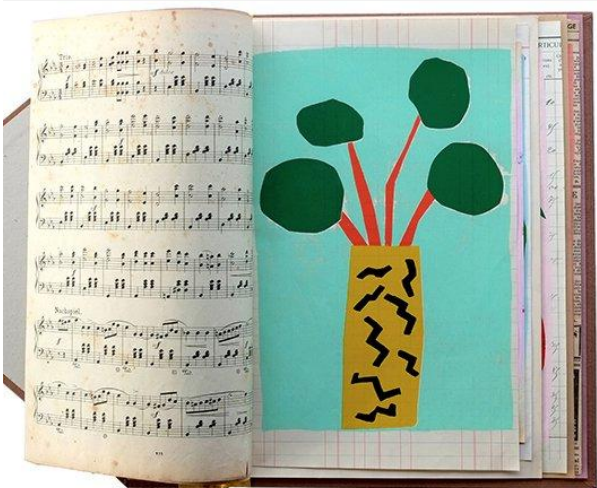




Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

- A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Corporate Department for inspection by the Elected Members.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CORPORATE	3
PLANNING	5
CAPITAL DELIVERY & PARKS.....	8
COMMUNITY.....	12
LEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM	21
HOUSING.....	24
ENVIRONMENT	27
LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM [LAIT]	34
LIBRARY	36
ARTS.....	38
FINANCE	45

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Malone marks the start of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union by raising the Irish, EU and Kilkenny flags at County Hall.



National Commemoration Day 2026



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Malone and Mayor Cllr. Andrew McGuinness at the launch of the Kilkenny Festivals and Events Strategy 2026-2030



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Malone and Mayor Cllr. Andrew McGuinness attending a photocall for Rás na mBan 2026



FRANCHISE

Electoral Registration Modernisation – Migration to Voter.ie

Kilkenny County Council has successfully moved to the new National Electoral Registration System, **Voter.ie**.

As part of this national change **CheckTheRegister.ie** is no longer used for electoral registration services. Electors can now access all voter registration services through **Voter.ie**, making it easier to check and manage their registration details online.

To raise awareness of the new service, the Franchise Section is currently running a public information campaign across social media, local newspapers and radio. The campaign encourages members of the public to visit Voter.ie to:

- Check their registration details;
- Update their information;
- Register to vote for the first time; and
- Manage their electoral registration online.

The campaign aims to encourage all eligible voters to ensure their registration details are correct and up to date.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND
YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT**

Checktheregister.ie is now Voter.ie

Visit **Voter.ie** to check or update your details,
register for the first time or download any forms
you need. You can also manage your details
using your verified **MyGovID**

Voter.ie

If you cannot access this information online, please email
franchise@kilkennycoco.ie, phone **056 779 4150** or visit:
Franchise Section, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall,
John Street, Kilkenny. R95A39T.

 Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

 Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Summary	Total January to August	
	2026	2025
Planning Applications Received	613	650
Planning Applications Granted	477	498
Planning Applications Refused	33	45
Complaints Received	112	89
Warning Letters Issued	76	68
Enforcements Notices Issued	29	39
Cases Closed	237	102
Cases sent for legal prosecution	13	11
Section 5's Received	63	36
Section 5's Decided Upon	56	38

FORWARD PLANNING

Extension to the Development Plan

The Planning & Development Amendment Act 2026 was passed in July, and Section 27 relates to the extension of the Development Plan. The extension requires the preparation of environmental assessments and a resolution by the Council. The environmental assessments are being prepared.

St. Canice's Campus/Lacken Masterplan

The consultation period for the Draft Masterplan for St. Canice's Campus/Lacken closed on 3rd July. A total of 29 submissions were received. The CE's Report is being prepared to be brought to the September meeting of the Council.

Variation 10

Variation No. 10, which proposes the incorporation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for Kilkenny City into the Development Plan was adopted on 29th July.

Castlecomer Settlement Plan

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) issued a notice in April in respect of the Castlecomer Settlement Plan (Variation 5), suspending the zoning objectives for lands in Flood Zones A and B in Castlecomer, pending an assessment of the flood risk on the lands. Representatives from the OPR attended the Castlecomer Municipal District meeting in May to outline the process. The Council is engaging with the OPW to incorporate flood risk mitigation measures into the Settlement Plan. These measures will form Variation 5A to the Development Plan. The Council website will be kept updated as this process proceeds.

Taking in Charge

Works are progressing on the following estates:

1. Cluain Glasan, Kilkenny
2. Kilkenny County Council are seeking to initiate the taken in charge process for Pennefeather Green, Kilkenny at September 2026 meeting.
3. Nuncio Park, Kilkenny.
4. Public consultation will commence shortly for Friary Walk (Phase 3), Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Resolution to initiate proceedings passed at July 2026 Council meeting.

Conservation

The Conservation Office manages all protected structures in Kilkenny County and City. These structures are recognised for the following special interest: Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Artistic, Cultural, Scientific, Technical, Social.

An advisory service on conservation matters is provided to the public and colleagues, while the conservation grants and funding applications are also delivered.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026: Engagement with all 12 successful applicants underway.

The BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Stream 2026: Both applicants have successfully completed the thatch work on their properties.

The Historic Structures Fund 2026: Engagement with both successful applicants underway.

Building Control

Valid commencement notices received so far this year up to the end of August 2026

Building Control

Valid Commencement Notices Received	Valid Disability Access Applications Received
August 2026.....266	August 2026 57
August 2025.....236	August 2025 36
August 2024.....229	August 2024 39
August 2023.....227	August 2023 39

TOWN REGENERATION OFFICE

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

To-date the Council have paid out €9.8 million to successful applicants. The following are the full statistics up to end of August, 2026:

Number of Applications Submitted to-date.....	471
Number of Approvals / Approvals in Principle to-date	358
Grant Drawdown to-date.....	173
Number of queries during the month of August	82

Expert Advice Grants at August, 31st 2026

Number of Applications Submitted to-date.....	7
Number of Approvals / Approvals in Principle to-date	1
Grant Drawdown to-date.....	0
Number of queries during the month of August	15
Value of grants paid out to-date	€0.00

There continues to be strong interest in the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG) and the figures for August indicate the number of applications received and the amount of expenditure to-date. We continue to promote the grant throughout the year. We had two pop-up event days at Cillín Hill and more recently, we attended the Iverk Show, Piltown. Both events generated numerous enquiries on the day, and we expect a number of new VPRG applications as a result of attending same.



The Museum of Medieval Kilkenny

The ongoing restoration and enhancement of the Tholsel building forms part of the wider “Museum of Medieval Kilkenny” (MOMK) project, which will see the unification of the Tholsel and the Medieval Mile Museum as one single visitor experience. The overall objective of this project is to develop an offering that will become one of Ireland’s top visitor attractions, while also securing the future of the Tholsel to continue in its role to act as the seat of local Government in the City.

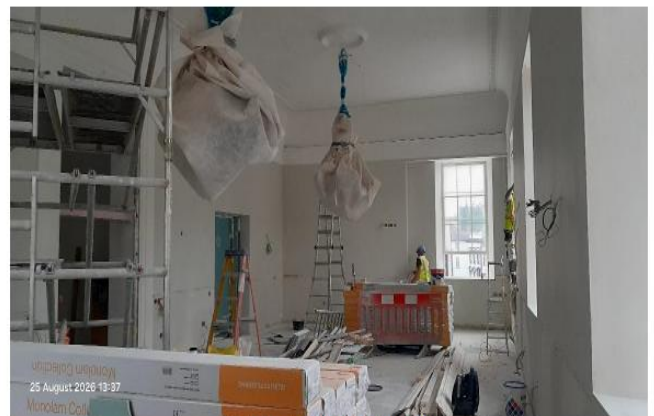
Works on the Tholsel building are nearing completion and some of key milestones are illustrated in the images below:



Images of the rear elevation returned to its original form



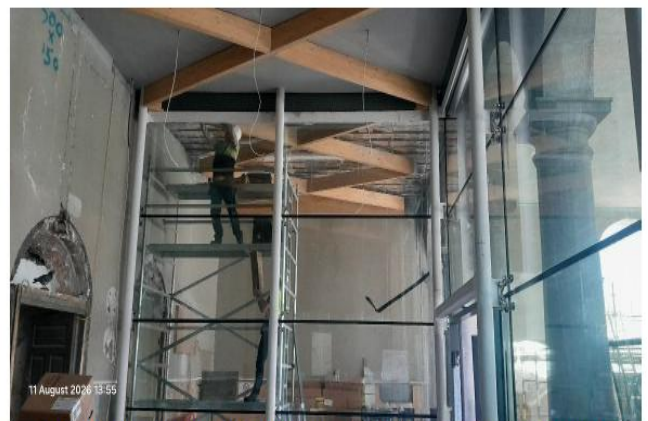
Copper roof cladding on rear annex



Painting in Council Chambers



Painting in Mayors Parlour



Installation of louvers and finishing trim panels to glass reception in arcade (Loggia)

Over the summer contracts were also awarded, under three separate Lots, for the Exhibition Fit-out for the MOMK, which includes both the Tholsel and St. Mary's Church. Planning to enhance the outdoor space around St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's Laneway was obtained in April 2026 and a tender to undertake this work will be advertised in the coming weeks. This work will be scheduled on a phased basis so as to ensure the MOMK is open to the public as soon as possible.



Finally, a tender is currently being finalised to undertake restoration works to the headstones, tombs etc. and walls within St. Mary's Church and it is expected that this tender will also be advertised in the coming weeks. The overall ambition is to be in a position to open the MOMK to the public at the end of Q1 next year.

The Clover Centre Ferrybank

Part 8 planning approval was received in July for a masterplan to develop a 9.5-acre site in Christendom, Ferrybank. The plan seeks to create a multifunctional communal park with a number of amenities including a multi-use playing pitch, community building, dog park, walking track, padel court and ball wall. The focus now shifts to identifying potential funding opportunities to allow the project advance to detail design and construction stage.

RRDF (Rural Regeneration Development Fund) Updates

Callan Friary Proposed Library Project

The project entails the renovation, alteration and conversion of the existing Callan Friary to a fully functioning town library and associated ancillary buildings including proposals to provide an Art Gallery together with dedicated artist studios and artists accommodation. The design team are currently working on design proposals to progress to Part 8 application.



Inistioge RRDF (Category 1) Application

A Public Realm Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Category 1 application for Inistioge was submitted on the 28th of July. The project aligns strongly with the objectives of the Government's Town Centre First Policy, which promotes the regeneration of town and village centres as vibrant places to live, work, invest in and visit, through improved public spaces, enhanced accessibility, and the revitalisation of existing assets.

The focus of the application concentrates on the delivery of the remaining elements within the Square, as outlined in the previously advertised Section 38 Inistioge Traffic Management & Village Enhancement Scheme along with significant enhancements to the public toilet block.

Paulstown Town Park

Part 8 planning approval was also received in July for a high quality, community centred and multifunctional local park on a greenfield site in Paulstown. The 2025 Paulstown Town Masterplan highlighted the need to create a central point in the town and connect all of the town's facilities and residential areas.



The plan seeks to deliver a high-quality community-centred parkland with a strong emphasis on recreation, biodiversity, accessibility, social interaction and long-term community benefit. A funding application was submitted in July under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to deliver this project. The progression of this project through the design and planning phase was funded as a Project Development Measure under the Town Centre First scheme

SPORTS CAPITAL

Community Sports Facility Fund - Garringreen

The Multi-Use Games Area at Garringreen has been given a new lease of life with a new all-weather surface installed thanks to funding from The Community Sports Facility Fund – formally known as the Sports Capital Grant. The Garringreen project was one of 4no. projects completed by Kilkenny County Council under the most recent Community Sports Facility Fund call with works previously completed in the Waterbarracks, Kilkenny Countryside Park and Ballyragget.



Efforts have now turned to identifying suitable projects for funding under the next round of applications which is due to be announced shortly.



Garringreen Phase 2

A planning consent application under Part 8 will be advertised shortly for the construction of a new dressing room building, new walking track and goal mount upgrades to the playing pitch at Garringreen. The existing green area is being used as a playing pitch by two local soccer clubs, and this will provide much needed changing and welfare facilities together with providing a new walking track for the general public.

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL

Glenmore Café

Tenders for the provision of a community café at Glenmore village have been received and are currently being assessed. This will entail the renovation and refurbishment of an existing vacant building at Glenmore village to provide a fully functioning café with tea rooms and a new Kitchen together with welfare facilities including staff changing areas and storage.

ORIS (*Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme*)

Castlecomer Discovery Park – Mountain Bike Trail

This project consists of the construction of 6.7 Km of mountain bike trails in the forested areas of the Castlecomer Discovery Park. Trailbreaker Ltd were recently appointed as the main contractor for this project. Onsite works are scheduled to commence in the last week in September with a 9-month works programme.

Brandon Hill Trail Enhancement and Upland Protection Scheme

This project will deliver enhancement works along Brandon Hill Summit Trails to protect upland habitat, address the erosion scar and develop clear delineated walking trails that are fit for purpose and resilient to effects of climate change. Hamilton Environmental Ltd were successfully appointed as the main contractor for this project. Onsite works are scheduled to commence in the last week of September with a 9-month works programme.

Kilmacow Community Complex – Outdoor Recreational Enhancement Scheme

Works under this project include for the refurbishment of the existing footbridge over River Blackwater, enhancements to trails within the Kilmacow Community Complex including new connectivity link, upgrades to existing gravel trails, new trail signage including distance markers and age friendly seating and dedicated age and disability parking provision. The main contractor for the footbridge refurbishment works is Cumnor Construction Ltd with a proposed start date for works in September. The contractor is currently liaising with IFI in relation to instream works methodology

National Age Friendly Ireland Award 2026

Building on other recent awards, Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum was shortlisted for a National Age Friendly Ireland Award 2026 in the Environment, Outdoor Spaces & Buildings category. The nomination recognises the many recent initiatives throughout the garden, which has delivered a range of inclusive features including accessible pathways, an accessible playground, age-friendly seating, an accessible shuttle bus service, all-terrain wheelchair, dedicated parking area and more . Winners will be announced at the Age Friendly Ireland Awards on the 8th of October 2026 in Limerick.



Ireland's Woodland Show 2026

Woodstock Gardens hosted Ireland's Woodland Show 2026 on the 29-30th August. The event was well attended and celebrated Irish trees and included attractions such as chainsaw carving masterclass demonstrations, woodland talks, artisan crafts, machinery displays, mobile saw demonstrations, food vendors and many family activities



COMMUNITY

Community Projects

The Table below outlines in summary ongoing projects and schemes in the Community Department.

Town and Village Scheme			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	August Status
Callan 2023	King's River Town & Village Project – Riverbank and amenity area	€247,500	Natura Impact Statement & Planning required
Callan Project Development Measure 2024	Develop plans to establish an outdoor classroom community space in Abbey Field and examine the re-development of a derelict cottage in Moate Field and complete biodiversity studies on both sites	€49,950	2 nd Public Consultation and stakeholders meetings held, Part 8 Docs being prepared.
Paulstown Community Group Project Development Measure 2024	Complete feasibility and design studies for the creation of a centre point in the village, consisting of an open public green space with seating and leisure facilities. This will redevelop the village centre and provide accessibility between the main street and residential areas	€49,950	Part 8 Planning approved
Glenmore 2025	Renovate two vacant buildings into community café & shop	€500,000	Tender Stage
Johnstown 2025	Public realm enhancements. Development of a public space for activities in the square, Johnstown.	€300,000	Due to commence
Callan 2025	Refurbishment of ground floor of 18 Upper Bridge Street, Callan for general business use and the re-instatement of an original carriageway to improve pedestrian access to this town centre location	€300,000	Housing Department progressing

Rural Regeneration Development Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	August Status
Piltown	Phase 1 of the project comprises of main street urban renewal enhancement, parking bays, EV charging points, and bicycle bays x2	€2,180,931	Tender Stage
Glenmore	Develop the Southeast Greenway Connectivity Link and Pink Rock Cycle Loop & Amenity Trail	€2,356,423	Pre-Tender Approval

Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme			
Community Group/ Year Approved	Project Description	Grant	August Status
Johnstown Sports Field 2022	Contribution to development of walkway around complex	€40,000	Works near completion
Mooncoin Celtic AFC 2023	LED Floodlighting for extra training area	€20,000	In progress
Gowran Community Complex 2024	Contribution towards the refurbishment of a community hub	€27,000	Works near completion
Glenmore Camogie Club 2025	Contribution towards the re-instatement of walkway	€29,000	Extension of time requested
Mullinavat Drama Group 2025	Lighting, Sound, Projector, Screen, Curtains	€11,000	Works in progress
Marian Hall Kilmacow 2025	Installation of heating, bathrooms, kitchen	€11,000	Completed
Kilkenny Girl Guides 2025	Emergency Lighting & Fire Alarm	€15,000	Due to commence
Kilkenny SOS Lawn Bowls 2025	Fencing, Lighting, Bicycle Bays, shed	€30,000	Contractor Appointed
Freshford Town AFC 2025	Floodlighting for all weather pitch	€32,000	Works Completed
Hugginstown & District Community Centre	Age friendly health & fitness outdoor gym	€20,000	Procurement to commence
The Rower Hall Committee	Kitchen equipment, outdoor storage shed, folding tables, stage Curtin	€15,000	Procurement in progress
Stoneyford Development Association	Installation of soccer/basketball area, post installation inspection report & Safety Signage	€11,000	Procurement in progress
Clara GAA Club CLG	All weather playing surface	€35,000	Procurement completed, works due to commence in October 2026
Castlecomer Enterprise Centre	Upgrading of fire alarm system and emergency lighting	€35,000	Works in progress
Lisdowney GAA Club	Phase 1 - Upgrading of heating system in Community Centre	€15,000	Due to commence
Marble City Boxing Kilkenny City	Install heating system	€27,000	Works in progress
James Stephens Hurling Club	Upgrade & Resurface walking track	€35,000	Works in progress
Slieverue GAA Club	Upgrades, Safety Measures & Fencing	€34,500	Works due to commence in September
Mooncoin GAA Club	Convert hall space into indoor AstroTurf area	€22,500	Works due to commence in September

CLÁR			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	June Status
Galmoy Community Hall 2023	Provision of a MUGA	€30,015	Extension of time granted by Dept, due to delays with lease
Windgap Handball Alley 2024	External insulation of two outside walls	€29,419	Change of scope of works approved by dept. Procurement process completed
St. Brendan's National School, Muckalee 2025	Pitch Development	€65,000	Contractor appointed.
Lisdowney GAA 2025	Construction of new MUGA and Ball Wall	€65,000	Contractor appointed waiting for ESB to move cable before work can start
Coolagh Community Hall Upgrading Project 2025	Hall and Kitchen upgrade	€77,022	Works in progress
Moin Ruadh National School 2025	Construction of new MUGA with carparking area and sensory garden	€100,000	Works in progress
Killanaspick Lighting project 2025	Roadway lighting	€22,500	Due to commence October/November 2026

Community Recognition Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	August Status
Christian Youth Centre	Development of existing building to provide community space, meeting rooms	€390,607	Works in progress
Ballyragget Community Hall	Renovation of CYMS Hall	€173,000	Procurement process ongoing. Extension of time sought until December 2026

Johnstown Community Walkway

Funding approved under Kilkenny County Council's Community and Cultural Facilities Scheme (CCFCS) has supported the recently successful completion of the Community Walkway at the Johnstown Recreational Hub. The project was undertaken to enhance local recreational facilities and provide a safe, accessible and inclusive amenity for people of all ages within the community. The new walkway complements the existing sporting facilities in the area and encourages greater participation in physical activity, social engagement and intergenerational interaction. In particular, it provides a safe off-road walking environment for residents throughout the year, supporting health and wellbeing while increasing the use of the recreational hub. The completed project represents a significant community asset and contributes positively to the attractiveness, accessibility and quality of life of Johnstown for both existing and future residents.



Johnstown Community Walkway

Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum Restoration Project Shortlisted for National Age Friendly Ireland Award

Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum has been shortlisted for a national Age Friendly Ireland Award in recognition of its outstanding commitment to accessibility, inclusion and enhancing the quality of life for older people. The Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum Restoration and Accessibility Initiative has been shortlisted in the *Environment: Outdoor Spaces & Buildings* category of the Age Friendly Ireland Awards 2026, celebrating projects that make meaningful improvements to the everyday lives of older people while providing inclusive communities where people can live well, feel valued and remain connected.

As part of the judging process, Clare Curley, former Director of Services with Tipperary County Council, and Jimmy Feane, former Director of Services with Limerick County Council, visited Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum on Wednesday, 22 July 2026 to experience first-hand the Woodstock Gardens and recent upgrades on the grounds. The judges were welcomed by representatives from Kilkenny County Council's Age Friendly Programme and Parks Department, alongside members of the Woodstock Committee, local Tidy Towns representatives and the Kilkenny Older People's Council.

Following a presentation outlining the vision and development of the restoration and accessibility initiative, the judges toured the estate to view the extensive range of age friendly and accessible features that have been introduced in the gardens. These include designated accessible parking with a raised ramp platform, an accessible shuttle bus service, age-friendly seating, enhanced pathways, an accessible playground, all-terrain wheelchairs, accessible toilet facilities, accessible Tea Rooms, the restored Walled Garden Arboretum, and the iconic Monkey Puzzle and Noble Fir Avenues. The project demonstrates how thoughtful planning, design, heritage conservation and accessibility can work together to create welcoming outdoor spaces that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department, Kilkenny County Council *"has welcomed the national recognition, describing the shortlisting as a testament to the collaborative efforts of council staff, community groups and local volunteers who have worked together to ensure Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum is a destination that is accessible, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone"*.

Carmel Cummins, Woodstock Committee said "We are absolutely delighted to see the Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum Restoration and Accessibility Initiative receive this national recognition. For older people, being able to access and enjoy beautiful outdoor spaces like Woodstock is about maintaining independence, staying active, connecting with others and feeling part of the community. The improvements that have been made, from accessible pathways and seating to transport and accessible equipment, mean that many more people can experience everything Woodstock has to offer. This project demonstrates what can be achieved when accessibility is considered from the outset, and we are proud that Kilkenny is leading by example in creating age friendly outdoor places where everyone can feel welcome."

The winners of the Age Friendly Ireland Awards 2026 will be announced at a gala awards ceremony on the 8th of October, 2026 at The Strand Hotel, Limerick, hosted by Limerick City and County Council.



Judges, Members of Kilkenny OPC, staff members Woodstock Gardens and Community Department.

Pride of Place Awards – July Friday 3rd July

The **Older People's Council (OPC)** was nominated for its outstanding contribution to supporting older people across Kilkenny city and county. The **Age Friendly Communities** category in the IPB Pride of Place Awards recognizes initiatives that help older people live independently, stay connected, and remain active, safe, and valued members of their communities. The judging panel heard how the Council promotes active ageing, social inclusion, and accessibility, while championing age-friendly initiatives that improve the quality of life for older residents throughout the County.



Pride of Place Awards 2026

Kilkenny County Council nominated four community groups to represent the county in the all-island Pride of Place Awards 2026. The nominated groups were Muckalee under Inclusive Communities Category, Graiguenamanagh under Population Category 1000-2000, Slieverue under Community Wellbeing Category and Kilkenny Older Persons Council under Age Friendly Communities Category. Judging took place on the 2nd & 3rd July 2026, with adjudicators visiting each group to learn about their projects, achievements and the positive impact they have within their communities.

In Muckalee, the judges visited the volunteer-run community café, the community crèche supporting over 200 families, and local sporting facilities, where they met the Ladies Football All-Ireland Junior Champions.

Graiguenamanagh Town Team highlighted a range of community initiatives, including GAA facilities, the Heritage Trail, Peg Washington's Lane and The Hub, while also introducing local artists, the Men's Shed, Scouts and Rowing Club.

In Slieverue, community groups presented their achievements through music, dance and cultural performances, alongside visits to local amenities including the Linear Park.

Kilkenny Older Persons Council showcased its age-friendly initiatives through presentations, site visits and demonstrations of services and infrastructure supporting older people throughout the city and county.

The Pride of Place Awards, organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB, celebrate excellence in community development and civic pride across Ireland. The awards ceremony will take place in Dublin on 24th October 2026.



Muckalee Community



Graiguenamanagh Town Team



Slieverue Community



Older Persons Council

Bigwood Playground Official Opening

The official opening of the new Bigwood Playground in Mullinavat took place on 28 August 2026, marking an important achievement for the local community and the successful completion of a project that has been years in development. The event was attended by Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Joe Malone, Chairperson of the Piltown Municipal District, Cllr. Ger Frisby, elected representatives, local residents and officials of Kilkenny County Council. Local school pupil William Edward Byrne from St. Colmcille's National School, Bigwood, was selected to cut the ribbon in the opening ceremony.

The playground was delivered through the commitment and dedication of the Bigwood Playground Committee, who worked tirelessly to bring their vision of a community playground to fruition. A site for the development was provided by the Diocese of Ossory, after which the committee secured planning permission and undertook extensive community consultation to identify the needs of local families and children.

The project was supported by Kilkenny County Council through the Community Department, which assisted the committee in securing funding for playground equipment and site development works under the CCFCS grant scheme. The Parks Department also provided guidance on biodiversity enhancements, including suitable biodiversity areas and the installation of a bug hotel within the site.

The new playground provides a high-quality, inclusive and welcoming recreational space for children and families in Bigwood and the surrounding areas. In addition to offering opportunities for play and physical activity, it creates a valuable community gathering space that will encourage social interaction and community connection. The successful delivery of the project highlights the impact of community-led initiatives and demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration, volunteerism and a shared commitment to enhancing local amenities.



Official Opening Bigwood Playground

Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership

The Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership (KLCSP) continued to make significant progress during July and August 2026, focusing on community engagement, partnership development, public safety awareness, and the establishment of structures to support the development of the Kilkenny Community Safety Plan.

Partnership Meetings

The Partnership met on 14 July 2026 and 18 August 2026, with members receiving presentations and updates on a range of community safety issues. Members also considered a number of issues raised by elected representatives and community members, reflecting the varied concerns identified through the community.

Members received a presentation from An Garda Síochána highlighting road traffic enforcement, education initiatives, driver behaviour, cyclist safety, and concerns relating to e-scooter use. Public consultation on the Draft Special Traffic Speed Limit Bye-Laws was also noted and discussed.

The August meeting included a presentation on Garda crime statistics, which generated discussion on anti-social behaviour, youth engagement, domestic incidents, road traffic offences, bicycle and e-scooter thefts, and CCTV developments across the county. Members welcomed ongoing efforts by An Garda Síochána and partner agencies to address emerging community safety concerns. The Partnership also received a fire safety presentation from Rapid Fire & Safety, with discussion focusing on community preparedness, fire safety awareness, and opportunities for future public information and training initiatives.

Development of Working Groups and Community Safety Plan

A major milestone during the reporting period was the establishment of the Partnership's three thematic working groups. Following the completion and analysis of the Community Safety Survey and wider stakeholder engagement process, members were assigned to working groups aligned with the key priorities identified by communities across Kilkenny City and County.

The working groups have now commenced their work and are reviewing the findings from the community consultation process. Their focus is on developing practical and achievable initiatives that respond directly to the concerns and priorities identified by local communities. The recommendations and actions emerging from these groups will form the basis of the forthcoming Kilkenny Community Safety Plan, ensuring that the plan reflects local needs and is supported by a collaborative, multi-agency approach.

Community Engagement Event – AKA Festival

The Partnership supported a community engagement initiative as part of the AKA Festival, where community safety information packs and LCSP promotional materials were distributed during a Cosy Garden Session organised by the Kilkenny Cultural Community Initiative (KCCI) and member of the Local Community Safety Partnership. The event brought together people from a wide range of backgrounds, including members of the Ukrainian, Polish, Irish and Canadian communities, in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Activities included choir performances, creative workshops, refreshments, and opportunities for social interaction.

Feedback received from KCCI (*Kilkenny Cultural Community Initiative*) highlighted the positive reception to the LCSP supported tote bags, which contained community safety information, important local contact details and promotional materials. Organisers advised that participants greatly appreciated the resources and that they helped raise awareness of the supports available within the community. A particularly successful element of the event was the creation of a Community Tree, where participants shared ideas and reflections on what helps communities grow, thrive and remain safe. The event demonstrated the value of community-led engagement initiatives in fostering inclusion, strengthening connections between communities, and promoting awareness of local support services.

The Partnership wishes to acknowledge and thank our LCSP member **Svitlana Saseyi** for its work in delivering this successful event and for its ongoing contribution to community cohesion and integration across Kilkenny.

Kilkenny Public Participation Network (PPN):

Kilkenny Public Participation Network (PPN) continued to expand during July and August, with membership increasing to 524 groups and organisations representing a diverse range of sectors, including community development, residents' associations, sport, arts, heritage and environmental initiatives.

Kilkenny PPN hosted a Connecting Communities Gathering in Urlingford, bringing together local community and voluntary groups in the local area for an evening of networking, discussion, and collaboration. The event provided an opportunity for groups to connect with one another, share ideas, discuss local priorities, and learn more about the work of Kilkenny PPN. The event generated valuable feedback and highlighted the importance of continued engagement, information sharing, and community collaboration. Kilkenny PPN continued to support its members through free training opportunities, governance support, and a weekly newsletter highlighting local development, consultations, training, and funding opportunities.



Connecting Communities Gathering in Urlingford

Healthy Kilkenny Committee Approve Grants for 9 Organisations supporting Older People

Following the assessment process, nine projects have been approved for funding to deliver community-based health and wellbeing initiatives across County Kilkenny. The successful organisations are:

- Mount Carmel
- Kilkenny Older People's Council
- Castlecomer Discovery Park
- SOS
- Newpark Close Family Resource Centre
- Kilkenny Leader Partnership
(Kilkenny City & Urlingford)
- Mill Family Resource Centre
- Down Syndrome Kilkenny

The funded projects will support older people and adults with additional needs through a broad range of accessible, community-based activities that promote active ageing, social connection, physical health, mental wellbeing, social inclusion, and community participation. Activities include fitness and chair yoga programmes, gardening, arts and crafts, knitting and crochet, heritage and nature-based activities, health and nutrition workshops, mindfulness, and intergenerational initiatives. Collectively, these projects aim to reduce social isolation and loneliness, improve physical and emotional wellbeing, encourage lifelong learning and social connection, and enable participants to remain active and engaged within their local communities.

LEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny has launched their training and events programme for Autumn/Winter 2026. The schedule offers a range of programmes from Start Your Own Business Programmes to Management Development Programmes. There will also be mentoring clinics in areas such as Social-Media, Procurement, Financial, Business Advisory and Digital Marketing. Additionally, educational networking events such as AI Master Series 2026 – Understanding AI and National Women's Enterprise Day which will take place in the coming months.



Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards 2026



The finalists for Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards 2026, have been announced, with 9 exceptional producers from Co. Kilkenny making it through to the final stage of Ireland's most prestigious food awards.

The winners of the awards themselves will be announced on Friday 2nd October. The finalists shortlisted from Co. Kilkenny include LEO current and former clients Arán Bakery & Bistro, Cafe la Coco, Goatsbridge Fish Processors Ltd, Highbank Orchard and Lekker Food Collection, along with Callan Bacon, Karro Food Ltd, McCarthy's SuperValu, Newpark Shopping Centre Kilkenny and Tirlán.

KILKENNY NIGHT TIME ECONOMY PILOT



Night Time Economy Diversification Grant Scheme (Call 4)

16 Kilkenny City evening and night time initiatives were awarded funding in July under this recent grant call from Kilkenny Night Time Economy. The successful applicants included evening city tours, late opening café events, pottery classes, dance music club nights, fitness meet-ups, songwriting classes and language exchange events among others.

This new fund supports applicants seeking to trial new and exciting events between Sunday and Thursday after 6pm, which support the diversification of our night time economy in Kilkenny City. Events are taking place across the city between Sunday July 19th and Thursday 5th November.



Six after 6 - Summer Cultural Series

The Six after 6 - Summer Cultural Series continued across July and August bringing many of the city's key attractions alive in the evenings for locals and visitors alike. Featuring 36 free and ticketed events, the series included programmed events at Medieval Mile Museum, Butler House & Garden, Saint Canice's Cathedral, Butler Gallery, The Smithwick's Experience and Rothe House & Garden. Six after 6 - Summer Cultural Series is supported by Kilkenny County Council, Fáilte Ireland - Ireland's Ancient East and the Kilkenny Night Time Economy.

Launch of Kilkennys Festival and Events Strategy



Kilkenny County Council hosted a special gathering in July to acknowledge the delivery of the Kilkenny Festivals and Events Strategy 2026-2030 and to recognise the many stakeholders who contributed to its development. The Kilkenny Festivals and Events Strategy 2026-2030 provides a roadmap for strengthening and growing the county's festivals and events sector, recognising its importance in supporting local

communities, enhancing cultural life, attracting visitors, and contributing to the local economy. The event acknowledged the financial support of Fáilte Ireland, who co-funded the development of the strategy.

Festival Supports

Kilkenny County Council continues to support a year-round calendar of events. August, as always was a busy month for the sector hosting guests of Kilkenny Arts Festival and also AKA Fringe Festival supported by our Festival grants scheme.



Tradeshows & Events

July and August have been busy months for the tourism team in terms of attending tradeshows and promoting Kilkenny both locally and nationally.

Iverk Show 2026

Kilkenny Tourism welcomed all guests of Iverk Show to Kilkenny on 22nd August. Attendance was estimated at 20,000 with Kilkenny Tourism's stand located in Enterprise Section of the site. Feedback from our volunteers on the day was that there was great interaction from Waterford, Wexford, Tipperary visitors in particular. The event was very worthwhile, from a domestic tourism audience and it is felt that we should attend the show annually in order to build membership into the future with local businesses.

Tullamore Show 2026



2026 is the second year Kilkenny Tourism had a presence at the Tullamore Agricultural Show and it proved to be a great success. The event was held on 9th August with over 60,000 people in attendance on the day. It's. The show features a wide range of attractions, including livestock competitions, trade stands, and various other rural and lifestyle exhibitions where Kilkenny Tourism focuses on regional neighbours to promote a trip to Kilkenny.

Milwaukee Irish Festival 2026



Kilkenny County Council was represented at the four days of the Milwaukee Irish Fest. This year, Ireland Home of Halloween brought together representatives from 10 Local Authorities to showcase Ireland's Halloween story at Milwaukee Irish Fest, a unique opportunity to connect with one of the most engaged Irish diaspora audiences in the world and position Ireland as the authentic home of Halloween.



Over the course of the festival, thousands of visitors engaged with destination delegates, discovering the rich programme of festivals, events and immersive experiences taking place across Ireland this Halloween season. Kilkenny's Halloween programme was highlighted to position the city and county as a must-visit destination for international visitors.

2026 Summer Networking Event



Kilkenny Tourism, supported by the Council and the Local Enterprise Office, held a networking event on the evening of 28th July where all tourism & hospitality businesses in Kilkenny were welcomed. The event gave both existing and prospective members of Kilkenny Tourism the chance to meet and discuss ways to work together to promote Kilkenny as a great tourism destination. Guests heard tourism thoughts & insights from a distinguished panel

of guests on the evening. It also offered guests on the evening the chance to enjoy an outdoor evening at Butler House and gardens. Finger food and refreshments were served and positive feedback was received by many who attended.



Marketing & PR

Kilkenny Tourism continues its work in preparing Kilkenny's marketing and PR plans for 2026. To support the destination for the shoulder season, Kilkenny Tourism will launch its autumn campaign "All kinds of Autumn" in September. The campaign will focus specifically on the craft and food offering throughout the county with a brand new "Craft in Kilkenny" landing page developed. The promotion of Home of Halloween will run alongside the seasonal campaign and will feature all Home of Halloween seasonal activity of fun, feasting and festivals.

HOUSING

Executive Summary

Housing Services continued to deliver across a broad range of functions during the reporting period, including housing delivery, homelessness services, social housing supports, estate management and maintenance. At the end of August, all ten affordable purchase homes at An Tobar, Freshford, had been reserved, 206 social housing allocation offers had been issued, 353 homelessness prevention and intervention supports had been provided, and 41 social housing relets had been completed.

HOUSING OPERATIONS

Homeless Services

The Homeless Services Team continues to focus on homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment and emergency accommodation.

Activity	July	August	YTD
Homeless Presentations	65	31	332
Prevention & Interventions	47	39	353
Emergency Service	10	4	82
Not Eligible / Did Not Avail	8	6	64

HAP Place Finder	July	August	YTD
Homeless HAP tenancies	38	36	279

Notices to Quit	July	August	YTD
Valid NTQs Received	3	3	28
Solutions Secured	5	5	37

Emergency Accommodation	July	August	Avg
Households in Supported Emergency	36	35	33
Households in B&B	7	6	7
Families in B&B	7	6	7
Transitional Own Front Door - Singles/Couples	38	38	40
Transitional Own Front Door - Families	25	25	25

Social Housing Supports

The Social Housing Supports team continues to process applications and administer a range of housing supports.

Social Housing Applications	July	August	YTD
Applications Received	85	55	435
Incomplete	30	20	212
Validated	58	59	168
Applications Assessed	52	35	16
Awaiting Assessment	67	90	-

Social Housing Support List	Total
Gross Need	1,268
Net Need	728

Allocations	July	August	YTD
Local Authority	21	20	148
AHB	2	4	54
RAS	0	0	4
Total	23	24	206

HAP	July	August	YTD
New Tenancies	2	5	7
Allocated Social Housing	7	7	14
Closed	10	9	19
Active Tenancies	303	299	299
Rent Reviews	36	12	48
Amendments	102	49	151

Tenancy Management

The Tenancy Management Team continues to investigate and address tenancy-related complaints and estate management issues, working with tenants and relevant agencies to support sustainable and well-managed communities.

Complaint Type	Received	Ongoing	Pending	Closed
Drugs/Violence/etc	56	24	1	33
Property/Dumping/ Animals	69	27	4	36
Noise/Parking/Other	179	98	0	81
Total	304	149	5	150

Asset Management

The Asset Management Team continues to manage the maintenance and improvement of the Council's housing stock, including reactive and planned maintenance, void property turnaround, energy retrofit programmes and stock condition surveys. This work supports the efficient use of housing assets, improves housing quality and assists in meeting future investment and maintenance requirements.

Reactive Maintenance Requests

Activity	July	August	YTD
Maintenance Requests	537	491	4528
Call Outs	403	369	3397

Reletting Programme

Activity	July	August	YTD
Relets Completed	11	8	41
Relets in Progress	-	-	49

Energy Retrofit Programme

Activity	July	August	YTD
Units Retrofitted	5	13	45
Units in Progress	-	-	10

Private Housing

The Private Housing Team continues to deliver the Private Housing Grants Programme and the inspection of private rented accommodation, supporting independent living and promoting compliance with minimum standards in the private rented sector.

Private Housing Grants

Approved & Committed	Number	Value
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	161	€1,911,185
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	10	€38,800
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	237	€1,609,834
Total	408	€3,559,819

Grants Paid to Date	Number	Value
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	57	€638,384
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	5	€19,650
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	112	€720,690
Total	174	€1,378,724

Private Rented Inspections

Activity	July	August	YTD
Council Staff Inspections	11	3	326
External Inspections	232	0	258
Total	243	3	584/1055

Capital Administration

The Capital Administration Team continues to support households in accessing home ownership through the delivery of affordable housing schemes and the administration of the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme. During the reporting period, the team progressed the allocation of affordable homes at An Tobar, Freshford, while continuing to assess and process home loan applications in line with national schemes and programme requirements.

Affordable Housing

All ten affordable purchase homes at An Tobar, Freshford, have been reserved following assessment and verification of applications received through the Council's online portal. A waiting list has been established for eligible applicants. The 20-unit development comprises 10 affordable purchase homes, 9 social housing units and 1 group home operated by Aurora Kilkenny and delivered by Ormonde Construction Ltd.

An Tobar, Freshford	Units
Affordable Purchase	10
Social Housing	9
Group Home	1
Total Units	20



Home Loan Activity

Loan Type	Received	Approved	Value Approved	Drawn Down	Value
Local Authority Home Loan	17	2	€262,600	2	€262,600
Purchase & Renovate	0	0	€0	0	€0
Caravan Loan	0	0	€0	0	€0

CLIMATE ACTION

€50,000 awarded to 11 Kilkenny Communities under Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)



The projects funded range from planting for wildlife, medicinal herb garden, polytunnel installation, raised beds, rainwater harvesting, sensory garden, hedgerow planting, and much more. The Climate Action Office of Kilkenny County Council will support the communities in the delivery of the projects and will share updates on the projects as they progress.

Applicant	Funding Received
Windgap Tidy Towns	€2,000
Newpark Family Resource Centre	€2,100
Ballyhale Development Association	€900
Bothán Na mBan, Glenmore Women's Shed	€8,000
Ballyragget Development Association	€4,000
Gathabawn Rural Development Group	€2,795
Kilkenny Community Cultural Initiative (KCCI)	€4,150
Tri Siolta	€15,000
Robertshill Community Garden	€6,056
Upper Paddock Biodiversity Garden	€1,500
The Acorn Project - collaborating with Kieran's College	€3,499

Iverk Show 2026

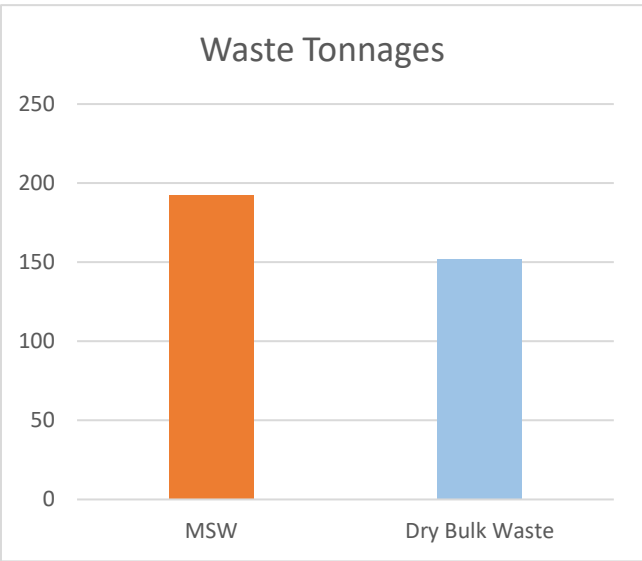
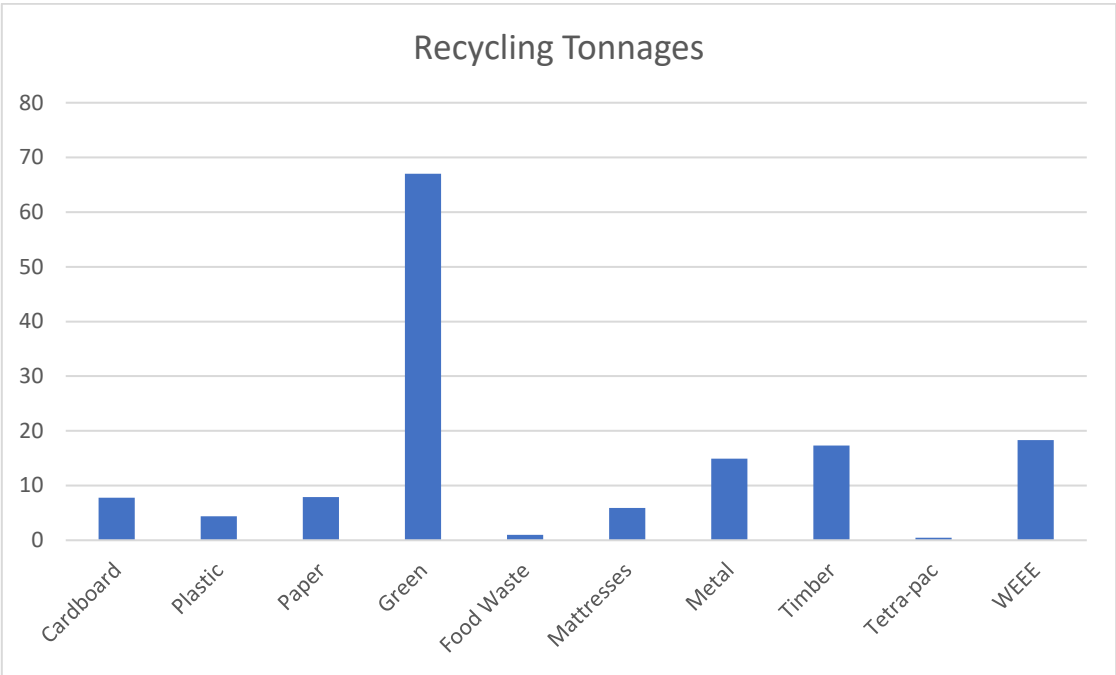
The Climate Action and Environment Teams attended the Iverk Show 2026 on the 22nd of August, where they had the opportunity to share information on climate and environmental initiatives as well as meet and greet with the wider public. It was a great opportunity to answer queries, provide clarity and raise awareness throughout the day.



WASTE & LITTER

Dunmore Civic Amenity Site (CAS)

Tonnages of Waste and the various recycling streams deposited at the Dunmore facility during the month of August can be seen in the infographic below.



192.2t of MSW and 151.76t of Dry Bulk Waste were accepted into the site in August. As part of the Landfill aftercare the landfill gas flare continues to run 24hrs per day seven days per week extracting and burning approximately 35m3 of landfill gas per hour.

AGRICULTURAL WASTE COLLECTIONS

Farm Film Plastic

Kilkenny County Council is promoting the IFFPG farm plastics recycling compliance scheme. Responsible for recycling over 500,000 tonnes of farm plastics waste since its establishment, they are holding once off collection days in Kilkenny this September. For more details, check out www.farmplastics.ie

Date	Location	Time
Monday 7 th September	Muckalee, PSD Agri	9am-5pm
Wednesday 9 th September	Ballyragget, O Reillys Farm, Donaghmore Lane (at Donaghmore Cemetery)	8am-4pm
Friday 11 th September	Urlingford, Hennessy Feeds, Woodsgift	9am-5pm
Monday 14 th September	Ballycallan, Dooley Bros Yard (R95TD39)	8am-4pm
Friday 18 th September	Ballyhale Shamrocks GAA	8am-4pm
Monday 21 st September	Piltown Showgrounds	8am-4pm
	Gowran, Eamonn Nolans Yard, R95K7FY	Every Mon – Sat

Agricultural Hazardous Waste

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications with their recycling and resource recovery partner ENVA, are hosting one hazardous waste collection day in Gowran Racecourse on the 14th October. Charges apply to each waste type. Kilkenny County Council will promote it locally as the safe disposal of farm-based agricultural hazardous waste supports Ireland's National Water Action Plan by preventing pollution from reaching rivers and groundwater. This helps protect drinking water supplies, improve ecosystem health, and achieve the plan's overall goal of restoring and maintaining good water quality throughout Ireland.

Team Up to Clean Up – Together for Kilkenny



The Autumn Community Clean-Up is returning for its fourth year, encouraging local communities to complete one final litter pick before winter sets in. This is open to groups committed to carrying out litter picks within a 60 km/h speed zone, the initiative will take place from **25th to 27th September**. Registration is now open at <https://cleanup.kilkenny.ie/>. An initiative supported by Tirlán, PRL, Dawn Meats and the John O'Shea Trust and aligns with the Kilkenny Litter Management Plan 2024-2026.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Community Food Waste Segregation Initiatives

The Environmental Awareness Officer supported two community food waste segregation initiatives. This included providing MyWaste.ie educational resources and distributing over 100 food waste caddies at a VHI staff waste management awareness day. In addition, resources and guidance were provided to the Housing Section to address a waste compliance issue in one of its housing estates.

These activities contribute to the objectives of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 by:

- Increasing separate collection of food waste.
- Improving recycling and recovery rates.
- Reducing contamination of recyclable materials.
- Supporting Ireland's goal of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.

Community Leaf Composting Project

As part of *Team Up to Clean Up, Together for Kilkenny* initiative, Kilkenny County Council Environment Section in collaboration with the Climate Office is providing an opportunity for eight resident estates to create leaf cages to make leaf compost. Leaves are placed into a wire cage with a wire lid with leaves decaying over 12-18 months to produce a simple compost. Composting leaves prevent public drains from getting blocked with leaves, reduce slips and falls and reduce the need of communities to purchase compost which is a good climate and biodiversity action.



Leaf composting aligns strongly with Ireland's National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 as it keeps a natural resource in use locally, reduces waste generation, and returns nutrients and organic matter back to the soil.

Green Schools

Kilkenny County Council welcome back schools as they return for another academic year. The Environmental Awareness Officer looks forward to supporting the Green School Programme, working with over 70 schools which remain engaged to further environmental education in their schools.

As part of its commitment to environmental education, Kilkenny County Council has financially supported the following national programmes, providing local schools with valuable opportunities to enhance environmental knowledge and awareness through diverse learning approaches.

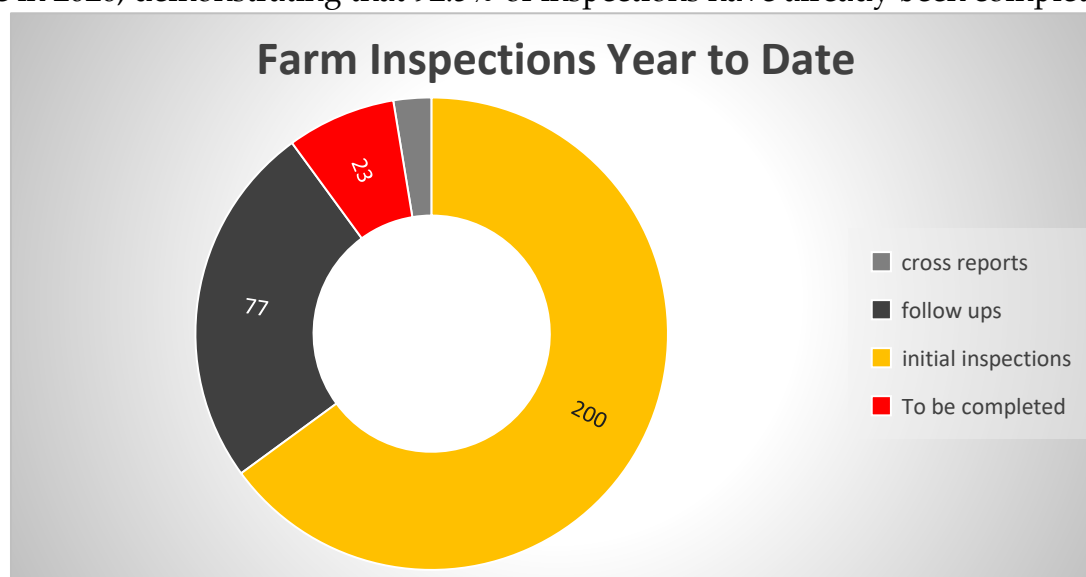
Programme Name	Activity	Kilkenny County Council Alignment
Picker Pals	Focussed on environmental stewardship, learning and fun aimed at 6-9-year-olds	Kilkenny Litter Management Plan 2024-2026
The Rubbish Film Festival	Empowers teenagers to create impactful short films that spotlight environmental challenges and drive meaningful change	Kilkenny Litter Management Plan 2024-2026

Let's Fix Fashion		Empowers teenagers to adopt circular economy principles through upcycling, clothing repair, and sustainable choices through the Green School Programme.	National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.
Relove Competition	Fashion	Challenges teenagers to explore creative reuse options such as upcycling, repairs and alterations, inspiring them to take a closer look on how their clothing is made.	National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030.

AIR NOISE WATER

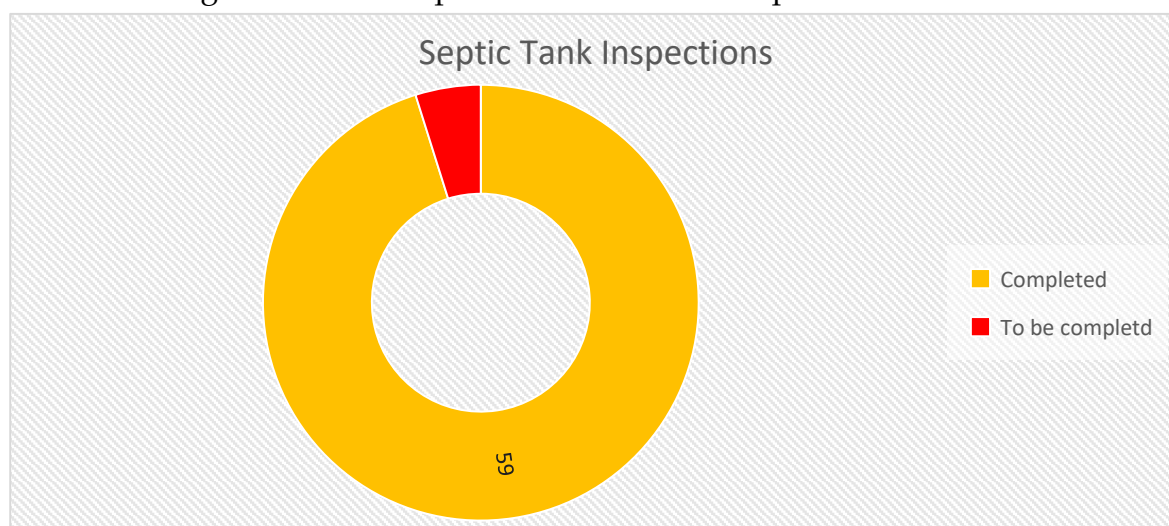
Water Quality - Farm Inspections

The target for 2026 is 308 inspections. Graphic below shows breakdown of inspections to date in 2026, demonstrating that 92.5% of inspections have already been completed.

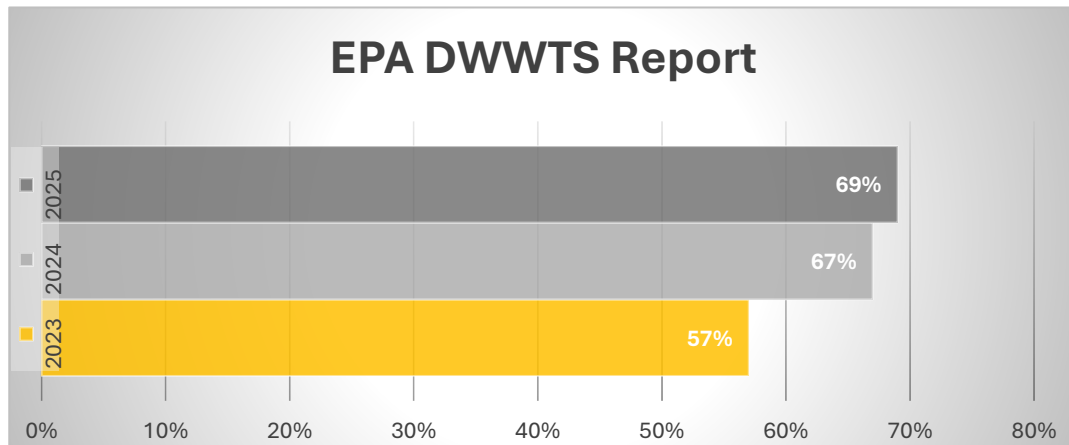


Septic Tank Inspections

Kilkenny County Council have completed 59 out of the target of 62 inspections, demonstrating that 95% of inspections have been completed.



The EPA have released the Domestic Waste Water Treatment System (DWWTs) Report for 2025. Kilkenny County Council are improving their inspection close out rate year on year as demonstrated below.



Noise

The Air Noise and Water team continue to investigate noise complaints. Monitors have been calibrated to aid in identifying noise nuisance and planning enforcement.

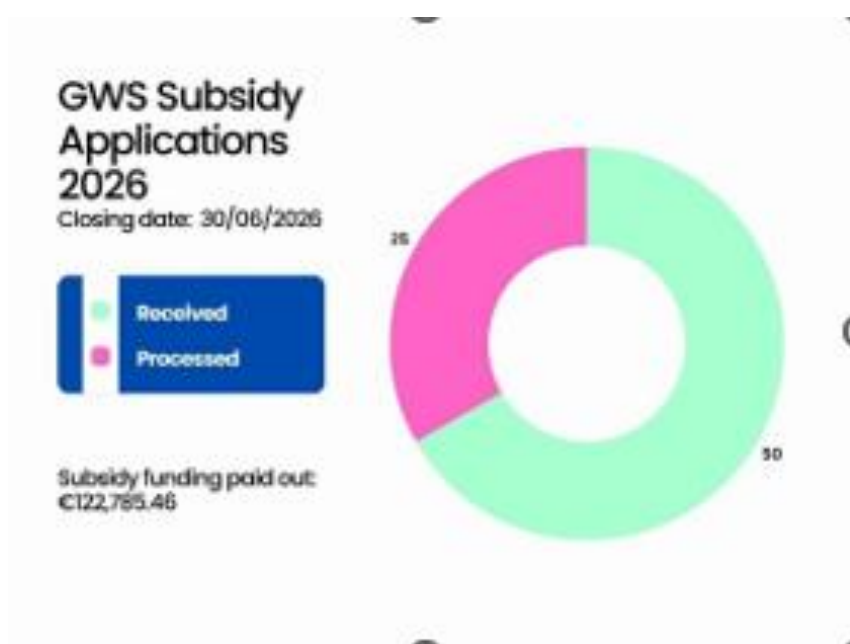
Air

Staff are monitoring information received from air monitors. All solid fuel inspections have been completed for Q1. The remaining will be carried out in Q3/4.

Discharge Licenses

Staff are following up with non-compliances for 2025 discharge licenses and have made significant progress in getting licensees on board with the commitments under their specific conditions.

RURAL WATER

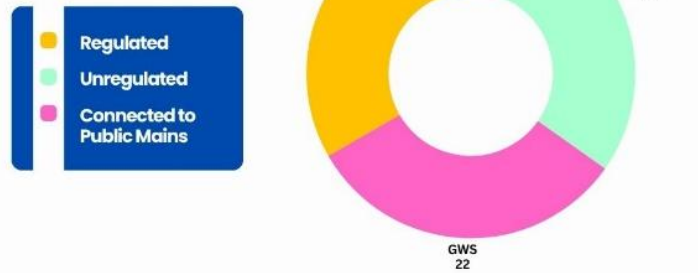


Group Water Schemes

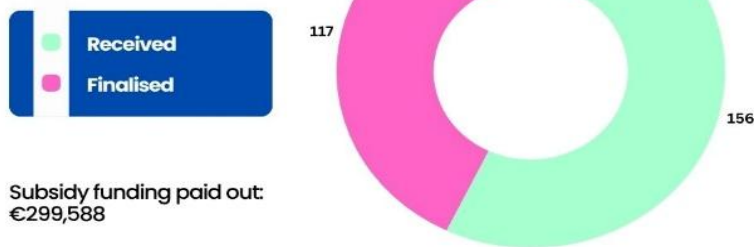
Applications for Group Water Schemes closed on 30th June 2026 and 50 applications were received in 2026 and 25 of these have been processed with the remaining scheduled for processing in Q3.

This diagram shows the different types of GWS

No. of GWS (Group Water Schemes)



Well Grants



Applications for well grants is a rolling process, and 156 applications have been received year to date, with €299,588 paid out in grant funding.

Small Private Supplies (SPS)

There are approximately 134 SPS consisting of schools, public houses, nursing homes, housing estates, hotels, B&Bs and businesses.

Water sampling commenced in July 2026 to ensure supplies are in compliance with EU Drinking Water Regulations.

No. of SPS (Small Private Supplies)



INTEGRATION CE REPORT

July/Aug 2026

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues to play a vital role in supporting the integration of diverse communities across Kilkenny. Their work continues to focus on individuals in the following categories:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) – Ukrainians
- International Protection Applicants (IPAs)
- Programme Refugees
- Those granted Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status

Jan - July
Total Interventions



IPAS

469

Interventions

210

People supported

BOTPS

507

Interventions

278

People supported

PROGRAMME REFUGEES

15

Interventions

10

People supported

GAZA MEDEVAC

7

Interventions

7

People supported

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

4

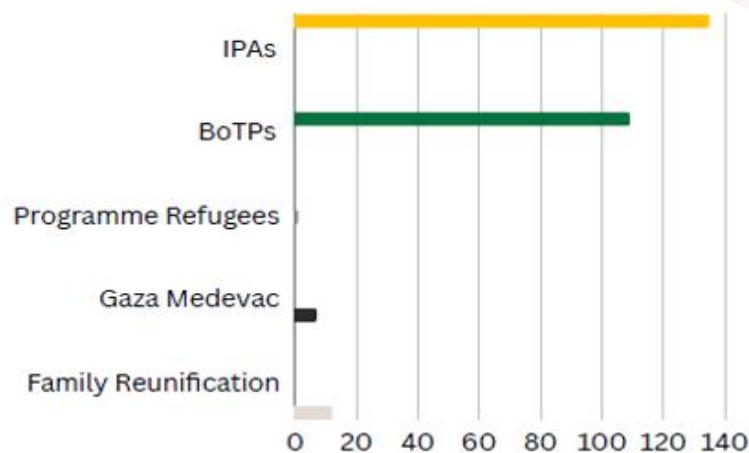
Interventions

7

People supported

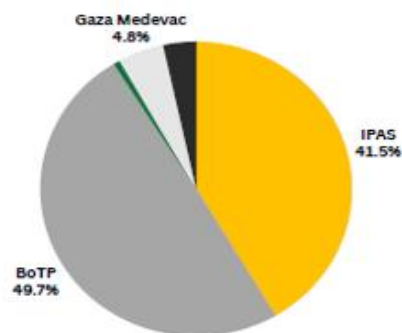
July/August interventions

Total Interventions



July/August People Supported

Categories of people supported in July/August



Partnership

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues to work closely with partner agencies. Here's a snapshot of what happened in July & August, 2026.

Information Sessions

19

Clinics

17

Integration Events

1

Ukrainian Flag Day & Day of Independence

Other

1

Community Engagement Team from Dept of Justice facilitated session on generating dialogue among stakeholders in Kilkenny on impact of migration to the area. This will inform actions for the National Integration Strategy

July-August 2026

 53,020
library visits

 6,043
free PC and
WiFi sessions

 132,103
items borrowed

 4,845
library
memberships

 442
events with 6,685
attendees

 11,097
engagements on
social media platforms

 26,691 virtual newsletters sent

 2,809 visits to
www.kilkennylibrary.ie

 13,316 followers on social media

 61,499
eNewspapers and
magazines borrowed

 7,086
eAudiobooks
borrowed

 2,665
eBooks
borrowed

 292
online learning
sessions

 121
language
learning sessions

 60
eComics borrowed

248
films and shows streamed



Heritage Week at the Library 2026

Heritage Week 2026 saw Kilkenny County Council Library Service deliver a vibrant and wide-ranging programme across multiple branches, celebrating local history, culture, language and community memory. Through expert talks, hands-on workshops and digital preservation sessions, libraries welcomed enthusiastic audiences who engaged deeply with Kilkenny's past and its enduring stories.

Highlights included:

- Castlecomer Library hosted Dr Brendan Twomey for a Gulliver's Travels lecture, exploring Swift's Kilkenny connections and the novel's lasting relevance.
- Mayfair Library welcomed Orla Murphy for a talk on Tom Treacy's 1916 letters, followed by Anne-Karoline Distel's OpenStreetMap survey workshop.
- A bilingual event on An Ghaeilge's EU status drew huge interest for poetry, song and discussion on language and identity.
- Historian Michael Reynolds delivered two talks on the 1926 Census and the role of Kilkenny Gardaí as the State's first enumerators.
- Thomastown Library ran a strong programme including Teresa Wemyss's Workhouse and Census lecture. Graiguenamanagh Library hosted a Waterways Ireland workshop on Barrow Navigation placenames.
- Ferrybank Library welcomed Andrew Doherty's to discuss fading river placenames and local maritime heritage.
- Local Studies staff ran a three-day Digital Roadshow across Ferrybank, Thomastown and Mayfair, helping members of the public to digitise personal and community heritage items.



Mobile Library Outreach: Iverk Show & Nore Valley

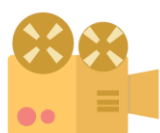
Our Mobile Library had a fantastic day at Nore Valley Park, meeting lots of new and returning visitors. Families enjoyed browsing the collection, joining in story time, and learning about library services. The highlight for many was a library van visit from the park's furry pet-farm friends!



Our Mobile Library had a hugely successful visit to the Iverk Show, welcoming over **370 visitors** and reconnecting with many who fondly remembered using the library van during school. Families enjoyed the large outdoor games in the sunshine, and many visitors from further afield came on board to learn about our services. This was our second appearance at the show, and we were honoured to be invited back for its 200th anniversary.

Summer Stars 2026

Summer Stars 2026 was a huge success across Kilkenny Library Service, with 2,196 children participating. Libraries hosted 107 story time and art and craft events, 33 class visits, as well as a wide variety of one-off events from circus skills to creative writing with 3,158 children attended events across the 8 branches.



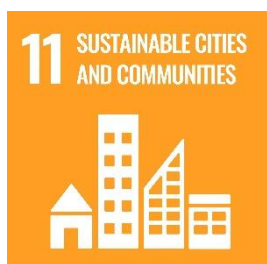
Digital Engagement

Library staff prepared, recorded, edited and published **310** posts and videos on our social media platforms in July and August. Our engagements for the two months were **11,097** and our virtual newsletter was sent to **26,691** email accounts.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



Library activities this month supported **SDG 4: Quality Education** by promoting literacy, creativity and lifelong learning through the Summer Stars reading programme, digital and creative skills workshops, genealogy talks, and hands-on learning opportunities for children, young people and adults across the county.



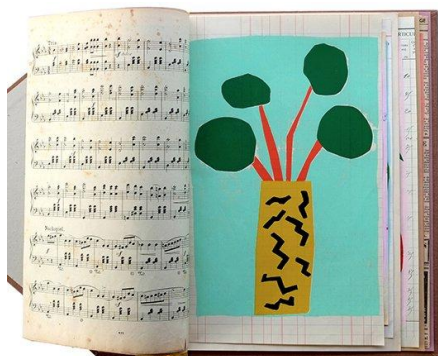
They also supported **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** by preserving and sharing local heritage through digitisation projects, encouraging cultural participation through arts and community events, and supporting environmentally and socially sustainable practices within library spaces.

ARTS

Artist Book Fair

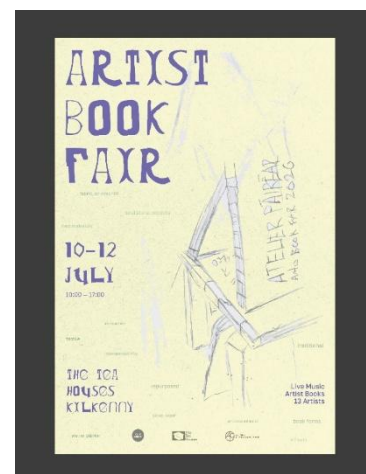


'Interconnectivity' connections between people, communities and nature, at a time of growing disconnection. The exhibition was developed in response to an open call and the book fair showcased a diverse collection of artist's books created by local and national artists, writers, designers, photographers, illustrators and



Sustainable arts association Atelier Páipéar returned to The Tea Houses, Kilkenny, on 10 - 12 July 2026 with an exciting new offering - an Artist Book Fair, exploring the theme of

emerging creatives. The featured artworks were sculptural and interactive, and many were one-off pieces of art. A key focus of the project was sustainability, with all participating artists creating their works using existing or repurposed studio waste materials. Visitors to the fair experienced a vibrant range of hand-bound, imaginative and experimental pieces, that challenged the conventional idea of a book.



Chosen Families

Chosen Families was a collaborative portrait exhibition exploring the relationships we create beyond traditional ideas of family with artist Ki McBride and curated by Shane Gallagher. Rooted in the experiences of LGBTQ+ participants, the project celebrated the friendships, solidarity and care that help us not only to find support, but to discover, express and become our most authentic selves. The exhibition brought together photography, video, sound, personal objects and participants' own contributions to present seven co-created portraits. Rather than simply photographing people, each work emerged through a process of collaboration, with every participant helping to shape how they, their relationships, and their stories would be represented. Each portrait carries the traces and memories of that shared experience. *Chosen Families* turned its attention to the people we choose, and who choose us in return. It honoured friendship, community and care as relationships equally worthy of being seen, remembered and celebrated.

Kilkenny Pride

As part of Kilkenny Pride, the exhibition also hosted a **Chosen Families Portrait Event** on at the Tea Houses. Pride attendees were warmly invited to drop in with their friends, partners or chosen family to have a portrait made together. Each group received a complimentary digital copy of their photograph, extending the project beyond the gallery and celebrating the connections that continue to strengthen our communities. The Tea House presented the exhibition 'Burning Down the House, My House' for Kilkenny Arts Festival this year. The show explored Welsh artist Kathryn Ashill's recent experiences of having a serious house fire. Ashill attempts to look at fire as a common experience, cultural experience, as a danger, and our ability to respond to a crisis. Humour and playfulness is central in her new body of work to navigate traumatic events. Animation and colour were utilised in this installation to bring the memory of a house fire to life. Ashill undertook a residency at the Tea Houses in spring 2026 and used this time to look into local histories of fire in the mediaeval city of Kilkenny. This exhibition was supported by the Arts Council of Wales, Wales Arts International, Kilkenny Arts Office, Kilkenny County Council and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Public Arts

August also saw the presentation of two of our Public Arts Projects, 'All to Play For' and the 'Alice Project'. Audience reaction to and community participation of two of these projects has been nothing short of phenomenal to date. The short, cinematic dance film, Fearghus Ó Conchúir's *All to Play For*, which features two camogie and two hurling All Ireland winners premiered to a public audience during Kilkenny Arts Festival. And Asylum Productions' the Alice Project, the contemporary reimagining of the story of Dame Alice Kyteler and the Kilkenny Witch Trials of 1324, in five chapters in five different locations across the city was one of the highlights for many of the entire Festival. Approximately 150 members of the community were involved in The Alice Project, an amazing theatre project with Asylum Productions. And All to Play for engaged with a very different community and was a lovely way to connect dance and the GAA and Camogie and the physicality of sport and dance, culminating in a gorgeous ten-minute film.



Launch of the Bookville Festival 2026 – collaboration with Arts and Libraries

Wild & Wondrous Things at Bookville Festival 2026

August also saw the launch of the Bookville Festival – a festival of books for families and children, celebrating its ninth year. Events will run from the 1st to the 8th October. Taking place in libraries across the county Bookville promises a fabulous programme of free events for primary school children and the general public. This year, Bookville will embrace the theme of 'Wild & Wondrous Things' celebrating and exploring the wild and wondrous world we live in, inviting young and old alike to discover, question, reflect, and reconnect with the environment we share.

Tyrone Guthrie award – Age and Opportunity

In association with Age & Opportunity and Tyrone Guthrie Centre, the Arts Office awarded a week-long residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre this year to Kilkenny Poet and creative writing facilitator, Frances Moore. The aim of the residency opportunity is to support a professional artist of 50+ to develop their practice, by creating time and space to think and reflect on their work and to bolster their peer network. It is a significant support for mature artists, providing them with the time and space needed to nurture and develop their practice. The residency will take place at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in County Monaghan, offering a peaceful and inspiring setting for research and the development of new work. Dr. Tara Byrne, Arts Programme Manager at Age & Opportunity, said: "Creating meaningful opportunities for artists in later career stages is a key priority for Age & Opportunity. We are delighted to help bring this residency to life as one of its founding partners."

Our Artist Connect Bursary was advertised for Autumn / Winter events. This bursary supports artists in building community and supportive structures that will facilitate greater connections within Kilkenny's artistic community. The aim of the bursary is to enable artists to create opportunities for themselves and other artists across art forms to come together to network, build relationships, share knowledge and skills. Kilkenny Arts Office values the potential of networking understanding that it as an important element in nurturing a dynamic, thriving art community. This bursary is chance for artists to tailor networking events to the needs of artists in their community.

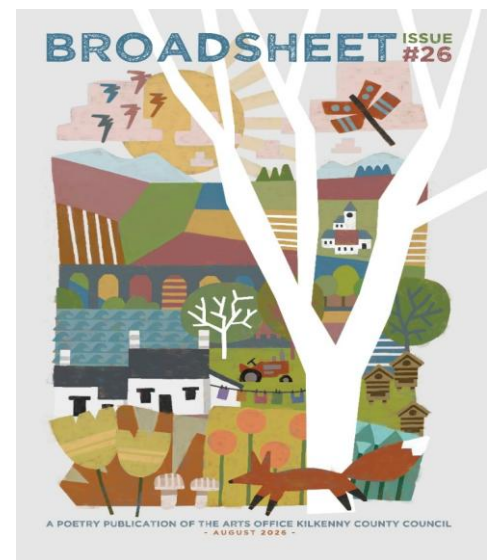


Through greater connection with others, artists will feel supported and connected. These events also have the potential to develop partnerships, collaborations and new opportunities.

Poetry Broadsheet

August saw the official launch of the 26th edition of the Kilkenny Poetry Broadsheet during the Kilkenny Arts Festival on the 13th August 2026 in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle. It was successfully launched by Kilkenny Arts Festival Poet in Residence, Annemarie Ní Churreáin and Broadsheet editor Jane Robinson.

The aim of the publication is to give local writers a platform for their work. Being published since 2000, it continues to be a much sought after and treasured platform for writers to expose their work to the public. This year fifteen poems were selected for publication by Irish poet Jane Robinson. The Broadsheet was beautifully illustrated by local designer and illustrator Tim Harper of Wax Botanical.



Extracts from each of the poems are displayed on the screens around Kilkenny city until the end of September. All the poems are available on The Arts Office blog, www.kilkennyartsoffice.ie The Poetry Broadsheet is available in all Kilkenny Libraries and Butler Gallery

Culture Night Kilkenny 2026 was officially launched, announcing an extensive programme of free cultural events taking place across the city and county on Friday, 18 September. The programme features a diverse range of visual arts, music, theatre, literature, heritage and community-based activities, highlighting the richness and diversity of Kilkenny's cultural sector. Key highlights include special programmes at Butler Gallery and the Medieval Mile Museum, contemporary art installations at Market Cross, new theatre works from local artists, traditional music and storytelling events in Clogh, and an expanded Culture Night Late programme featuring live jazz, swing dancing, electronic music experiences and the Watergate Urban Block Party with DJ Nialler9. Supported by the Night-Time Economy Action Plan and Cultúr 2026, the programme aims to encourage participation, increase access to culture and showcase Kilkenny's vibrant creative community.

Creative Kilkenny

During July and August, Creative Ireland funding supported a diverse programme of cultural activity across County Kilkenny, delivering positive outcomes under the themes of Vibrant Communities, Engaging Rural Communities, Health and Wellbeing, Town Centre First, and Climate Action. Funded initiatives created meaningful opportunities for participation, inclusion and creative expression, particularly for older people, young people, and seldom-heard communities.

Programme highlights included *Singing for Memory* and *Music and Sound Therapy* sessions for Dementia Café attendees, delivered in partnership with S.O.S. and Butler Gallery; the Kilkenny Fringe Festival's *AIM (Artists in Motion)* initiative, which supported artist collaboration and environmentally conscious practice; live theatre streaming with Dreamstuff Youth Theatre; the Kilkenny Pride Cultural Programme; KCAT's *Diana Chambers Retrospective*; and accessible theatre productions, including *Tricksters Wild Turns* and *Summer Story* in Callan.

Events delivered during Heritage Week further strengthened community engagement, celebrating local heritage, creativity and volunteerism through Tidy Towns groups and rural cultural initiatives in communities including Windgap, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown.

Creative Ireland investment also supported projects addressing climate action, heritage preservation and intergenerational participation. Kilkenny Comedy's *Detective Father Mulhern Solves Everything* explored climate change through creative storytelling, while the Heritage Office, in collaboration with UCD's School of Geography, engaged communities in the innovative research project *Athrú*, which examines the impact of climate change on Kilkenny's living heritage, including traditional practices such as snap-net fishing, turf-cutting, hurling and craft-making.

The programme continues creating meaningful connections and positive shared experiences. A site visit by representatives from Creative Ireland took place on 25 August and included attendance at two programme sessions.

Key Outcomes since the commencement of the programme:

- 32 sessions delivered across participating care settings.
- Approximately 595 residents and 133 staff engaged to date.

Notable Highlights

Several sessions generated particularly meaningful moments, including previously non-verbal or disengaged residents actively participating through singing, music-making and storytelling. Staff also reported increased resident responsiveness and interaction during sessions, including among individuals who would not typically engage in group activities. Spontaneous communal singing and dancing were common features across many sessions, demonstrating the programme's ability to foster connection, enjoyment and inclusion.

HERITAGE

Launch of County Kilkenny Heritage Strategy, 2026-2030

The County Kilkenny Heritage Strategy, 2026-30 was launched on 5th June 2026. This comprehensive strategy was prepared by the County Kilkenny Heritage Forum with extensive consultation across the county and with a range of national stakeholders. Co-funded by the Heritage Council. It sets out a very clear vision and mission, values, objectives and strategic goals for the next five years, acknowledging the opportunities and threats ahead in the current world climate. The strategy is available in English and as Gaeilge.



Launch of the County Kilkenny Heritage Strategy, 2026-30. L-R Lar Power, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Virginia Teehan, Regina Fitzpatrick, Sen Malcolm Noonan, Fiona Deegan

Another very successful National Heritage Week in Kilkenny

National Heritage Week 2026 was a major success in County Kilkenny, with a strong programme of over 80 community-led events celebrating the county's rich cultural, built and natural heritage. Activities included guided heritage walks, biodiversity events, visits to historic churches and monuments, traditional craft demonstrations, genealogy talks, exhibitions and family-friendly workshops. The week showcased heritage projects in both urban and rural communities, encouraging greater public appreciation of local history and place. Strong attendance, enthusiastic volunteer involvement and positive feedback highlighted the value of partnership working and demonstrated the significant contribution of heritage to community pride, education, wellbeing and tourism across the county.



Heritage Week Events

Ireland's Presidency of the EU – Kilkenny's Culture Programme

The Heritage Office was delighted to host two events during Heritage Week which form part of the Kilkenny's Culture programme for Ireland's Presidency of the EU. Professor Tadhg O'Keefe gave a stimulating lecture on Kilkenny's prominence and connections in medieval Europe looking at the archaeology and build heritage of Kilkenny City. The event took place in the Medieval Mile Museum and was preceded by a walking tour through the city led by Prof O'Keefe, both events were very well attended. The second event *Language at Risk* consisted of a panel discussion which explored Kilkenny's relationship with the Irish language in the context of the status of Irish as an Official EU Language. A lively evening of discussion, poetry was enjoyed by the large attendance at the Mayfair Library for the event.



L-R: Professor Tadhg O'Keefe; Pearse Ó Caoimh, Cllr Seán Ó hArgáin, Micheál Ó Máirtín, Róisín Sheehy, Carmel Cummins

Joint County Kilkenny and County Carlow Heritage Forum Meeting

The Heritage Office was delighted to host a joint meeting of the County Kilkenny and County Carlow Heritage Fora in Kilkenny in June. Both groups convened in the Mayfair Library to discuss our work and explore potential for collaboration. We were then welcomed to the Heritage Council HQ for a presentation and tour before ending the meeting at Rothe House where the group were shown some examples of partnership projects between Rothe House and the Heritage Office.



Members of County Kilkenny and County Carlow Heritage Fora

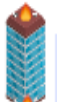


KILKENNY

FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE



2026 To Date

FIRES ATTENDED	TOTAL INCIDENTS	SPECIAL SERVICES
 266	 795	208 
 DOMESTIC 70	FALSE ALARMS 76 	ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 252 
 INSTITUTIONS 2		WATER PUMPING / FLOODING 1 
 INDUSTRIAL 12	MALICIOUS 0 	RESCUE / REMOVAL OF PERSONS FROM WATER 8 
 COMMERCIAL 18	GOOD INTENT 35	OTHER NON-FIRE RESCUES 46 
 VEHICLE FIRES 38	GOOD INTENT COMMERCIAL 23 	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES 0 
 OTHER 58	GOOD INTENT DOMESTIC 47 	MISCELLANEOUS 2 
 AGRICULTURE 19		PUBLIC ROAD HAZARD 61 
 VEGETATION FIRES 67		GARDA / AMBULANCE ASSIST 42 

FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of June is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €91.8m compared with the annual budget of €129m.

Table 1	Actual YTD August 2026	Budget Full Year 2026
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	24,823	36,921
Road Transport & Safety	24,283	33,045
Water Services	3,641	5,928
Development Management	9,462	16,101
Environmental Services	12,117	19,972
Recreation & Amenity	6,220	10,229
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	272	348
Miscellaneous Services	7,675	6,847
Central Management Charges for Allocation	3,265	
OVERALL TOTAL	91,758	129,391

Rates Invoices 2026

The annual rate invoices for 2026 totalling €25.8 million were issued to 2,883 rate customers in February. This represented an increase of 4% in the 2025 figure. A waiver of 50% of the increase was granted to all customers with a bill of €3,000 or less. 1,800 customers received this waiver. Commercial rates are payable in full from 1st January 2026.

A prompt payment discount of 8.3% (*capped at €300 per rate account*) is available for customers who pay bill in full before end of May 2026 or enter into a monthly payment plan before April 2026.

Rates Collection 2026

Opening Arrears at 01/01/26	Accrued	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/08/26	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collected
€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
2,672,384	25,918,297	368,995	28,221,686	21,536,781	6,684,905	582,844	78%

Finance Update

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised in the eight month period up to the end of August 2026. The audit by the Local Government Audit for FY 2025 has now been completed and the audit report will be presented to Council at the September meeting.

Budget 2027

Work has commenced on the preparation of the Council Budget for 2027. Workshops will be held with Elected Members over the coming weeks to discuss the issues arising.