



**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2018**  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

**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.

#### YULEFEST DATES FOR DIARY

**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December**

St. Canice's Cathedral: Vladimir's  
Viennese Christmas.

**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Watergate Theatre: Mayor's Christmas  
Concert in aid of Amber Women's Refuge.

**Month of December**

Christmas Markets: Wine Centre, John St.

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Santa Run

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Army Barracks (4.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.) Silent  
Night Christmas Day 1914

Check out all events on [www.yulefestkilkenny.ie](http://www.yulefestkilkenny.ie)

#### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Offices of Kilkenny County Council will:

- remain open to the public through  
lunchtime on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December &  
will close at 2.00 p.m.
- re-open on 27<sup>th</sup> December at 9.00 a.m.
- close 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. and re-open 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

**N.B. Planning Applications will be  
accepted up to 2.00 p.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

#### Motor Tax Office

21<sup>st</sup> December: 9.10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December: 9.10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

31<sup>st</sup> December: 9.10 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Normal opening hours of 9.10 a.m. to 3.30  
p.m. will resume from 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019.

## REPORT AT A GLANCE

<b>CORPORATE SERVICES:</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>HOUSING:</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>PLANNING:</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT:</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>
<b>ROADS:</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>
<b>COMMUNITY, CULTURAL</b>	<b>PAGE 11</b>
<b>HERITAGE:</b>	<b>PAGE 12</b>
<b>TOURISM:</b>	<b>PAGE 13</b>
<b>LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE:</b>	<b>PAGE 14</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>PAGE 15</b>
<b>LIBRARY SERVICES:</b>	<b>PAGE 16</b>
<b>ARTS:</b>	<b>PAGE 17</b>
<b>FINANCE:</b>	<b>PAGE 16</b>



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

#### CORPORATE

##### Tholsel

Following a briefing to the Elected Members of the Kilkenny Municipal District, it is intended to commence the formal Part VIII Planning Consultation for the Renovation of the Tholsel Building in early January. Public events will be arranged during this public consultation process, which will allow members of the public to visit the Tholsel Building, with details of the proposed work to be presented. The proposed works will include the following key elements:

- Provision of a Lift to all floors and a new stairs that will comply with the requirements of the Building Regulations.
- Provision of a Civic Entrance and Reception area to the building.
- Reinstating the Mayors Parlour to its original height and the reinstatement of the windows to the parlour.
- Creation of an exhibition/reception space outside the Council Chamber / Mayors Parlour.
- Opening up of the Basement of the building as a Tourist attraction.
- Provide limited public access to the Cupola/Clock Tower.

This project will to renovate the existing building and to provide better public access to the building whilst enhancing the civic function of the current building.



##### Civic Reception - Cartoon Saloon



Civic Recognition was presented to Cartoon Saloon at the Civic Reception held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018, in Medieval Mile Museum. Cartoon Saloon has carved a special place in the international Animation industry and Kilkenny has benefitted by becoming known on the worldwide stage as a centre of creativity.

##### Russian Ambassador Visits Kilkenny



The Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland, His Excellency Yury Filatov and his Head of Protocol, Mr. Artur Pankov in a recent visit to Kilkenny during the SUBTITLE Festival for a screening of the Russian film Coach was greeted by the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Eamon Aylward.

The Ambassador met with the Cathaoirleach, Officials and representatives from Kilkenny Chamber and Kilkenny Tourism and shared ideas in relation to business, cultural and tourism matters.

#### HOUSING

##### Capital Delivery 2018

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 notified Kilkenny County Council of its revised delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 599 units for the period 2018 to 2021 and a specific target of 133 units for 2018.



**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2018**  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

In 2018 a number of schemes advanced as follows:

**Completions:**

- 5 units at Togher Way, Urlingford.
- 1 Rural Cottage Barna, Freshford.
- 9 units acquired as a Turnkey development at Abbeygate, Ferrybank.
- 9 units at Side Road, Moneenroe (*Oaklee Housing*).
- 4 units in Phase II, St. Catherine's Group Housing Scheme, Wetlands, Kilkenny.
- 5 units at Greensbridge, Kilkenny.
- 4 units at Smith's Road, Ballyraggett (*Oaklee*).
- 15 units at Callan Manor, Green Lane, Callan (*Long term Leasing*).
- 12 units at Ogenty, Gowran.
- 18 units at Togher Way, Urlingford.
- 6 units at Garringreen (*SOS*).
- 12 units at Wing 52, Church Lane, Kilkenny (*Good Shepherd Centre*).
- 2 units by Dove AHB in Ferrybank.
- 10 units at Castlehyde, Rosbercon (*Co-operative Housing*).
- 2 units at O'Loughlin Road, KK (*Respond*).

**Construction Schemes Under Way**

- 38 units Hoban Park, Callan.
- 54 units Ballybough Street.
- 27 units Walkin Street.
- 11 units Nuncio Road.
- 1 unit at St Mary's Crescent, Hebron Road.

**Construction Schemes to commence in 2019**

- 33 units Donaguile, Castlecomer.
- 17 units Main Street, Piltown.
- 22 units, Station Avenue, Ballyraggett.
- 4 units at Blackstaff, Callan.
- 40 units at Margaretsfield, Callan Rd.

**Consultation Evenings**

- Consultations evenings were held in Piltown, Ballyraggett, Newpark hotel to inform the local community of proposed developments in their area.

**Acquisitions**

- KCC completed 29 purchases and a further 23 units are at *sale agreed* stage.
- Voluntary Bodies completed 42 purchases and a further 56 units are at *sale agreed* stage.

**18 Units complete at Togher Way, Urlingford**



**Homeless Update**

Details of homeless presentations for the months of 2018 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 and 2017 are set out below. There were 267 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 30/11/2018.

	2016	2017	2018
January	37	29	37
February	30	26	32
March	18	26	21
April	26	25	18
May	34	28	29
June	31	24	20
July	31	34	15
August	32	27	26
September	27	24	19
October	30	27	27
November	32	29	23
<i>Sub-total</i>	328	299	267
December	21	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>319</b>	



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### November 2018 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2018	2074
Number of assessment interviews carried out in November:	23
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations ( <i>offers made</i> ):	18
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 <sup>th</sup> November :	880
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	1
Anti social behaviour cases:	11
New Homeless Presentations:	23
Maintenance Calls for November 2018	577
Maintenance Calls year to date	4718
No. Housing Loans Approved to date ( <i>Annuity/Construction</i> )	19
<b>Amount of Loans Approved to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018</b>	<b>€2,228,330</b>

### Refugee Resettlement Programme

The Department of Justice and Equality notified Kilkenny County Council of its allocation to re-settle 140 refugees into County Kilkenny. The Council is sourcing houses by way of acquisition or turnkey developments and also units provided by Approved Housing Bodies. It is our intention to ensure the minimum impact on our existing social housing applicants.

The areas that Syrian families are re-settled to date or planned to be re-settled are as outlined in the table below:

Area	No. Families	Comment
Urlingford	4	Families in place 2018
Piltown	2	Families in place 2018
Mooncoin	2	Families in place 2018
Ferrybank	4	Families in place 2018
Rosbercon	2	Families in place 2018
Callan	4	Families in place 2018
Thomastown	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2 Families for resettlement in December 2018.</li><li>Remaining 2 families will be re-settled in 2019</li></ul>
Castlecomer	4	Properties to be identified
	<b>26</b>	

There will be 20 families (116 Syrians) resettled by end of 2018 with a further 6 to 8 families to be accommodated in the first half of 2019.

### Private Grants

**Opening of Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018:** The total number of HOP grants received by closing date in December was 227 and are currently being assessed.

**The number of Private grants approved in 2018 is as follows:**

Scheme	No.	Approved Amount
HGD	24	€302,294.43
MAG	13	€65,187.08
HOP	10	€65,528.40
	<b>47</b>	<b>€433,009.91</b>

We tendered for the creation of a new Occupational Therapist Panel to assess our medical based applications for grant assistance

### Strategic Policy Committee (SPC 4)

The Committee met on 5 occasions during 2018 and the topics discussed were:

- Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Disability Strategy
- Rent Scheme & Rent review 2018
- Tenant Handbook
- Anti- Social Behaviour Policy
- Homeless Services Policy
- Homeless Presentations –Statistics and monitoring
- Housing Capital Programme
- RAS & HAP Schemes
- Private Grants
- New Home Loan
- LIHAF Update on Western Environs
- Housing Maintenance Report



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## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

#### Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP):

2018 is the final year of the 5 year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 – 2018. At the end of June 2018, KCC delivered **60** units of accommodation. This Council is on target to meet the target of **65** units of accommodation set out in TAP for this time period.

A new Traveller Accommodation Plan, in accordance with Section 8 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, is currently being drafted in respect of the period beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

A draft of this Programme will be available for inspection in April 2019 at which time another advertisement will be published. Submissions must be made in writing to The Housing Section, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John's Street, Kilkenny by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.

#### Disability Strategy

De-congregation of St Patrick's is progressing where residents are relocated back into community type accommodation. The Sub-Committee Meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June with St. Patrick's, HSE and Local Authority in attendance.

- 24 individuals to be de-congregated in 2018 into **permanent** accommodation.
- 13 individuals to be de-congregated into **private rented** accommodation.
- 17 individuals to be de-congregated during 2019/2020

Kilkenny County Council has funded Oaklee AHB to provide 4 units at Smyths Road, Ballyragget and 2 units at O'Loughlin Road, Hebron, Kilkenny under the Capital Assistance Scheme.

#### PLANNING

Planning Summary	Total to November	
	2017	2018
Planning Applications Received	793	792
Planning Applications Granted	677	629
Planning Applications Refused	50	57
Complaints Received	103	95
Warning Letters Issued	97	67
Enforcements Notices Issued	34	46

As can be seen from the figures the number of planning applications has remained on a par with 2017 but the type of application has changed with additional housing and commercial activity.

#### Forward Planning:

##### City & County Development Plans:

Section 12 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 was commenced by Ministerial order on the 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018. This requires Local Authorities to suspend the process of making the plan until not later than 13 weeks after the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies by the Regional Assembly.

A notice was published to this effect suspending the process from the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.

The Regional Assembly is preparing the Regional Spatial Strategy and its publication is imminent.

In the meantime the background survey and analysis work on the City & County Development will continue.

A series of workshops are taking place between the Planning Department and other Council sections as part of the review process of the plan. These will be completed before the Christmas holiday period.

#### Local Area Plans:

Draft Local Area Plans for Callan and Thomastown have been placed on public display since the 8<sup>th</sup> November. The public display



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period is for 6 weeks and allows for people and organisation to make submissions on the draft plans the final date for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The Plans are available for inspection on the Council's portal at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie> Submissions or observations are encouraged to be made:

- online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/> or
- by e-mail to [ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie) or
- in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning Department, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.

Information Evenings were held for both plans: on Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup> from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in Callan Community Hall and on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in Thomastown Community Hall. A total of 34 people attending the sessions.

#### **Vacant Sites**

As of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 there were 17 sites on the Vacant Sites register. A total 6 sites have been activated since the Register was established. In January 2019 the Finance Section will issue payment demands for the payment of the 3% levy on these sites.

The Council is currently in the process of updating the Register for 2019. As part of that review, sites are being examined in Kilkenny City, Ferrybank and Castlecomer, and sites in Callan and Thomastown are also being included. In November, the Council issued the first notifications under the legislation, i.e. Section 7(1) Notices, for a total of 22 sites. This notifies any relevant owners that their site is being considered for inclusion on the Vacant Sites Register. The owners have an opportunity to make a written submission to the Council within a period of 28 days after the date of the notice.

A briefing session was held with Councillors on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.

#### **Conservation**

##### **Inistioge**

- Stabilisation and remedial work has been completed on Inistioge Castle, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny. The 16<sup>th</sup> century Castle is located on the western side of Inistioge Square, and is an importance element of the medieval architecture in the village. The project was completed with financial support to the value of €26,000 from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, with the remainder of the overall cost of the project funded by Kilkenny County Council. The completed works required consent from the National Monument Service, professional Tree Surgeons, Ecologist, Bat Survey and Conservation contractor were involved in the work.
- Discussion is currently ongoing for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019 grant funding assigned to the refurbishment of Inistioge Square, a protected structure within the village.
- Discussion have also progressed regarding work to the 19<sup>th</sup> century bridge in Coon

So far in 2018 there have been:

- 52: *Planning Applications concerning works to protected structures and other elements of the historic built environment.*
- 19: *Section 57 Declarations for protected structures*
- 7: *Section 5 Notice - if building requires planning.*
- 1: *Section 59 Notice - requiring works to be carried out.*

processed through conservation office

##### **Bridge House Johns Street**

Under the Planning Acts a Section 59 notice was served on the owner of the Bridge House following a serious fire incident and extensive



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**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2018**  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

damage in October in order to secure the protection of remaining historical fabric.

The owner has positively engaged with the Council and a number of meetings were held with the owner to progress stabilization of the structure and progress re-roofing of the building. Works have commenced on site.

**Two Conservation Grant Schemes for 2019** have been announced recently, they are as follows:

- (i) **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019** - €98,000 for the City and County of Kilkenny. *(This is an increase of €10,000 from last year)*

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. Application forms, additional Grant information including Qualifying and Non qualifying works for the Scheme are available on the Kilkenny County Council website at the following link:

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Planning/Conservation/>

- (ii) **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 Historic Structures Fund will have 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)

Applications and additional information is available on the Kilkenny County Council website at the following link:

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Planning/Conservation/>

Closing date for both grants is Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

### **Taking in Charge**

Following completion of works and the public consultation stages for taking in charge the following 6 Estates have been listed on the December Agenda for final taking in charge. These are:

- The Weir View, Kilkenny
- Lios na Si, Johnstown
- Bradóg Way, Gowran
- Nore Terrace, Kilkenny
- Barronscourt, Bennettsbridge
- Aylesbury, Ferrybank

This brings to 9 the total number of estates taken in charge in 2018. These estates contain 410 housing units. The roads and services are now under the Council's management and maintenance regime.

Works are ongoing in Chapel View Stoneyford, Cois na Bearu Graiguenamanagh, and Ard Glass Ferrybank. These estates will be progressed for taking in charge early in 2019.

Following completion of the 2018 works the number of schemes for taking in charge is now down to 42 from a total of 91 since 2016.

It is anticipated that a further 9 estates will be taking in charge in 2019.

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## **ENVIRONMENT**

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### **Bikes for Africa**

The Environment section is delighted to be a partner with Kilkenny Rotary Club on the Bikes for Africa Project. With this project we hope to encourage people to deliver their unwanted bikes free of charge to Dunmore Recycling



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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Centre. A container is on site where the bikes will be held until they are transported to Loughan House Open Prison. Here they are refurbished and then sent to their final destination in Gambia Africa.

The official launch occurred on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November and was attended by Sean McKeown Director of Service Environment, Cathaoirleach Eamon Alyward, Mayor Peter Cleere and Jimmy Connolly President Rotary Kilkenny.

A special word of thanks to Alan and his team at Dunmore along with Pat Mullally from the Machinery yard and CPD Engineering.



From left: Sean McKeown, Director of Services, Eamonn Aylward, Cathaoirleach KCC, Jimmy Connolly, President Rotary Kilkenny and Mayor Peter Cleere.

### Stook 10

The Stook 10 Road race took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> November in Gowran and celebrated its first year to go green. The Environment Section worked with the Stook Committee on greening initiatives and the primary initiative was to remove single use plastic bottles which were ordinarily provided to competitors in previous years. Refill Ireland was sponsored by the Environment Section through Local Authority Prevention Network Funding to supply 1500 reusable cups in lieu of single use plastic bottles. This initiative was a great success and early feedback from the committee confirmed that there was a serious reduction in waste on the course with only a small amount of unrelated litter collected post race. An additional bonus to the sponsorship arrangement with Refill Ireland has led to Kilkenny Recreation and Sports

Partnership being able to acquire our reusable cups for the Medieval Mile Road Race this year. It is envisaged that the Environment Section with work with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership on future greening initiatives for their events.



### Waste Management Enforcement.

This year to-date the Environment Section has issued 90 Fixed Penalty Fine Notices, under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 for littering offences. The majority of detections were in the main related to the 44 Bring Centres within the City and County. To-date, a total sum of €5,320 has been paid on foot of these fines whilst the outstanding balance is still being pursued by the Environment Section.

Separately, action was also taken against 7 individuals directly through the courts under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, resulting in 6 prosecutions.

### #Poop Off Our Pavements

Kilkenny County Council's anti dog fouling campaign #Poopoffourpavements was launched by Mary Kennedy on the 16<sup>th</sup> November at KCLR Offices. Four audio poles have been installed in various city locations and a social media and radio campaign has been rolled out.



People are being asked to post a picture of their dog to Facebook or Twitter with #Poopoffourpavements to be in with a chance to win one of four Kilkenny Chamber vouchers. The cut out board, with the assistance of Keep Kilkenny Beautiful will be in various locations over the coming weeks and will also make an



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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

appearance at the Inistioge Christmas market thanks to the Inistioge Tidy Towns Committee. KCLR will broadcast 120 announcements over the four week campaign reminding people of their responsibility to clean up after their dog.

### Bigwood Bring Centre

Following an arson attack at the Bring Centre in Bigwood earlier this year, the service has recently been restored for the community. The facility provides for 5 new receptacles sited on a concrete plinth along with the erection of newly branded Bring Centre signage. Subject to funding it is anticipated that this new signage will be rolled out to other sites on phased basis.



### Irish Water Safety

Certificates were presented by Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development, Mr. Seán Canney in Dublin Castle on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 to the following:-

Joan McLoughlin, WSDO, was awarded a Ten Year Service Award in recognition of her voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescue in saving lives.



Michael Gaule Snr. from Kilkenny Water Safety was presented with a Just In Time Award (JIT) to recognise his bravery while on holidays in Costa Del Sol in 2016 where he successfully rescued three people from the sea including a mother and child. All three made a full recovery.

Michael Gaule Jnr from Kilkenny Water Safety was awarded a JIT award for successfully administering BLS (Basic Life Support) to his Aunt who had suffered concussion but was thought to be out of danger and let out of hospital earlier on that day. Had he not been there at the time she collapsed, the outcome might have been very different.

Kilkenny People Newspaper were presented with a Media Appreciation Award in recognition of their covering drowning prevention water safety issues through the year and for the past number of years. The award was accepted on their behalf by Catherine Millea and Joan McLoughlin.

RMCEI <i>Recommended Minimum Criteria Environmental Inspection Plan</i>	No. Inspections undertaken to End October 2018	Yearly Target No. under RMCEI	% of Yearly Target Achieved to-date
Discharge Licensed Premises	22	24	92%
WFD Monitoring, op & surv, samples taken	435	435	97%
WFD Investigative monitoring, samples & analysis	77	94	82%
Bathing Waters (Non-designated)	20	20	100%
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems under NIP	27	27	100%
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	22	22	100%
Ambient Monitoring	192	160	120%
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services Section	521	550	95%
Planning Assessment (written report to planning)	492	561	88%
Waste Permitted facilities – Inspections	15	15	100%
Bring Bank Surveillance	156	150	104%
Historic Landfills – risk investigation & remediation	7	7	100%
Historic Landfill monitoring	18	24	75%
Routine Litter Patrols – City	302	200	151%
Routine Litter Patrols – County	174	175	99%



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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

#### ROADS

##### NATIONAL ROADS

###### N25 New Ross Bypass

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

###### Pavement Schemes

**N78:** The N78 pavement overlay scheme with a contract value in excess of €2million is complete with some minor accommodation works outstanding.

**N25** The N25 pavement scheme consists of two sections totalling approximately 4.5km, Gaulstown to Graiguenakill and Luffany to the Rhu Glen. The works will commence in January 2019 for a contract value of in excess of €2million.

###### Kilkenny Minor Schemes

A number of schemes are progressing through various design stages in conjunction with TII on the national road network. These include the N24 Tower Road, N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslee Improvement Scheme & N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme.

A public consultation drop in information day was held in Mooncoin for the N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. This scheme is to address the series of bends from the west of Mooncoin village to the start of the Piltown By-Pass. 54 people called into the Community Hall in Mooncoin to view the scheme. Completed questionnaires or comments on the three options presented will be accepted up to the 10<sup>th</sup> December. The options can be viewed on the [consult.kilkenny.ie](http://consult.kilkenny.ie) consultation portal.

##### KILKENNY MAJOR SCHEMES

###### N25 Waterford to Glenmore Scheme.

Kilkenny County Council has recently received approval from TII to proceed to Phase 1 on the

design of this scheme. This approval will allow for the appointment of consultant to progress the design of this major scheme. The project will be advanced in conjunction with Tramore House Regional Design Office.

##### OTHER PROJECTS:

###### Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge

Kilkenny County Council has entered into a Section 85 agreement with Kildare County Council and specifically the Bridge Design Office attached to Kildare RDO to progress this scheme. RPS consultants have been appointed consultants.

##### NON NATIONAL ROADS

###### CLAR Works

*Overall grant value €300,000*

Works at Kilmaganny, Kilmanagh, Tiscofin, Listerlin, Windgap (Kilamery), Kilmacar (Conahy), Knockroe (Kilamery), Muckalee and Cross Patrick were included as the 2018 Clar projects. The works are being completed through the local Municipal District Offices. The works at each location are varied but can include provision for car parking, footpaths, driver feedback signs and public lighting. Some of the works are on-going. Given phasing some of these works are expected to be on-going into 2019.

###### Thomastown Culvert Rehabilitation Scheme

The contract award process is ongoing with an expected letter of intent to award the contract being issued in the next 2 weeks. The likely commencement date for works on site is early March 2019.

###### Low Cost Safety:

*Total Value: €282,000*

There are 10 locations listed for works as per Roadworks Scheme 2018. These works are being completed through the local Municipal District Offices. The works are to be complete as of end of November.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

#### Rural Regeneration Fund

The first round of announcements made under the Rural Regeneration Fund allocated Kilkenny County Council funds in respect of Callan's Fair Green and Motte Fields Projects.

The works to be undertaken at the Fair Green include traffic management, passive recreation and an age active area. The total cost of the Fair Green project is €360,000 and the funding approved is €291,750.

The work envisaged at the Motte Fields include construction of a trail surface, fully accessible walkway, benches, heritage signage, additional planting and public access from Bridge Street. The overall cost is €360,000 and the funding approved is €270,000.

Both projects will be undertaken in 2019 and will contribute to an overall package of regeneration measures in Callan.

#### Callan Town Improvement Plan (Draft)

At a public meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December a joint presentation was made on the Draft Town Improvement Plan by the Callan Town Team and Kilkenny County Council's Community Dept. The community plan was drafted by the Town Team following consideration of the Callan Health Check report. The Draft Plan contains 30 actions which are aimed at addressing identified issues in the town with regards to the public realm and residential regeneration, traffic management enhancements, tourism, culture and heritage development, recreation and amenity, community development and engagement, branding and marketing the town and the promotion of local skills, produce and enterprise. The Team will consider any written submission made in relation to the Draft Plan prior to finalising it and prior to its formal presentation to various

potential implementing partners including Kilkenny County Council.

#### Inistioge Village Improvement Plan [Draft]

The is currently being drafted by the Inistioge Village Improvement Team and at a public meeting, on a date to be arranged, the Draft Plan will be presented to the wider community. The process following the presentation will be similar to the process involved for the Draft Callan Plan, as outlined above.

#### Health Check Reports

All Health Checks have now been completed. Public meetings were held to provide feedback to local communities in Ballyhale/Knocktopher, Inistioge, Freshford, Ballyragget, Mooncoin. A public meeting will be arranged for The Rower shortly. Each Health Check report contains a suite of recommendations for consideration by local community committees and may be used to inform and develop local community action plans, inform funding applications and form the basis for local communities to develop collaborative working arrangements in relation to locally identified issues.

All individual health check report will be made available (*in their pre-published versions*) on the Council's website and the composite report for all 8 locations will also be made available when finalised.

#### Pride of Place 2018

Kilkenny Community Groups were honoured at the annual IPB Pride of Place awards held on Cork City Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL



Kilkenny Arts Office's Open Circle programme was honoured at the annual IPB Pride of Place awards held in Cork City Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Open Circle took home a Special Award under the 'Creative Place' category, the judges cited *'the key to this entry is that it makes the arts accessible to women of all ages engendering mutual encouragement and inspiration in those involved and a very palpable sense of community'*. Thomastown and Kells taking runner up spots in their categories.



## HERITAGE

### Council Launches New Cultural Strategy

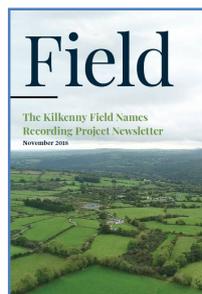


Launching the new Cultural Strategy were Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, Chair Kilkenny Heritage Forum; Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Colette Byrne, Chief Executive; Cllr. Eamonn Aylward, Cathaoirleach Kilkenny County Council; Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Mary Butler, Arts Officer; Josephine Coyne, County Librarian. (Photo, Pat Moore).

Kilkenny County Council has launched a new 5 year Cultural Strategy which provides a framework for the delivery of the Arts, Heritage & Library Services of the Council from 2018 to 2022. It replaces the former Arts Plan, Biodiversity Plan, Heritage Plan & Library Plan. Welcoming the strategy Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach Kilkenny County Council said *"Our culture is vital for the life of Kilkenny's citizen's. It underpins employment, health and well-being, quality of life, and civic participation. We have a responsibility to conserve and enhance our culture for future generations."*

The publication of the new strategy follows an extensive public consultation process, coordinated by the Cultural Services Team of Kilkenny County Council. Copies of the plan are available in Irish and English from the Arts Office, Heritage Office and County Library, and can also be downloaded from [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie)

### "Field" Newsletter



The Heritage Office has produced a newsletter "Field" with news and updates from the Kilkenny Field Names Project. It includes essays from volunteers, in Irish and English; photos from the map showing the areas in Co. Kilkenny. Over 9,500 fieldnames have been collected. Copies of the newsletter will be disseminated to heritage groups and interested parties around the county. To order a copy, email [heritage@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:heritage@kilkennycoco.ie) or download a copy at [www.kilkennyheritage.ie](http://www.kilkennyheritage.ie).

### New Kilkenny City Archaeological Database

The Heritage Council, Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office and Kilkenny Archaeology Ltd have developed a new Kilkenny City archaeological map and dataset. This is a treasure trove for anyone with an interest in Kilkenny City's archaeology, and comprises all



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

the archaeological reports and findings from the period 1968 to 2006. Kilkenny County Council is the second local authority in Ireland, after Dublin City, to undertake such a project. See the "Archaeology" section on [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie).

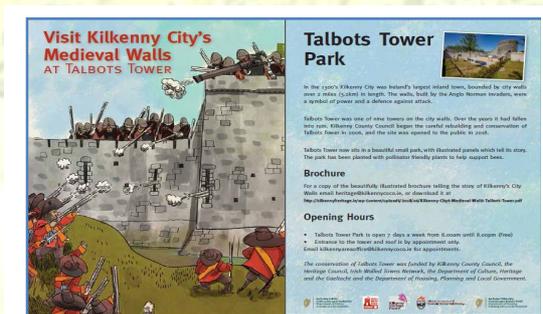


Launching the new Kilkenny Archaeological Project in County Hall were Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer; Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, Chair Kilkenny Heritage Forum; Colette Byrne, Chief Executive; Pat Reid, Heritage Council; Cllr. Eamonn Aylward, Cathaoirleach Kilkenny County Council; Mary Mulholland, Director of Services; Cólín Ó Drisceoil, Kilkenny Archaeology Ltd; Beatrice Kelly, Heritage Council.

### Visit Talbots Tower

The Heritage Office produced a 1 page flyer about Talbots Tower, as a cost effective way of promoting Talbots Tower to visitors and locals alike. The flyer will be distributed to heritage attractions along the Medieval Mile and to the Kilkenny Tourist Office to encourage visitors to visit Kilkenny City's medieval walls.

Thanks to the Kilkenny Area Office, Talbots Tower Park is open 7 days a week from 8.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m. Entrance to the tower and roof is by appointment only. Email [kilkennyareaoffice@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:kilkennyareaoffice@kilkennycoco.ie) for appointments.



### TOURISM

#### Measure 3 of Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

Woodstock Activity & Recreation Trails awarded €337,553

Michael Ring, TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, recently announced approval for 18 strategic projects under the 2018 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme nationally, including Woodstock Activity and Recreation Trails. This project will create an all-season amenity trail, upgrade of existing paths and trails / tracks and link Inistioge Village to the Woodstock Estate & Gardens. Match funding by Kilkenny County Council in the sum of €84,388 will mean a total investment of €422,000.

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the maintenance, enhancement and promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

#### Blue Book inclusion of Butler House & Gardens

Butler House has been listed as one of 6 new additions in 'Ireland's Blue Book' for 2019. The Book only features luxurious country house hotels, manor houses, castles and restaurants located throughout Ireland and that have strong individualistic style and character. There are now 59 Irish Blue Book entries.

The Blue Book association is the only Irish member of the prestigious Historic Hotels of Europe, which is an umbrella federation representing 18 similar associations in 16 European countries and gives Butler House a platform from which to promote Butler House and the Kilkenny Tourism experience.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

### Foodie Destination

Replica Winner certificates have been distributed to all members of Kilkenny Tourism to display and promote our award as the top foodie



destination in the country, as well as window stickers to reinforce and publicise the win.

### Neven's Kilkenny Christmas

Neven Maguire chose Kilkenny City as his base for his two Christmas programmes this year, largely because of the Foodie Destination Award. Neven's Kilkenny Christmas broadcast on RTÉ 1 on 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### Training

Our Tourism staff participated in a refresher course on project management and securing funding for capital projects in 2019, given by Fáilte Ireland. It was a follow up to Fáilte Ireland's regional tourism management programme, the refresher day focused on capital funding applications for the next round.



### Shop Local Campaign

Advertorial submitted for VIP Magazine, part of our ongoing support to the Shop Local campaign via social networking/ media.



## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

### Shop Local Campaign

This month saw the launch of a new #shopkilkenny initiative which is designed to raise awareness of the many businesses on our doorstep this Christmas and remind shoppers that where we direct our spending shapes the future of where we live.

*The #shopkilkenny Christmas Campaign is supported by Yulefest Kilkenny, Kilkenny County Council, Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, Kilkenny Tourism and individual retailers and small businesses.*

### KEY STATISTICS FOR 2018

€313,419 has been approved to 15 businesses linked to the creation of 85 jobs over a 3 year period;

415 participants attended 5 Seminars ranging from GDPR Compliance to Brexit;

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

396 participants attended 36 core training programmes from financial training to management development programmes;

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

154 participants attended 9 Start Your Own Business programmes which explores all the aspects encountered when starting up a new business;



## KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

# MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

## DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

45 clients attended 8 Mentor Clinics to seek assistance in relation to issues within their business;

34 Trading Online Vouchers were approved totalling €66,702 in order to assist businesses to trade on-line;

10 businesses were approved Technical Assistance Micro Export Assistance Grants in order to assist them access overseas markets;

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

4 businesses were assisted to make applications to Microfinance Ireland Loan Fund;

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

2 businesses are participating on the pilot Design for Growth programme in the South East. In August they were both approved Design Vouchers to assist them apply design principles to their business;

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Kilkenny & Castlecomer Share the Spoils at Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town Awards 2018

The final of the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town Awards took place on November 28<sup>th</sup> in the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny.



The 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. The 2018 competition saw over 80 entries from across the country. Kilkenny, Castlecomer,

Graiguenamanagh and Piltown were the entries from County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny City was named winner of the 'Regional Large Town in Leinster' taking home a cash prize of €3000 and a Crystal Trophy. Castlecomer was named Runner Up in the 'Small Town in Leinster' category receiving a cheque for €2000 and a framed certificate. Congratulations to all involved for a well deserved recognition.

While disappointed in not being amongst the prize winners, Graiguenamanagh and Piltown must be acknowledged for their entries and the work invested in their towns' development. Their showcase to the judging panel clearly demonstrated the strong enterprising spirit within these communities. Well done all.

#### Urban Regeneration & Development Fund:

Kilkenny County Council secured grant funding of €4.764 Million towards the regeneration of the Abbey Quarter under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The URDF Fund was announced as part of Project Ireland 2040, to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres.

The regeneration of the Abbey Quarter presents a once in a life time opportunity to restore a significant brown field site in the heart of Kilkenny City. The grant funding secured under the URDF is for a number of 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects that are essential to stimulate and enhance commercial development on the Abbey Quarter. The overall redevelopment of the Abbey Quarter will be delivered in a number of phases and the URDF grant funding is towards three distinct yet inter-related elements that form part of Phase 1, namely: 1. the Abbey Quarter Core Project; 2. Abbey Quarter Key Enabler Project; and 3. Abbey Quarter Enhancing Project.



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

The Abbey Quarter Core Project is comprised of 7 public realm infrastructure, community and cultural projects. These projects in turn will leverage investment for the other part of Phase 1, namely the redevelopment of the Mayfair and Brewhouse Buildings on the Abbey Quarter, to deliver circa 1,600 square metres and circa 6,500 square metres of unique office space respectively.

The Enabler Project comprises of a number of projects that are located adjacent to the Abbey Quarter site and will be key to ensuring full access and integration within the existing Medieval fabric of the City. The Enhancing Project comprises a number of projects that are complementary to the Abbey Quarter and will improve connectivity and enhance tourism routes surrounding the Abbey Quarter.

The Abbey Quarter will be a place where people work, live, be educated, visit and invest. The Abbey Quarter will be an extension to the Medieval Mile, and will open up access to St Francis Abbey, where Kilkenny's rich history in brewing can trace its roots. All development within the Abbey Quarter area will be in keeping with the overall Masterplan adopted (in 2015) and the Design Guidelines adopted (in 2018) by Kilkenny County Council..

#### Enterprise Ireland - Regional Enterprise Development Fund:

The National Design Innovation Hub DAC t/a Centre 4 Design (C4D) was successful in its application to Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) and was allocated €1,843,320 towards the development of the project. The project is led by ITC.

The C4D will be a design innovation hub that will enable companies to conceptualise, innovate, build and test new products and services through critical problem-solving methodologies and the standardisation of the design process as a commercial enabler. A not for profit venture, it

will focus on the creation of high economic value jobs through business development, research and talent generation.

It is envisaged that this facility will be housed within the Abbey Quarter. Partners involved are Carlow IT, Kilkenny County Council, Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Kilkenny Industrial Development Company and Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP).

### LIBRARY SERVICES

#### Mayfair

Following the agreement of elected members to consider proposals for the development of a new City Library at the Mayfair, Abbey Quarter a Stage 1 approval has been submitted to the Library Development Unit within the Department of Rural & Community Development to proceed to planning and detailed design in respect of a proposal at this site. It is envisaged that a planning proposal would be prepared for the consideration of elected members in Quarter 1 2019. The overall proposal will included consideration of the refurbishment requirements for the Carnegie Library to remain in use as a library and community facility.



#### 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, South Eastern Science Festival, WIT & London Science



# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

Museum. 552 people attended 17 events in libraries with events ranging from Lego workshops to Circus science, molecular gastronomy to biodiversity workshops and D-Day Landings to mathematicians.

One of our highlights was 3 practical workshops held in Loughboy Library by *Foodoppi*. Through the process of molecular gastronomy, Foodoppi provided the children with an opportunity to experiment with food & flavours in a dynamic & scientific way. 150 children had the opportunity to make liquid nitrogen ice-cream, see Dragon's breath demonstrations using liquid nitrogen, and turning yogurt into popping spheres. Teacher commented - "They learned so much and are now more enthused about science".



#### National Literacy Development Programme: Right to Read

The ongoing national initiative is designed to encourage literacy outside of formal education settings, and support individuals to realise their personal, social, and educational potential.

#### Battle of Wits Transitions Year Quiz

Battle of Wits is a table quiz tournament for Transition Year students, designed as a strand of our Right to Read Action plan to engage teenagers with literacy. The library services of Kilkenny, Carlow, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath, Leitrim & Roscommon came together to run the event.

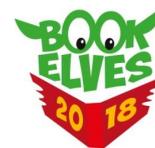
Grennan College TY students fought a tough battle against 7 other secondary schools to secure the title of Battle of Wits 2018 in Kilkenny. They now go forward with second placed Abbey College, Ferrybank to represent Kilkenny at the Regional finals in Athlone in December. Third place went to Kilkenny College. Also in

contention for the title were Coláiste Éamann Rís Callan, Scoil Aireagail Ballyhale, Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown, Coláiste Pobail Osraí and CBS Kilkenny.

#### Family Time at your Library

As part of Kilkenny Local Authority and Kilkenny Library Service's commitment to literacy Development, we are running Family Time at your Library this December. This was developed to promote the importance of a family focused approach to reading, and increase awareness of the importance of literacy for all. Events organised range from Storytimes with Mrs. Claus and Library Staff, Craft Sessions, Book Clubs, cartoons mornings and Customer Coffee mornings.

We are also involved in recommending children's books across the country with other libraries, authors, illustrators, booksellers and publishers in a national #bookelves18 promotion which continues throughout the month.



#### Christmas Programme



Kilkenny Library Service will participate in Yulefest festivities across the county again this year, with all of our branches hosting Storytimes for children.

We have a host of other exciting events happening, with visits from Mrs. Claus, Silhouette Making, Christmas coffee mornings, toddler storytimes, flower arranging, Colouring competitions, and much more.

#### ARTS

#### Mórbhileog 2018

The Arts Office first broadsheet as Gaeilge, Mórbhileog, was





# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

### DECEMBER 2018

TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

launched in the Parade Tower on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. In celebration of 'Bliain na Gaeilge' we worked with a group of adult poets who write in Irish. To encourage the next generation of Irish language poets we invited first and second year students from Coláiste Pobail Osraí to take part in poetry workshops with Áine Ní Ghlinn and to have their poems included in this beautiful publication. The combination of the adult and student voices made it a lovely intergeneration project. *Mórbhileog Chill Chainnigh* was edited by Áine Ní Ghlinn and illustrated by Ross Stewart, Artistic Director of *The Secret of Kells* animated film by Cartoon Saloon.

#### Rhyme Rag Ensemble

As part of our continuing commitment to young writers the Rhyme Rag Ensemble will host a writing workshop with young people with Isis O Regan. Isis is a music & culture PR and journalist based in East London who has written for the likes of CRACK Magazine, CLASH and DAZED. Earlier this year, Isis performed her debut work 'WIP' at the prestigious Café Oto in Dalston, inspired by the activism surrounding the repeal movement and the Irish uprising.

#### Bealtaine Commission

Research and development is ongoing with our partners, the Bealtaine National Office and the Arts Offices of Wexford and Waterford on our commission with artist Allannah O' Kelly, she will work with communities across the three counties and to produce work for exhibit in May 2019

#### Open Circle

##### Beginners Poetry with Nuala Roche

Open Circle hosted a very successful six week beginner's poetry writing course with writer and poet Nuala Roche. This has enabled us to expand on previous creative writing and journaling courses we have run over the last few years. The writing workshops are always very successful and have enabled us to engage with new women

and continue to expand and diversify our reach across the county.

#### New Members 2019

Open Circle held an information and introductory session for the 22 women who will begin their 18 month programme in January 2019.

#### Outreach

Our paper cuts installation from 2017 will hang in the Medieval Mile Museum in December, alongside new work created in a set of workshops which ran in November at the Museum, with a group (including many past Open Circle members) working with Kilkenny based artist Paul Bokslag.



November also saw Open Circle engage with two groups at Newpark Close Family Resource Centre for creative recycling workshop, made possible by a grant from the Environment Section of Kilkenny County Council. We worked with the Fáilte Isteach group which is part of a national project providing free conversational English to migrants and also a retirement group at the centre. The workshops used recycled waste paper to create among other things beautiful paper roses and stars.





**KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2018**  
TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA MÍOSÚIL

**APPENDIX 1**

**FINANCE REPORT – DECEMBER 2018**

The expenditure by service division to the end of November is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €76.0m compared with the annual budget of €74.15m.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Actual YTD October 2018</b>	<b>Budget Full Year 2018</b>
	<b>€'000's</b>	<b>€'000's</b>
Housing & Building	16,609	15,864
Road Transport & Safety	22,662	20,108
Water Services	6,545	6,579
Development Management	8,029	8,693
Environmental Services	9,473	9,722
Recreation & Amenity	6,113	6,022
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	512	637
Miscellaneous Services	6,059	6,526
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>76,002</b>	<b>74,151</b>

The total expenditure is higher than budget for the year due mainly to higher grant funding in a number of service areas.

The bank overdraft facility was utilized for twenty six days during the eleven months to the end of November 2018 and the maximum overdrawn balance was €2.3m. Collection rates on the major income streams continue to be on target for 2018. The annual budget for 2019 was adopted by the Members on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and a copy is available on the Council website.