



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

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

### EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the Elected Members.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Month of February

Library Sign up month in Kilkenny

### 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

Closing date for submission on material alterations for Thomastown Local Area Plan

### 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March

Local Enterprise Week

### 11<sup>th</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> April

LEO will host Brexit Advisory Clinics

### 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Closing date for submission on material alterations for Callan Local Area Plan

### 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

Closing date for submissions on the draft RSES.

### 15<sup>th</sup> March

Closing date for Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur Competition

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019

Closing date for receipt of completed applications for Estate Management Grants.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019

Closing date for receipt of completed applications for CCFCS.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019

Closing date for receipt of completed applications for Commercial Premises Paint Scheme

## REPORT AT A GLANCE

CORPORATE SERVICES:	PAGE 2
ROADS:	PAGE 2
PLANNING:	PAGE 3
ENVIRONMENT:	PAGE 5
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE	PAGE 6
TOURISM:	PAGE 6
HOUSING:	PAGE 8
COMMUNITY, CULTURAL	PAGE 9
HERITAGE:	PAGE 10
LIBRARY SERVICES:	PAGE 10
FINANCE	PAGE 11





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### CORPORATE

#### Commemorating 100 years of the Dáil & Women's Right to Vote

The Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamonn Aylward, led a commemoration of the centenary of the first meeting of Dáil Eireann on January 21<sup>st</sup> 1919 at County Hall on Monday January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh also spoke about the commemoration of women achieving a vote in the 1918 general election. The Flag Party, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion (James Stephens Barracks) raised the Irish Flag. The solemn celebration ended with the planting of two native oak trees in the grounds of County Hall.



#### CIVIC RECEPTION:

The Cathaoirleach hosted a reception for Kirsten Mate Maher, the 2018 International Rose of Tralee on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019, in the Council Chamber.



### ROADS

#### National Roads

##### N25 New Ross Bypass

The construction phase of the PPP Contract is well over two-thirds complete, and the scheme remains on programme to open in Q2/3 2019.

##### Pavement Schemes

**N25.** The €2.2m N25 pavement scheme over two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glenn is commencing in Q1 2019.

##### Kilkenny Minor Schemes

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

These include the N24 Tower Road which is currently in planning, N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme, N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme & the N25 Glenmore to Waterford Improvement Scheme.

##### Non National roads

An allocation of €13.77m was received for the maintenance and improvement of regional & local roads throughout Kilkenny County & City for 2019. This represents a 15% increase (€1.8million) on the 2018 allocation. Almost all categories of expenditure have increased including restoration improvement works which has increased by €600,000 to €6.95m. These monies contribute to the planned improvements of roads which have been identified as requiring strengthening under the Council's three-year plan.

Also of note is additional €330,000 on drainage works to €661,000 and an amount of €494,000 has been allocated for CIR's (Local Tertiary roads). The discretionary element of the restoration improvement grant which to date was up to 19% has been removed. This will result in a reduction approximately €1m in discretionary monies compared to 2018.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Other specific grants included in the allocation are:

- Safety Improvement works €318,000  
[11 projects]
- Specific Improvement grant €680,000  
[Thomastown Culvert]
- Bridge Rehabilitation €200,000  
[11 projects].

#### OTHER PROJECTS

##### Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

The options report identifying a preferred solution is expected in Q1 2019 with a view to an application for planning permission during Q2 2019.

##### Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure scheme

Subject to the successful completion of the appointment process, construction of this scheme is expected to commence in March/April 2019.

#### PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total to January	
	2018	2019
Planning Applications Received	62	43
Planning Applications Granted	66	64
Planning Applications Refused	9	7
Complaints Received	7	12
Warning Letters Issued	5	3
Enforcements Notices Issued	0	9

#### FORWARD PLANNING:

##### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) was published in December 2018. Submissions on the draft RSES can be made to the Southern Assembly by 5pm on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The Planning Department facilitated a workshop on the content of the Draft RSES with the elected members on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Following the workshop, it was agreed that a delegation from the Council should seek a

meeting with Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to highlight issues of concern for Kilkenny identified in the draft RSES. The Regional Assembly held a series of public consultation events in Waterford on 15<sup>th</sup> February. A submission is being finalised and will be submitted to the Regional Assembly by 8<sup>th</sup> March.

##### City & County Development Plans:

Background survey and analysis work on the City & County Development continues.

A series of workshops have taken place between the Planning Department and other sections of the Council as part of the review process of the plan. A call for tenders was made for the preparation of a County Retail Strategy and the decision on the appointment of consultants will be made shortly.

Other background material is being collated and gathered in the development of policy and this will continue. The formal process is suspended pending the completion of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

##### Local Area Plans:

The Chief Executive's reports for both the Thomastown and Callan draft Local Area Plans were considered by the Council at the January meeting. Following adoption by the Council of the Chief Executive's reports the Material Alterations for Thomastown and Callan went on display on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and the 8<sup>th</sup> of February respectively.

For Thomastown the proposed material alterations will be on display to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and people can make submissions on the alterations up until the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

The Callan Material Alterations will be on display to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 and people can make submissions on the alteration until the 8<sup>th</sup> March.





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

A Chief Executive's report on the material alterations for both plans will be brought before the Council at the March meeting for final adoption.

#### Vacant Sites

- There are now 16 (sixteen) sites on the Vacant Sites Register following the initiation of the vacant sites levy in 2017.
- The Finance Section has issued payment demands for the payment of the 3% levy on these 16 sites.
- It should also be noted that a number of sites originally placed on the register have since been activated so the levy is having the desired effect.
- On December 31<sup>st</sup> an additional 21 sites were added to the Register across Kilkenny City, Ferrybank, Castlecomer, Callan and Thomastown. The owners were notified of entry on the register in accordance with the legislation. The owners had a period of 28 days after the date of the notice to lodge an appeal against the notice of entry on the register.
- There have been 7 appeals lodged with An Bord Pleanála against the notices of entry for 2018.

#### CONSERVATION

##### Conservation Grants for 2019

The closing date for receipt of applications for conservation grants 2019 was the end of January and applications are currently being assessed.

Funding for Kilkenny County and City under the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019** has increased to €98,000. The funding for the grant ranges between €2,500 and €15,000, with grant allocations not exceeding 50% of the overall cost of each conservation project. A total of 22 applications were received under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme conservation grants. These applications deal with a wide range

of works for protected structures, and are currently being assessed.

**Historic Structures Fund for 2019** with a total (countrywide) fund available of €1,824,000. This Historic Structures Fund replaces the previous Structures at Risk Fund. The fund has two streams:

**Stream 1** will offer grants from €15,000 up to €50,000 and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures

**Stream 2** will offer a small number of grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where a clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated. (This may be phased over 2 years)

Kilkenny County Council has received 8 applications for the Historic Structures Fund. These applications are currently being assessed. Projects that meet the criteria included in the Historic Structures Fund Circular will be forwarded to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for consideration and final decision.

#### Taking in Charge

The following developments are to be listed on the February Agenda to commence taking in charge:

- Inis Alainn, Fiddown  
The Greens, Thomastown (realigned section of public road only)

The following development is to be listed on the February Agenda to complete taking in charge:

*Kilfera Court, Bennettsbridge Road.*

Taking in charge works have commenced at King's Court, Callan and Bellfield, Ferrybank. Further works are due to commence at Brookfield, Ballyhale.



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

Taking in charge works are continuing at Cois na Beara, Graignamanagh, Ard Glass, Ferrybank and Chapel View, Stoneyford.

### **Derelict Sites**

Work continues on the implementation of the Derelict Sites Act and following the service of Notices under the Derelict Sites Act 1990, the Planning Department was successful in getting works carried out on two sites to render them non-derelict.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Waste Management Enforcement.**

In response to the scourge of fly-tipping and littering particularly following the Christmas period, the Environment Enforcement Section were extremely active during the month of January. 66 No. Fixed Penalty Fine Notices have been served under the Litter Pollution Act, thus far in 2019, for littering offences around the City and County. The detections were made via evidence gathering through CCTV and physical inspections of discarded waste.

### **National Spring Clean 2019**

National Spring Clean is Ireland's most popular, well recognised and successful anti-litter initiative. This will take place during the month of April and now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter, by conducting clean ups in their own local areas.

National Spring Clean is proactively promoted and supported by Kilkenny County Council through the Tidy Towns Forum, provision of litter picking equipment and collection of waste collected by registered groups/individuals. Registration for National Spring Clean was opened by An Taisce on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.

Register online at: [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) or call (01) 4002219



### **Climate Adaptation Plan**

Work is continuing on the preparation of the draft Climate Adaptation Plan. The Working Group comprising of staff from the Environment and Planning Sections in conjunction with the Energy Officer. They are currently liaising with colleagues to develop actions for consideration. The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) will provide advice on Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft actions. It is hoped that a draft plan will be ready to go for public consultation in April, 2019.

### **Report on RMCEI – Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan**

<b>RMCEI – Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan</b>	<b>Number of Inspections – January 2019</b>
Complaints received and investigated	152
WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken	13
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services Section	57
Environmental Post Planning Reports	2
Environmental Planning Site visits	13
Planning Assessment (written report to planning)	52
Waste Permitted facilities – Inspections	15
Bring Bank Surveillance	16
Routine Litter Patrols – City	29
Routine Litter Patrols – County	13
FPN – issued under Litter Act	65
Inspections of unauthorised waste activity	4





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

#### SPRING 2019 TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has launched its Spring 2019 Training Schedule for entrepreneurs and employees of micro-enterprises ranging from Start Your Own Business to Management Development Programmes. 27 training programmes are currently available for booking at [www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny](http://www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny)

#### BREXIT ADVISORY CLINICS

As a small business owner, it is imperative to prepare for the upcoming challenges arising from Brexit. The preparations should include a strategic look at possible opportunities presented by Brexit. The LEO will host Brexit advisory clinics on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March & Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Contact 056-7752662 or email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie) to make an appointment.

#### LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Local Enterprise Week will take place from 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Highlights of the week include:

- *Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February*  
Boost Ecommerce Sales & Exploit Digital Marketing
- *Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February*  
Student Enterprise Programme County Final
- *Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February*  
International Women's Day Celebration

#### TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER SCHEME

Applications are currently open for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme to support small businesses to enhance their trading online presence. €2,500 is available to eligible businesses. The closing date for the next round of applications is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Contact the LEO at (056) 7752662 or email [info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:info@leo.kilkennycoco.ie).

### IRELAND'S BEST YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR (IBYE) COMPETITION

The LEO is currently recruiting for Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur. We are looking for dynamic, innovative young business people from across Kilkenny City & County aged 18-35 who have a business idea, a start-up or an established business to enter. Shortlisted applicants will take part in Business Bootcamps and compete in the County Final with an investment fund of €50,000 to share between the winners of the Best Business Idea, Best Start-Up and Best Established Business categories. Apply now by visiting [www.IBYE.ie](http://www.IBYE.ie). The closing date is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### TOURISM

#### Stakeholder Familiarisation Trips

Following Fáilte Ireland's Castles & Conquests workshop in Kilkenny in December 2018, Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Department scheduled a 'familiarisation tour' to reinforce the key features of Ireland's Medieval Mile, Kilkenny on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The walking tour was attended by over twenty individuals from hotel front of house and marketing staff, as well as activity providers. The walk and talk started at the Medieval Mile Museum and took in hotspots from the Castle to St. Canice's, wrapping up with the Smithwick's tour with a briefing on current and future developments. A successful outing with positive feedback.



Fam Trip : Ireland's Medieval Mile, Kilkenny, 15th January 2019



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

#### Visit by the Mid & East Antrim Food Guild

The Tourism Team facilitated a visit by a group from Mid & East Antrim Food network on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January exploring Kilkenny as best practice leaders in food tourism.

The itinerary included meeting with representatives of Tourism Team (Brian Tyrrell and Aisling Hayes) and Savour Kilkenny facilitated by Ger Mulally in City Hall Thursday afternoon, with trips to Goatsbridge, Ryeland House and Ballykeefe Distillery. The group consisted of producers, restaurateurs and civic representatives, including Michelle Sherlow MBE, Food NI Chief Executive. Kilkenny County Council accommodated the visit in association with the two Foodie Destination judges - Zack Gallagher and Wendy Kavanagh. Anne Neary accompanied the group.



Visit by the Mid & East Antrim Food Guild: City Hall, & Goatsbridge Trout Farm

#### Kilkenny Tourism CLG: Board Workshop

A workshop for the Board of Kilkenny tourism was held in the Ormonde Hotel on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The workshop was facilitated by Tina O'Dwyer of 'The Tourism Space' and explored issues facing tourism provider and stakeholders. A frank discussion charged attendees and challenged assumptions- attended by mix of sectoral representatives.



#### Woodstock House Gardens and Arboretum

Final confirmation of funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grants Scheme was

received in January 2019, confirming an allocation of €337,553 under Measure 3 of the Scheme. This grant will be match funded by Kilkenny County Council to the sum of €84,388, meaning a total spend on the refurbishment and upgrade of tracks and trails of €421,941.

The preparation of the business plan for Woodstock commenced with onsite meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January, in Inistioge / Woodstock. Colliers International, consultants met the various stakeholders in Inistioge, walked the grounds and met with some locals on this initial and comprehensive information gathering exercise. A full local consultation with the Inistioge Town Team is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

#### Festivals Support Grants

Kilkenny County Council's Festival support grants for 2019 were advertised in early January 2019, and the closing date for receipt of applications was 30<sup>th</sup> January. Applications were assessed and a draft allocation is being prepared for consideration by Council at the February meeting.

#### Destination Kilkenny Partnership

The Destination Kilkenny Partnership Group, under the Chairmanship of Liam Anthony Griffin, met on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, and discussed progress on the four pillar areas of activity:

- Evening Economy Plan (*Fáilte Ireland to lead*).
- Medieval Mile / Orientation Strategy (*Fáilte Ireland to lead*)
- Connect Kilkenny City and County (Kilkenny County Council to lead)
- Contemporary Culture and Arts (Sub Group/Naoise Nunn to lead)

The significant undertaking for early 2019 will be the development of a Visitor Orientation Strategy for Ireland's Medieval Mile, Kilkenny, which will take account of the Abbey Quarter, and the future proofing of an orientation plan which will





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

underpin the development of Ireland's Medieval Mile/Kilkenny as a tourism destination.

#### Marketing & Communications

- TL Marketing continued filming videos in January to promote Dunmore Caves, Nicholas Mosse and Ballykeefe Distillery.
- Print publications featuring Kilkenny included a 2-page spread in Club Choice Magazine ref promoting golf for distribution to every Golf Club in the U.K.
- 2-page spread in Irish Country magazine on CEO Karen Hennessy of Design Craft Council of Ireland showcasing Kilkenny.
- Nationwide featured Design Showcase featuring @Jerpoint Glass.
- French publication with advertorial on Kilkenny.

## HOUSING

### Housing Capital Delivery

We expect the Minister of Housing to announce shortly the 2019 targets set for each Housing Authority that will outline the separate targets for Build, Acquisition, Leasing and for HAP/RAS.

#### Units under Construction:

- 38 units Hoban Park, Bolton Callan.
- 54 units Ballybough Street, Kilkenny (*Respond Housing*).
- 27 units Walkin Street, Kilkenny (*Oaklee Housing*).
- 11 units Nuncio Road, Kilkenny (*Respond Housing*).
- 1 unit at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road, Kilkenny.
- 17 Units at Breagh Place, Main Street, Piltown.

#### Construction Schemes to commence early 2019:

- 33 units at Glebeside, Donaguile, Castlecomer.
- 22 units at Station Avenue, Ballyraggett.
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan.

Projects expected to be delivered during 2019 are as outlined in table below:

2019			
Location	Units	Status	Est. Delivery 2019
Walkin St., Kilkenny	27	Under Construction	Q3
Ballybough St., Kilkenny	54	Under Construction	Q3
St Mary's GHS	1	Under Construction	Q2
Love Lane, Castlecomer	4	Under Renovation	Q1
Friary Walk, Callan	16	Under Construction	Q3
Mooncoin	6	Under Construction	Q4
Cois na Bearu, Graignamanagh	14	Under Renovation	Q3
Ennisnag, Stoneyford ( <i>Kingsriver</i> )	2	To start renovations	Q4
Bridge St, Callan ( <i>GSC</i> )	6	To start renovations	Q4
Kilkenny St., Castlecomer ( <i>GSC</i> )	4	To start renovations	Q4
Acquisitions Countywide	65	Ongoing	Q4
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>		

As with all capital projects, delays may occur and could move the completion date out to 2020 for some of the projects.

<b>Number awaiting social housing support at 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019</b>	2,068
<b>Number of assessment interviews carried out in January:</b>	35
<b>LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):</b>	15
<b>Number of HAP tenancies to 31<sup>st</sup> January:</b>	863
<b>Number of LA tenancies surrendered:</b>	0
<b>Anti social behaviour cases:</b>	17
<b>New Homeless Presentations:</b>	25
<b>Maintenance Calls for January 2019</b>	466
<b>Maintenance Calls year to date</b>	466
<b>No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)</b>	0
<b>Amount of Loans Approved to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019</b>	€0





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

#### Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme (CCFCS)

The Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme (CCFCS) has been advertised. Applications forms are available from the Council's Community Department or to download from the Council's website. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

#### Events Grant Scheme

The Council's Events Grants Scheme has been advertised. Applications forms are available from the Council's Community Department or to download from the Council's website. Any community group that has already applied for an Event Grant under the 2019 Festivals Grant Scheme do not need to resubmit their application again on the new forms. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

#### Commercial Premises Paint Scheme

The 2019 Commercial Premises Paint Scheme will be advertised on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Applications forms will be available from the Council's Community Department or to download from the Council's website from 1<sup>st</sup> March. The closing date for receipt of completed applications will be Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

#### Estate Management Grants

The Estate Management Grants will be advertised on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Applications forms are available from the Council's Community Department or to download from the Council's website. The closing date for receipt of completed applications will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019.

Expressions of Interest are now being sought in respect of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

2019. The earlier we receive the expression, the earlier we can engage with the relevant community group to develop the application into a meaningful application for submission to the Department in June 2019.

#### CLÁR Scheme 2019

In anticipation that the CLÁR Scheme will issue in March 2019 and that the closing date for applications will be April (similar to 2018), the identification of projects at this stage is appropriate and will facilitate early preparation of applications for submission to the Department. Should elected members have suggestions in relation to school and community safety measures, they should bring them to the attention of the relevant Municipal Districts Engineers. Proposals for play areas, including MUGA's, should be brought to the attention of Stephen O Connor, Community Department.

#### Community Grant Information Booklet

The Community Grant booklet, first developed in 2018, is being updated and the revised version will be made available early in March 2019.

#### Thomastown Age Friendly Town

A consultation and information meeting will take place in Thomastown Community Centre on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 from 2.00p.m. until 4.30p.m. A presentation will be made on the draft Age Friendly Plan followed by questions and answers and an information exchange. Thomastown residents aged 55 and over are especially welcome to attend and outline their views on the draft plan.

### HERITAGE

#### World Wetland Day at Newpark Marsh

50 people attended a birdwatching outing to Newpark Marsh to celebrate World Wetlands Day. The event was led by Birdwatch Ireland Kilkenny Branch, and supported by the Heritage Office.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2019

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

#### Pesticide Presentation to SPC5

At the request of Strategic Policy Committee 5 (Environmental Protection, Water Services and Energy) the Heritage Officer and Landscape Architect presented a paper to the SPC (6<sup>th</sup> Feb) on the use of the herbicide Glyphosate – addressing current policy, examples from other local authorities and best practice.

- Relax Kids workshops promoting positivity and calming strategies.
- Themed story times for children in all branches.

#### LIBRARY SERVICES



Relax Kids Workshop in Urlingford



Castlecomer's Healthy Storytime Games

#### Healthy Ireland at your Library #BeWell #ThinkWell #EatWell



Living with Dementia talk in Loughboy

In addition to the events, a range of new books, ebooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines have been added to our Healthy Ireland collection, which is available in all branches.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library is financed by the Department of Health, and the Department of Community and Rural Development.

#### Increasing Access through Removal of Fines

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, fines for overdue items (*both new and existing*) were removed. The removal of fines is a key aim of the new Public Library Strategy *Our Public Library 2022: inspiring, connecting and empowering communities*, and is another way for libraries to encourage people who might not regularly use the library to experience what we have to offer.

We are encouraging members of the public to return undamaged, overdue library items to their local libraries as soon as possible, and we can reactivate your library membership for you to begin using your local library again.

Kilkenny County Library Service is continuing our programme of events as part of the National Library Initiative "Healthy Ireland at your Library" to help people start off on the right track this New Year.



Events in January included:

- Mindfulness at work and Mindfulness for Children with Louise Shanagher, a psychology lecturer, Author and mindfulness teacher.
- Talks on living with dementia and local supports for families with Caroline Clifford, HSE.





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

**APPENDIX 1**

**FINANCE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2019**

The expenditure by service division to the end of January is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €4.2m compared with the annual budget of €79.70m.

Table 1	Actual YTD January 2019	Budget Full Year 2019
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	1,213	16,468
Road Transport & Safety	707	22,328
Water Services	440	6,674
Development Management	649	9,718
Environmental Services	429	11,169
Recreation & Amenity	408	6,251
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	21	640
Miscellaneous Services	371	6,452
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>79,700</b>

The bank overdraft facility was not utilized during the month of January 2019.

The Annual Financial Statements for 2018 are almost complete and will be presented to the Members at the March Council meeting. The collection rates on the main income streams were in line with the targets for the year. Approximately 27% of the appeals on commercial rates to the Valuation Tribunal have been heard to date. This has resulted in a loss in annual rates income of €200k. We await the outcome on the remainder of the appeals. The 2019 rate demands are expected to be issued by February 15<sup>th</sup>.