

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION  
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



**December 2017**

**To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council**

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

**29<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 12.00 noon:** Closing Date for receipt of applications under the Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018.

**31st January, 2018:** Closing date for receipt of applications for Waterways Ireland Heritage Community Grant Scheme, 2018.

**31st January, 2018:** Closing date for receipt of Applications under the Structures at Risk Fund.

# **REPORT AT A GLANCE**

---

**COMMUNITY & CULTURAL: PAGE 2-3**

---

---

**TOURISM & MARKETING: PAGE 3-6**

---

---

**CORPORATE SERVICES: PAGE 6**

---

---

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PAGE 6-8**

---

---

**ROADS: PAGE 8-9**

---

---

**HOUSING: PAGE 9-10**

---

---

**PLANNING: PAGE 10-11**

---

---

**ENVIRONMENT: PAGE 11-12**

---

---

**PARKS: PAGE 12**

---

---

**HERITAGE: PAGE 13**

---

---

**FIRE SERVICES: PAGE 14**

---

---

**LIBRARY SERVICES PAGE 14-15**

---



## COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

### Extension of Funding Drawdown dates for Town and Village Renewal Scheme, CLÁR and Rural Recreation Scheme

The drawdown dates in respect of funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, CLAR and Rural Recreation Scheme have been extended by the Department following a request from the Council. The request was made, given the need for community engagement and mobilisation, the statutory Planning Permission and Part 8 processes, public procurement and other statutory consents. All requests for extensions have been approved, on the condition that the initial tranche of funding be drawn down no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> March 2018** and the project fully completed and all funding drawn down by end **March 2019**.

Please note that the condition whereby 65% of all funding received under each of the listed schemes (i.e. Town and Village Renewal Scheme/ CLÁR/Rural Recreation Scheme) in 2016 be expended prior to release of 2017 funding still stands. The Council will be communicating the timelines to all relevant community groups.

### Town Renewal Plans Callan and Inistioge.

Meetings have been held with local communities in Callan and Inistioge at which briefings were provided on the town renewal framework and on the formation of local Town Renewal Teams. Both of these serve as the first steps in a process of community engagement in the preparation of town renewal plans for their respective areas.

### Thomastown-Age Friendly Town.

It is an objective of the Kilkenny Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2022 to establish Thomastown, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown as Age Friendly Towns. Callan is already an Age Friendly Town. The first meeting of the Thomastown Age Friendly Committee took place

on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The multi- agency committee was briefed at its first meeting on the concept of an age friendly town and the process by which it will be achieved, including the preparation of an age friendly action plan.

### Healthy Ireland Funding

**Healthy Ireland Initiative-** The LCDC was successful in securing €89,000 under Healthy Ireland funding in respect of 5 projects including the preparation of a strategic plan for the County and a Regional “Smoking Cessation” campaign as follows:

1. Development and implementation oversight of year HI plan for Kilkenny.	€20,000
2. Positive campaign for non-smoking/tobacco free campaign and promotion (regional action)	€10,000
3. Physical activity, healthy eating, whole community and family approach, targeting those who experience health inequalities – Programme Pilot 6 areas in partnership the 4 FRC’s in the county, the LEADER Partnership Company (Castlecomer) and the KTCM (Travellers)	€43,000
4. Develop the built environment to promote the importance of physical activity through signposting walks in the City Centre and on the River Nore walk to Bennettsbridge.	€11,000
5. LGBTI Peer Support Programme	€5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€89,000</b>

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



**December 2017**

The Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) committee was successful in securing €38,000 in respect of its five applications as follows:

with support from a youth worker, a fitness instructor, a psychologist and a nutritionalist.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>€38,000</b>

<b>Balance Bike programme</b> Expansion of the KRSP balance bike programme buying 10 balance bikes, 11 strider bikes and equipment and additional 2 support locations.	€3,800
<b>Active Schools Flag Support Programme</b> Expansion of this national programme to 4-6 primary schools and 1 secondary school, through a local support facilitator contracted by KRSP.	€21,205
<b>Physical Literacy &amp; Movement in Pre-Schools &amp; Primary Infant Classes</b> Follow on pilot programme from the 'Out to play' conference. Small scale equipment, access to tutor / mentor who would work on supported delivery and delivery of a session which would also focus on training the practitioner and staff. Working with KRSP & County Childcare Committee.	€2,560
<b>Schools Sport Support Programme</b> Expansion of the KRSP programme for an additional 6 targeted primary schools supporting teachers to deliver strands of the P.E. curriculum.	€4,725
<b>The 'Biggest Transformation' Pilot Programme</b> Ossary Youth to deliver a structured 3 month fitness and wellness programme for a group of 10 youths, delivered weekly	€5,710

Both applications involved interagency working and collaborations through their respective committees.

### TOURISM & MARKETING

#### Techstars Startup Weekend TravelTech - build startups focused on travelling & tourism Friday, November 3 - 5, 2017

The Council Chamber in City Hall was transformed into a tech hub for the first weekend in November. Travel and tourism professionals, entrepreneurs, developers and designers came together to tackle challenges in travel and tourism over the weekend to create product to solve problems for tourists, backpackers, hotels/hostels, airlines, transportation, business travel and anything else you come across while travelling!

More than fifty students, business people, advisors and investors gathered in the historic Tholsel building in Kilkenny to create new startups from scratch in just 54 hours! In that time they met volunteer mentors and industry experts, created concepts, built teams, did real market research (usually out on the streets of Kilkenny), created business plans, and in some cases even built working demos.





December 2017



### World Travel Market (WTM)

**Dates** :6<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
**Attendance** :50,000 delegates  
**Appointments:** 18 total ( 8 own appts – 10 at stand )

#### Overview:

WTM is a leading global event generating more than £2.8 billion of business contracts between attendees. Now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year, this show attracts a global audience that shape the travel industry. This year it was reduced to a three day event, the travel industry comes together with 5,000 exhibiting destinations and 51,000 travel professionals.

#### PPN Plenary 8th November 2017

The PPN plenary took place on the 8th of November 2017. A presentation on Tourism was given by Mr. Brian Tyrrell, outlining policies and plans for Tourism development in the County. The presentation referred to the need to develop sub County tourism hubs and the PPN Plenary was requested to assist in ensuring that local meetings would be as meaningful as possible and that the PPN structures would be availed of to ensure full engagement in the process.



Kilkenomics continues to prosper and the support of Kilkenny County Council ensures that this festival delivers significant media profile for Kilkenny.

*Extract from the Irish Times of 12<sup>th</sup> November:*

#### **Weird interactions**

*McWilliams says that the event is all about maximising such weird interactions. He recalls watching two former finance ministers, the Greek [Yanis Varoufakis](#) and Argentinean [Martin Lousteau](#), deep in discussion in a bar the night before. "Only in [Ireland](#) would you have an event like this," says Varoufakis himself as he wanders from one event to another. He seems charmed. "You are such a weird and wonderful people."*

#### **Annual Tourism Policy Workshop – 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Tourism Policy workshop organised by University of Limerick, was held in Dromoland on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November with the theme of "Confronting challenges and seizing opportunities in Irish Tourism: The Role of the Public and Private Sector". Brian Tyrrell attended the conference and heard presentations on many aspects of national and international trends and topics including Aviation, Brexit, Experience management and development.

**KILKENOMICS**  
FESTIVAL

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
DECEMBER 2017



December 2017



Group in Petronella's, Kilkenny, for SUBTITLE

SUBTITLE, supported by Kilkenny County Council took place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November and once again portrays Kilkenny in a positive light. This year we agreed to some extra signage attached to street furniture and the response to date has been positive.

The attached email was received by Maura Hickey following an engagement with Rori Bergman:

*"The trip was fantastic and we had the most wonderful meal at Petronella's. Frank gave us all of the traditional Thanksgiving foods and added such special touches — the dessert was one of the most delicious I have ever had, and his stuffing was better than any I have ever had at an American Thanksgiving! Thank you so much for your help in making such a special holiday for us. We love Kilkenny and look forward to seeing you again at next year's festival!"*

Kilkenny Tourism Members event 30<sup>th</sup> November



Kilkenny Tourism held a members event in Billy Byrne's John Street on 30<sup>th</sup> November, and the well attended event heard presentations from Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, and from TL Marketing, who handle marketing and PR for Kilkenny Tourism. Members heard a report on a successful year but were warned against complacency and asked to redouble their efforts to ensure that 2018 is a successful year for the trade.

National Craft & Design Fair, Cork

Kilkenny Tourism had a stand at the NCDF (National Craft & Design Fair) Cork. During the course of the Fair we distributed 800 Kilkenny Tourism brochures, 600 Kilkenny Tourism bags, 2 boxes Trail Kilkenny brochures and a box Yulefest brochures.

Yulefest

"Yulefest Kilkenny" was launched on December 1<sup>st</sup> with a performance by Italian Flag Wavers at the Castle and entertainment at Butler House Gardens, events over the rest weekend attracted



December 2017

large crowds in the City and County and received much local and national coverage. The community engagement across Yulefest 2017 has been a huge success to be built on in 2018. A full review of the project for 2017 and planning for 2018 will commence in January 2018.”



meaningfully with citizens and regenerate urban and rural areas.”

Speakers from local authorities across Ireland presented case studies, including Kilkenny County Council, in relation to the social and economic regeneration of Kilkenny’s Abbey Quarter.

Kilkenny Tourism had a stand at the conference, and distributed brochures, bags and marketing material promoting Kilkenny.



Pat McLoughlin, Chair NOAC, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Kilkenny County Council, Peter Carey, Chairman of LGMA

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### NOAC Conference at The Parade Tower on Tues 21 Nov 2017

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), in association with local authorities, held a Good Practice in Local Government seminar on Tuesday, 21st November 2017 in Kilkenny Castle. Welcoming the seminar, Minister John Paul Phelan stated that the seminar was addressing a selection of the many initiatives taken by local authorities that highlight interesting, diverse and often highly innovative approaches to addressing the challenges both local authorities and our communities face.

“Local authorities in Ireland continuously strive to deliver top-class services. This Good Practice Seminar is an opportunity to showcase examples of solutions-oriented approaches to providing public services,” according to Pat McLoughlin, Chair of NOAC. “The case studies being presented illustrate the sector’s desire to improve efficiency in the service delivery, engage

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) UPDATE

- A total of 51 training programmes were organised by the LEO in 2017 with 533 clients participating in these core programmes.
- There were 7 seminars run with a total of 356 attendees, 3 of which had a regional focus: Trading Online, Enterprise Ireland and Network Ireland’s Fuelling Ambition: Steps to Success Roadshow South East Event for female entrepreneurs; National Women’s Enterprise Day. Other seminars included Take it to the Banks and the Implications of Brexit, An Introduction to Public Procurement for Sole Traders and Small Businesses; Countdown to the New EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and IT Security and Supports & Funding Opportunities for Start-Up Businesses.
- The LEO ran 5 Start your Own Business Courses (SYOBC) with a total of 111



December 2017

participants including a Start your Own Food Business Course and a SYOBC specifically developed in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection for potential applicants interested in the Back to Enterprise Allowance Scheme or Short Term Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

- A total of 11 participants completed the flagship Owner Manager Development Programme with Blaise Brosnan, certified by IT Carlow.
- A total of 13 craft and design producers participated on the “Create Kilkenny” producer development programme with 3 businesses representing Kilkenny at Showcase in January 2018.
- The LEO has approved €458,643 to 24 projects - 4 Feasibility/Innovation Grants; 7 Priming Grants and 13 Business Expansion Grants contributing to the direct creation of 37 jobs with the associated business projecting the creation of 91 jobs in the next three years.
- 25 Trading Online Vouchers have been approved to a value of €52,440 with 3 further applications pending approval by the LEO Evaluations Committee.
- Smart Options Loan scheme - 14 applications were referred to the LEO from St. Canice’s Credit Union during 2017, with 9 approvals (72%), 2 withdrawn, 2 declined and 1 deferral. A total of €295,000 was awarded to the 9 applications.
- Eight businesses have been assisted with preparing loan applications submitted to Micro Finance Ireland.
- 320 Mentoring assignments have been allocated to businesses across a range of topics including finance, marketing, sales, business planning and digital media.
- 15 one-to-one mentoring marketing and finance clinics have been held during 2017 with a total of 76 participants.

- 396 people have availed of one-to-one business advisory sessions;
- 11 businesses have been approved Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters grant assistance totalling €16,266.
- Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Employment, Pat Breen and Minister of State at the Department of Housing and Local Government, John Paul Phelan visited the offices of LEO Kilkenny at the end of November to meet some clients and to discuss issues the face.



*Ministers of State, Pat Breen and John Paul Phelan, with Fiona Deegan, Head of Enterprise and LEO client Martin Stapleton, CDS Architectural Metalwork.*

#### **Invest Kilkenny Launch:**

Kilkenny County Council Economic Development Unit has updated its Invest Kilkenny promotional material. This has involved a full redevelopment of the Invest Kilkenny website <https://www.investkilkenny.ie/> with the objective of showcasing Kilkenny as an attractive area in which to invest and do business. A key element of the website are eight specially commissioned videos which showcase Kilkenny as a business destination and tell the stories of a number of successful companies, some indigenous and some foreign – all of which have substantial operations in Kilkenny and are global players in their respective sectors.



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION  
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



December 2017



A new information pack and fact-sheet was also designed for hand out at different events.

These new Invest Kilkenny materials

were launched on November 24<sup>th</sup> in the Medieval Mile Museum by Minister Pat Breen.

These materials are also now being used by IDA as part of their sales pitch for the South East.

<https://www.idaireland.com/doing-business-here/locations/south-east>

**Piltown awarded Regional Small Town Winner at Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Awards 2017.**

The final of the Bank of Irelands National Enterprising Town Awards took place on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Tullamore. This initiative aims to assist in the promotion of enterprise across the country by bringing business and community groups together to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. There were seventy seven entries from across the country with three towns entered from Kilkenny – Castlecomer, Griaguenamanagh and Piltown.



Piltown were named winner of the 'Regional Small Town in Leinster' taking home a cash prize of €3000 and a Crystal Trophy. Congratulations to all in Piltown for a well deserved recognition.



For Castlecomer and Graiguenamanagh, while disappointed in not bringing home the spoils, it must be acknowledged that both did a great job in showcasing their local areas. The huge amount of time, energy and hard work invested by all concerned into their towns development was evident in their presentations to the judging panel

and clearly demonstrated the strong enterprising spirit that these communities live and breathe. Well done all...

**ROADS:**

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

**N25 New Ross Bypass**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland awarded the PPP Contract to a BAM Iridium consortium (the PPP Co.) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The PPP Co's contractor for the works is a BAM Civil Ltd and Dragados Ireland Ltd joint venture (New Ross Joint Venture – NRJV). The works are progressing well and the road remains on programme to open in 2019.



Earthworks operations are over 85% complete with in excess of 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of bulk earthworks excavated and re-used to date. Rock blasting operations are complete at Ballyverneen (Glenmore) and along the N30 section, and will be completed at Stokestown and Camlin in the coming weeks. Drainage, accommodation works, services works and other associated works are also progressing well. The construction of the bridge deck for the approach spans of the Barrow Bridge on the Pink Rock side (Kilkenny side)



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION  
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



**December 2017**

continue to progress. In the coming months the approach spans on both sides of the river and the 3 central towers will be progressed in preparation for the construction of the 2 main bridge spans.



Works continue to progress on Glenmore Road Underpass, temporary diversions and statutory 60km/h speed limits continue to operate on the N25 Waterford Road at Glenmore. The Pink Rock Road in Co. Kilkenny remains closed to facilitate Barrow Bridge access and construction. A temporary diversion route and traffic management plan will remain in place until June 2018.

## HOUSING:

### Private Grants

**Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018:** The Housing Aid for Older Persons is a grant to assist older people over 66 years living in poor housing conditions mainly covering rewiring and re-roofing and is assessed in-house by technical staff. Due to limited funding and increasing numbers of applications the Council has decided again to advertise the scheme giving a 6 week window for receipt of applications starting 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This date is now extended to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. The other two grant schemes based on medical need remain open.

### Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in 2018 for all our tenants.

### 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 300 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/11/2017.

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	28
June	31	June	24
July	31	July	34
August	32	August	27
September	27	September	24
October	30	October	27
November	32	November	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

There were no persons found rough sleeping in Kilkenny City & Environs on the night of the Official Rough Sleepers Count conducted on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### Private Rented Inspections

There are 4,296 private rental housing stock in Kilkenny City & County i.e. 4,296 as at September 2017. The Table below outlines the inspections completed up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with a comparison with previous years' outcomes.

Private Rented Inspections	2017 mths	2016 mths	2015 mths	2014 mths	2013 mths
RAS	26	100	115	116	233
HAP	439	279	211	0	0
Private	5	35	11	228	2
Follow Up	346	0	35	37	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>235</b>

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION  
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
DECEMBER 2017



December 2017

The target for 2017 is 790 and 103% is achieved to date.

**November 2017 Housing Statistics:**

Number awaiting social housing support at 30th November, 2017	2177
Number of assessment interviews carried out in November:	29
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	10
Number of HAP tenancies to 30th November :	823
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	6
Anti social behaviour cases:	11
New Homeless Presentations:	29
Maintenance Calls for November 2017	675
Maintenance Calls year to date	5241
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	38
Amount of Loans Approved to 30th November, 2017	€4,322,792.00

**PLANNING:**

**Forward Planning:**

- The Draft Local Area Plan for Castlecomer public display period ended on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. A total of 28 submissions were received. The Chief Executive's report on the submissions received to the Draft is currently under preparation and will be brought to the January Council Meeting.
- A total of 9 submissions were received to the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft

Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan. The Chief Executive's report will be brought to the December Council meeting.

- Work is ongoing on the process of putting sites on the Vacant Sites Register, and owners are now being notified that their sites are on the Register. They can now appeal to An Bord Pleanála.
- The Draft Urban Design Code for the Abbey Quarter was published on the 24<sup>th</sup> November and submissions will be accepted until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017. An Information Evening was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Maltings and this was well attended.
- The Draft Planning Scheme for the North Quays Strategic Development Zone was published by Waterford County Council in October for public consultation. The closing date for submissions was the 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Council's Chief Executive made a submission to this process.
- The Chief Executive also made a submission on behalf of Kilkenny County Council to the Draft National Planning Framework on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. A copy of the submission was forwarded to the members.
- The Planning Department inputted into a joint local authority South East Regional submission to the National Planning Framework. This was submitted also on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.
- The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) have announced the continuing of conservation grants for 2018. Similar to last year, the grants will be administered by the Conservation Office of Kilkenny County Council and will be divided into two funding streams: the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund. Kilkenny County Council received an allocation of €88,000 under the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**. This grant funding will provide assistance to owners of protected structures, proposed protected structures and structures in Architectural Conservation Areas, or within the Amenity of a National Monument

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH**  
**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**



**December 2017**

in carrying out conservation works. The **Structures at Risk Fund** assists with works to safeguard structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected structures and in certain cases safeguard structures within Architectural Conservation Areas. Under the Structures at Risk Fund, Kilkenny County Council may submit 5 applications to the DCHG for consideration, of which, one may be for an Irish Historic House in private ownership. Guidance Documents and Application Forms for both schemes are available on the Conservation section of the Planning Department page of Kilkenny County Council website, and the front desk of the Planning Department of County Hall. Completed Applications Forms are to be posted to the Conservation Officer, Kilkenny County Council not later than the 31st January 2018. Further assistance may be acquired by contacting the Conservation Officer directly.

**PLANNING: Stats for the Month of November 2017**

<b>Planning Summary</b>	<b>Total to Nov. 2016</b>	<b>Total to Nov. 2017</b>
Planning Applications Received	795	793
Planning Applications Granted	683	677
Planning Applications Refused	42	50
Complaints Received	91	103
Warning Letters Issued	68	97
Enforcements Notices Issued	31	34

**ENVIRONMENT:**

**Kilkenny County Council Annual Environmental Performance Assessment Report**

Kilkenny County Council welcomes the overall **EXCELLENT** grade received for 2016 in the EPA publication of the *Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement, 2014 - 2016 Performance Report*, published on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

This rating of **EXCELLENT** indicates very good performance, with a number of areas of strength and is also above the national average assessment of 'Above Target.'

Kilkenny County Councils result in 2015 was 'Above Target' and in 2014 was 'Below Target' which demonstrates continual improvement in environmental enforcement year on year.

The National report including the specific Kilkenny County Council report is available to view on the EPA website, at the following link. <http://www.epa/enforcement/pa/performanceframework/>

**Civic Amenity Site in South Kilkenny**

The Granny Recycling and Waste disposal Centre operated by Crystalhill Inns Ltd, T/A CHI, opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This new facility accepts a wide variety of waste for recycling and disposal, comparable to that available at the Dunmore Civic Amenity Facility. The recycling service, with its very limited range ceased operating on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**Education & Awareness**

**Preparation of the Litter Management Plan**

The 2018-2020 Litter Management Plan is currently being prepared and will be advertised for public consultation in early 2018. Elected members will be provided with a draft plan prior to the public consultation period and will receive advanced notification of the public consultation



December 2017

activities which will include a workshop with the Tidy Town Forum members, a representative voice of tidy town volunteers throughout the county.

Kilkenny County Council's Waste Prevention Programme supported Thomastown Community Network "Pumpkin in the Park" family event on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov. Over 150 pumpkins were displayed and 50 waste prevention packs were handed out to families informing them of their obligation under the Household Food Waste Regulations.



<b>November Statistics - Environment</b>	
<b>Inspection Type</b>	
Complaints Investigated	129
Litter Patrols	45
Waste Facility inspections	2
Discharge Licenses Premises	14
Septic Tank Inspections	2
Joint Inspections with TFS Office	2
Out of hours coal patrol	2
Litter Pollution Surveys	Completed
ATM Surveys	Completed
<b>Regulation</b>	
Planning Reports	50
Planning Inspections	4
Tyre Regulations	25
<b>Monitoring</b>	
Historic Landfill monitoring	2
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	18
Priority Site Monitoring	6

Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	42
Groundwater Monitoring	3
Monitoring for Water Services	53

### **PARKS:**

#### **Ferrybank Neighbourhood park**

Procurement of a detailed design team is on going. Team to be finalised and appointed in early 2018, with a view to preparing tender/construction documentation.

#### **Amenity Grants**

Over one hundred and thirty eight groups applied for grants in 2017 with a total budget of €127k allocated.

#### **Playground development and maintenance.**

27 playgrounds around the County continue to be inspected once a week by our own in-house playground inspector for any potential safety issues and are also cleaned / maintained as required.

#### **Scheme for Outdoor Recreational infrastructure**

Grants were obtained and works completed for the maintenance of the Freshford Trail loop walk and South Leinster loop in Piltown.

#### **Sports Capital Projects**

New outdoor gyms were installed at Pocke Valley and Fairgreen.

#### **Invasive species control**

Ongoing inspections and erection of signage to assist stopping the spread of invasive species on public lands across the County.



December 2017

## HERITAGE:

**“Naming Ground” film launched in Inistioge**  
“Naming Ground”, a new short film commissioned by the Heritage Office with funding from Creative Ireland as part of our [Kilkenny Field Name Project](#), was launched on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> December at Cois Abhainn, Inistioge. The 8 minute film is a celebration of the field names, landscape, heritage and community in the Inistioge and Clonamery area. It’s available to view on Kilkenny County Council’s youtube channel at <https://youtu.be/s7C0hpKwRJ4>



*At the launch of “Naming Ground” film in Inistioge were: Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Cllr. Michael Doyle, Mayor Kilkenny City; Alan Counihan, Project Co-ordinator; Jack Knox, Field Names volunteer; Shane Hatton, Filmmaker; Carmel Cummins, Field Names volunteer; Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Nora Brennan, Field Names volunteer; Cllr. Fildelis Doherty.*

### **Kilkenny’s Culture and Creativity Plan Delivered**

[Kilkenny’s Culture and Creativity Plan 2017](#) has been successfully delivered by Kilkenny Cultural Services (Heritage, Arts, Architecture, Conservation and Libraries) with funding of €64,000 awarded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. 11 projects received funding - Bookville, Kilkenny Field Name Project, Fairytale Festival, Bealtaine,

Cruinnui na Casca, Kilkenny Famine Experience, Rhyme Rag Ensemble, Consuming Project, Mayfair Memories, County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy. A new Kilkenny Culture and Creativity Plan 2018-2023 will be developed in early 2018.



### **Graveyard Inscriptions available online**

The Heritage Office provided support and funding to Kilkenny Archaeological Society (KAS) to digitise headstone inscriptions from 33 graveyards in County Kilkenny. The headstones in over 100 graveyards had previously been recorded by KAS volunteers in the 1970’s and were available in hard copies only. The inscriptions are now publically available online, in searchable pdf format, at <http://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/library/archival-collections/detailed-list-of-gravestone-inscriptions/>.

This includes inscriptions from the following graveyards Ballycallan, Ballyreddin, Bawnfadda, Bealborr, Castleinch, Clara Church, Clashacrow, Dunmore Old, Dysart, Freneystown, Grove, Johnswell, Kells Priory, St Kierans Kells, Kilfera Sheestown, Kilmademoge, Kilree, Kyleballykeefe, Kylebeg, St Lachtains Old, Maddoxtown, St Mauls, Mickles Dama, Mothel, Odagh, Outrath, Park, Rathcoole, Stoneycarthy, Templemartin, Thornback, Threecastles, Tullamaine. It is hoped to digitise the remaining records in the coming years.



## **FIRE SERVICES:**

### ***FIRE SERVICE CE REPORT DECEMBER 2017***

#### ***Community Engagement & Education***

- Fire Safety in the home talks/demonstrations have been delivered to various community groups including, Text alert AGM, Older Peoples Forum, Mental Health Week in MacDonagh Junction, Information Fair in Kilmacow, Health and Wellbeing talk by GAA.
- At Halloween Fire Personnel from Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service co-presented HALLOWEEN SAFETY message with An Garda Síochána to over 850 5<sup>th</sup> year students via 9 no. presentations in three schools in Kilkenny. The safety message delivered was focused on Halloween safety, bonfires, fireworks and burns reinforcing the negative side of fireworks outlining injuries sustained.
- 2 Home Fire Safety Visits were carried out with vulnerable people in our communities

#### ***Influencing and Regulating the built environment***

- 92 no. Fire Safety Certificate Applications processed
- 102 inspections of premises under the KFRS Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020
- 84 licensing applications under Intoxicating Liquor Acts processed

#### ***Fire Service Operations***

- 179 fire incidents, 101 road traffic accidents, 97 false alarms and 286 miscellaneous to 13th November 2017.
- 16 fire personnel received emergency first responder training.



- Training exercise relating to the activation of the Grassland Fertiliser External Emergency Plan under the Seveso regulations was carried out in conjunction with the HSE and An Garda Síochána.

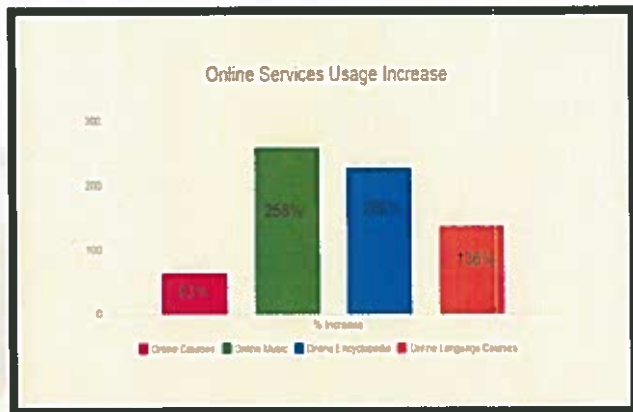
#### ***Facilities and Service Improvements.***

- Severe Weather Plan (excluding flooding) implemented during Storm Ophelia.
- Positions for Retained Firefighters in Thomastown and Castlecomer Fire Brigades advertised.
- We continue to upgrade facilities in all fire stations including provision for energy efficiency measures in Freshford Fire Station.
- Planned upgrade of fire service vehicles continues with 1 second hand fire engine due before Christmas for Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade.
- The new fire station for Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade is nearing completion stage. It is due to be completed by the end of February 2018.



December 2017

**LIBRARY SERVICES:**



**National Science Week**

National Science Week took place in November, and Kilkenny Library Service ran a number of exciting and educational events in partnership with Science Foundation Ireland, Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency, WIT & London Science Museum. 439 people attended 15 events in libraries with The Mad Professor, Learn It Lego, and others.



**Right 2 Read Literacy Development**

Kilkenny Library Service has been approved for funding of €19,500 to improve our children's book stock for our 8 library branches and mobile library. This will assist in fulfilling our commitment to improve, support and develop Kilkenny County Council's Literacy Action Plan.

**RFID Self Service Equipment Grant**

Kilkenny Library Service has been approved for funding of €83,550 to install self service kiosks in each library branch. Funding of €2452 was also received to support the further rollout of the workmatters programme in our libraries.

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

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
DECEMBER 2017**



**December 2017**

**Christmas Programme**



Kilkenny library service will participate in Yulefest festivities across the county, with all of our branches involved in the Star Community Connectivity project.

We have a host of other exciting events happening, with visits from Mrs. Claus, Christmas coffee mornings, toddler storytimes, flower arranging, Festive recitals of music with Cairdeas Parkinson's Choir, Mary Kelly Harpist, and much more!



(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION  
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
DECEMBER 2017



December 2017

APPENDIX 1

Kilkenny County Council Finance Report

Finance Report – December 2017.

The expenditure by service division for the eleven months to the end of November 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €70.29m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Actual YTD November 2017</b>	<b>Budget Full Year 2017</b>
	<b>€'000's</b>	<b>€'000's</b>
Housing & Building	16,989	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	19,126	17,093
Water Services	5,826	6,778
Development Management	7,390	7,894
Environmental Services	8,166	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	5,541	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	558	798
Miscellaneous Services	6,695	6,661
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>70,291</b>	<b>70,165</b>

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the eleven months to the end of November.

The total Commercial Rates collected is up by 2% compared with the eleven months to November 2016. This would indicate that more account holders are availing of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets.

