with the National Roads Authority.”

In the context of the emerging Ferrybank Local Area Plan (LAP), Kilkenny County Council engaged directly with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), and separately with the Port of Waterford, in order to develop this policy response. The outcome will be presented in the LAP and will include the reduced speed limits at the Port end of the N29 and a reconfiguration of the road layout in the future.

Bus Shelters

It was agreed that Phases 2 & 3 of this Programme will be rolled out over the next 3 years. This Programme includes the provision of 10 no. Shelters/bus stops at seven towns and villages within the County. A tender for the supply of shelters for Phase 2 was awarded recently and the installation of same is expected to commence in Q2 2017. An allocation of €110,000 was provided locally for the delivery of same.



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TII HD 28 Management of Skid Resistance Programme

Under the 2017 HD28 Programme, Kilkenny Co. Council received a combined Capital allocation of €205,000 to carryout remedial works on the National Road Network. The sections of road to be targeted for treatment were identified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In total 18 sites were identified with 16 of same requiring surface re-texturing treatment and this element of the Programme was completed in Quarter 1 2017.

Patrick Street Improvement Works.

Works to underground the existing overhead service network and improve the public lighting along Patrick Street progressed during the first three months of this year. The completion of this work will greatly improve the streetscape by providing clear sky views unobstructed by unsightly wires and cables. This in turn will make for a more attractive place and improve the quality of life for all those living in, and visiting, the area.

HOUSING:

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

As of the 1st March 2017, HAP is now available to all eligible households in all 31 local authority areas. Kilkenny was in the first pilot phase and HAP became operational on 1st October 2014. As of 31st March, 771 households are signed up to HAP in County Kilkenny.

7 Houses at the Haven, Newpark

7 houses were completed and allocated as part of a turnkey development at the Haven, Newpark in March 2016.

Repair to Lease Scheme (RLS)

A key component of the *Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness* is a

new scheme, the *Repair and Leasing Scheme*, recently announced by Mr. Simon Coveney TD, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

The Scheme targets owners of vacant properties as a possible source of social housing, enables funding to support necessary repairs to vacant properties and also provides the property owners with an income stream that may, otherwise, be unavailable.

The maximum cost of repairs to a vacant property under the Scheme is €40,000.

The Scheme has a number of specific requirements including:

- The property has to be vacant for at least 12 months
- There must be a social housing demand for the property
- The property must be assessed as being viable to provide social housing
- The minimum lease term is 10 years, 15 years or 20 years depending on the cost of the repair works
- The lease payment is based on 80% (85% for apartments) of the current market rental rates in the property location.
- A further adjustment to the lease payment is made to off-set the cost of the repair works until the cost of the works has been repaid.

Frequently Asked Questions and Expressions of Interest Documents are available on Kilkenny County Council's website at www.kilkennycoco.ie.

Please contact Kilkenny County Council Housing Section for further details at 056 7794976/056 7794936 or email your query to mary.cashin@kilkennycoco.ie.

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Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month of 2017 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 are set out below. There were 81 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 29/03/2016. Of the 81, 5 were couples and are counted as individual presentations.

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
Sub Total	85		81

Tenant Handbook Update

This revised Tenant Handbook was listed for the Housing SPC on 30th March 2017 and a number of recommendations/amendments were made by the members for inclusion.

The purpose of updating the Handbook will restate the legal relationship between the tenant and Council, give important advice on maintaining their tenancy and estate, outline alternative housing options and detail how, in co-operation with Kilkenny County Council, tenants can take an active part in their community.

The benefits of updating the report and restating clearly both tenant and landlords responsibility for maintenance will contribute to greater efficiencies and result in additional monies available for planned maintenance. This in turn will benefit the tenant.

March 2017 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 31st March , 2017	2,130
Number of assessment interviews carried out in March:	15
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations	20

(offers made):

Number of HAP tenancies to 31st March **753**

Number of LA tenancies surrendered: **7**

Anti social behaviour cases: **13**

New Homeless Presentations: **27**

Maintenance Calls for March 2017 **441**

Maintenance Calls year to date **1353**

No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction) **9**

Amount of Loans Approved to 31st March, 2017 **€1,093,800**

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE HOUSING ACTIVATION FUND [LIHAF]

Ministers Coveney and O'Donohoe announced approval to 34 public infrastructure projects in 15 local authority areas aimed to address public infrastructure deficits which is hindering the early development of housing.

Kilkenny County Council made two successful applications to this fund as follows:

1. Western Environs Kilkenny

This application was for the road infrastructure in the Western Environs stretching from the N76 Callan Road to the R695 Kilmanagh Road. The infrastructure will include:

- Distribution Road from the N76 Callan Road to the Circular Road
- Upgrade of the Circular Road to the Kilmanagh Road

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- Upgrade of the Kilmanagh Road to the Northern Boundary of the Western Environs.

The total infrastructural cost is approx. €10m with €5.1m being provided under the LIHAF. Consultants have been appointed with a view to preparing tender documentation and it is hoped works will commence by year end. It is estimated that following the provision of the road infrastructure, lands will be released to cater for up to 800 houses in the area by 2021 and 3,000 by 2030

To ensure a sufficient quantum of land is appropriately phased for the development of housing in the Western Environs, a variation to the Western Environs Plan is being prepared. This will facilitate the two schools planned for the area along with re-phasing of housing land for development.

2. Neighbourhood Park, Aylesbury, Ferrybank

The applications for funding for a Neighbourhood Park in Ferrybank was made in conjunction with Waterford City and County Council. The Park will include two play areas [multi use games area and outdoor gym] as well as landscaping, planting, seating, lighting and a parking area. Funding of €310,000 is being provided under the LIHAF and both local authorities contributing the balance. The provision of the park will increase the attractiveness of the area facilitating the activation of housing on sites in the area, some of which already have existing planning permission [200 units].

PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to March, 2016	Total to March, 2017
Planning Applications Received	189	208
Planning Applications Granted	211	178
Planning Applications Refused	15	15
Complaints Received	23	26
Warning Letters Issued	16	31
Enforcements Notices Issued	13	11

Forward Planning:

- The Council made a comprehensive submission to the National Planning Framework, before the closing date of March 31st. The Planning section was also heavily involved in formulating the Council's submission on the Report of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee.
- The Council also assisted in the preparation of a joint submission to the National Planning Framework on behalf of the 5 local authorities in the South East Planning Area; Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Carlow and Tipperary.
- Work has commenced on the "Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan" by Loci Consultants. A public consultation was held on the 19th April in the Ormonde Hotel.
- Proposals are being formulated on the Urban Design Strategy for the Hebron Road and will be brought to Council for consideration shortly.
- Survey work is underway for the Vacant Sites Register.
- The Draft Ferrybank/Belview LAP is very close to being finalised for publication. The

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Council had engagement with IDA in relation to land located at the Belview port. The Council also were having ongoing discussions with TII in relation to access arrangements for the zoned land along the N29. Ongoing engagement took place with Waterford City and County Council in the preparation of the draft LAP and both local authorities were involved in joint public consultation as part of the process to-date. All issues are now close to finality and it is anticipated that a draft plan will be published over the coming weeks.

- Work is also continuing on the preparation of the Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan for publication through the statutory environmental assessments and compilation of the written plan.
- Work will commence shortly to review of the Thomastown and Callan Local Area Plans.

Housing Developments

7 Developments have been taken in charge during the first quarter of 2017. A total of 238 houses are in these estates.

Work is progressing on a number of other developments with a view to finalising the taking in charge of them during 2017. Works are funded from claims made on the bonds provided.

Conservation:

- The Department of Arts Heritage Regional Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs announced two conservation grant schemes for remedial works to our built heritage. Applications are being considered for these funds.

Application for funding from the Irish Walled Town Network has been made for signage in Kilkenny City.

Waters and Communities Office) to facilitate community discussion and engagement on the draft River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 which is currently open for public consultation. The meetings will be advertised locally and all elected members are invited to attend.

Location	Date	Time
Kilkenny City, Newpark Hotel	Wednesday 3 rd May	7.30 – 8.30 pm
Thomastown Community Centre	Thursday 4 th May	7.30 – 8.30 pm
Mooncoin Community Centre	Monday 8 th May	7.30 – 8.30 pm
Ballyragget, Malone Hall	Thursday 11 th May	7.30 – 8.30 pm
Graignamanagh Boathouse	Tuesday 13 th June	7.30 – 8.30 pm

Q1 Statistics – Environment

Enforcement	No.
Complaints investigated	304
Litter Patrols	80
Litter Fines issued	25
Deco paints inspections	4
Waste Permit Inspections	6
Discharge Licence Inspections	1
Food Waste inspections	2
Farm Inspections	12
Noise Assessments	1
Regulation	
Nutrient Management Plan Assessments	12
Planning Reports	60
Monitoring	
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	34
Priority Site Monitoring	22
Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	54
Ground Water Monitoring	7
Monitoring for Water Services	119
Historic Landfill Monitoring	6

ENVIRONMENT

Draft River Basin Management Plan

A series of public meetings has been organised by Ann Phelan, (Community Water Officer with the



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Customer Relations Management

The Environment Section are currently trialing a new CRM (Customer Relations Management) system to replace the current EDirect System. The new System will improve the management of complaints handling within the section. It is the intention to role it out to further sections of the Council this year.

Libraries Lending a Helping Hand



Castlecomer Library with Picker

Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Chairman of SPC 5 launched a Spring Clean initiative with Sophie and Aisling of Kilkenny Library Service. Litter picking packs are now available to loan out in Urlingford, Castlecomer, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh libraries making it easier for everyone in the community to participate in the National Spring Clean. Similar packs are available at the Ferrybank Area Office and the Environment Section in County Hall.

heard from Ms Peacock from the PPN, Mr Horgan from Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and Ms Phelan from LAWCO. The next Forum meeting is scheduled for the 10th of May in Thomastown.

Green Schools

20 schools were visited by the Environmental Awareness Officer in Q1. In addition, the spring education programme was rolled out providing 15 schools environmental workshops on biodiversity, climate change and water conservation.

National Spring Clean

The National Spring Clean campaign kicked off with a strong start, 99 groups were registered by the end of March. The campaign was launched locally on the 28th of March with representatives of tidy town groups.

CORPORATE

Medieval Mile Musuem

Kilkenny's Medieval Mile Museum was officially opened on Tuesday, April 4th by Mr. Patrick O Donovan, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, in the presence of Cathaoirleach, Cllr Matt Doran and Cllr Patrick O'Neill, Mayor of the Municipal District of Kilkenny City.

Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum



NSC Launch Group

The first Tidy Towns Forum of 2017 was held on the 28th of March, the Forum members discussed issues relating to their volunteer efforts and also





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Boundary Review

As members are aware following the announcement by Minister Coveney on the 3rd April with regard to the Boundary Review, subsequent media reports have led to confusion with regard to what is intended by “new management solutions ...to facilitate cohesive expansion of Waterford”. At the request of the members a letter was issued to Minister Coveney on the 19th April, 2017, requesting clarification on the matter.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

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- The LEO has approved financial assistance to 6 business totalling **€96,875**. (1x Feasibility Study, 3x Business Expansion Grants and 2x Priming Grants). There are **7 direct jobs** associated with this funding and the associated businesses **expect to create 36 jobs over coming 3 years**;
- **114 one-to-one mentoring assignments** have been approved to date. The LEO also facilitated five mentoring clinics in Finance and Marketing with 30 attendees;
- **7 Trading Online Vouchers** have been approved totalling **€14,024**;
- **4 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grant totalling €5,762** have been approved;
- **5 businesses** have been assisted to make applications for loan funding through the St. Canice’s Credit Union **Smart Options Loan Scheme** and **Microfinance Ireland**;
- LEO staff have conducted **135 business advisory sessions** with clients offering advice and information LEO services and business start-ups;
- **28 training programmes** have been scheduled in the Spring Training Programme with **356 places** available for small businesses located in Kilkenny. To date **16 training programmes**

have been completed with **170 participants** in attendance;

- Kilkenny will be represented at the **National Enterprise Awards** by Greensbridge Engineering Ltd based in Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny. Greensbridge Engineering Ltd produces high precision stainless steel, super alloy and aluminium components for supply into the oil and gas, medical device and semiconductor technology industries. The company was established in 2011 by Mark Boyne and Richie Kenneally who have a combined experience of over 50 years in the precision engineering sector. In its four years of operation the company has grown steadily and currently employs 7 full-time employees. The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny has supported their development in the form of grants and also advice and mentoring since their inception;



Presentation of National Enterprise Award to Kilkenny Winners Greensbridge Engineering Ltd

- 125 enterprising students from 11 secondary schools across County Kilkenny exhibited at the **Student Enterprise Programme** County Final held on Wednesday 29th March. In the senior category the winners were Tyler O’Callaghan, Jade Soames, Christian Neagu and Sophie Hartford Reade, students from Kilkenny City Vocational School with their project Seasonal Sensations. Kian Maher and Tomas Sebok from Coláiste Eamann Rís, Callan were presented with the Intermediate category award with their craft business TK Ceramics Ltd. In the Junior category the winners were announced as Aimee O’Brien, Ciara Treacy, Molly Dunne, Emma Cahill and Hannah Wallace with their Fresh Minds project



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from St. Brigid's College, Callan. The three category winners will now prepare for the National Finals which will be held on Wednesday 3rd May in Croke Park.



Presentation of Student Enterprise Awards to Intermediate Category Winners – TK ceramics, Coláiste Eamann Rís

friendly Easter festival.

2. Kilkenny Culture & Creativity Activation Plan 2017

This will include a programme of cultural projects to be completed in 2017, funded by an allocation of €65,000 from Creative Ireland. The Plan will be submitted to the Dept on April 21st.

3. Open meeting to share information about the Creative Ireland Programme.

The meeting, on **Thursday 27th April at 6.15pm** in the Kilbride Suite, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny, is open to all. RSVP essential to cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie or 056-7794931.

HERITAGE

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Kilkenny Welcomes Creative Ireland

The Cultural Services Team of Kilkenny County Council is delighted to be partnering with the national Creative Ireland team to roll-out the Creative Ireland Programme in County Kilkenny. This is a new nationwide culture-based programme, under the auspices of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, which promotes culture and creativity. Local authorities have a crucial role in the overall local delivery of the entire programme and are specifically mandated to deliver Pillar 2 of the programme – “Enabling Creativity in Every Community”. The Creative Ireland Programme builds on work already underway in Local Authorities. Key milestones in 2017 include:

1. Cruinniú na Cásca

The Cultural Services Team of Kilkenny County Council partnered with the Kilkenny Civic Trust to host a free family event on the grounds of the new Medieval Mile Museum, for Cruinniú na Cásca, a new nationwide family



Review of Cultural Strategies

The Cultural Services Team of has commenced the review of the Kilkenny County Council Arts Plan, Heritage Plan, Biodiversity Plan and Library Plan. Public consultation on the plans, including preparation of an overarching Cultural Strategy, will take place in May/June 2017.



Out to Play Workshop

The Heritage Office co-funded, with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee, a “Natural Play Outdoors” training workshop for pre & after school practitioners on April 1st to encourage practitioners to include nature and biodiversity in their teaching activities.





COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Quarterly Report January – March 2017

Kilkenny County Council Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) 2017 is open for applications March- June 9th 2017

- The overall objective of this scheme is to respond to the need for better community, recreational and cultural facilities for community groups through the provision of a capital grant.
- The scheme is open to groups operating within the Community Sector who have a recognised legal structure, operate on a ‘not for profit’ basis, demonstrate a policy of inclusion and demonstrate the capacity to manage and operate the proposed facilities.
- **Level of grant aid available** - Funding is at a rate of 75% of the total eligible project costs up to a maximum of €45,000. The grant beneficiary will have to provide the remaining 25% match funding. The minimum grant size available is €9000. That means that the total eligible project costs must be at least €12,000.

Kilkenny LCDC: Roll out of DHPCLG’s Community Facilities Funding Scheme- April 2017 closing date June 30th

- The funding will, as far as is possible, be evenly dispersed across the 3/4 Municipal Districts giving approximately €16,000 per MD.
- With regards the indicative list of groups that would receive priority in the county under the scheme; disability groups and lone parents were included
- The grant will be offered with a minimum grant of **€1000 and a maximum grant of €3,000**

- The application form to include a section outlining impacts and outcomes of the project and the funding for the wider community
- The LCDC will accept a **maximum of 2 applications** for different projects from any one organisation – this will limit larger organisation with multiple projects from accessing large amounts of the funding and help to ensure a wider spread of application from a wider variety of groups.
- The scheme will be advertised in the KK People week of April 24; possibly the Munster Express, KCC website and Face book pages, KK PPN website and Facebook pages. Katherine Peacock- Coordinator of the KK PPN will also convene MD meetings over the month of May to disseminate the information with regards the scheme as well as encourage smaller groups to apply and support same.
- A report will be written for the LCDC so they can assess according the criteria set out in the guidelines and make recommendations to the 3 MD’s for final decision.

Community Support for Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016:

- The section continues to facilitate meetings and agreements with the 4 Towns and Villages selected for the scheme. The process Kilkenny has undertaken enables the Council and the community to work in partnership in the delivery of the scheme.

Community Element reporting on the LECP:

The first reporting period on actions outlined in the community element of the LECP has been successful in that a total of 64 on line reporting submissions were made across the 22 agencies, groups or departments listed in the table above. Of the prioritised list of actions only 2 agencies/groups/ departments did not report on their action which is a 91% return rate. There are high levels of success with regards progressing



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actions; only 1 agency had 0% progress and this was due to resource issues.

PPN Monthly Management Report

- The PPN has developed working groups for specific issues to support the Representative on Committees. There is now a working group for Social Inclusion whose members are working towards increasing public awareness of community development and training in Co. Kilkenny. An Environment working group who have made a submission to the National Biodiversity Plan, and a linkage group to support the representative of the South East Drug and Alcohol Task Force. A working group for disabilities is in the forming stages who will take the lead in the pursuit of Gold Star Universal access for all, in Kilkenny, a HSE disabilities awareness initiative.
- A free members training programme is underway in meetings management, strategic Planning and grant writing. Six PPN members have just been awarded PPN champion scholarship places to undertake a Degree in Business, Social Enterprise and Community Development. This is the first such PPN programme in the country that Kilkenny and Tipperary PPN are co-funding through EQUAL Ireland.
- Six members of the Kilkenny PPN attended the Community Connects Conference in Waterford in March. A very worthwhile and informative event that covered every aspect of running a community organisations from governance to social enterprise. We are hoping that a similar event will take place in Kilkenny next year.
- The PPN have applied for funding in conjunction with the older peoples forum through the Ireland Fund to host a conference on engaging older adults to become more active at local government level.

- The PPN and the Community section have joined forces to promote and financially support the Street Feast initiative. The National Street Feast day will be held on Sunday the 11th June to promote community cohesion through social lunches held in communities throughout the county. Street Feast information packs and insurance will be funded through this collaboration.
- A comprehensive work plan for the PPN 2017 has been developed and adopted by the secretariat pending full ratification by all members at the next PPN plenary in Kilkenny on the 25th April.
- The first PPN plenary of 2017 will be held in the Ormonde Hotel at 7pm on the 25th of April and will include presentations on funding opportunities as well as round table discussions by PPN representatives on issues that are of interest to members.

Pride of Place 2017

- To support the contributions made by local, voluntary community groups and to afford recognition of the critical role played by such groups in local communities, Kilkenny County Council has set aside €8000 in the 2017 Budget to enable four applications to be made to Pride of Place 2017. The four applications include one per Electoral District in County Kilkenny.
- The closing date for receipt of applications is 5th May, 2017 and the four Community Groups going forward to represent County Kilkenny in the 2017 Pride of Place Competition are;

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2017 Pride of Place					
	Project	Description	Proposed Category	Contact	Electoral District
1	Tullahought Community Development Group	Community Group	(Population) 0-300	Paddy Egan	Kilkenny South
2	Kilmanagh Ballycallan & Killaloe Community Group incorporating the Ballykeeffe Amphi-theatre	Amphi-Theatre/Community Group	Creative Place	Padraic Flaherty	Kilkenny North
3	Newpark Close	Community Group/FRC	Urban Neighbourhood	Shelia Donnelly	Kilkenny East
4	Kells	Kells Economic Enterprise Designated Activity Company Community Group	Population 300-1000	Vincent Dempsey	Kilkenny West

The Community Section will liaise with the various groups in the coming weeks as applications to Pride of Place are prepared. Thereafter judging is likely to take place in June 2017 at dates to be confirmed and, for 2017, Elected Members will be invited to the judging events.

The 2017 Pride of Place Awards Ceremony will be held in Letterkenny, County Donegal in December 2017.

CLÁR 2017

The Department has announced €5m in funding for the CLÁR Scheme for 2017. The Scheme is divided into four different measures with specific funding allocation for each as follows:

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Measures [€2m]

CLÁR will support intervention to make school/community facility environs healthier and safer for all users.

An application will be required from the school/community group and applications will be facilitated by each of the Municipal Engineers. **Closing date for receipt of applications to the Council is 28th April, 2017. All applications received by the Council to be submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government before 5th May, 2017.**

Measure 2: School/Community Play Areas

CLÁR will support the enhancement of existing or development of new school/community play areas. Projects proposed will require an application, relevant permission and details of ownership amongst others. Clear evidence of need and relevance to LECP/other plans must be demonstrated.

The minimum grant aid is €5,000 and maximum is €50,000. Maximum funding of 90% of the project will be provided with a minimum contribution of 5% from the school/community.

Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs [€1.5m]

CLÁR will support applications for small capital/infrastructure projects that don't qualify for other existing schemes. Applicants must demonstrate that the project is NOT eligible for assistance under existing schemes. Clear evidence of need and benefit to the community must be demonstrated along with relevance to the LECP/other Plan.

The minimum grant aid is €5,000 and maximum is €50,000. Maximum funding of 85% of the project will be provided with a minimum contribution of 5% from the school/community.



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Measure 4: First Response Support Measure [€0.75m]

Applications for this Scheme are to be made directly to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government

ARTS

Quarterly Report – January to March 2017

• Art Links Bursaries

11 applications for ArtLinks were received, an increase on 2016. The applications made related to projects in literature, theatre, visual arts, music and film. An external assessor selected 8 successful applicants.

• Arts Act Grants

A total of 38 applications were made from Kilkenny individual artists and arts groups for the Arts Act Grants. 25 grants were awarded to a total amount of €21,510.

• Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary

10 applications were received for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre bursary. 4 bursaries were awarded to support projects in visual art and literature/playwriting.

• The Moth Young Artists & Writers Bursary

Two bursaries for a week long stay at The Moth Retreat, Co. Cavan, were awarded to support projects in music and in scriptwriting in Irish.

• Schools Subsidy for theatre visit

12 primary schools in Co. Kilkenny availed of our annual subsidy to help bring pupils to “Star Chasers” at the Barnstorm Theatre.

• Siamsa Programme

The Sprint Siamsa Programme has been completed. 24 places were available. The first 3 workshops introduced the building blocks of sculpture, moving from flat drawings to 3D creations. The second 3-week block focused on printmaking techniques and pattern-making in print.

• Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet

After a very successful 2016 Broadsheet, Kimberley Campanello has been invited to edit the 2017 issue of the Poetry Broadsheet and to run a workshop to prepare Kilkenny writers for Broadsheet submissions by teaching poetry writing techniques, self editing, etc. The workshop has taken place and feedback from participants has been very positive. The deadline for submissions for the Broadsheet 2017 is 21st April, 2017.

• Literature programme - Rhyme Rag

○ Rhyme Rag outreach: The poet Stephen Murray taught 4 workshops in Kilkenny secondary schools in which a total of 245 students took part. The workshops took place in Loreto Secondary School, CBS Kilkenny, Grennan College Thomastown and Presentation Secondary School, Loughboy.

○ Rhyme Rag Ensemble: In addition to the online platform, Rhyme Rag now has a writers’ group, the Ensemble, a partnership between Kilkenny Arts Office and Ossory Youth. The Ensemble meets on a monthly basis at Ossory Youth. An inaugural workshop for young writers aged 14-17 took place on 11th March with another workshop planned for April with Enda Coyle-Greene.

○ In March a window display was set up in St. Canice’s Credit Union on High Street for one week to promote the Rhyme Rag and the Rhyme Rag Ensemble activities. The next display will be in September 2017.



- Number of our young poets joined Arts Officer Mary Butler and Nuala Roche for an interview on Kilkenny Community Radio.

• Open Circle Programme

- Open Circle Arts continues to provide quality arts learning for the women of Kilkenny, engaging with local artists - Julie Cusack, Julie Moorhouse and Saturio Alonso early in 2017.
- Open Circle is collaborating with theatre maker Ita Morrissey on ‘The Consuming Project’- a project that looks at fashion and how our global society is consuming more than ever before, but where is it all going? What do we know about how, where and who made our clothes and how are we coping with the waste it generates. This is a community based project which has been engaging with the women in Open Circle and the wider community through discussion workshops and designing and making a costumed set for a public performance in July of this year. The project is being documented photographically and with a video highlighting the issues involved, the documenting of the project is funded by a grant from Kilkenny Co Council Environment Office. The collaboration was publicised in an interview on KCLR in March.
- Literature workshops planned for later in the year following on from a successful series of beginner’s creative writing workshops in late 2016.
- Open Circle is publishing a booklet in May of the work of the women involved in the project in 2016/2017.

• Music Generation

Music Generation Kilkenny – A number of meetings have taken place and the working group is currently preparing the application.

A very successful information briefing in Grennan College took place on 30th March organized by Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny & Carlow ETB.

• Bookville

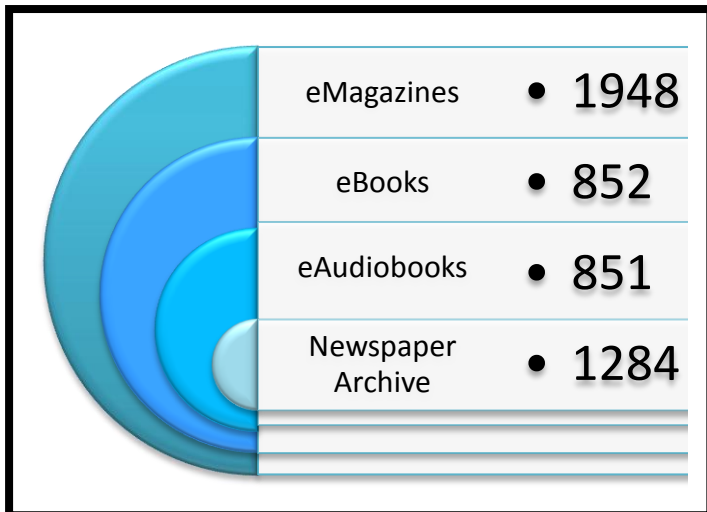
Preparation for the joint Kilkenny Arts Office/Kilkenny Library Childrens’ Book Festival “Bookville” which takes place in October 2017 is ongoing. Award winning illustrator, Chris Judge, has developed the Festival visuals.

LIBRARY





APRIL 2017



Implementation of National Library Management System:

Kilkenny Library Service are now part of a new national library system, allowing library members access to any of Ireland's public library collections with one single library membership card. The introduction of this new system, called Sierra, is the first of its kind in Europe and provides significant benefits to the public which include having access to a much wider range of books, film, and music from across the country. Members can now borrow and reserve up to 12 items at a time, from any library in Ireland.

New Initiative: Work Matters



Work Matters promotes the public library as a space to support the information and research

needs for people seeking employment, changing career or up skilling or people involved in business. The range of free services and supports that the library service provides includes a collection of business and employment related titles, online training programmes and digital resources, access to free Wi-Fi and public internet machines and a scanning and printing facility. As part of this initiative, we held an Information evening for local businesses and job seekers. Agencies involved were Intreo, Kilkenny ETB, LEO, Citizens Information, Kilkenny Leader Partnership, Bank of Ireland Graigueanamanagh, Graigueanamanagh Credit Union, Turas Nua, Kilkenny Jobs Club and Duiske College.

Programming:

National Aontas Festival

Kilkenny Library Service held 8 events for Aontas Adult Learners festival this year, with two well attended talks on The Camino walk, and six drop in Information sessions in libraries to introduce learners to our new suite of over 500 free online courses. These were a huge success.

St. Patricks Festival/Tradfest



Kilkenny Library Service participated with Gulliver's Travels Comic drawing sessions with Oisín McGann, and four St. Patrick's Themed storytimes in library branches.

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

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
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One Book One Community



Graiguenamanagh Library partnered with 11 local schools in a very successful One Book One Community initiative. Based on Nicola Pierce's "Spirit of The Titanic", the library hosted a Titanic Tea Party, Skype Quizzes, Table Quizzes, Author Readings and much more.

APRIL 2017

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

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
JANUARY – MARCH 2017**



Appendix 1.

Kilkenny County Council
Finance Report – April 2017.

The expenditure by service division for three months to the end of March 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €17.1m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

Table 1	Actual YTD March 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	4,181	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	3,041	17,093
Water Services	1,449	6,778
Development Management	1,839	7,894
Environmental Services	2,049	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	1,385	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	156	798
Miscellaneous Services	3,024	6,661
Overall Total	17,124	70,165

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the three months to the end of March. The Annual Financial Statement for 2016 has been finalised and will be presented to Council at the April meeting. The annual audit by the Local Government Auditor will be completed in the coming months.

The 2017 Rate Demands have been issued to property owners. Details of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets has been enclosed to each account holder.

The Valuation office has notified KCC that the proposed valuation certificates for Kilkenny will not be issued until May 12th. Property owners will then have 40 days to make representations to the Valuation Manager. The final Valuation Certificates are to be issued in late August 2017 with the new list scheduled to be published on 16th September 2017. The period for any further appeals to the independent Valuation Tribunal is 28 days from 16th September.

Ratepayers can obtain information on the process by contacting the Valuation Office at 01 8171199 or by sending an Email to ckReval2017@valoff.ie.