



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

OCTOBER 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.

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CORPORATE

Mayor Andrew McGuinness presents Alice McManus with a Mayoral Certificate in recognition of her long-standing commitment to cycling to school.



Cathaoirleach Joe Malone launches a new Radon Monitor Loan Scheme in Mayfair Library.



Kilkenny's Toil & Trouble festival's 2026 programme was launched in Kyteler's Inn by Mayor Andrew McGuinness.



Cathaoirleach Joe Malone hosted a Civic Reception in James Stephens Barracks in recognition of the vital support the Defence Forces have provided to communities across Kilkenny City, County and beyond.



Minister James Browne TD also officially opened Jenkins Yard and the new boardwalk at Greensbridge with Cathaoirleach Joe Malone and Mayor Andrew McGuinness.



Cathaoirleach Joe Malone and Mayor Andrew McGuinness presenting the captain of St. John's under-12 Boys Soccer Team with a certificate in recognition of their success in winning the FAI Under 12 National Cup Final.



PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Summary	Total January to September	
	2026	2025
Planning Applications Received	697	741
Planning Applications Granted	552	566
Planning Applications Refused	36	50
Complaints Received	126	100
Warning Letters Issued	91	75
Enforcements Notices Issued	33	42
Cases Closed	244	113
Cases sent for legal prosecution	16	13
Section 5's Received	70	42
Section 5's Decided Upon	67	42

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 Masterplan for St Canice's Campus/Lacken, Kilkenny was adopted by the members of Kilkenny Council at the September 21st 2026 meeting of the Council. A Proposed Variation will be prepared to incorporate the relevant provisions of the Masterplan into the Development Plan.

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:

- Cluain Glasan, Kilkenny
- Kilkenny County Council sought to initiate the taking in charge process for Pennefeather Green, Kilkenny at September 2026 meeting.
- Nuncio Park, Kilkenny.
- Public consultation will commence next week for Friary Walk (Phase 3), Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Resolution to initiate proceedings passed at July 2026 Council meeting.

Conservation

- The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026: Successful projects are nearing completion.
- The BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Stream 2026: Both applicants have successfully completed the thatch work on their properties. (See below)
- The Historic Structures Fund 2026: Engagement with both successful applicants underway.



*Maureen Byrne's thatch cottage, Kylevehagh,
Commons, Callan, Co. Kilkenny*



*Jim Maher's thatch cottage, Westcourt North,
Callan, Co. Kilkenny.*

For the month of September, the following reports were provided by the Architectural Conservation Officer:

- Planning Applications: 10
- Further Information requests: 5
- Section 57 Declarations:..... 2

Building Control

Valid commencement notices received up to end September 2026..... 290

Valid Disability Access Applications Received	
September 2026.....	61
September 2025.....	48
September 2024.....	39
September 2023.....	39

TOWN REGENERATION OFFICE

Engagement took place over the summer months in Graiguenamanagh to gather content for a Town Centre First Plan for the town. The findings of the engagement were presented to the Town Team on the 10th September and this was followed up with public engagement events on the 24th September. All were well attended and there were lively discussions around possible actions to be identified in the Plan. A further meeting with the Town Team is being held on 8th October, with a view to refining the actions to be included.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

To date the Council have paid out €4.5 million to successful applicants. The following are the full statistics up to end of September, 2025:

Number of Applications Submitted to date	349
Number of Approvals / Approvals in Principle to date.....	262
Grant Drawdown to date	93
Number of Queries during the month of September.....	87

THRIVE

The Council's application for funding under the THRIVE scheme was successful. We were awarded €3.9 million to fund the refurbishment of Carnegie library as a cultural hub, incorporating Library staff and the Local Studies element of the library service. It also provides funding for the refurbishment of the public realm area around the library.



Derelict Sites

The derelict site at Chapel Street, Mooncoin, acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order was put on the market for sale. Notice under Section 183 for disposal of the property is for consideration at the October meeting. A Compulsory Purchase Order was commenced for a house in Ballyragget. There were no additions to the Derelict Sites Register and one property was removed.

Butts Area Regeneration Framework

A community event was held on Sunday 21st of September at the KCC site office, No 19, Pearse St. There was great participation by members of the Town Team and sub-groups. The day went extremely well, with lots of activities organised, such as face-painting, games for children and adults and lots of refreshments provided. The weather held up well and the community turned out in force. The Mayor Councillor John Coonan attended as well as St Canice's parish priest Fr Willie Purcell and the Bishop of Ossory, Bishop Niall Coll. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and helped to enhance community spirit.



CAPITAL DELIVERY & PARKS

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2026-2027 Call for new applications under the ORIS

In June 2026, the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, launched the 2026-2027 ORIS with €20 million available for investment. Like previous calls, the funding applications were divided into the following four categories:

Measure 1: Small Scale Repair/Maintenance/Development/Promotion and Marketing
(Grant Amounts: Up to €40,000)

Measure 2: Medium Scale Repair/ Maintenance/Upgrade and New Trail/Amenity Development (Grant Amounts: Up to €200,000)

Measure 3: Strategic Large-Scale Repair/Upgrade and New Strategic Trail/Amenity Development (Grant amounts: Up to €500,000)

Project Development Measure: Development costs for New Projects (Grant amounts: vary up to combined maximum of €100,000 per local authority)

(A minimum of 10% Match funding must be provided by the Local Authority)

Prior to the September 2026 submission deadlines, the following ORIS applications were submitted on behalf of Kilkenny County Council:

Measure	Project Name	Description	Grant Sought	Estimated Total Cost
Project Development	Urlingford to Johnstown Greyway	Engage technical consultants to design and progress through the planning process an accessible 2km walking and cycling greyway linking the towns of Johnstown and Urlingford along R639 in North County Kilkenny.	€30,000	€33,000
Project Development	Connectivity Link from Piltown Village to Sports Amenity Ground	Development of a new off-road connectivity link from Piltown Village to local sports ground, creating a safe, segregated, active travel route along the river corridor for walking and recreations use.	€30,000	€33,000
Project Development	North Kilkenny Recreational Trails Masterplan	Development of a masterplan to identify and design new forest trails centred on the village of Coan, creating a strategic outdoor recreation and tourism asset for North Kilkenny.	€30,000	€33,000
M1	Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum Woodland Trail Enhancement Scheme	The proposal is for the upgrading of the existing 2.25 km woodland walking trail. Works will include the upgrading of gravel trail path surface, new footbridge, removal of invasive species, pedestrian counters, directional, information and interpretive signage and age friendly seating along the trail walk.	€40,000	€44,000

M1	Kilkenny Countryside Park Accessibility and Biodiversity Enhancement trail	The proposal is for the upgrading of the surface to the existing 1.3 km accessibly walking trail in the Kilkenny Countryside Park. Works will include the upgrading of accessibly walking trail path surface, Biodiversity planting and installation of motion sensor audio units to promote responsible dog ownership within the Park setting.	€40,000	€44,000
M1	Slieverue Linear Park Enhancement Scheme	The proposal is for the installation of a rubber bound surfacing to the existing outdoor age friendly gym equipment and outdoor classroom education area, including an access path to facilitate year-round use and accessibility to the equipment for all. Installation of bike rack parking spaces and biodiversity planting. Information and interpretive signage along the path in the park	€40,000	€44,000
M1	Bishopsmeadows & Talbots Inch Village Connectivity Link Enhancement Scheme	The proposed improvement works to the Bishopsmeadows & Talbots Inch Village Connectivity Link Enhancement Scheme will include; Rehabilitation works to existing boundary fence. Directional, information and interpretive signage Age friendly seating along the walk & Biodiversity planting.	€40,000	€44,000
M1	Enhancement work to the Community Loop Walk Scheme - Bennettsbridge (O'Gormans Loop) Gowran (Mill Road) Thomastown (Grennan Loop Walk)	The proposed project incorporates the upgrade of, and the creation of one new walk as part of the Community Loop Walk scheme in Kilkenny: Bennettsbridge (<i>improvement works to the existing O'Gormans Loop Walk</i>) Thomastown (<i>improvement works to the existing Grennan Loop Walk</i>) Gowran (<i>creation of a new community walk along the Mill Road through designation of Mill Road as a Quiet Road</i>)	€40,000	€44,000
M1	Connectivity from Kilkenny City to the Kilkenny Countryside Park via the Bleach Road	The proposed project will designate the Bleach Road as a Quiet Road, incorporating the installation of gateway signage, enhanced road markings to create a safer and more welcoming environment for walkers and cyclists. The scheme will strengthen active travel connectivity between Kilkenny City and Kilkenny Countryside Park, providing an attractive route that encourages walking and cycling for both recreation and everyday journeys. By improving accessibility and promoting sustainable transport, the project will enhance the recreational link between urban and rural amenities while supporting healthier lifestyles and increased participation in outdoor recreation.	€40,000	€40,000

Applications for Measures 2 and 3 are currently being prepared for submission in December 2026.

Current ORIS Projects

Castlecomer Discovery Park – Mountain Bike Trail

The appointed main contractor, Trailbreaker Ltd, commenced work on site, on Monday 28th September. The programme of works is 9 months and will see the delivery of a 6.7km, blue grade, family friendly bike trail within the forest area of the Castlecomer Discovery Park and environs.



Brandon Hill

Works are scheduled to commence on site towards the end of October with a 9-month works programme agreed. Appointed Contractor, Hamilton Environmental Ltd (Scotland) is currently completing required Coillte environmental training, mobilising plant and liaising with appointed Archaeologist in relation to sequencing of works on site. The works will involve the development of a clearly delineated, upland-style path, fit for purpose and resilient to the effects of climate change. A key objective of the works is to prevent further erosion and scarring of the upland habitat and to allow the deteriorated areas regenerate in time.

Mountain Grove Walking Loop Trail Rehabilitation Scheme

Works recently commenced on the above project and provide for the rehabilitation of 2.5km of existing woodland trail, entrance improvements, drainage, footbridge replacement, signage and seating. The works are being undertaken in partnership with Coillte who are the owners of the woods.

Town & Village Renewal

Glenmore Café

This project will entail the renovation and refurbishment of an existing vacant building at Glenmore village to provide a fully functioning café with tea rooms and new Kitchen together with welfare facilities including staff changing areas and storage. A contractor has been appointed for the construction work is expected to commence on site in November.

Dunnamaggin Town & Village Renewal Scheme

The Dunnamaggin Town & Village Renewal Scheme is now completed and was officially open on Saturday 12th September 2026. The Scheme, a community led project, has transformed a green space in the village centre, locally known as Madge's Garden, into an assessable public realm area that will cater for community events for all, while providing an activity and recreational space for families.



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. Design for this project is progressing well, and the focus now is on the preparation of a Part 8 planning application. In advance of advertising the Part 8, the draft Part 8 proposals will be presented to the Callan – Thomastown MD before Christmas.

Pink Rock Cycle Loop and Amenity Trail (RRDF Funding)

A Section 38 Application was published for this project on 25th September with a closing date for submissions on 23rd October 2026. Project notice was advertised in local papers and on Concsult.ie.

Garrigreen Phase 2 (KCC)

A new dressing rooms building is planned at the existing playing pitch near the Garrigreen, Whitewood and Lintown housing estates. 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 and associated site works. A part 8 planning application has been lodged for this development and is currently at public consultation stage. Submission / Observations on the application can be made up to the 6th November 2026.

Parks Department

The Parks Department continues to deliver a programme of maintenance, repair and enhancement works across the county's parks and recreational facilities.

During this reporting period, surface repair works were completed at Blackthorn Hills Playground, Ferrybank. Enhancement and repair works are also ongoing at playground facilities in Urlingford and Clogh, improving the quality, accessibility and longevity of these community amenities. Routine inspections and maintenance continue across the county's parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities to ensure they remain safe, accessible and welcoming for all users.

Green Flag Award 2026

Kilkenny County Council is delighted to announce that both Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum and Kilkenny Countryside Park have been shortlisted for the 2026 Green Flag Award. Administered by An Taisce, the Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised benchmark for excellence in the management, maintenance and environmental standards of parks and green spaces. This represents the first year of participation for Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum and the second year for Kilkenny Countryside Park. The shortlisting recognises the high standard of presentation, biodiversity management, accessibility, visitor experience and overall park management being delivered across both sites. The results of the awards programme are expected to be announced in November 2026.

Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum

Following a busy summer season, maintenance works throughout Woodstock Gardens & Arboretum have now transitioned to the autumn works programme. Ongoing works include routine maintenance of gardens, walks, trails and visitor facilities together with woodland management and biodiversity enhancement measures. Invasive species control works, including the management of Cherry Laurel within the estate woodlands, are currently being undertaken through funding secured under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. These works will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity and the long-term ecological health of the woodland areas across the estate.

COMMUNITY

Community Projects

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

Town & Village Scheme			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	September 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
Glenmore 2025	Renovate two vacant buildings into community café & shop	€500,000	Contractor Appointed
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	September 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	September Status
Mooncoin Celtic AFC 2023	LED Floodlighting for extra training area	€20,000	In progress
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 complete
Kilkenny Girl Guides 2025	Emergency Lighting & Fire Alarm	€15,000	Works in progress
Kilkenny SOS Lawn Bowls 2025	Fencing, Lighting, Bicycle Bays, shed	€30,000	Contractor Appointed

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	Works 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 – 50% complete
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 complete
James Stephens Hurling Club	Upgrade & Resurface walking track	€35,000	Works complete
Slieverue GAA Club	Upgrades, Safety Measures & Fencing	€34,500	Works due to commence
Mooncoin GAA Club	Convert hall space into indoor AstroTurf area	€22,500	Works due to commence

CLÁR			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	September 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	Works in progress
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

Age Friendly

The Next Step – Connecting with Vitality Event

The Next Step – Connecting with Vitality event took place on the 23rd September, 2026 at the SETU Arena, Waterford. The event brought together members of Older People's Councils (OPCs) from across the Southeast region to participate in a programme of physical activity taster sessions, wellbeing workshops, networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing activities. The event was co-designed in collaboration with Older People's Council members from across the region. As part of the planning process, members identified the activities and workshop topics they wished to be included, ensuring that the programme reflected their interests and priorities.

The day featured a diverse range of activities, including Scootch, Biodiversity Walks, Table Tennis, Orienteering, Forever Fit, Fit Sticks, Chair Exercise Classes, Archery, Sauna Sessions, Mindfulness, Sound Bathing, Laughter Yoga and Foot Golf.

The event was very well received by participants, providing an opportunity to explore new activities, connect with OPC members from other counties and increase awareness of programmes that support active and healthy ageing. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants highlighting the value of the networking opportunities, the variety of activities on offer and the inclusive nature of the event. Following the success of this year's programme, consideration is being given to establishing the event as an annual regional initiative, hosted in a different location each year to maximise accessibility and participation across the Southeast region.



Attendees of Kilkenny Older People's Executive Committee at The Next Step – Connecting with Vitality event



Archery at The Next Step – Connecting with Vitality event



Chair Exercise Classes at The Next Step – Connecting with Vitality event

Age Friendly ExWell Programme

Kilkenny Older People's Council has recently launched the ExWell Exercise Programme, a community-based initiative designed to support individuals living with long-term illnesses, chronic health conditions, and cancer through medically supervised exercise.

The ExWell Programme delivers evidence-based exercise classes aimed at improving participants' health, wellbeing and overall quality of life. By providing safe and accessible opportunities for physical activity within local communities, the programme supports individuals in managing the challenges associated with chronic illness while promoting active and healthy ageing.

The programme is currently operating in O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club and is due to commence shortly in Windgap Community Centre, Muckalee, Slieverue and Urlingford, thereby expanding access to clinical exercise supports across County Kilkenny.

Each programme cycle consists of 45-minute classes delivered over an eight-week period at a subsidised cost, with capacity for approximately 30 participants per location. As a national initiative, ExWell is committed to supporting individuals and families affected by chronic illness through professionally supervised, community-based exercise programmes.

The expansion of the programme to additional locations will provide increased opportunities for people throughout the county to participate in structured physical activity in a supportive and inclusive environment, contributing to improved health outcomes and enhanced community wellbeing.

Further information on the programme is available at www.exwell.ie or from Amy Adams, ExWell Programme Lead for Kilkenny, at aadams@exwell.ie or 085 743 6138.

Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme

Gowran Community Complex

Gowran Community Complex were awarded funding under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme, to provide a significant boost towards the completion of the long-awaited upstairs section of the clubhouse. The funding supported the installation of glazing to fully seal and weatherproof the 3,800 sq. ft. upper floor space, together with floor coverings, electrical, lighting and heating systems, and the fixtures and fittings required to create a modern multi-use community facility.

This space will provide a much-needed venue for community meetings, workshops, training courses, exercise classes and health and wellbeing initiatives. The project reflects the strong community spirit in Gowran and will enhance opportunities for collaboration, inclusion and engagement for people of all ages across the village and surrounding hinterland, creating a vibrant shared space that will deliver lasting benefits for the wider community.

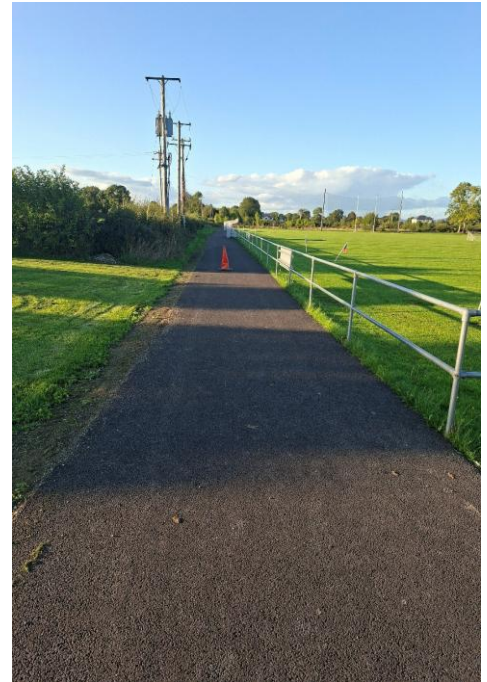


Installation of windows at Gowran Community Complex

James Stephens Hurling Club

James Stephens Hurling Club were awarded €35,000 under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme to fund the development of a 1km community walkway around the club grounds at the Kells Road, Kilkenny. This investment will significantly enhance the club's recreational facilities and provide a safe, accessible, and inclusive space for the wider community to enjoy.

The upgraded walking track will encourage greater participation in physical activity by people of all ages and abilities. The club has licence agreements in place with a number of community, educational, and voluntary groups, including Kilkenny SOS, Kilkenny Special Olympics Club, St. Patrick's De La Salle Primary School, St. John of God Primary School, and Gaelscoil Osraí, Loughboy. These partnerships ensure that the club's facilities are utilised by a broad cross-section of the community, promoting inclusion, participation, education, and wellbeing for people of all ages and abilities.



Walking track upgrades at James Stephens Hurling Club

Marian Hall Kilmacow

Marian Hall were awarded €10,235 under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme to undertake renovation works aimed at improving the accessibility and inclusivity of the facility. The funding supported the installation of a level-access bathroom and all associated works, ensuring that the building is more accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

These improvements will significantly enhance the usability of Marian Hall as a valuable community resource, providing a more welcoming and accessible environment for local groups, community events, meetings, classes, and social activities. The addition of accessible facilities will particularly benefit older adults, people with disabilities, and those with mobility challenges, enabling them to participate more fully in community life.



Level-access bathroom with accessible toilet and sink at Marian Hall, Kilmacow

Marble City Boxing Club

Marble City Boxing Club was awarded €27,000 under the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) to install a modern heating system within its facility. The funding represents an important investment in the continued development of the club and will significantly improve the comfort, accessibility, and year-round usability of the venue.

Kilkenny County Council provided a twenty-one-year lease to the group at the former James Stephens Swimming Pool in 2019. The club undertook an extensive programme of refurbishment works. These included the installation of a new floor, the renovation of dressing rooms, and the provision of three new boxing rings, transforming the building into a vibrant community and sporting facility.



New flooring and boxing rings installed at Marble City Boxing Club

However, the absence of a heating system restricted the use of the premises during the colder winter months. The installation of a new heating system will now enable the club to maximise the use of the facility throughout the year, providing a warm and welcoming environment for members, visitors, and community groups.

In addition to supporting boxing activities, the enhanced facility will be capable of hosting a wider range of community programmes, including after-school activities, health and wellbeing initiatives, training sessions, and charity events. The project will ensure that Marble City Boxing Club continues to develop as a high-quality sports and community venue, delivering lasting benefits to the local community and encouraging greater participation, inclusion, and social engagement.

Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership

The Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership continued to make progress during September, with the Partnership meeting taking place on 15 September 2026. Members received presentations on Community Text Alert Schemes and Property Marking initiatives, as well as updates on Tusla referral pathways and child protection supports. Discussions focused on strengthening community safety, enhancing public awareness, and supporting collaborative approaches to addressing local safety concerns.

The LCSP Working Groups continued to develop actions for inclusion in the Partnership's work programme. Key areas of focus included community safety walkabouts, a Halloween safety packs, promotion of Community Text Alert Schemes, anti-spiking awareness initiatives, youth engagement measures, intergenerational projects, domestic violence awareness campaigns, parental support initiatives and community information events.

The Partnership also received an update from An Garda Síochána regarding anti-social behaviour issues in Ferrybank, with members discussing preventative measures, community engagement opportunities and ongoing interagency cooperation to address identified concerns.

In addition, the Chairperson of the Kilkenny LCSP, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, represented and supported the Partnership's involvement in European Mobility Week activities held on The Parade, Kilkenny, on 17 September 2026. The event promoted sustainable and active travel options and provided an opportunity to engage directly with the public on community wellbeing, and broader community safety matters.

During September, engagement also took place with Fergus Dunne, Night-Time Economy Advisor, representatives of the Vintners' Association, and An Garda Síochána to develop a collaborative approach to an anti-spiking awareness campaign aiming to strengthen partnerships between all stakeholders involved, promoting public safety within the night-time economy, and raising awareness of personal safety measures.

Kilkenny Public Participation Network

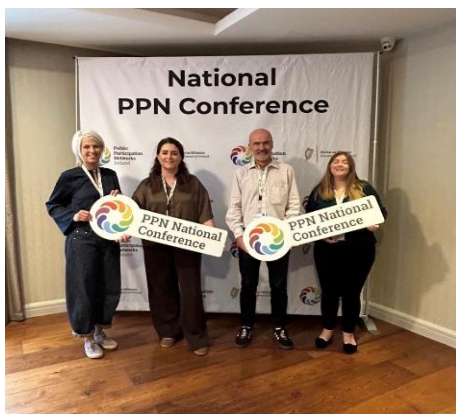
During September, the PPN membership continued to grow, reaching 528 member groups and organisations representing environmental, social inclusion, community, voluntary and cultural interests across County Kilkenny.

The Social Inclusion Working Group met in the new Lus na Gréine, Corkers Hill Community Centre to discuss key issues raised by member groups. The meeting provided an opportunity to identify priorities and develop proposals to be brought forward to Kilkenny County Council through Strategic Policy Committees, council representatives and relevant local authority staff, ensuring that community voices continue to inform local decision-making.

The PPN also encouraged its members to celebrate and showcase the outstanding work taking place across the county by nominating community groups for the Volunteer Engagement, Community & Social Impact Award at the Kilkenny Chamber Business Awards 2026, a category co-sponsored by the PPN and the Kilkenny Volunteer Centre. This award recognises groups, organisations and enterprises that demonstrate exceptional commitment to community development, volunteerism, social inclusion and positive social impact within their communities.

Kilkenny PPN representatives joined colleagues and PPN stakeholders from across the country at the National PPN Conference, held in the beautiful surroundings of the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, for two days of networking, learning and collaboration. The event provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas, share best practices and explore innovative approaches to strengthening public participation and community engagement.

Throughout the month, Kilkenny PPN continued to support its members through a range of free training and capacity-building opportunities, governance support, and a weekly newsletter. The newsletter keeps members informed about local development initiatives, public consultations, funding opportunities, training programmes and other resources relevant to community groups across the county.



Attendees at the National PPN Conference 2026, hosted by PPN Roscommon, Roscommon County Council and the Department of Rural and community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Summary of 2026 Awards to Businesses

- €293,940 in direct financial assistance was approved for 20 manufacture /export service businesses in located in throughout the county.
 - €95,160 awarded in Feasibility Study Grant
 - €64,991 awarded in Business Priming Grant Assistance
 - €115,490 in Business Expansion Grant assistance
 - €18,299 in Market Explorer Grant
- 10 Businesses have commenced LEAN consultancy programmes to investigate possible resource efficiencies and process improvements their businesses
- 20 businesses have availed of the Digital for Business programme to prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the enterprise. 13 business have subsequently availed of the follow-on LEO Grow Digital Voucher Grant Scheme which supports investment in subscription-based software.
- 24 businesses have availed of the Energy Efficiency Grant totaling €205,125 to support investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises
- 21 business have availed of the Green for business consultancy support scheme. This scheme supports businesses to become greener and environmentally friendly.
- 334 people participated on focused small business training, including 36 people participating on the Starting Your Business programme.

National Women's Enterprise Day



The launch of National Women's Enterprise Day took place earlier this month. Local Enterprise Offices of Carlow and Kilkenny County Councils are inviting female founders and business leaders across the region to come together for National Women's Enterprise Day 2026, a landmark celebration marking twenty years of women in Irish business. The event takes place on Thursday 15th October at the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow, from 11.45am to 2pm.

The event will be hosted by broadcaster Ruth Scott of Classic Hits FM. A 'Lessons Learned' fireside chat

brings together local entrepreneurs Denise Walsh of Curly Co, Laura Mullin of The Old Post Office, and Brigid Walsh of Solar Precision, who will share the realities of starting and scaling a business. A closing 'Supporting You' session will outline the funding, mentoring and development programmes available to businesswomen through both Local Enterprise Offices.

Live Work Visit Invest Kilkenny

Free registration is now open for companies or members of the public who want to be part of the 'Live Work, Visit, Invest Kilkenny' showcase at St Canice's Cathedral early next month. The wealth of attractive career and lifestyle opportunities Kilkenny has to offer will be showcased to locals and visitors alike as businesses of all sizes join forces with agencies in the city and county for the event from 10am until lunchtime on Saturday, November 7. Live Work Visit Invest Kilkenny will run from 10am to 1pm and members of the public will be able to enjoy panel discussions and even catch a live podcast recording of The Simpler Life? with James Kavanagh and William Murray during the event



Kilkenny Night Time Economy Initiative

Culture Night Late 2026

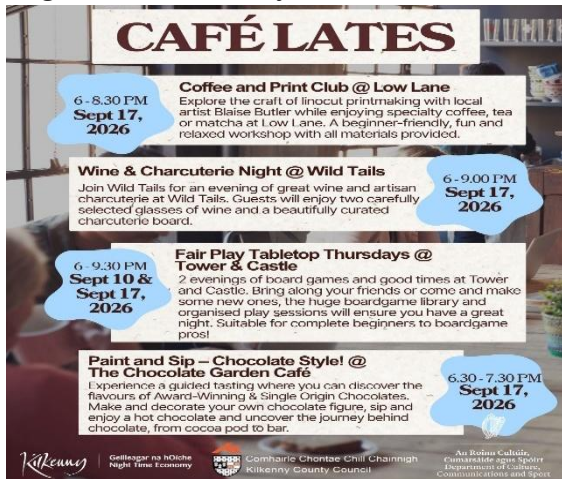
This year saw an expanded Culture Night Late programme in Kilkenny city on Friday September 18th, supported by Kilkenny Night Time Economy in partnership with Kilkenny Arts Office. The late night programme features eight free events running past 9pm at public spaces including Watergate Urban Park, Kilkenny Skate Park, Market Cross Car Park and other venues around the City. With RTE also broadcasting their Culture Night live show from St. Canice's Cathedral, the Night Time Economy Office liaised with the producers to help platform and promoted Kilkenny based artists and events happening in the city as part of Culture Night Late.

Watergate Urban Park Block Party



As part of Culture Night Late, Kilkenny Night Time Economy introduced a new Block Party dance music themed event on Friday September 18th at the Watergate Urban Park stage on Parliament Street. Featuring Dublin based DJ Nialler9 and local Kilkenny DJ Edel Crean, the event was attended by over 150 people across the night, and is the first of a series of events in this new public space across the Autumn/ Winter to help continue to diversify the night time offering in Kilkenny City, and bring footfall and business to this area of the City.

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.

TOURISM

Kilkenny Tourism and visitkilkenny.ie



Kilkenny Tourism hosted its 2026 AGM on 16th September at the Parade Tower in Kilkenny. The event saw our partners in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector come together to both review the previous years activity and to also look towards the end of this year, the off season and further into next season for planning and activation measures. Gareth Alcorn agreed to remain

in the role of Chairperson of Kilkenny Tourism with Conor Deniffe appointed as new director from GAA, welcomed on board for the next three years. The board thanked resigning Director Jimmy Walsh for his time and commitment given to Kilkenny Tourism over his tenure and welcomed Conor on board.

Kilkenny Tourism acknowledged the support of Kilkenny County Council towards its activities and in meeting its objectives and is looking forward to maintaining and growing this partnership into the future. The marketing report presented by O'Connell Marketing at this years AGM showed a strong digital and social media performance for Kilkenny as a tourism destination for 2026. Seasonal marketing campaigns have all increased year on year.

HOUSING

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 September, 240 social housing allocation offers had been issued, 395 homelessness prevention and intervention supports had been provided, and 68 social housing relets had been completed YTD.

Housing Operations

Homeless Services

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

Activity	September	YTD
New (23) & Repeat (31) Homeless Presentations	54	554
Prevention & Interventions	41	395
Emergency Service	3	85
Not Eligible / Did Not Avail	10	74

HAP Place Finder	September	YTD
Homeless HAP tenancies	36	365

Notices to Quit	September	YTD
Valid NTQs Received	4	32
Solutions Secured	4	41

Emergency Accommodation	September	Average
Households in Supported Emergency	32	33
Households in B&B	6	6
Families in B&B	7	7
Transitional Own Front Door - Singles/Couples	40	40
Transitional Own Front Door - Families	27	25

Social Housing Supports

The Social Housing Supports team processes applications and administers a range of housing supports. The Social Housing Applications team are currently undertaking the Summary of Social Housing Assessment (SSHA) for 2026 in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and the Social Housing Assessment (Summary) Regulations 2016. The assessment is carried out by all local authorities & is required by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Its purpose is to determine the number of households across the county that qualify for social housing support and whose housing needs have not yet been met.

In June 2026, we wrote to 408 applicants who were approved for social housing support on or before 31 July 2025 to confirm that they still require social housing support. Transfer applicants, HAP tenants & RAS tenants are not included in this assessment. Final reminders were sent to those who had not responded in August giving an extended closing date of 28th August 2026.

To date we have not received any response from 71 applicants. Applicants who do not return the review form & documentation cannot be reviewed. These applicants will be closed & removed from the social housing list. The SSHA count date of all qualified households is the 2nd November 2026. The deadline for LAs to return the data to the DHLGH is the 30th November, 2026.

Social Housing Applications	September	YTD
Applications Received	82	517
Incomplete	33	245
Validated	39	207
Applications Assessed	57	73
Awaiting Assessment	91	-

Social Housing Support List	Total
Gross Need	1,305
Net Need	752

Allocations	September	YTD
Local Authority	29	177
AHB	5	59
RAS	0	4
Total	34	240

HAP	September	YTD
New Tenancies	4	11
Allocated Social Housing	2	16
Closed	6	90
Active Tenancies	292	292
Rent Reviews	16	274
Amendments	59	332

Tenancy Management

The Tenancy Management Team investigates and addresses 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.	62	26	2	34
Property/Dumping/Animals	82	33	11	38
Noise/Parking/Other	215	120	9	86
Total	359	179	22	158

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	September	YTD
Maintenance Requests	537	5,196
Call Outs	501	3898

Reletting Programme

Activity	September	YTD
Relets Completed	5	68
Relets in Progress	-	46

Energy Retrofit Programme

Activity	September	YTD
Units Retrofitted	3	48
Units in Progress	-	7

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	171	€2,068,563
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	11	€40,699
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	259	€1,768,968
Total	441	€3,878,230

Loan Type	Received	Approved	Value Approved	Drawn Down	Value
Local Authority Home Loan	19	0	€0	2	€262,600
Purchase & renovate	0	0	€0	0	€0
Caravan Loan	0	0	€0	0	€0
Total	19	0	€0	2	€262,600

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. The official opening of Corkers Court took place in September, the largest social housing development ever delivered by Kilkenny County Council.

Construction works continues 5 new units at 6-9 Upper Patrick Street, Kilkenny City.



Home Loan Activity

Loan Type	Received	Approved	Value Approved	Drawn Down	Value
Local Authority Home Loan	19	0	€0	2	€262,600
Purchase & Renovate	0	0	€0	0	€0
Caravan Loan	0	0	€0	0	€0
Total	19	0	€0	2	€262,600

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE ACTION

Food Waste Composting-Dunmore Civic Amenity Site

As part of a Climate Action initiative and funded under the Decarbonisation Zone Demonstrator Fund (DZ) 2026, the Dunmore Civic Amenity Site has installed a commercial Food Waste Composter. This composter is now installed and allows Kilkenny County Council to compost the food waste received on site, turning into a nutrient rich composting fertiliser. This reduces the need for collection of the food waste and further transportation to another facility further reducing our carbon footprint.



WASTE & LITTER

"Let's Team Up to Clean Up - Together for Kilkenny

Communities across Kilkenny came together for the 2026 "Let's Team Up to Clean Up - Together for Kilkenny" over the last weekend in September making this year's event another great success. Led by Kilkenny County Council and supported by sponsors Tirlán, PRL, Dawn Meats and the John O'Shea Trust, the county-wide clean-up saw a significant participation, with communities, schools and voluntary organisations joining forces to improve their local environment.



Over the course of the weekend, volunteers of all ages took to local neighbourhoods collecting litter, enhancing local amenities and demonstrating the strong community spirit that continues to define Kilkenny. "Let's Team Up to Clean Up - Together for Kilkenny" aligns with the ambition of Kilkenny's Litter Management Plan 2024-2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Leaf Composting

As part of the Let's Team Up to Clean Up Kilkenny, 8 communities in Thomastown, Graignamanagh and Kilkenny City completed leaf composting workshops and constructed leaf cages in their estates, community gardens and allotments. Leaf cages enables communities to harvest fallen leaves to create leaf mulch and compost.



Greening Festivals and Events Workshop

On Thursday September 24, the Environmental Awareness Officers of the Southern Waste Region, together with the Regional Waste Management Planning Office – Southern, hosted a practical actions workshop aimed at improving the delivery of greener festivals and events.

The national policy that supports through the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy with its ambition of 0% waste growth over the lifetime of the plan was discussed, followed by two discussion panels, one explored green and circular actions at festivals and events during 2026, the second panel covered a wealth of information on the circular solutions provided by social partnerships and commercial entities that are available to deliver more circular festivals and events. With representation from Kilkenny Arts Office, Tourism Officer and the Night-time Economy, internal meetings will follow to set up structures to implement measures into events and festivals in 2027.

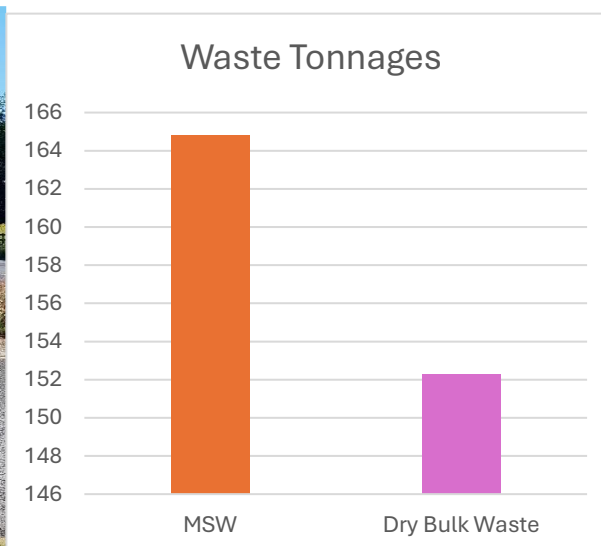
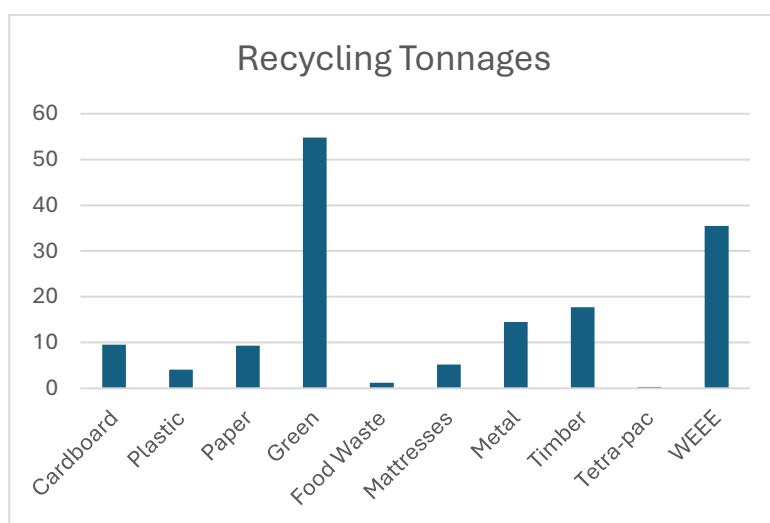
Farm Plastics

Farm plastics has been highlighted at the Q3 regional waste meetings as an area where nationally issues are arising in terms of storage and external shipment. Application have been progressed for international exports to Wales and Spain following a rejection of an application to export to Turkey. In the mean time the Irish industry is progressing with alternative storage capacity including In our own county Of Kilkenny were we have increased storage volume in CTB, Gowran from 2000 to 6000 ton annually and John Ryan Powerstown has had an application approved to allow for temporary storage of farm plastics at his facility.



Dunmore Civic Amenity Site (CAS)

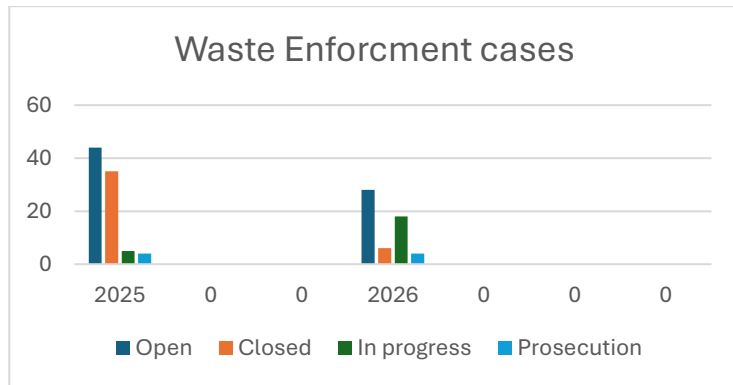
Tonnages of Waste and the various recycling streams deposited at the Dunmore facility during the month of September can be seen in the infographic below.



September saw 164.08t of MSW accepted into the site while 152.3t of Dry Bulk Waste entered the site. The Civic Amenity Site had its onsite food waste composter (as seen under Climate Action) installed. This will process 20t of food waste per annum into usable nutrient rich compost.

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.

Waste Enforcement



Section 14 – 7 issued for gaining access to illegal sites and investigating waste activities

Section 55 – 8 issued for works to cease at illegal site and remediation plan to be conducted

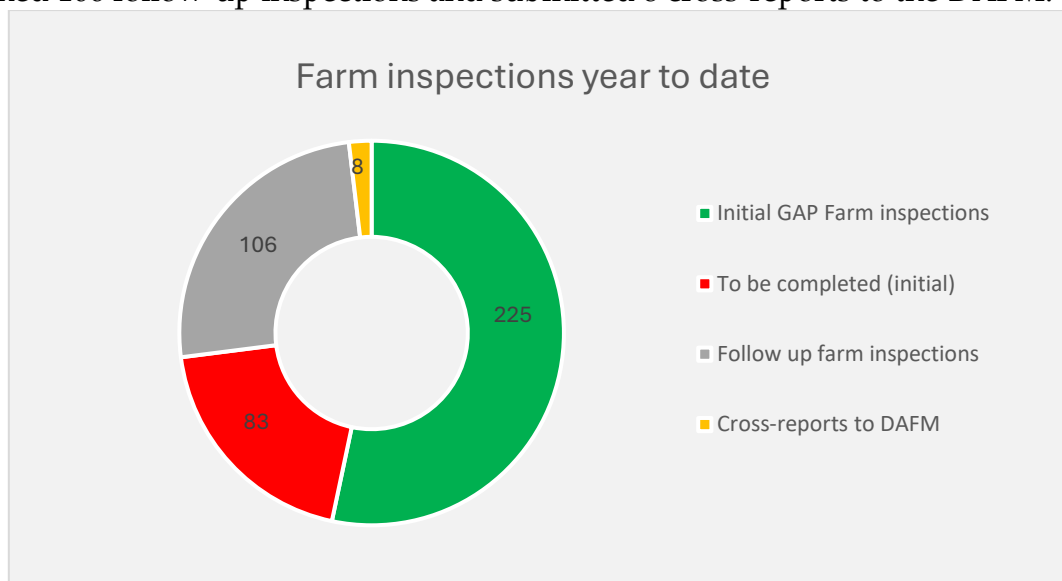
Proceeding to prosecution = 4 cases have proceeded to legal cases

AIR NOISE WATER

Water Quality

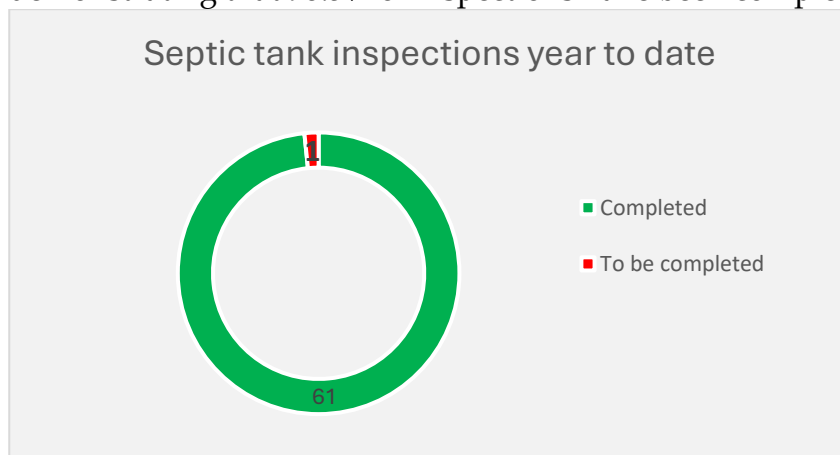
Farm Inspections

The target for 2026 is 308 GAP inspections. Graphic below shows breakdown of inspections to date in 2026, demonstrating that 225 (73%) of initial GAP inspections have already been completed and 83 (27%) still need to be completed by the end of 2026. Farm inspectors also performed 106 follow-up inspections and submitted 8 cross-reports to the DAFM.

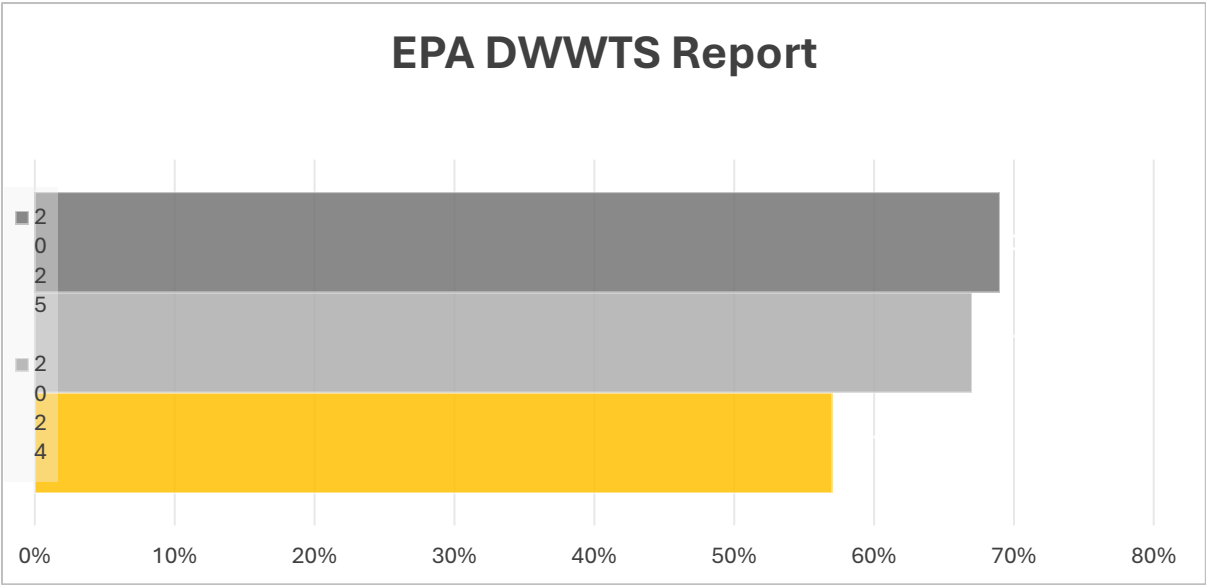


Septic Tank Inspections

Kilkenny County Council have completed 61 out of the target of 62 inspections, demonstrating that 98.5% 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.



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.

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.

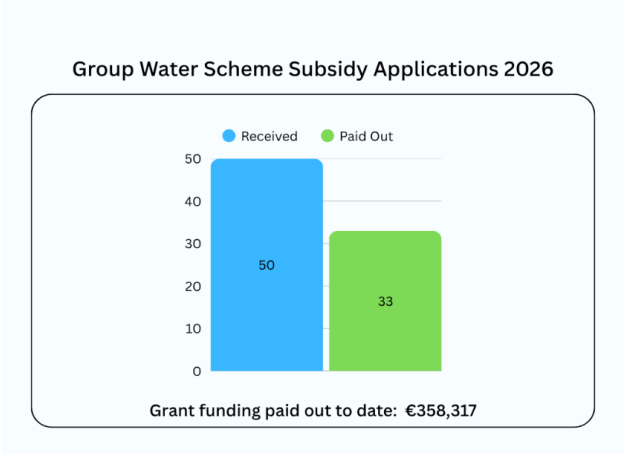
Air

Staff are continually monitoring information received from air monitors. All solid fuel inspections have been completed for Q1. The remaining will be carried out in Q4 2026.

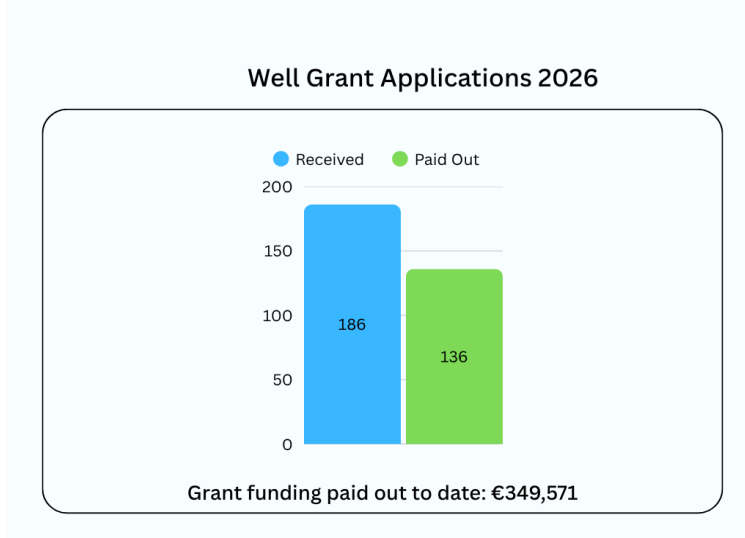
RURAL WATER

Subsidies for Group Water Scheme Operations

The closing date for applications under the Group Water Scheme Subsidy Scheme in respect of 2025 operational and maintenance expenditure was 30 June 2026. To date, Rural Water has assessed and processed 33 applications, with subsidy payments totaling €358,317 issued accordingly. The remaining 17 applications are currently under review and will be processed upon completion of the assessment process and receipt of any outstanding information, where required.



Well Grants – Improvement Works to existing Private Water Supply

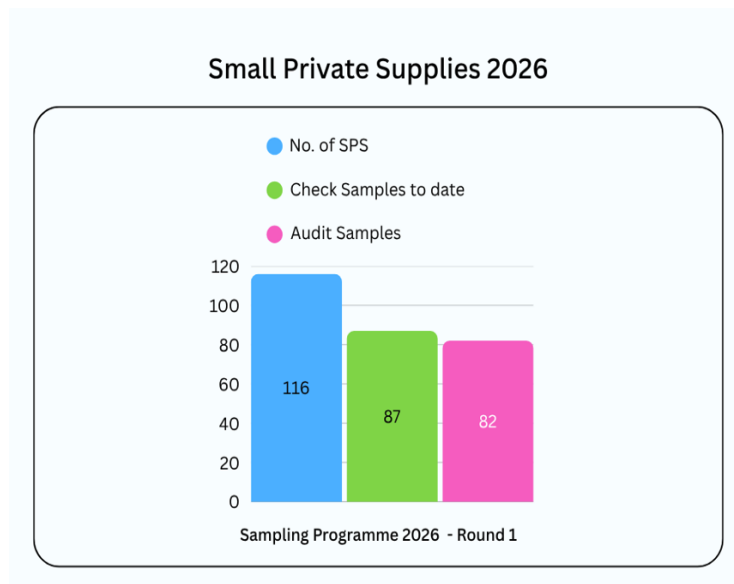


Rural Water has received 186 well grant applications to date. A total of 136 applications have been finalized, resulting in the payment of €349,571 in grant funding.

Small Private Supplies (SPS) – Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2026

Under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023, Kilkenny County Council, in its capacity as a Supervisory Authority, is required to undertake water quality monitoring of all Small Private Supplies (SPS) within its administrative area.

The monitoring programme requires the collection of two check samples and one audit sample from each SPS on an annual basis. Rural Water commenced its 2026 SPS water quality monitoring programme (Round 1) in July 2026, during which 87 check samples and 82 audit samples were collected and submitted for analysis.



The collection of the second annual check sample (Round 2) commenced in late September 2026 and is currently ongoing.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Waterford Road

Phase 2 of the Waterford Road went to construction in August and focuses on improving walking and cycling facilities between the Bohernatounish Road roundabout and Nuncio Road. Phase 1 is now complete and extends along the Waterford Road, inside the ring road. The 300-metre section in Phase 2 extends from the roundabout at Lidl to Nuncio Road roundabout. The previous arrangement consisted of one traffic lane in each direction, 2.0 m footpaths, and 1.2 m cycle lanes on both sides within a 50 km/h environment. The area includes two roundabouts, and two pedestrian crossings that provide access to nearby estates and side streets. The facilities did not meet current best-practice standards for safety, comfort, or inclusivity. Narrow cycle lanes, vehicle speeds, and junction layouts limit the attractiveness of walking and cycling, particularly for children, older adults, and less confident users. The project will deliver a rapid-build upgrade to create a safer, more coherent, and more accessible active travel corridor that supports everyday trips to shops, schools, workplaces, recreational destinations and major employment and business areas.

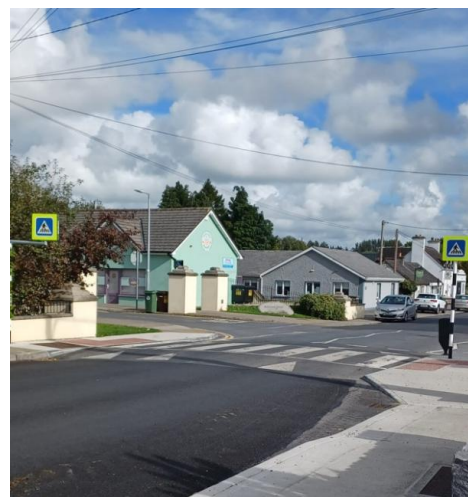
The project incorporates traffic calming measures including carriageway narrowing, raised pedestrian crossings and junction tightening, which are expected to reduce excessive vehicle speeds. These measures will improve safety for vulnerable road users and create a more comfortable environment that encourages walking, wheeling and cycling as everyday travel choices.

The current phase has an expected completion timeframe of Q2 in 2027.



Piltown Village

This scheme is located on Main Street, in Piltown Village and consisted of the provision of three new, ramped, zebra crossing points and three new traffic calming speed ramps. These measures provide safer crossing points on key desire lines, whilst calming traffic through the village. Junction tightening at four side roads results in shorter crossing distances and improved visibility, resulting in safer crossing point. Approximately 100m of new footpath was installed to complete a key pedestrian link and public lighting was improved. The works will enhance the safety of vulnerable road users and facilitate more shorter journeys on foot.



Bennettsbridge Crossing and Footpaths and Bus Stop Enhancement

This scheme relocated the bus stops in Bennettsbridge and provided essential infrastructure to complete a pedestrian link to the relocated bus stop. The relocated bus stop will serve a large catchment area due to the permeability of the residential area to the east of the village. The scheme included a raised pedestrian crossing, traffic calming ramp and a new footpath to serve the bus stop. The objective of the scheme is to improve access to public transport and provide a safe connection to the bus stops to encourage the use of public transport. The scheme will also calm traffic through the village.



Completed	In Construction
SRTS St. John of God	Waterford Road Phase 2
Piltown Active Travel Scheme	Thomastown - Dangan Terrace to Chapel Lane
Greensbridge Crossings, Kilkenny	Bus Stops - Bohernatounish Road
Dublin Road Crossings, Kilkenny	Bus Stops - Dublin Road
Parnell Street, Kilkenny at Presentation	
Waterford Road Phase 1	
CBC Phase 1 -Parkview Drive Crossing	
Bus Stops Bennettsbridge	
Bennettsbridge Crossing and Footpaths	
Graiguenamanagh Pedestrian Crossing	

In Feasibility / Planning
Safe Routes to School Round 3 Paulstown
CBC Phase 2 - Tullaroan Road Crossings and Pedestrian Improvements
Pedestrian Improvements in Loughboy, Kilkenny City
Castlecomer - Pedestrian crossing on the square
Safe Routes to School Round 4 Stoneyford
Safe Routes to School Round 4 St. Kieran's N.S., Johnstown
Safe Routes to School Round 4 Scoil Mhuire N.S., Mooncoin
Safe Routes to School Round 4 Bennettsbridge N.S.
Safe Routes to School Round 4 SN Moin Ruadh, Hugginstown
Castlecomer - Improved Active Travel Facility in residential areas in Castlecomer
Abbey Road to Ferrybank Shopping Centre - Active Travel Link
Circular Road - Improvements to Footpath
Pedestrian and Cyclist Facilities at Ring Road Crossings, Kilkenny City
Northern River Crossing, Kilkenny City
Linear Park Ancillary Improvements through County Hall

INTEGRATION CE REPORT

September 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



IPAS

65

Interventions

47

Individuals supported

BOTPS

46

Interventions

33

Individuals supported

PROGRAMME REFUGEES

6

Interventions

4

Individuals supported

GAZA MEDEVAC

2

Interventions

2

Families Supported

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

4

Interventions

1

Family supported

SEPARATED CHILDREN

2

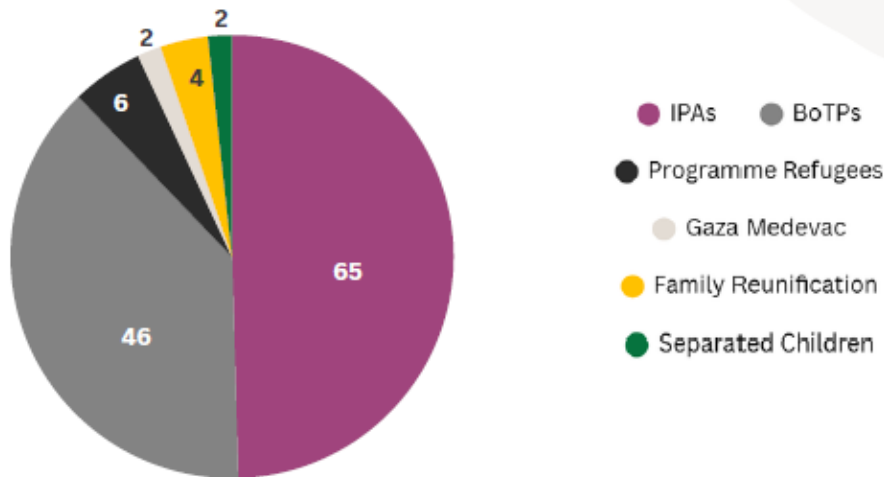
Interventions

1

Person Supported

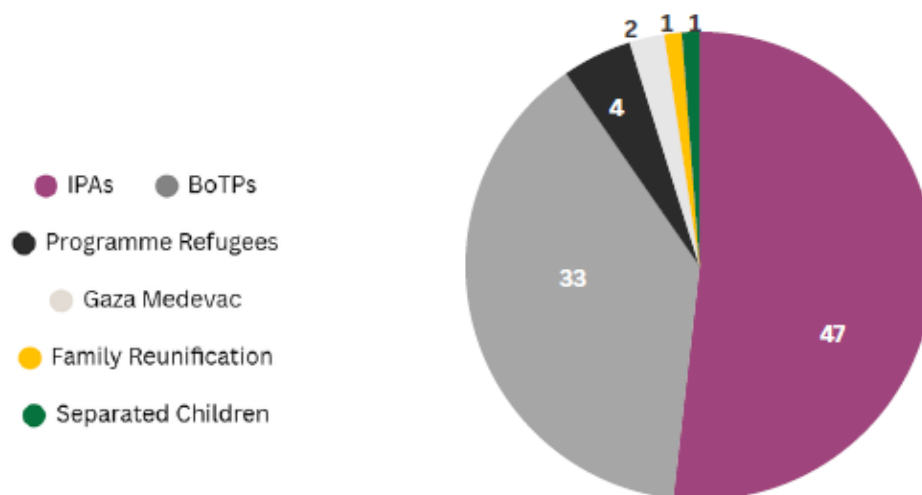
September interventions

Total Interventions



September People Supported

Categories of people supported in September



Partnership

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



Transition of Temporary Protection Supports for Ukrainians in Ireland

Ireland is transitioning its response to Ukrainians under Temporary Protection from an emergency model to a longer-term, sustainability-focused approach. Temporary Protection has been extended to March 2027, but State supports are being progressively reduced to encourage independence.

Key Changes –

- **Withdrawal of State Provided Accommodation:** Commercial accommodation (e.g. hotels) will be phased out between August 2026 and March 2027. Individuals will increasingly need to secure private or community-based housing. Support will remain in place for vulnerable cases.
- **Transition phase to a Stamp 4 residency status** is open for applications from September 30th 2026.
- **Reduced Support for New Arrivals:**
- Since late 2025, newly arrived Ukrainians are provided State accommodation for 30 days only, after which they must source their own housing.
- **Reduction in Hosting Supports:**
- The Accommodation Recognition Payment will reduce from €600 to €400 per month from October 2026, which may impact the availability of hosted accommodation. This will phase out completely by March 2027.
- **Voluntary Return Measures:**
- A voluntary return programme is being developed for those wishing to return to Ukraine.

Closure of Kilkenny Centres



Offer of a Home and IRC Pledged Properties at 31st August, 2026

30TH SEPTEMBER 2026	NO OF PLEDGED PROPERTIES	NO OF RESIDENTS
Offer a Home Scheme	47	164
Pledged Properties (shared and not sharing)	1	5
Total	48	169



SDG Week Ireland 2026

As part of SDG Week Ireland 2026, Kilkenny County Council Library Service showcased a range of programmes and initiatives that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Activities across the county's library network highlighted sustainable living, environmental awareness, community wellbeing, and lifelong learning, demonstrating the library service's ongoing commitment to sustainability. The week also featured the launch of the Radon Monitor Loan Scheme.

We launched a new Radon Monitor Loan Scheme, allowing library members to borrow digital radon monitors to assess radon levels in their homes. The initiative, delivered through Healthy Ireland at Your Library and supported by the EPA, aims to increase awareness of radon and provide an accessible first step in identifying potential radon issues in the home.

Sustainable Style workshops were held in Castlecomer and Urlingford Libraries, encouraging participants to rethink their wardrobes and embrace more sustainable approaches to fashion; a Furniture Upcycling workshop held in Thomastown, and Biodiversity talks were held across the network.

Ambassador Visit

Mayfair Library was honoured to welcome Romanian Ambassador in Dublin, Laurentiu Mihai Stefan and the Irish Ambassador in Romania, Brendan Ward on Thursday 17th September. This visit was to mark the twinning of Kilkenny with Romania for the term of Ireland's EU presidency and it was a wonderful opportunity to show case the Mayfair Library and to celebrate cultural connections between the two communities.



Makerspace Residency

The Makerspace Residency took place at Mayfair Library earlier this year funded by Creative Ireland helping to support innovation, inclusion and encouraging vibrant public spaces in Kilkenny. The programme provided introductory and advanced learning opportunities in Scratch coding, CAD, 3D printing, Cricut and heat press technologies, and Arduino coding and circuitry, promoting accessible, community-based creativity for all.

A diverse programme of workshops and open lab sessions engaged children, teens, families and older adults, creating a vibrant community hub. The residency also fostered strong partnerships with local schools and organisations, including St Patrick's De La Salle School, the National Learning Network, ETB learner groups, and the Men's Shed.



National Public Libraries Open Day

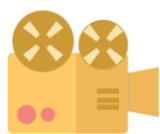
National Public Libraries Open Day was celebrated across Kilkenny Libraries on Saturday 26th September with a range of family-friendly activities that showcased the creativity, innovation and welcoming atmosphere of our library service. We ran 7 events on the day, with 992 people visiting our branches.

Visitors enjoyed storytimes, crafts, board games, 3D printing demonstrations, and bookmark-making activities. The day highlighted the important role libraries play as vibrant community spaces for learning, reading and community connection.

General Library Highlights:

A highlight for Callan Library recently was welcoming Imelda as part of the My Dream Job Programme, run by Camphill Communities of Ireland. The programme supports people with intellectual disabilities in exploring career opportunities and working towards their employment goals. During the visit, Fran and Paddy provided an insight into the day-to-day work of the library.

We also celebrated Kilkenny Animated at Mayfair Library, Thomastown Library had a visit from Jewellery and Ceramics Students, Author Ronán Hession visited Castlecomer Library, and we celebrated all of the children that participated in our Summer Stars Reading Adventure!



Digital Engagement

Library staff prepared, recorded, edited and published **217** posts and videos on our social media platforms in September. Our engagements for the two months were **12,893** and our virtual newsletter was sent to **13,231** email accounts.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



Library supported **SDG 4: Quality Education** through The Makerspace Residency by providing inclusive, hands-on learning opportunities in digital technologies, helping participants of all ages develop new skills, and promoted digital literacy in an accessible community setting. Through partnerships with schools and community groups, the programme promoted lifelong learning and equal access to educational opportunities.

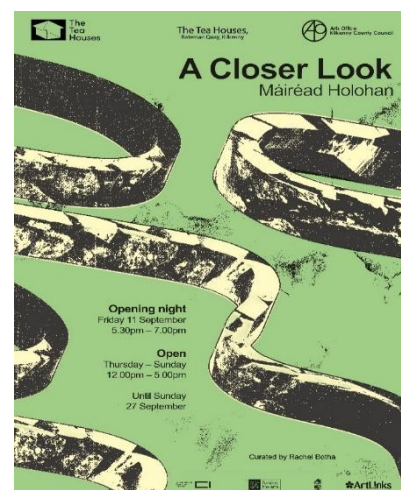


We supported **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** by celebrating SDG week through programming and initiatives such as the launch of the Radon Monitor Loan Scheme.

A Closer Look is a pivotal solo exhibition by Máiréad Holohan and invited a considered engagement and appreciation for the often-unnoticed species in our local environment. It included an abundance of work such as concertina books, ink drawings, printmaking and more, from a dedicated studio practice spanning years. The result was a vast collection of tests, experiments and finished pieces that forefront an embedded ecological approach.

The accompanying public programme included Public Programme:

- Culture Night, Late Night Opening & Meet the Artist
- HUDDLE with Saidhbhín Gibson
- Artist & Curator Conversation
- Display of work from the Nifty Fifties workshops undertaken by Mairead at Newpark Family Resource centre over three weeks



The Tea Houses celebrated National Hedgerow week with '**Leabhar na gClai: Know Your Hedgerows**' with a pop-up exhibition from Friday 4 until Sunday 6 September.

The public programme included:

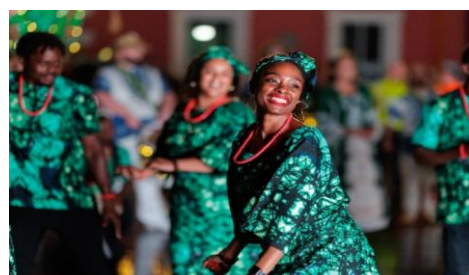
- the opportunity to encounter a unique handmade book created by Kasia Kaminska, the Know Your Hedgerows Cooperative Enquiry, text by Paddy Doyle and guest contributors.
- Hedgerow Walk
- Leabhar na gClai Celebration with readings, music and refreshments from hedgerow

Five Artists Connect bursary were awarded for the Autumn / Winter programme across visual arts, literature, music and film.

Activities will include:

- A new season of 'Artists Cafes' at the Tea Houses, curated by Eamonn Maxwell and Rachel Bortha This will culminate in the Artists Café Winter Show, an exhibition of work by the almost 50 artists who've attended the Café's since they started.
- A story telling and artists showcase event, run by Clogh Writers, including a mixed genre of writers and visual artists.
- A series of 'Readings by the River' will take place, facilitated by eco-art curator Shannon Carroll and biologist and artist Tasneem Khan
- Kilkenny Electronica will host an artists' meet-up to serve as a vital development of their activity to date. The event will facilitate networking with local electronic artists and enable discussion regarding the progression of their activities with a broader range of artists.
- Film Makers 'Speed Dating' network session will take place to connect Kilkenny Film Makers through a series of 5-minute 'speed dates' in order to introduce themselves and connect with others in the field.

Culture Night 2026 was a significant success, presenting over 20 events across Kilkenny City and County and engaging more than 2500 participants and audience members. The programme offered a diverse range of high-quality cultural experiences, including music, visual arts, theatre, literature, heritage, dance, participatory workshops and family-friendly activities, attracting audiences of all ages and backgrounds.



Global Dance the Parade

A strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion was evident throughout the programme, with wheelchair accessible venues, multilingual resources, intercultural performances, family focused activities and opportunities for participation across a broad range of ages and abilities. Feedback from organisers and participants highlighted the value of community collaboration, creative experimentation and culturally diverse programming, while identifying opportunities to broaden engagement with young people, families, older audiences and first-time attendees. The programme supported the work of more than 125 artists, performers, facilitators and creative practitioners, demonstrating the continued impact of Culture Night as a platform for artistic expression, community connection and cultural participation across Kilkenny. Standout events included Culture Night on The Parade.

St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower, Kilkenny

IRIS Productions, producers of *Culture Night Live*, hosted a very special live RTÉ broadcast from the historic St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower, Kilkenny. *Culture Night Live*, supported by the Arts Council, celebrated the very best of Ireland's arts and culture with a vibrant evening of live music and performance from Kilkenny, alongside celebrations in Killarney and events nationwide. It was an unforgettable night featuring live performances from Clada, Jessica Doolan, Jamie Duffy, Niamh O'Sullivan, and Mick Flannery and Susan O'Neill. Culture Night Live achieved a 15% audience share, meaning that 15% of all viewers watching television during the broadcast timeslot were tuned into the programme, a strong performance that has been very positively received by both RTÉ and the Arts Council.



A special live RTÉ broadcast of Culture Night Live from the historic St. Canice's Cathedral

Creative Kilkenny

During September, Creative Ireland funding supported a diverse programme of cultural activity across County Kilkenny, delivering positive outcomes for communities while also contributing to national collaboration and participation.

Sing for Memory Workshops

Supported by Creative Ireland Kilkenny and led by Age Friendly Kilkenny, the Sing for Memory Workshops delivered 4 two-hour music and sound therapy sessions for 20 participants living with dementia, alongside carers, family members and volunteers. Led by professional facilitator Kairen Waloch, the programme used singing, music and reminiscence to promote social connection, wellbeing, confidence and cognitive engagement. The project supported the Creative Ireland priorities of Vibrant Communities and Health & Wellbeing, helping to reduce isolation, strengthen relationships and foster a more dementia-friendly and inclusive community. These workshops commenced in May and will run up until December 2026. An original song inspired through the group's recollections of childhood summer memories; one participant always delights in recognising her own summer memory.

Shared Island: Building Connections, Exchanging Knowledge



Brian Dobson who was Master of Ceremonies at the All-Island Heritage Conference

Heritage professionals and senior local authority leaders gathered in Monaghan in September for the Heritage Council's inaugural all-island conference, *Shared Island: Building Connections, Exchanging Knowledge*. The event marked a key step in developing the new Shared Island Heritage Networks Programme, which will bring together Heritage Officers from Ireland's 31 local authorities and heritage staff from the 11 local authorities in Northern Ireland.

The programme aims to strengthen collaboration, knowledge-sharing and peer support, while supporting local authorities in their growing role across built, natural and cultural heritage. Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, Lar Power contributed to the panel on 'Leading Heritage Delivery at Place Level'.

Millennium – 2027 Year of the Normans

The Kilkenny 2027 Year of the Normans Steering Group re-convened in September to update on plans for next year's commemoration. Plans are in advanced stages for a number of initiatives including a Norman Re-Enactment Weekend; the Kilkenny Town Walls Symposium; the Kilkenny Archaeological Society Conference along with children's events, lectures, walking tours and exhibitions.

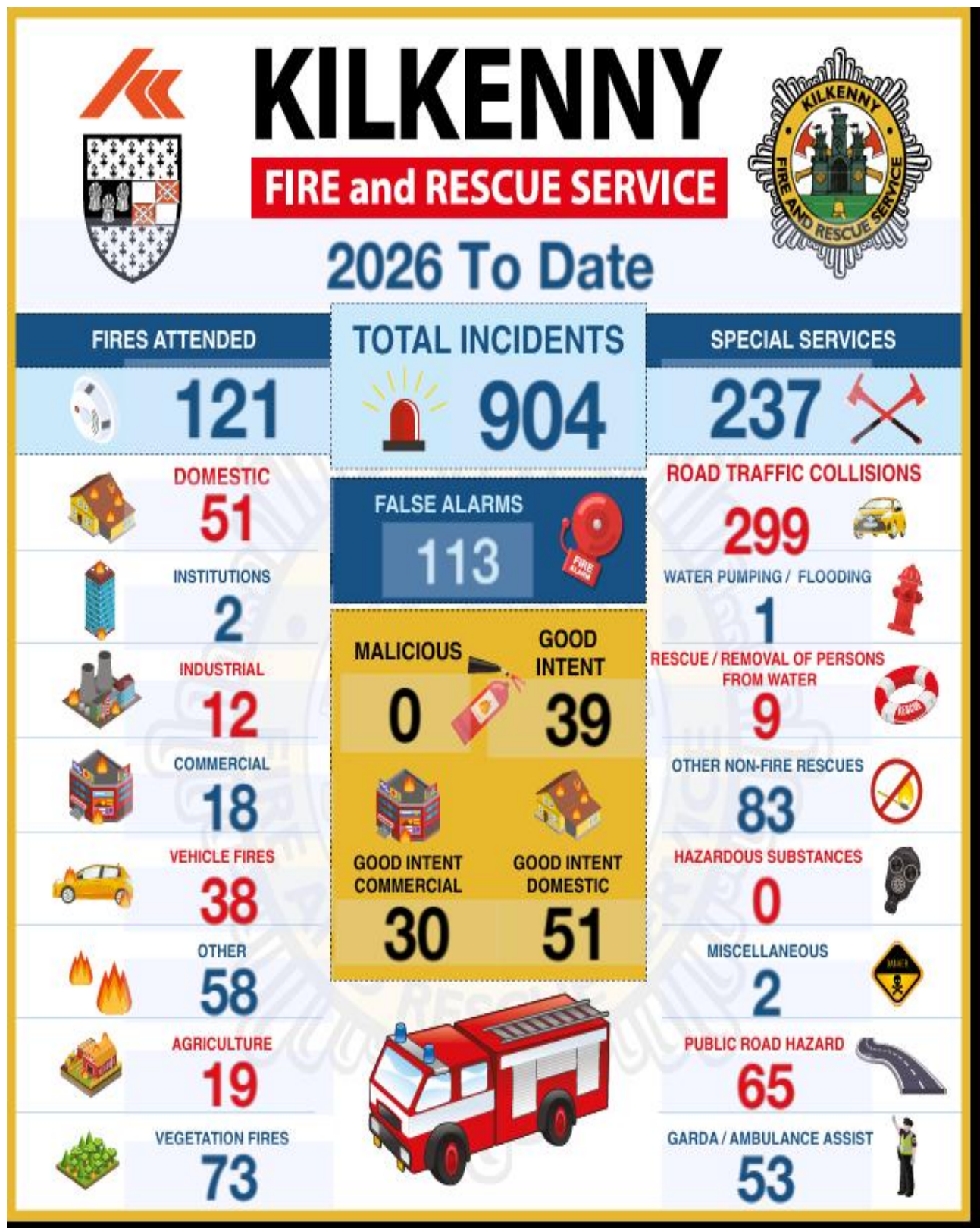


This year, Kilkenny County Council, Waterford City and County Council and Wexford County Council were jointly awarded funding under the Irish Walled Towns Network Interpretation Grant to design a unified cross-county cultural programme for the 2027 Year of the Normans. This report was prepared by Abarta Heritage and includes a comprehensive look at the impact of the Normans in the south east and menu of potential legacy projects that could be undertaken in partnership with the three local authorities.

21 Year of the Irish Walled Towns Network

A new publication celebrating 21 years of the Irish Walled Towns Network was launched at their annual conference in Waterford on 22 September. The booklet features a selection of the projects the network has supported since it was founded in 2005 – one for each of the 33-member towns. Kilkenny City was a founder member of the IWTN and Talbots Tower which was supported through grant funding over a number of years is highlighted in the new publication. The Heritage Officer was delighted to lead a tour of Kilkenny's City Walls for the staff members of the Heritage Council in September.





FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of Sept is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €92m compared with the annual budget of €129m.

Table 1	Actual YTD September 2026	Budget Full Year 2026
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	27,235	36,921
Road Transport & Safety	28,546	33,045
Water Services	4,036	5,928
Development Management	10,592	16,101
Environmental Services	14,200	19,972
Recreation & Amenity	6,891	10,229
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	303	348
Miscellaneous Services	8,512	6,847
Central Management Charges for Allocation	4,604	
OVERALL TOTAL	91,758	129,391

Rates Invoices 2026

The annual rate invoices for 2026 totalling €25.8 million were issued to 2883 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. 1800 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 01/01/2026					Closing Arrears at 30/09/2026	Specific Doubtful Arrears	
€	Accrued	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection	Amount Collected	€	€	%Collected
2,672,384	25,921,654	425,647	28,168,391	22,716,211	5,452,180	562,394	82%

Finance Update

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised in the nine month period up to the end of Sept 2026. The audit by the Local Government Audit for FY 2025 has now been completed and the audit report has been issued.

Budget 2027

Work has commenced on the preparation of the Council budget for 2027. Workshops have commenced with Elected Members to discuss the issues arising. The proposed date for the Statutory budget meeting is Monday 9th November.