



2<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

**TO: AN CATHAOIRLEACH  
& EACH MEMBER OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**RE: FESTIVAL GRANTS 2021**

Dear Councillor,

A provision of €112,000 has been included in the Council's adopted Budget for 2021 for the Festivals and Events Grant Scheme. In line with adopted Council policy - 80% of the Budget was allocated to the *Tourism Festival Grant Scheme (managed and administered by the Tourism Section)*. At the March meeting of Kilkenny County Council the festivals recommended for approval under the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme 2021 were approved by elected members.

A total of 8 Festival Grants were awarded in line with the Budget provision made for 2021. Of those 8 festivals 3 have now confirmed that they will not proceed in 2021 due to Covid 19 restrictions. These include the Savour Festival, Iverk Show and Tradfest. An amount of €21,500 was allocated to these festivals and will not be required by them in 2021. It is anticipated that all three festivals will return during 2022 and we look forward to their continued contribution to Kilkenny communities, profile and economy in the future.

During 2021 the number of festivals progressing with live shows and events is limited. The Kilkenny Arts Festival has confirmed its programme for 2021 with a commitment to a mix of live and online entertainment. This Arts Festival represents an integral element of Kilkenny's attraction as a destination with an established national and international reputation for high quality events. Although the Kilkenny Arts Festival has committed to proceeding with a full schedule of events in 2021 its annual funding commitments from national funding bodies have been reduced. The staging of the Kilkenny Arts Festival in 2021 faces many challenges and cost increases due to the uncertainties and complexities of Covid 19 and the Festival has requested additional funding from Kilkenny County Council to help meet some of those challenges and increased costs.

It is recommended that an additional €7,000 in funding be allocated to the Kilkenny Arts Festival from the Tourism Festival Grant Scheme 2021. This provision to be made from the allocated amounts to other festivals not proceeding in 2021.


  
Mary Mulholland,  
Director of Services,  
Kilkenny County Council.



TABLE: List of Tourism Festival Grant Scheme Applications and Awards 2021:

Event Name	Date of event	Overall Cost	Grant Sought	Recommended 2021 Grant Award
The Cat Laughs	3-7 June, 2021	€76,000	€10,000	€10,000
Kilkennomics	4-7 Nov, 2021	€165,000	€15,000	€10,000
Castlecomer Wellie Race	Jan-22	€10,000	€3,000	€3,000
Iverk Show Ltd	28/08/2021	€225,000	€20,000	€1,500
Savour Festival	22 Oct - 5 Dec	€73,500	€40,000	€15,000
Tradfest	17 - 21 March	€71,000	€10,000	€5,000
Celebrating History of "The League House" in Windgap	20/08/2021	€350	€350	Ineligible - directed to Community Festival Grant Scheme
Kilkenny Animated	October 1-4th	€85,000	€15,000	€10,000
Kilkenny Science Festival	November 7-14	€64,700	€15,000	Ineligible - directed to LEO for Support
Edmund Fitzpatrick Weekend	August 27-29	€3,370	€1,500	Ineligible - directed to Community Festival Grant Scheme
Abhainn Ri Festival	September 5-8	€13,500	€5,000	€2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>€56,500</b>