

JUNE 2017

(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
JUNE 2017**



To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny: Public

Consultation Drop In Events:

14th June, 2017: Ferrybank Library, 5.00p.m. to 7.00p.m.

21st June, 2017: Rivercourt Hotel, Kilkenny City, 12.30p.m. to 2.30p.m.

21st June, 2017: Castlecomer Library, 5.00 p.m. to 7.00p.m.

21st June, 2017: Information Session on Draft Ferrybank Belview LAP from 2.30p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in Ferrybank Library.

23rd June, 2017: Closing Date for receipt of applications for Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund – 23rd June, 2017.

27th & 28th June, 2017: Conference on integrating public transport. The iRoUTE (Integration of Rural & Urban Transport Evolution).

9th July, 2017: National Commemoration Day Regional Ceremony, Kilkenny Castle – 11.00 a.m.

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CORPORATE SERVICES

Royal Visit to Kilkenny – 11th May, 2017

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Kilkenny City and Thomastown on 11th May, 2017. This was a wonderful occasion for the citizens of Kilkenny who welcomed the Royal Couple on the streets of Kilkenny and Thomastown.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Matt Doran, hosted a Civic Reception for the Royal Couple in the Picture Gallery, Kilkenny Castle where they were introduced to local dignitaries and representatives from various sectors of the community.



**BUILDING & ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR
AWARDS 2017
CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER FOR A
SINGLE PUBLIC BUILDING**



St. Mary's Church has been skilfully converted and extended into a modern museum and exhibition centre combining sensitive restoration and contemporary design to an exemplary standard.

Conservation works to the building included:

- Re-pointing of stonework, re-roofing, new glazing to existing windows opens, the removal of later infill to original aisle arcades,
- Conservation and restoration of internal features and finishes as well as stabilisation works to the tower.
- The new elements of this transformation consist of modern extensions to the north and east. The extensions are contemporary in design and contrast with the original fabric, clearly distinguishing the old from the new.

Kilkenny County Council is delighted to announce that the national award for a single building was awarded to the Medieval Mile Museum.





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TOURISM

Sub county Tourism Hubs

An initial meeting of local community interests was held in Mullinavat on 17th May aimed at the development of a “Tourism Hub” representing the Piltown Municipal District.

The meeting was well attended and covered a range of relevant issues under the general headings of:

1. Development of an audit of existing assets
2. Describe the tourism experience
3. Use of city assets to support rural tourism
4. Appoint a representative committee

A number of representatives agreed to form a local steering group, and the outcomes from the workshop will be collated and presented to the group. Regular updates will be presented at Municipal District meetings.



TUI Tour Operator visit to Kilkenny

Kilkenny Tourism hosted German Tour Operator, TUI, on Tuesday, 30th May, 2017. They are the biggest tour operator in the world and are interested in including Kilkenny in their tour programme. Kilkenny Tourism brought the

delegates on a Tour of the City and County major tourist attractions.

Travel Classics International Writer’s Conference



Kilkenny hosted the most influential travel writers’ conference ever to the City from 17th to 20th May. It was an amazing opportunity to showcase Kilkenny’s great tourism product to some of America’s top travel writers. Fáilte Ireland hosted attendees for the prestigious Travel Classics International Writers’ Conference in the Lyrath Hotel, Co. Kilkenny. Fáilte Ireland, in conjunction with Tourism Ireland and Kilkenny County Council bid for and beat other international competitors to host the Travel Classics International in Ireland this year.

The Conference brought together celebrated editors from a wide range of high profile publications – including titles like Condé Nast Traveller, National Geographic Traveller and Harper’s Bazaar – which have a combined circulation of 87 million people.

During an extremely intensive weekend Kilkenny County Council organised trips for attendees to sample the many interesting locations around the city and county giving the delegates a fantastic opportunity to generate many interesting stories and articles for top-tier travel and lifestyle publications around the USA.



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The Kilkenny visit culminated in a dinner showcasing the best of Kilkenny food from #tastekilkenny at the Medieval Mile Museum. The visit to the Museum was without doubt the highlight of the weekend and our visitors were truly amazed to experience 800 years of history under one roof.

Digital and Social Media

Kilkenny Tourism and Kilkenny County Council continually seek out opportunities for positive P.R. showcasing our tourism offer. Examples of media coverage:

Kilkenny, Ireland: Ultimate Guide for Fellow Travelers:

<https://www.travisneighborward.com/travel/kilkenny-ireland/>

Tourism Ireland partners with Irish Ferries to grow tourist numbers to the South East

<https://www.tourismireland.com/Press-Releases/2017/May/11-million-see-latest-promotion-for-Ireland%E2%80%99s-Anc>

The Royal Visit also provided extensive positive coverage for Kilkenny, especially in the U. K.

[Royal visit to 'show strength' of Irish relationship with UK - Independent.ie](#)

[Charles meets Henry the Great as hurling maestro gives him sporting lesson](#) 11/05-2017 14:42 (News Letter)

[Prince Charles meets Irish hurling great 'King Henry'](#)

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

The Cultural Services Section (Heritage, Arts and Libraries) of Kilkenny County Council are creating a Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny. As part of this the Council want to understand and hear the public thoughts. Drop in events are being held in the following locations:

Ferrybank Library: Wednesday, 14th June, 2017, 5.00p.m. to 7.00p.m.

Rivercourt Hotel, Kilkenny City: Wednesday, 21st June, 2017, 12.30p.m. to 2.30p.m.

Castlecomer Library: Wednesday, 21st June, 2017, 5.00p.m. to 7.00p.m.

On Line Survey can be completed at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KilkennyCS

Survey open 5th-26th June, 2017

Email: Message at Kilkenny@mco.ie

ROADS:

Official Opening of St. Francis Bridge

The official opening by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Matt Doran together with Mayor of Municipal District of Kilkenny City, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, of St Francis Bridge and adjoining roads stretching from the Castlecomer Road to St Canice's Place took place on the 23rd May, 2017.





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“It will also facilitate the redevelopment of brownfield City Centre sites– including the Abbey Creative Quarter, which is the former Smithwick’s site, and the nearby former Mart site. This investment ensures that the city can also now give real consideration to longer-term Smart Travel dividends and the possibility of establishing an efficient city centre bus transport system.”

The Bridge itself is 118m meters and opens up exceptional new vistas of St Canice’s Cathedral, Green’s Bridge, St. Francis Abbey and Kilkenny Castle.

IRoUTE - TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 2017

Kilkenny Leader Partnership and its partners are running a conference on integrating public transport over **Tuesday the 27th and Wednesday the 28th of June in Kilkenny Castle**. The **iRoUTE (Integration of Rural & Urban Transport Evolution)** Conference is ambitious is seeking to develop a model for public transport integration outside the major cities in Ireland.

The **iRoUTE** partners have designed the conference in the hope it will be of interest to a broad spectrum of the stakeholders in public transport- existing providers, communities, local authorities, local development companies, regulatory bodies. The conference fees are designed to encourage that mix

Booking can be accessed through the Eventbrite online system <https://iroute.eventbrite.ie/> If you are want more information contact Fergus on 056-7752111 or on at fergus.horgan@cklp.ie

N24 Granny & New Aglish Pavement Improvement Scheme

The above Scheme consists of a 2 km overlay / inlay, the provision of a dedicated right-turn lane

at both the Tinlough Junction (Thatch Bar) and Portnahully Junction (Croke’s Shop), improvements to the Aglish Junction at Roadstone, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works.

Tender documents for the above scheme were advertised on the 2nd June 2017. It is anticipated that the Contract will be awarded towards the end of July with works commencing shortly thereafter. The contract period for this Scheme is estimated at four weeks.

CLÁR Programme 2017

In early May 2017, a funding application was submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gealtacht Affairs under the 2017 CLÁR Programme. In total 14 projects were included in this application with an estimated value of €486,232. A decision from the Department on this application is expected shortly.

N25 New Ross Bypass -

Works are progressing well on this Scheme and the road remains on programme to open in 2019. Earthwork operations are now progressing throughout the site in conjunction with the construction of the various structures along the Scheme including the Barrow Bridge.

A fifth quarterly project newsletter will be published at the end of June and circulated widely at local conveniences (service stations, shops etc.) as well as at local public buildings. A dedicated project website, www.n25newross.ie, is also in place which provides progress updates as well as information on traffic management and road works.

The photographs below provide a visual of the progress to-date on the Scheme.



Cut 3 - Rock blasting and earthworks site



Underpass U01 in Co. Kilkenny in foreground with Pink Rock in background.



Barrow Bridge - Piers 1, 2 & 3 at Pink Rock on Kilkenny side of river.



Barrow Bridge – Pier 3 base following concrete pour.

HOUSING:

Social Housing Assessments 2017

The Council was informed by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government that each Housing Authority is required to prepare an **Annual** Assessment of its Housing Need in its administrative area as at **28th June 2017**. This statutory Assessment will identify the number of qualified households on our Housing List whose housing need have not been met. This list does *not* include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP. This undertaking of the Summary of Assessment must be completed and returned to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on or before the **19th July 2017**.

Information on the Assessment process is available on our web-site (www.kilkennycoco.ie).

Housing List at 31st May 2017

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	No APPLICANTS	1 BED ROOM	2 BED ROOM	3 BED ROOM	4 BED ROOM
Kilkenny City & Environs	1325	522	484	278	41
Rest of County	827	324	251	214	38
Total	2152	846	735	492	79

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month of 2017 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 are set out in the following table. There were 132 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 29/05/2017. Of the 132, 12 were couples and are counted as individual presentations.

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Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	26
Total	145	Total	132

Estate Management Grants

Kilkenny County Council has processed the 2017 Estate Management applications and we have awarded funding to 67 groups in total, this is an increase from 44 in 2016.

Large Estate Enhancement Grant

The Estate Management Grant funding scheme will be advertised in early July. This is a new scheme that we started last year and it will fund 4 large estate enhancement projects in Kilkenny County Council Housing Estates.

Tidy Estates Awards

The Tidy Estates awards and judging will take place in August and the awards this year will take place in the Parade Tower on the 19th of October from 7-9pm

Pride of Place

Newpark Close Housing Estate is one of four projects being submitted by Kilkenny County Council under the 2017 Pride of Place National Competition. Newpark Close will come under the Urban Neighbourhood category.

Voids

The Council was notified of an allocation of €182,500 in May 2017. This will return 9 properties back into productive use. There were 29 current vacant units at 31st May, of which 7 are new purchases. 16 units are under repair with 11 at pre tender stage and two on hold pending funding from the Department.

Housing Statistics for May, 2017

Number awaiting social housing support at 31st May , 2017	2,152
Number of assessment interviews carried out in May:	19
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	15
Number of HAP tenancies to 31st May :	781
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	7
Anti social behaviour cases:	16
New Homeless Presentations:	26
Maintenance Calls for May 2017	425
Maintenance Calls year to date	2151
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	17
Amount of Loans Approved to 31st May, 2017	€1,855,381

PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to May, 2016	Total to May, 2017
Planning Applications Received	341	358
Planning Applications Granted	345	324
Planning Applications Refused	23	23
Complaints Received	35	46
Warning Letters Issued	14	45
Enforcements Notices Issued	27	24

Forward Planning:

- Work is progressing on the “Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the implementation of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan” and a draft document will be



finalised for public consultation over the coming weeks.

- Work is also progressing on the Urban Design Framework for the Hebron Road and following on from the briefing at the April Council meeting, technical issues relating to traffic/junction configurations have been resolved. Amendments suggested by the members have been integrated into the draft proposals which will be published and placed on public display shortly.
- The Draft Ferrybank/Belview LAP has been placed on public display. The public display period runs over the 8 week period between Friday the 9th June and 4th August 2017. As part of the public display and consultation, a public information session on the Draft Plan will take place in Ferrybank Library on the 21st June, from 2.30pm-8.00pm. Staff from the Planning Department will be present to deal with queries in relation to the plan from the public.
- Work is also continuing on the preparation of the Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan for publication with the statutory environmental assessments to be published in combination with the written plan.
- Variation no 3 to the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan has been published and is currently on public display until the 30th June. The proposed variation is in support of the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) and seeks to maximise the benefits of the infrastructure being delivered through the fund and secure the delivery of two new schools and new housing.

applications were approved for funding at the May 2017 Council Meeting (Round 1). The funding committed at this stage is €7,970. Some of the remaining applications will be considered for Round 2 funding at the June Council Meeting.

Dog Shelter

The dog shelter has been expanded with the construction of a new facility with the addition of a further five kennels, fully insulated and ventilated, where the dogs can freely move from indoor to outdoor areas of each pen. The facility has been fitted with its own kitchen and food prep area and a state of the art infra-red heating system. An exercise area for the isolation unit has also been provided along with a new agility area. A dog training platform is being sourced for the agility area to provide an exercise and recreational outlet for boarding dogs. The construction was carried out to the highest standard by Doheny Construction.



Environmental Awareness & Education Unit Updates

- Kilkenny County Council was represented at the An Taisce Green School Awards on the 23rd of May, with 23 Kilkenny schools presented with Green Flag Awards.



ENVIRONMENT

Graveyard Grant Scheme

This scheme is open to any Community Groups/Organisations involved in the management and maintenance of local graveyards. A total of 25 applications were received. 13

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- The Education and Awareness Unit collaborated with the library service during the Bealtaine Festival to promote waste prevention by running a series of up-cycling workshops.
- Under the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN) Grant scheme administered by the EPA, Kilkenny County Council was awarded €10,355 in May to conduct a series of waste prevention projects, the first project focuses on resource efficiency in Woodstock Gardens and it will commence in July.
- WEEE Ireland is due to visit Kilkenny in July to complete 4 Saturday household electrical waste collections, dates confirmed are; 1st July; Piltown, 8th July; Mooncoin, 15th July; Johnstown, 22nd July; Thomastown. All collections will take between 10am-4pm. Full venue details will be advertised closer to the collection days on local media.
- Environment Grants; The closing date for the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund is the 23rd of June. The closing date for the Anti Litter and Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant is the 18th of August, application forms are available on www.kilkennycoco.ie.



Water Safety

A great night took place in Kilkenny County Council on Friday 26th May when certificates were presented to the newly qualified Lifeguards by Chairman of Kilkenny County Council, Matt Doran. 39 Certificates were presented to Lifeguards following a comprehensive training programme delivered by Kilkenny Water Safety Examiners, Instructors and Swim Teachers. A

number of Councillors were in attendance as were a number of members of Kilkenny County Committee of Irish Water Safety.



Lifeguards on Duty

Following the completion of interviews, successful applicants were presented with their equipment and given a health and safety talk in County Hall.

Lifeguards will be on duty at weekends only during month of June, 2017. (Sat/Sun/Bank Holiday only) from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Lifeguards will be on duty from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. each day seven days per week from 1st July to 31st August 2017 at the following locations:-

- **The Meadows, Kilkenny City**
- **The Weir, Bleach Road, Kilkenny City**
- **Thomastown**
- **Inistioge**
- **Graiguenamanagh**



WATER SAFETY SUMMER WEEKS

GRAIGUENAMANAGH WATER SAFETY WEEK	Sunday 9th July to Saturday 15th July 2017
THOMASTOWN WATER SAFETY WEEK	Sunday 24th July to Saturday 30th July 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Times for swim weeks above – 3pm on Sunday • Monday to Friday commencing at 7 pm to 8.30 approx • Time for Saturday will be advised to participants • Swimming for children from aged 5 upwards • Water Safety for teenagers from aged 12 upwards • CPR Training for all suitable classes included • Fee approx €15 per week per child/teenager • Certificates will be awarded on successful completion • Lifeguards will be on duty during lessons 	

May Statistics - Environment	
Inspection Type	
Complaints Investigated	147
Litter Patrols	38
Litter Fines issued	1
Waste Facility inspections	3
Discharge Licenses Premises	1
ELV Regulations – Unauthorised sites	1
Bring Bank Surveillance	6
Farm Inspections	20
Litter Qualification Surveys	34
Litter Pollution Surveys	11
ATM Surveys	3
Packaging – General	9
Regulation	
Planning Reports	71
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	3
WEEE & Battery Regulations	10
Plastic Bag Regs	10
Monitoring	
Historic Landfill monitoring	2
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	16
Priority Site Monitoring	15

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

€129,125 approved to 9 business projects – 2 Feasibility/Innovation Grants, 3 Priming Grants and 4 Business Expansion Grants;

- 11 Trading Online Vouchers approved totalling €22,524;
- 96 people attended a Regional Trading Online Voucher (TOV) Seminar at the Lyrath Estate Hotel on 23rd May which was run in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
- 3 businesses were assisted with applications for the Smart Options Loan Scheme in association with St. Canice’s Credit Union, with 2 businesses currently receiving mentoring in order to make future applications to the scheme;
- 5 business assisted with applications to Micro Finance Ireland;
- 162 one-to-one mentoring assignments were allocated to business promoters;
- 196 promoters availed of one to one Business Advisory sessions;
- 1 business has transferred to the Enterprise Ireland portfolio as a High Potential Start-up;
- 3 Outreach Clinics have taken place - 2 in Graiguenamanagh Library and 1 in Ferrybank Library;
- The Student Enterprise Programme National Finals took place in Croke Park on 3rd May. Kilkenny was represented in all 3 categories: Senior Category - Kilkenny City Vocational School with their project ‘Seasonal Sensation’; Coláiste Eamann Rís, Callan in the Intermediate category with their craft business ‘TK Ceramics Ltd.’ and in the Junior category students from St. Brigid’s College, Callan with their themed and key word bookmarks project ‘Fresh Minds’.

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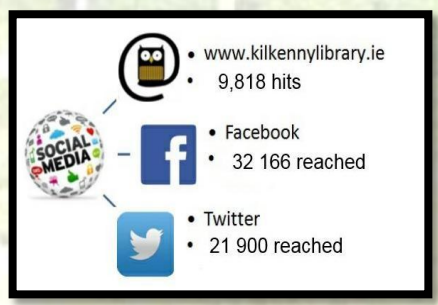
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- 25 enterprise training programmes have been completed in the Spring Training Programme with 274 business promoters in attendance;
- Greensbridge Engineering Ltd based in Mullinavat represented Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards Final which took place in the Mansion House Dublin on Thursday 25th May;

Programming



LIBRARY



eMagazines	• 525
eBooks	• 320
eAudiobooks	• 322
Article Searches	• 1,412

Bealtaine

Over 600 people attended over 70 events organised by the Library Services to celebrate creativity as we age, during the National Bealtaine Festival. From Upcycling to Making a Will, Music and Art Therapy to Wellbeing Workshops, and Origami to Golf. There was something for everyone this year.



New Remote Printing Services

City Library, John's Quay & Graiguenamanagh Library now offer remote printing services from your Laptop, Tablet or Smartphone. You can download the PrinterOn app & connect to either library, or email your documents to the address below from home, and collect later from the self service machine in the branch.

City Library, John's Quay printing addresses:
kilkenny-bw@printspots.com (b&w printing) or
kilkenny-colour@printspots.com (colour printing)

Graiguenamanagh Library printing addresses:
041770709@printspots.com (b&wprinting) or
572651649@printspots.com (colour printing)

For further information, see
www.kilkennylibrary.ie



**Appendix 1.
Kilkenny County Council**

Finance Report – June 2017.

The expenditure by service division for five months to the end of May 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €29.7m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

Table 1	Actual YTD May 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	7,355	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	7,578	17,093
Water Services	2,558	6,778
Development Management	3,047	7,894
Environmental Services	3,246	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	2,481	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	250	798
Miscellaneous Services	3,182	6,661
Overall Total	29,697	70,165

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the five months to the end of May.

The total Commercial Rates collected is up by 3 per cent compared with the five months to May 2016. This would indicate that more account holders are availing of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets.

As part of the national revaluation programme of commercial properties the Valuation Office issued proposed Valuation Certificates during the month of May. Property owners have 40 days from the date notified on the proposed valuation certificate to make representations to the Valuation Manager. The closing date for making representations for those who received their proposed valuation certificates dated 11th May is 19th June 2017. The closing date for those who received their proposed certificates dated 25th May is 3rd July.

Ratepayers in County Kilkenny can calculate their estimated rates liability for 2018 by multiplying the “Proposed Valuation” (Net Annual Value), as advised by the Valuation Office, by the indicative ARV for Kilkenny. Details of the indicative ARV is available by logging on to www.kilkennycoco.ie or contacting **056-7794209**

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.