

KILDARE LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Annual Report 2010

Foreword

Welcome to the 2010 annual report of Kildare Local Authorities.

This report sets out the work undertaken by Kildare County Council and the municipal authorities of Athy, Naas, Leixlip and Newbridge, on behalf of the community, during 2010.

The main focus for 2010, across all activities of the local authorities, was the effect of reduced resources, both financial and human, on the services we provide and the need to make savings where possible.

Despite these constraints Kildare Local Authorities maintained front line services to a high standard. This is in no small way due to the work of staff who undertook an efficiency review of all the services provided in order to identify savings.

The first year of office of the Council elected in June 2009, saw a period where difficult decisions had to be made, particularly in relation to adoption of the budget for 2011. The members also continued their consideration of the Draft County Development Plan, due for adoption in 2011.

Progress was made in a number of areas which are documented in this report, however, it is appropriate to mention some significant work and achievements that distinguished 2010:

- Congratulations to Athy Town Council on being selected as 'Town Council of the Year' at the Chambers Ireland 'Excellence in Local Government Awards'.
- Kildare Town Community Library opened introducing a civic, cultural and citizen focussed service.

- The Athy link from the M9 motorway was completed and opened to traffic early in 2010.
- Congratulations to Kildare Fire Service on achieving ISO 9001:2008 accreditation.
- New playgrounds were opened in Monasterevin and St Laurence's GAA.
- The contract for the Kildare Town Waste Water Treatment Plant was signed in October 2010.
- Local Area Plans for Collinstown, Leixlip and Cebridge were adopted.

One of the abiding memories of 2010 is the severe weather conditions encountered towards the end of the year. Thanks is due to the local authority staff who worked tirelessly during this time to ensure that services remained accessible. Our thanks also to the Defence Forces, An Garda Siochana, Civil Defence and Health Service Executive for the help and assistance provided to the local authority during this time.

A number of staff retired during 2010 and tribute is paid to them in this report.

Kildare Local Authorities continue to work to ensure that available resources are optimised to provide the best possible service to our customers.

Good wishes



Brendan Weld
Mayor



Michael Malone
County Manager

Offices and Opening Hours

Headquarters

Áras Chill Dara

Devoy Park

Naas

Co Kildare

Telephone: 045-980200

Fax: 045-980240

E-mail: secretar@kildarecoco.ie

Website: www.kildare.ie/countycouncil

Opening Hours

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Monday to Friday

Wednesday 9.30 am

Exceptions

Motor Tax

9.15 am – 3.15 pm

Planning

9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Housing

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Finance

9.30 am – 4.30 pm

24 Hour

1890 500 333

Emergency Number

Fire Service

Emergencies: 999 or 112

Central Fire Station 045-431370

Library Headquarters

Riverbank, Newbridge

045-431109

Area Offices

Athy Area Office Rathstewart, Athy 059-8631329

Clane Area Office The Woods, Clane 045-892695

Kildare Area Office Newbridge Industrial Estate 045-437556

Maynooth Area Office Leinster Street, Maynooth 01-6286236

Naas Area Office Áras Chill Dara, Naas 045-980425

Town Councils

Athy Town Council Rathstewart, Athy 059-8631444

Naas Town Council Áras Chill Dara, Naas 045-980990








Newbridge Town Council Town Hall Newbridge 045-980560

Leixlip Town Council Newtown House, Leixlip 01-6245777







Membership of Kildare County Council







There are 25 members representing 5 electoral areas – Athy, Celbridge, Clane, Kildare and Naas

		<p>Name: Councillor Richard Daly Electoral Area: Athy Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 087-6248886</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Martin Miley Jnr Electoral Area: Athy Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 087-3998478</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Ivan Keatley Electoral Area: Athy Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 087-2731335</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Mark Wall Electoral Area: Athy Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 083-3341488</p>

 <p>Celbridge</p>		<p>Name: Deputy Mayor Senan Griffin Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 01-6285177</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Anthony Larkin Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: Non-Party Contact Details: 087-2128837</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Kevin Byrne Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 086-6009449</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor John McGinley Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 01-6285293</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Frank O'Rourke Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 087-2555257</p>
		<p>Name: Councillor Colm Purcell Electoral Area: Celbridge Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 087-2539493</p>

		<p> Name: Councillor Seamus Langan Electoral Area: Clane Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 087-2871347 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Liam Doyle Electoral Area: Clane Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 01-6287629 </p>
		<p> Name: Mayor Brendan Weld Electoral Area: Clane Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 045-869340 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Pádraig McEvoy Electoral Area: Clane Political Party: Non-Party Contact Details: 086-8658262 </p>

		Name: Councillor Suzanne Doyle Electoral Area: Kildare Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 045-521046
		Name: Councillor Francis Browne Electoral Area: Kildare Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 045-526934
		Name: Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin Electoral Area: Kildare Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 045-436792
		Name: Councillor Tony O'Donnell Electoral Area: Kildare Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 087-9081649
		Name: Councillor Micheál "Spike" Nolan Electoral Area: Kildare Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 045-486881

		<p> Name: Councillor Willie Callaghan Electoral Area: Naas Political Party: Fianna Fail Contact Details: 045-875565 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Fintan Brett Electoral Area: Naas Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 087-6257842 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Paddy MacNamara Electoral Area: Naas Political Party: The Labour Party Contact Details: 045-896590 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Darren Scully Electoral Area: Naas Political Party: Fine Gael Contact Details: 086-3860955 </p>
		<p> Name: Councillor Seamie Moore Electoral Area: Naas Political Party: Non-Party Contact Details: 087-2497813 </p>

Corporate Management Team

County Manager	Mr Michael Malone
Director of Services for Roads Transport and Public Safety	Mr Michael O’Leary
Director of Services for Water and Environmental Services	Mr Joe Boland
Director of Services for Planning and Economic Development	Mr John Lahart
Director of Services for Housing, Community and Cultural Services	Mr Peter Minnock
Director of Services for Corporate, Human Resources and ICT	Mr Eamonn O’Sullivan
Head of Financial Services	Mr Thomas Hunter McGowan

Strategic Policy Committees – Membership

Housing

Cllr Suzanne Doyle (Chairperson)
Cllr Anthony Larkin
Cllr Paddy MacNamara
Cllr Martin Miley Jnr
Cllr Senan Griffin
Cllr Ann Breen (Naas T.C.)
Liam O'Brien (Business Sector)
Joe Curran (Community/Voluntary)
Michael Dowling (Trade Union)

Water and Environmental Services

Cllr Paddy Kennedy (Chairperson)
Cllr Mark Wall
Cllr Frank O'Rourke
Cllr Fintan Brett
Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr Shane Fitzgerald (Leixlip T.C.)
Allan Shine (Business Sector)
Fiona Tutty (Environment)
Tom Malone (Agriculture/Farming)

Community and Culture

Cllr Micheál Nolan (Chairperson)
Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr Seamie Moore
Cllr Francis Browne
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Ger Dunne (Naas T.C.)
Sinead Heneghan (Business Sector)
John Hayden (Community/Voluntary)
Triona Muldoon (Environment)

Transportation

Cllr Kevin Byrne (Chairperson)
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Colm Purcell
Cllr Richard Daly
Cllr Willie Callaghan
Cllr John Lawler (Athy T.C.)
Miriam O'Brien (Business Sector)
James Earle (Community/Voluntary)
Sean Darcy (Business Sector)

Planning and Economic Development

Cllr Darren Scully (Chairperson)
Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Liam Doyle
Cllr Brendan Weld
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Damien Molyneaux (Newbridge T.C.)
Robert Mehigan (Business Sector)
David O'Reilly (Business Sector)
James Cotter (Community/Voluntary)

Membership of Council Committees

Affixing of Seal

All Council Members

Twinning Committee

Cllr Liam Doyle
Cllr Richard Daly
Cllr Fintan Brett
Cllr Francis Browne
Cllr Colm Purcell
Cllr Paddy Kennedy

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Cllr Senan Griffin
Cllr Suzanne Doyle
Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Mark Wall
Cllr Willie Callaghan
Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr Kevin Byrne
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Anthony Larkin

Barrow Drainage Board

Cllr Richard Daly
Cllr Mark Wall

Burrin Joint Drainage Board

Cllr Ivan Keatley

Local Traveller

Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr Mark Wall
Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Paddy Kennedy
Cllr Paddy MacNamara

Audit Committee

Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Liam Doyle
Cllr Senan Griffin

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Martin Miley Jnr
Cllr Francis Browne

Finance Committee

Cllr Liam Doyle
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Paddy Kennedy
Cllr Seamie Moore

Membership of External Bodies

Vocational Education Committee

Cllr Willie Callaghan
Cllr Martin Miley
Cllr Paddy Kennedy
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Francis Browne
Cllr Brendan Weld
Cllr Micheál Nolan
Cllr Richard Daly
Cllr Ivan Keatley

County Development Board

Mayor (ex-officio member)
Cllr Suzanne Doyle
Cllr Darren Scully
Cllr Kevin Byrne
Cllr Micheál Nolan
Cllr Paddy Kennedy

Mid-East Regional Authority

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Martin Miley
Cllr Brendan Weld
Cllr Micheál Nolan
Cllr Senan Griffin
Cllr Francis Browne
Mayor (ex-officio member of EU
Operational Committee)

Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Cllr Richard Daly

Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Cllr Richard Daly
Cllr Ivan Keatley

County Kildare Failte

Cllr Martin Miley
Cllr Senan Griffin
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Cllr Micheál Nolan
Cllr Paddy MacNamara

Irish Public Bodies

Mutual Insurance

Cllr Micheál Nolan

Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Suzanne Doyle

County Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Mark Wall
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Senan Griffin
Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Brendan Weld
Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Suzanne Doyle
Cllr Darren Scully
Cllr Paddy MacNamara
Cllr Fintan Brett
Cllr Frank O'Rourke
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy
Mayor ex-officio member

AthyRhyl Regeneration Project

Cllr Martin Miley
Cllr Richard Daly

**Association of County &
City Councils**

Cllr Colm Purcell
Cllr Fintan Brett
Cllr Liam Doyle

**Kildare Community Network
Company**

Cllr Anthony Larkin
Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Micheál Nolan

**Southern Eastern Regional
Assembly**

Cllr John McGinley
Cllr Senan Griffin

Kildare Heritage Forum

Cllr Francis Brown
Cllr Micheál Nolan
Cllr Seamie Moore

**South Eastern River Basin
District Advisory Council**

Cllr Suzanne Doyle
Cllr Micheál Nolan

**Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional
Health Forum**

Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin
Cllr Francis Browne
Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr Ivan Keatley
Cllr Anthony Larkin

Local Authorities Members Assoc

Cllr Senan Griffin

**Kildare County Enterprise
Board**

Cllr Brendan Weld
Cllr Fintan Brett
Cllr Willie Callaghan
Cllr Liam Doyle

Leixlip Amenities Centre

Cllr Anthony Larkin
Cllr Colm Purcell

Regional Drugs Taskforce

Cllr Paddy Kennedy

Board of the Meath Foundation

Cllr Brendan Weld

**Social and Environmental Panel
for the Midlands District of
Coillte Teoranta**

Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

**Eastern River Basin District
Advisory Council**

Cllr Seamus Langan
Cllr Pádraig McEvoy

**Ballymore Eustace Community
Liaison Committee**

Cllr Mark Wall
Cllr Willie Callaghan

Cill Dara ar Aghaidh Teo

Cllr Tony O'Donnell
Cllr Seamie Moore
Cllr Mark Wall

**Drehid Landfill Site Community
Liaison Group**

Cllr Brendan Weld

Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin

**Arthurstown Landfill Facility
Community Liaison Committee**

Cllr Fintan Brett

Cllr Paddy MacNamara

Meetings Held During 2010

28 Full Council Meetings

- 13 monthly meetings
- 1 budget meeting
- 13 special meetings
- 1 annual meeting

57 Area Meetings

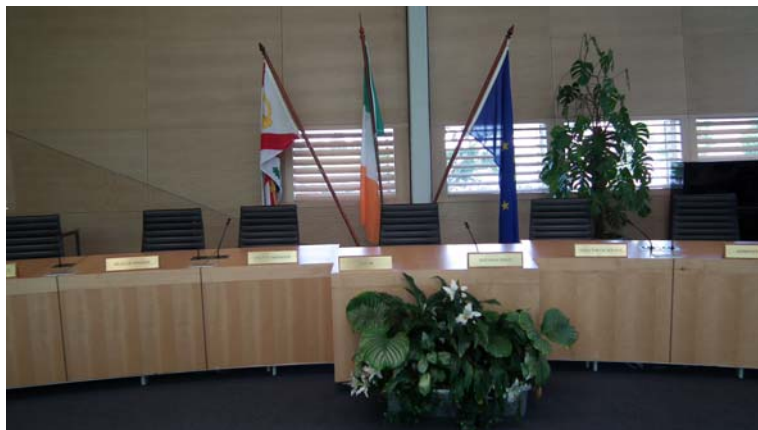
- 12 Athy Area Committee meetings
- 10 Clane Area Committee meetings
- 11 Kildare Area Committee meetings
- 13 Celbridge Area Committee meetings
- 11 Naas Area Committee meetings

27 Other Meetings

- 4 Finance Committee meetings
- 2 Protocol Committee meetings
- 4 Audit Committee meetings
- 8 Twinning Committee meetings
- 5 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meetings
- 4 Water Monitoring Committee meetings

The following meetings were also held during the year:

- 14 Corporate Policy Group meetings
- 4 Planning and Economic Development SPC meetings
- 4 Water and Environmental Services SPC meetings
- 5 Transportation SPC meetings
- 4 Housing SPC meetings
- 3 Community and Cultural SPC meetings



Customer Service

Kildare County Council aims to provide an efficient, accessible and transparent service to all our customers. We continue to operate a number of customer focused services and seek to improve the services offered on an ongoing basis.

During 2010 we optimised the use of I.T. and communications technologies to deliver quality services in friendly and helpful manner. We have established a customer service steering group among senior staff and will continue to focus on teamwork and co-operation across disciplines and departments and support staff within departments in the delivery of services to our customers.



Accessibility

Funding was received from central government in 2010 and this has enabled works to be carried out throughout the county. Projects were identified from Kildare County Council's Implementation Plan in the following areas:

- Library Services:

Accessible toilets in Newbridge, Leixlip, Ballitore and Clane

Upgrade of external steps at Riverbank.

Additional funding for Toys, Technology and Training project which is an accessible services project short listed for an award in Excellence in Local Government 2009.

- Accessible lift in Newbridge Sports Centre
- Signage for burial grounds in Kilcullen, Straffan and Confey
- Upgrade to community hall facilities in Monasterevin and Ballitore.
- Path and ramps at emergency exit Áras Chill Dara.

K Leisure Naas and Athy both received the Excellence Through Accessibility award in 2010. This award is issued from the NDA for achieving a very high level of accessibility in customer services, built environment and information and communication technology.



Arts

2010 marked the 25th year since the appointment of the first Arts Officer in Ireland, marking the beginning of a new relationship between the Arts Council and local authorities in promoting and developing the arts at local level. The impact of this long term investment is embedded in arts infrastructure across the country.

Kildare has benefited from this investment with a breadth of long term arts based initiatives countywide as diverse as Laban based community dance training, Music Outreach initiatives and sound engineering training for TY students. This is supported by significant capital development of Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge and other facilities countywide. In 2010 a colourful children's event and workshop series, as well as performances by Sanctuary Lamp, Bespoke Theatre Co, The Girl Who Forgot to Sing Badly, The Ark and Bell X1 were highlights of the Riverbank programme.

A major development was the opening of the Athy Community Arts Centre, a collaboration between the local arts and Methodist communities, Athy Town Council and Kildare County Council.

The inaugural Culture Night was a huge success, with 23 events spread across the county. A range of agencies including Coillte, NUI Maynooth, The Japanese Gardens, Bat Conservation of Ireland together groups such as the Maynooth Gospel Choir and the County Kildare Orchestra embraced the night to bring new (or renewed) cultural experiences to its visitors. The John Minihan Gallery and Reading Room in Athy Library, featuring key photographs, was launched on the night.

Film featured strongly in the programme and included an animation project with service users from NLN exploring stigma around mental health entitled 'Do I Need to Draw You a Picture?'.

Also, in the Arts and Health portfolio, an Arts and Health Seminar in Riverbank Arts Centre showcased best practice models in the field. Introduced by Dr Fin Breatnach, Director of Barretstown, the seminar attracted health care practitioners, artists and community workers from across the country.

The 'If I Had an Artist for a Day ...' Arts in Education programme engaged 35 primary schools across the county. This was enhanced by the establishment of an Arts in Education Bursary award. Further awards were made in Film, Youth Arts, Literature and Emerging Artists Solo Exhibition bursary.

'They Came from Another Dimension', a radio plays project enhanced the existing Youth Arts programme. The ever popular Battle of the Bands competition, supported by the Planning Department and MCD, led to local bands Awake Young Soldier and Funzo performing at Oxegen 2010. The competition won the national Chambers Ireland 'Sustaining the Arts' award.



Kildare Library Services

'Ideas Matter: Library Services Development Plan 2007-2012' and Kildare County Council's

Corporate and Community objectives provide a framework for delivery of library services.

Indicators 2010

Number of items loaned	665,406
Library Membership	53,566
Public Internet Access Sessions	44,249
No of user visits	605,293

Mainstreaming Change 2009 v 2010:

- 83,761 additional loans in 2010
- 53% increase in non book issues
- 76,800 increase in user visits
- 57% increase library IT classes

Integrated Planning and Delivery of Services and Infrastructure

Kildare Town community library, which opened in 2010, offers a wide range of activities for children, young people and adults. The new library facility introduces a civic, cultural and citizen-focused service, to ensure best provision for all users. With an area of 5,000 square feet, facilities include 8 public access PCs, meeting rooms, study and exhibition space, a dedicated teen zone, children's library, leisure reading areas, self service kiosks and a vast book and audio-visual collection.



- In 2010 Clocha Rince Community Library Project was presented with the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award. The project is an example of what can be achieved when innovation and partnership is encouraged between already established services, where ideas are met with initiative and where solutions that positively reach the goal of serving the community are realised. The library which opened in 2008 has now become an integral service that provides access and opportunities to the cultivation of ideas, information, knowledge, life options and learning.



- The Library Service/FÁS partnership project, which was piloted in Athy Library in 2009, is now available in Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Newbridge libraries. This service provides an opportunity for people to develop IT skills at their own pace or through attending weekly structured sessions in these libraries with a FÁS facilitator.
- Ensuring that our buildings infrastructure and services are accessible is a key objective of Kildare County Council's Disability Strategy. Significant refurbishment works were progressed at Naas, Celbridge, Kilcullen, Leixlip, Clane, Maynooth and Newbridge libraries in 2010.
- TTT, Toys Technology and Training, a new and innovative accessibility project was launched in Athy library in 2008, this successful service was extended to Leixlip library in 2010. The service provides a range of toys and software for children with learning difficulties. This project is in association with KARE and the H.S.E. The project was welcomed by the Dyspraxia Association and other similar groups representing children with disabilities.



- Preparation and planning is at an advanced phase to deliver a new accessible library facility to the community of Kilcock in 2011.

Engaging Citizens Actively – Building Community

- ‘Changing Minds, Changing Practices’, a training pack which was developed by the library service, has been accepted by the Local Government Management Services Board as a national template to deliver Change Management tools to all local authorities and other interested stakeholders. The two agencies are currently working together to deliver a national training module to support staff in changing how services and opportunities are delivered.
- Kildare Library and Arts Services have successfully partnered with NUI Maynooth to further develop the successful “Maynooth Film for All Club” during 2010. This project will continue into 2011, and brings community library users and student body together for screenings and discussion about and with Irish and International film makers in association with the School of English, Media and Theatre Studies.

Quality of Life and Cultural Participation

- The library service hosted and facilitated over 2,300 events across the library network in 2010. These ranged from reading and storytelling workshops to art exhibitions, adult learning programmes, book clubs, DVD clubs, science workshops, Quaker Museum visits, XBOX clubs and music for young people.
- Children’s Book Festival – in 2010 we had our most successful festival with 144 events and audiences of over 5,500 children. This event gives children the opportunity to meet their favourite authors in their local library as well as enjoying the many various workshops – printmaking, wildlife, drama, puppetry, music, storytelling to mention a few - which stimulate as well as educate.



- Keeping up with technological advances, the library service has diversified it's collection to include audio books, CDs, DVDs and a growing digital collection of e-books in various text and audio formats.
- The Local Studies Department provided valuable archival assistance in the making of the American television series 'Who Do You Think You Are?', based on celebrity Rosie O'Donnell. The programme was aired in the US on 18 February 2011.



- The Local Studies Department, EHistory website www.kildare.ie/library/ehistory is now a focus for researchers and a forum for the digitisation and publication of primary sources on the Internet. The site averaged around 968 hits per week for 2010.
- A digitised copy of the 'Kildare Observer newspaper (1880-1935)' went online in 2010. The resource has generated great interest and since its release has recorded 449,641 page visits from different corners of the world.
- Kildare Library and Arts Service hosted a most successful inaugural Kildare Readers' Festival. The aim of the festival is to provide readers from our many book clubs and the general public with an opportunity to meet and discuss their favourite books with fellow book lovers, be inspired to join a book club and share the experience of reading. Guest authors for the 2010 festival included Dermot Bolger, John Connolly, Brian Keenan, Claire Keegan, John Minihan, Joseph O' Connor, Sheila O'Flanagan and many more.



Community and Culture

Community

Kildare County Development Board

In 2010 the Directorate of Housing, Community and Culture facilitated and supported the work of Kildare County Development Board. This year saw a strong shift in focus to broader strategic county initiatives, requiring strong interagency collaboration and partnerships. These key projects, details of which are outlined below, have been prioritised by the County Development Board and buy in at senior level to the multi agency approach has resulted in a more cohesive approach to the strategic priorities of the CDB.

Kildare Sports Partnership

In 2010 the County Kildare Sports Partnership was realigned under the County Development Board Structure. Formation of the new board was initiated and the partnership is now an integral part of the Community and Culture Directorate. One of the projects undertaken in 2010 was:

The Athy Youth Sports Taster Initiative (T.A.Y.S.T.I)

The Athy Youth Sports Taster Initiative (T.A.Y.S.T.I) is a programme rolled out by Kildare Sports Partnership. We work with Athy School Completion Programme, Athy CDP, Athy Gardaí and local sports and recreation clubs, including Athy Youth Project, so that the opportunity to participate in sport is offered to all children. The Athy School Completion Programme has one secondary and two primary schools in its cluster. Over three hundred children aged between four and eighteen years are prioritised for both in and out of school supports as well as after school and holiday activities under the SCP as at risk of early school leaving. However, this programme is not confined to this sector and also promotes the inclusion of children from less disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

The sports include mainstream sports such as soccer, football, hurling, camogie and rugby, but the children also get a chance to experience swimming, boxing, gymnastics, rowing, basketball, archery and baton twirling. The programme also has activities in music and art. The target age is 7 to 13 years for the above activities, with school-based activities being provided for the 4 to 6 year olds. We have engaged over 350 children and 40 adults over a two year period. The adults are local volunteers who received Active Leadership training from us so that they can effectively work with young people in their own area during the programme and in the future.

The ongoing work of the Kildare County Council/FAI Development Officers and the GAA Development Officers is linked into the project to ensure quality activities. Children who find that they have an interest in a particular sport will be facilitated to become a member of a local club where this is possible. In order to ensure good practice Child Protection only coaches with full vetting and qualifications are engaged as lead coaches.

We provide both indoor and outdoor based activities and implement a healthy eating programme for the duration of each “Sports Taster Programme”



Integrated Services Programme

The Kildare Town Integrated Services Programme was established in 2010, following significant research and predevelopment work. The ISP brought community and statutory agencies together to develop an integrated approach to development in the town. Kildare Town was one of a limited number of areas prioritised by the CDB for support under the ISP programme.

Age Friendly Initiative

In 2010 Kildare County Development Board developed a partnership with the Aging Well Network and established Kildare Age Friendly Initiative. The programme was formally launched in December 2010 and County Kildare committed to becoming an Age Friendly County.



Children's Services Committee

In 2010 the Children's Services Committee was established under the Kildare County Development Board. Chaired by the HSE, the Children's Service's Committee was established to achieve coordinated and integrated children's services within the Local Authority catchment area.

Intercultural Programme

In 2010 the Directorate of Housing Community and Culture implemented a comprehensive intercultural programme of activities. These initiatives were supported by the Office of the Minister for Integration.

Sporting Initiatives

The intercultural programme was extended to include the promotion of interculturalism through sports for all ages. The awareness of the Intercultural Day/Month Activities was greatly enhanced by the involvement of Kildare County Councils FAI (Football Association of Ireland) Development Officer and Kildare Sports Partnership, who provided funding for these activities. Key programmes were:

- Buntas Start programme for 2-5 year olds (Intercultural Family Fun Day)
- FAI 'Many Voices One Goal' open day for boys and girls aged 6-13 (in association with Naas AFC)
- FAI Adult Intercultural 5 a Side Blitz (Newbridge Sports Centre)

With the support of the Office for the Minister for Integration these initiatives provided new opportunities for children and adults to become involved in sports activities, with cognisance for diversity of participants.

Kildare Local Authority Intercultural Day

The Kildare Local Authorities Intercultural Day took place in 17 July 2010. The aim of the day was to promote awareness, discussion and interaction in a fun and inclusive environment being cognisant of the diversity of all participants.

Activities on the day included:

- Music and dance from India, Slovakia, Nepal, Latvia and Ireland
- Drumming workshops

- Arts and crafts workshops including Calabash painting, badge making, felt making, face painting, hair braiding, henna hand painting
- Storytelling from across the continents
- Information stalls – council functions (e.g. voter registration) and external agencies including voluntary sector organisations
- Workshops to explore the experiences of the black and minority ethnic communities in accessing services in Kildare.

The programme was extended to include speciality coffee tasting, African board games and storytelling and an extended sports programme, with the FAI Football Skills Zone. The Kildare Sports Partnership facilitated a Sports for All programme including the Buntas Start programme.

A highlight of the day was the arrival of a Garda helicopter in the Áras grounds. It was a big hit with children and adults alike.

Community Dance Integration Project:

The Castlefen Performance Project

Castlefen Local Authority Housing Development consists of three phases of housing, the latest being completed in 2010. The development is home to 22 different cultures including some Irish speakers. One of the objectives of this project is to create cohesion amongst new and existing residents of Castlefen. This project explores genres of dancing including hip-hop, contemporary dance, Irish dance. The themes of carnival, hurdy gurdys, roundabouts and games are deliberately playful to encourage participation from families. The project takes cognisance of cultural difference around (non) participation, consent to participate, boundaries around legend, festivals, myths, etc. The project is set to continue into 2011 and grow in range and diversity of activities.

Hazelhatch Dance and Integration Initiative

This initiative is based on 'sharing difference'. While the main participants in the project are children, adult participation is encouraged through parent and child workshops and adult workshops. Participants for the project are from the wider Hazelhatch and Maynooth area. Some of the children who are participating attend a Gaelscoil. The Irish language and other native languages are used as themes throughout the project. It is envisaged that this project will continue in 2011.

Joy to the World Christmas Exhibition

This was the third year of the Joy to the World Christmas Exhibition. The exhibition showcases traditional Christmas Celebrations from around the world. Ethnic minority communities are invited to showcase Christmas tradition and embassies from around the world are invited to submit a display.



Recreation

FARE week (**F**ootball **A**gainst **R**acism in **E**urope) is an initiative of UEFA and is supported in Ireland by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). The initiative ran from 14th to 26th October, and saw thousands of events taking place across Europe to highlight anti-racism messages and celebrate diversity.

The FAI in conjunction with Show Racism the Red Card, and supported by the Office of the Minister for Integration, co-ordinated a national week of action as part of UEFA Football Against Racism in Europe week. Part of this work included an Anti-Racism Workshop to 4 schools in the county with over 430 pupils attending. These were Maynooth Boys N.S., Newbridge Educate Together, Scoil Bhride, Naas and Piper's Hill College and were given to boys and girls in 5th & 6th classes in Primary and 1st Year pupils in Post Primary schools.

Kildare County Council co-funded FAI Development Officers Pat Behan and Laura Cusack delivered 30 minutes of classroom activity using the Show Racism the Red Card DVD to educate against racism and 30 minutes of coaching activity to promote physical activity.

In the classroom activity, we worked with young people to clarify what is racism and how to respond to it. The coaching activities serve to reinforce the message of the classroom activity and emphasise values we value in sport; teamwork and communication.

We also supplied each class with an A1 blank signage board to use in developing a creative piece to enter for the Show Racism the Red Card Creative Competition.

The schools also did extra work in encouraging young people to learn more about other countries and to discuss the issue of racism as part of SPHE topic area and supported young people to produce their own piece of Intercultural or anti-racism artwork (e.g. banner, t-shirt, flag or poetry) celebrating diversity and or saying no to racism.

According to Des Tomlinson, National Coordinator for Intercultural Football at the FAI, "FARE Week is going from strength to strength and we are delighted with the huge number of clubs and schools that have taken the time to promote it through friendly matches, football blitz events and competitions. The events that took place during FARE Week serve not only to promote the anti-racism message, but also to expose football fans to new ways of becoming involved in promoting diversity at community level on an ongoing basis. I congratulate the 4 schools in Kildare for becoming involved in FARE Week 2010."



Leisure

The Council established a Leisure Services Department in 1997 in response to growing demand for public sponsorship of recreational facilities and in 2009 amalgamated it within the Community and Enterprise Department. The leisure, recreation and amenity programme pursued by Kildare County Council, is a very important component of the overall social and community approach. The approach adopted involves a partnership with communities and various public/private interests. The Council has adopted a countywide sports/recreation strategy, the intention of which is to form a framework within which the policies and objectives of Kildare County Council relating to sports, recreation and amenity can be pursued over the coming years.

The department was involved in the following activities during 2010:

- Operation and re-development of Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre
- Development of North Kildare Sports Campus
- Sports development in the county
- Parks programme
- Upkeep and development of walking routes
- Grants for local sport and recreation clubs
- Promotion of water safety
- Development and maintenance of playgrounds
- Sports and Cultural Exchanges
- Walking Routes
- Re-development of Community Facilities.

Lisburn Sports and Culture Exchange

As part of the council's link with Northern Ireland, a sports delegation under the leadership of Mayor Brendan Weld and the Leisure Services team, travelled to Lisburn City Council and Sport Lisburn for a sporting and cultural event to strengthen ties between the respective communities.



Kildare County Council was short listed in two categories within Chambers Ireland "Excellence in Local Government Initiatives "2010.

Within the Sports development section, Kildare County Council's Triathlon was nominated as the event that increases staff morale, team bonding and self confidence, while raising finances for local charities. The second initiative that was short listed for an award was the Maynooth playground because of its design and inclusivity to play.

Parks Programme

Projects and work completed in 2010 were:

- Tree Planting Programme was carried out at various towns in the county.
- A tree pruning and tree removal programme was carried out based on requests received from around the county.
- A spring bulb planting programme was carried out at towns including Monasterevin, Naas, Kilcullen, Johnstown, Kill, Moone, Celbridge and Kilcock.
- Grass maintenance was carried out in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin.
- Landscaping was carried out on Ballymany Roundabout and at Monasterevin Roundabouts on the M7.
- Assistance provided to internal departments on landscaping issues.
- Financial and technical support provided to Residents Associations and Tidy Town Committees in the county.
- A pilot allotment scheme in the Wonderful Barn was also launched. This involved the provision of 75 allotments of varying sizes.

The Roman Bath in Leixlip Spa was repaired and a viewing point overlooking it from the canal towpath was installed. In addition a survey of the birds and mammals present on the site was carried out. A structural report on the Toll House was also carried out. Further scrub removal was also carried out throughout the site.

Playgrounds

This year new playgrounds were opened in Monasterevin and St Laurence's GAA. The playground in St Laurence's was an initial phase of an overall plan and it is hoped to complete this in 2011. This brings the total number of playgrounds in the County to 10.

Work also commenced on a new playground in Kilcullen at the Community Centre. This will be completed by mid 2011. Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued. In Newbridge Playground some of the existing safety surface was replaced.

Under the Special Play initiatives a new interactive play unit was installed in the Teen Zone in Maynooth Playground. Funding for the provision of water and sand play unit for the playground in Kilcullen was also completed



RAPID in Athy

Athy RAPID helped Interreg IV BRAND project to hold a 2 day consultation process in May and June 2010. The community consultation process was on Athy, its image contamination and what its vision for the future should be. The workshop was very interactive and great fun for all participants. The outcome of the process was, Athy is seen as old, tired, traffic congested and if it was a person it would be Shane McGowan and Brian Cowen.

The vision for the future was positive, vibrant and active, if it were a person it would be Katie Taylor, Mary McAleese, Bono, and David Beckham. The information gathered fed into a thought process which came up with the “Big Idea” of Celebrating Athy under the following themes.

- Festivals and Events,
- Community and Culture
- Location.

An implementation action plan with 35 actions was the result of this work. Each of the actions will in some way go to improving the image and BRAND of Athy both for its internal and external customers. This process will help RAPID to deliver actions that will have an impact on the community of Athy.

This is a sample of some of the actions:

- A unified approach to service delivery.
- To develop a strategic Business Development Plan for the town and to promote Social Entrepreneurship through the WINSENT Project.
- To develop the Athy Town Promoters as the Festival and Events organisation for the town, and build on our festivals and events to boost the economy.

- Canvas exiting residents associations to get the community more actively involved in Tidy Towns.
- School arts competition with themes, which will inform the kids and parents on what is going on in the town.
- Athy Town Council to set up an awards scheme for businesses and community.



Environment

In 2010 the Council provided a bi-weekly refuse collection to approximately 23,000 households, each producing an average 1¹/₄ tonnes of waste every year. This adds up to a total of 43,000 tonnes when private operators' collection is taken into account. In addition to the bi-weekly residual waste collection, a dry recyclable collection takes place every second week. More people are recycling and composting their household waste and the introduction of pay-by-use refuse charges has reinforced this trend. The total dry recyclable material collected from households for processing was 21,000 tonnes.

The Council operates Civic Amenity Sites at Silliot Hill, Kilcullen and at Gallows Hill, Athy. In addition to the standard bring-banks for glass, aluminium cans and textiles, the range of materials accepted at the recycling centres is expanding as new outlets for materials are developed. The list below sets out the range of materials currently accepted:

Corrugated Cardboard	Greyboard
Newsprint	Magazines
Waste Paper	Plastics of Categories 1, 2 and 4 only
Glass Bottles	Flat Glass
Aluminium and Metal Cans	Scrap Metal
Clothes	Electrical Goods
Paints	Varnishes
Medicines	Chemicals
Aerosols etc	Waste Oil
Car Batteries	Recyclables Household Hazardous
Waste	

2,513 tonnes of waste was processed through the council's recycling centres at Sillcott Hill and Athy, which represents a slight increase on the previous year. Public bring banks were maintained by the council at forty-one sites around the county and these yielded a total of 3,466 tonnes of glass and 65 tonnes of cans.



Battery collection facilities in 125 primary and secondary schools and the two civic amenity sites continued to be a success. The schools battery collection project helps to prevent environmental harm and helps to educate young people in the need for careful waste disposal. As well as providing recycling bins and bring banks the council continued to offer composting bins to the public at cost price. The community composting project for grass cuttings continues with three community groups utilising large custom-built composting units provided by the Council.

Education and Awareness

Our Environmental Awareness Officer made over 110 visits to schools, businesses and community groups (e.g. tidy towns) to create public awareness of waste issues and to promote good waste disposal practice in the community.

The Green Flag Campaign is helping in this effort; 72 of the county's schools had been awarded green flags by the end of the year and a total of 104 schools are registered for this distinction.

The Council acts as a facilitator for schools who wish to become involved in this programme and actively encourages all schools to join this project. The Green-Schools Programme is funded by all participating local authorities, including Kildare County Council, through an annual payment directly to An Taisce. In addition, the council provides materials and/or financial aid for appropriate projects for participating Green-Schools. As part of the Council's commitment to education in environmental matters, school tours of the Integrated Waste Management facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy take place on a regular basis during the school year.

The council has also been creating awareness of waste management and other environmental issues through photographic competitions. The winning photographs from the environmental photographic competition were put on display in Leixlip, Athy and Kildare libraries during the year.

The council also supports environmental initiatives by community groups and the Kildare local authorities through two schemes co-funded with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, namely the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund and the Anti Litter Awareness grant scheme.

The EPF scheme provided €23,500 to 15 projects ranging from providing signage for the proposed Liffey Valley National Park to workshops on waste reduction. The Anti-Litter Awareness Grant provided €26,800 to 10 separate projects ranging from an advertising campaign focussing on litter to a guide for community groups explaining how graffiti can be prevented and removed.

The litter wardens are the visible face of the Council's various litter prevention strategies and represent a considerable opportunity to increase public awareness of the litter problem and the Council's response to it. The wardens' information activities include:

- Attendance at meetings of community groups, residents associations and Tidy Towns committees to advise on their activities and discuss any litter-related problems.
- Ongoing informal contact with involved parties, which enables the wardens to take immediate action in relation to new litter blackspots, fresh incidents of illegal dumping, abandoned cars etc.
- Visits to retail, industrial and commercial premises in the county to advise owners, occupiers and staff members of their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act.
- Meeting members of the public to discuss litter matters directly affecting them.
- Visits to schools to publicise their presence and to discuss litter issues with students.

A two-man mobile environmental crew is employed to undertake a range of functions including clean-ups of litter blackspots and illegal dumping, erection of "No Littering" and related signage and monitoring of recycling facilities for littering. The crew liaise closely with the litter warden service in responding to such incidents.



Unfortunately, education alone has not been sufficient to eradicate litter and the council has found it necessary to penalise offenders with 816 fines issued for litter offences in 2010.

National Spring Clean

As usual the month of April was dedicated to promoting the National Anti-Litter Campaign – National Spring Clean. Tidy Towns Committees and Residents Associations received support through the provision of refuse and recycling bags, litter pickers, gloves and awareness raising of events taking place throughout the month.



Launch of National Spring Clean at Kilkea National School

Various programmes aimed at community groups and residents associations, including Amenity Grant Schemes, Pride of Place Initiatives etc are available to assist local voluntary effort. These schemes allow for the provision of litter bins, street furniture, plants and shrubs and the improvement of green areas. Council staff also assisted individual tidy towns groups in the participation process of the National Tidy Towns competition.

Recycling

The network of glass and can recycling banks around the county continues to provide the people of Kildare with a convenient way of recycling. Over 3,800 tonnes of glass and 40 tonnes of cans were recovered as well as over 400 tonnes of textiles.

The schools battery scheme also proves to be very successful, with over 2.5 tonnes of domestic batteries recovered along with a further 10 tonnes of vehicle batteries from the two civic amenity sites. The council also oversaw two collections of farm film plastic for recycling. This led to the recovery of over 50 tonnes of this waste.

National Tree Week

The council provided 350 trees and 300 saplings to community groups during National Tree Week in March. On a cumulative basis, over almost 3,500 trees have been planted in the county as a result of this scheme.

Transportation

Road Infrastructure

County Kildare has an extensive network of roads totalling some 2,250 kilometres as follows:

Motorways	127
National Primary	11
National Secondary	17
Regional Roads	482
Local Roads	1613

This extensive and heavily trafficked road network requires Kildare County Council to continue to invest heavily in road maintenance and improvement, on all categories of road in the county, over the coming years. However, in 2010 the level of funding available to maintain and improve the road network was severely constrained due to the National and International recession.



Road Improvement Works

The Transportation Department and Kildare's National Road Design Office (NRDO) are involved in the development of Capital Works Projects in compliance with the objectives of Transport 21, the Government's Capital Investment Framework under the National Development Plan, through which the transport system in Ireland will be developed, over the period 2006 to 2015, and the County, Town and Local Area Development Plans. These projects are developed, as appropriate, through constraints studies, feasibility reports, route options, Part VIII planning procedures, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIS), Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), tendering and to construction. The development of these projects is subject to the relevant statutory requirements and funding being available.

▪ **M9 Kilcullen to Carlow**

The M9 Kilcullen to Carlow motorway project was completed and opened to traffic in December 2009, 10 months ahead of schedule. The 28 kilometre motorway provides a bypass of Castledermot and also provides a new national secondary road to Athy via the new junction at Mullamast. The new Athy Link was completed in early 2010.

▪ **R407 Portgloriam**

Contract 1 of the Portgloriam Road Improvement Scheme was completed in 2009. Contract 2 of this project commenced in Quarter 4 2010.

Construction is expected to be completed by mid 2011.

▪ **R747 Ballycore Bridge**

Design has been completed and procurement for the project is ongoing. It is hoped to complete this project by the end of 2011.

- **Newbridge Link Road**

This road links the Newbridge Outer and Inner Relief Roads, between the Newbridge Industrial estate and the Curragh Grange Housing Development. Phase 1 of the road improvement scheme has been completed and Phase 2 of the scheme has developed through the compulsory purchase order (CPO) process. Construction of this link road should be completed in 2011 subject to adequate funding being available.

- **Newbridge (Entrance to Kildare County Council Lands, Department of Defence Head Quarters/CIE Car Park and Pedestrian Bridge)**

Phase 1 of the entrance is at construction stage. Phase 2 is subject to the completion of the Department of Defence boundary works. The footbridge is currently at preliminary stage. Subject to statutory procedures and approvals it is proposed to commence construction in Quarter 3 2011 and complete the works early in 2012.

- **R448 Kilcullen Road, Naas**

This scheme is at pre-compulsory purchase order stage and will proceed to construction subject to satisfactory completion of the statutory processes and funding being available.

- **R417 Ardreigh, Athy**

The civil works on this scheme were completed in 2010. Post-excavation archaeological works are ongoing in 2011 to complete the project in its entirety.

- **R402 Enfield Edenderry Road Improvement Scheme**

The Compulsory Purchase Order became operative on the 23 July 2009. The detailed design for the project is now complete. Land acquisition commenced in 2010 and will continue in 2011. It is Kildare County Council's intention to commence construction late in 2011, subject to grant aid being secured from Central Government.

- **Athy Southern Relief Road**

The Athy Southern Relief Road is at draft Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Stage and will proceed through these processes subject to approvals and funding being made available.

- **Sallins Bypass**

Constraints and feasibility studies have been carried out on the Sallins Bypass and a preferred route has been selected. This route has been adopted into the Sallins Local Area Plan 2009.

- **Athy Northern Relief Road**

A feasibility study was carried out and a preferred route selected. This route is in the process of being adopted into the Athy Development Plan 2006-2012.

2010 Restoration Programme for Regional and Local Roads

2010 was a very difficult year for Roads Authorities as severe weather conditions in the early part of the year caused extensive damage to a number of roads. Major repairs were required in a number of areas, notably:

- R148 Moyvalley
- L2008 Boston Hill Ardclough
- L6030 Slate Quarries

Other projects undertaken during 2010 included:

- R407 at Boherhole
- R410 at Eadestown
- R416 Newbridge to Milltown
- R148 at Carton

These were among a total of 103 projects which were undertaken as part of the Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance, Specific Grant and Low Cost Accident Prevention grant schemes. There were also improvement works, undertaken in 2010, to roads which had been damaged during the construction of the M9 motorway. All of the above works were managed through the Council's Road Design, Construction or Maintenance sections.



Traffic Management Section

The Traffic Management Centre (TMC) in Áras Chill Dara, which was first established in 2006, continues to act as a focus for the provision of Traffic Management services for the county as a whole. The management of Traffic Signals, Public Lighting and related technology is centralised at the TMC in Naas.

There are currently 150 Traffic Signal Installations (Pelican Crossings and Signalised Junctions) in the county. There are also 21 Zebra Crossings, 20 Automatic Traffic Counters, 34 CCTV Cameras, 70 School Warning Signals and 6 VMS Parking Guidance Signs. Over 60 of the Traffic Signal Installations are remotely monitored in the Traffic Management Centre.

Investment in the Traffic Management Centre to date has resulted in the provision of Urban Traffic Control (UTC) and traffic related Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems in areas such as Newbridge, Maynooth, Naas, Sallins and Celbridge.

Improvements in the efficiency of traffic signals in these towns has provided economic time-savings to all road users. It is hoped to expand this intelligent traffic system to other urban centres around the county, should adequate capital funding become available.

In 2010, the Council completed public consultation for the following schemes:

- Newbridge Green School Travel Initiative
- Kildare Traffic Management Plan
- Athy Traffic Management Plan
- Traffic Management improvement on Kilcock Road adjacent to NUI Maynooth.

Road Safety

Kildare County Council's Road Safety Officer continues to promote road safety awareness in the county at every level, incorporating all sectors of the community. Kildare County Council employs 27 full time School Wardens and in 2010 funding was provided for Road Safety Training, Education, Promotions and Programmes as follows:

School Programmes

The Road Safety Officer visits schools and colleges throughout the county delivering different types of road safety programmes, tailored to particular school audiences. Key groups are Primary schools, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied, Youthreach and third level students. A number of Road Safety days were held in schools in County Kildare during the year.

Road Safety Roadshow

Kildare County Council and AXA Insurance delivered a hard-hitting Road Safety Roadshow to 4th, 5th and 6th year students and Youthreach members. 700 students attended the 2010 show where the mother of two young crash victims gave a harrowing account of how losing her sons, in a horrific road traffic accident, has changed her life.

Road Safety Promotions Team

A Road Safety Promotions Team was established in 2010. This voluntary group is made up of members of the community, aged from 18 to 65 years, from varied backgrounds. The role of the promotions team is to promote road safety at events and exhibitions and they do so on a voluntary basis.

Road Safety Campaigns

The Road Safety Officer initiated a number of road safety campaigns throughout the year to coincide with Bank Holidays and other important weekend occasions.

Regulated Parking Bye-Laws

Leixlip Regulated Parking Bye-Laws have been prepared and have proceeded through the statutory public consultation process. It is expected that the revised bye-laws will be adopted by Council in 2011. It is also intended to review the bye-laws in Celbridge and Kildare Town during 2011. Maynooth Regulated Parking Bye-Laws are in draft form and discussions regarding the acquisition or lease of a long-term car park in Maynooth are on-going.

Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws

A review of County Kildare Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws was completed in 2010 with the bye-laws being adopted by Council on 26 July 2010. Two further Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws were also adopted in 2010; the first was on the R448 from the County Boundary (Carlow/Kildare) to Kilcullen and was adopted by Council on 29 November 2010. The second was in respect of Mylerstown Crossroads, Two Mile House, Naas and was adopted by Council on 27 September 2010.

Fire Service

In January 2010 Kildare Fire Service was awarded ISO 9001:2008 accreditation. This system creates a framework for continual improvement to the fire and emergency services provided to the public and business community. This achievement was the culmination of over two years work by all the staff in the Fire Service. Kildare Fire Service becomes only the third fire service in Ireland to receive ISO accreditation for its entire organization. A ceremony to mark the award was held in the Central Fire Station in Newbridge and was attended by the Mayor Colm Purcell and the County Manager Mr Michael Malone.



Ten new firefighter recruits commenced employment during July 2010 after completing a 3-week basic training course. This group will receive ongoing specialist training during their probationary period which lasts one year.



September 2010 saw the retirement of Michael Fitzsimons from his position as Chief Fire Officer for the County, a position that he held for the past 27 years

Whereas the public most closely associates the Fire Service with our responses to fires the service undertakes a broad range of duties broken down into three business units; Fire Safety, Operations and Emergency Management.

Fire Safety

This section deals with Fire Safety Certification, Community Fire Safety, Petroleum Licensing, District Court licensing and Planning for Outdoor events e.g. National Ploughing Championships and Oxygen, among other activities.

Fire Certification

154 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2010.

- 14 were deemed to be invalid
- 181 were deemed to be valid.
- 155 Fire Safety Certificates were granted.
- 6 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were refused.

Regularisation Certificates

30 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2010.

- 4 were deemed to be invalid
- 32 were deemed to be valid.
- 20 Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates were granted in 2010 (4 were from 2009).

No Regularisation Fire Safety Certificate Applications were refused.

Childcare Premises

In 2010 a total of 78 inspections were carried out on full day care and sessional premises, this represented 67% of all full time day care premises.

Dangerous Substance Act

9 Petrol filling stations applied for licenses under the Dangerous Substance Act. All were granted licenses.

Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations 1997

Fire Safety Section formally wrote to all petrol filling facility operators and outlined the requirements under the act / regulations. 10 facilities applied for Vapour Recovery Certificates - 8 were granted, paperwork is still outstanding on the other two facilities.

Circuit and District Courts Licensing

A total of 65 inspections were carried out on 55 licensed premises. The majority of these had applied for dance licenses.

Building Inspections

In addition to Licensing, Child Care facilities and Dangerous Substance Act inspections the Fire Safety Department carried out 215 inspections of other premises.

Community Fire Safety

In addition to the schools training programme ten fire safety talks were given to community groups and a fire safety stand was manned and chip pan fire demonstrations were given at the Ploughing Championships.

Operations

This section deals with issues relating to the operational fire service including firefighting staff, vehicles and equipment, training and the Control Centre.

In 2010 the Fire Service attended 1768 fire and emergency calls. The table below shows in the context of the number of emergency calls since 2002.

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Fire Calls	1426	1437	1538	1590	1780	1658	1913	1654	1768

The number of calls broken down by into our six station areas is shown in the following table:

Station	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Newbridge	414	374	372	410	454	442	472	415	455
Naas	274	284	384	441	487	458	467	400	474
Maynooth	261	220	250	268	318	256	293	253	237
Leixlip	143	173	212	147	193	170	222	169	178
Athy	216	248	237	215	205	206	290	258	243
Monasterevin	118	138	119	109	123	126	166	159	181

The calls are broken down by call types as follows:

Fire Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Chimney	362	314	294	291	286	256	252	270	323
Dwelling Fires	215	168	154	195	171	181	223	169	203
Other premises	89	93	113	121	129	85	135	112	97
Road Traffic Crash	206	171	148	192	156	193	217	148	151
Other Rescues	49	33	38	42	43	44	49	33	47
Flooding	38	8	2	3	9	29	96	53	3
Outdoor Fires	204	370	440	358	518	395	416	360	504
Motor Vehicle Fires	135	140	196	180	170	205	278	285	248
Miscellaneous	74	17	24	44	61	69	40	23	28
False Alarms	54	109	101	164	237	204	207	201	142

Our analysis of the number and types of fires attended by the Fire Service indicate that the top five incident types attended by Kildare Fire Service are:

Outdoor Fires

Outdoor fires occur in clusters around all of the major conurbations in the County.

Chimney Fires

It is worth noting that Chimney Fires, that were showing a downward trend since 2003, have spiked this year. This spike may be associated with the severe cold weather experienced in January and December 2010 but it is a trend that will have to be monitored. Most chimney fires can be prevented by householders having chimneys cleaned regularly.

Vehicle Fires

Most vehicle fires are attributable to stolen cars that are later abandoned and set alight.

Alarm Activations

Road Traffic Collisions

The numbers of attendances at Road Traffic Collisions remains high. In responding to vehicle collisions the Fire Service needs to be very conscious of its own safety particularly on the many high speed roads in the county.

Fire Appliances

During 2010 the Fire Service took delivery of a re-chassised hydraulic platform and a new emergency tender. The new emergency tender is currently located in Athy. Whereas the day to day running of the fire service is funded by Kildare County Council the finances for appliances comes from a central fund administered by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Control Centre

The Fire Service continues to operate a Control Centre which receives 999/112 emergency calls for the fire service, mobilises the appropriate resources and provides support to those fire service resources when deployed. In addition to the fire service emergency work the Control Centre also provides out of hours emergency call answering for a number of local authorities including Kildare. This service proved particularly useful during the two severe weather events in January and December when thousands of water related calls were received.

Emergency Management

This section which deals with Major Emergency Management, the Risk Based Analysis of Fire and Emergency calls, Pre-Incident Planning, Seveso II, the Inspection and Enforcement of Residential Institutional Buildings, Explosive and Firearms Licensing and Fireworks Applications

Major Emergency Management

Kildare County Council's Major Emergency Plan was reviewed and rewritten in accordance with the national template in 2008. The ongoing updating and maintenance of the plan is undertaken by this section. The Plan was amended in June 2010 and the changes were circulated to relevant personnel.

Appraisal of Preparedness Major Emergency Preparedness

This appraisal was completed and returned to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government by the June 30th deadline.

Major Emergency Handbook

A handbook, which comprises a handy user guide to the Major Emergency Plan, was prepared and disseminated to all senior staff of Kildare County Council

Major Emergency Risk Assessments

All Fire Service Risk Assessments have been updated

Major Emergency Communications

All communications and equipment in Local Coordination Centre and in On-site Coordination vehicle is tested on a monthly basis

Major Emergency Training and Exercises

Two 'mini-exercises' were held with the Major Emergency Management Committee during 2010.

Risk Bases Approach

The data from all the fire service responses through out the year is analysed by incident type and location. This provides an accurate overview of where particular incident are occurring. It is planned that this information will assist in a more targeted community fire safety programme based on national guidance.

Pre-Incident Planning

40 Pre-Incident Plans were completed for inspection by either the ACFO or Station Officers. Out of the 40, 16 were 'fully completed' meaning that they were fully inspected and ready for uploading on the Vehicle Mounted Data System (VMDS). Correspondence was sent to 77 additional premises requesting pre-incident planning information. The VMDS is updated monthly.

High Risk Residential Premises

19 Nursing Home establishments were inspected, 6 Hotels (Hotel inspections became part of the duties of the Fire Safety Section in April 2010) and 1 Hospital facility.

Water Services

The Water Services function is divided into four sections:

- Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater Schemes
- Capital Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme
- Flood Alleviation

Operation and Maintenance

Water Supply

The Water Services Section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of adequate water supplies and wastewater treatment and discharge facilities in compliance with both the EU Drinking Water Directive and EU Urban Waster Water Treatment Directive.

Kildare is highly dependent on Dublin local authorities for its water supply. Of the current average daily demand of up to 81,200 cubic meters some 94% comes from the regional water treatment plants at Ballymore Eustace (Dublin City Council) and Leixlip (Fingal County Council). The bulk of our work involves:

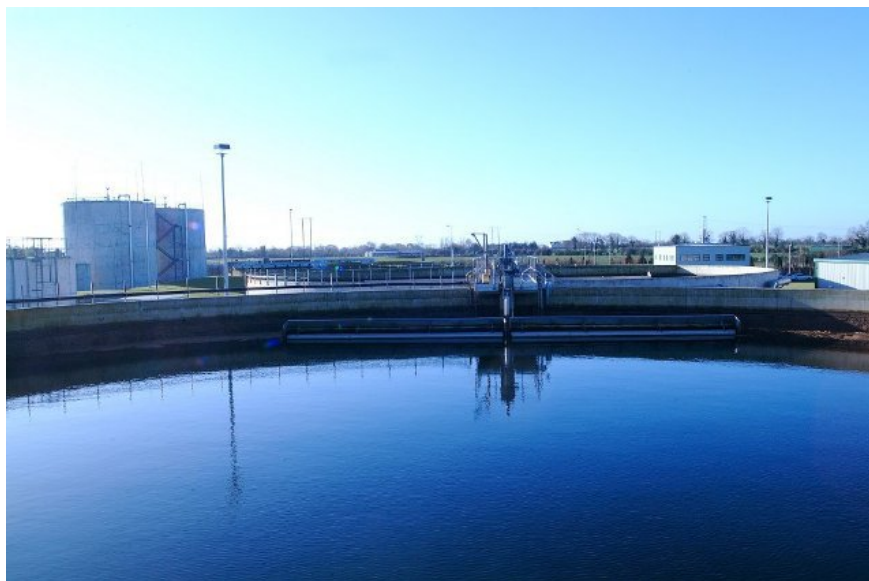
- Maintain repair and upgrade reservoirs, pipes and fittings.
- Monitor performance and manage the network to ensure the efficient use of resources.
- Connect new commercial and private customers.
- Monitor and protect water quality.

Continued water conservation activities, spearheaded by the Leak Detection Unit, have resulted in the unaccounted for water levels being contained at between 26-27% in 2010. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted figure for water levels in the country is approximately 44%.

Waste Water

Kildare is generally self sufficient in this regard, with wastewater being treated at a number of wastewater treatment plants within the county.

The largest of these plants are at Leixlip (serving Kilcock Maynooth Celbridge Leixlip and Straffan.) and Osberstown (serving Naas Newbridge Kilcullen Athgarvan Prosperous Sallins Clane and Kill). Both have an existing design capacity of 80,000 population equivalent (PE).



The Council plans to upgrade both plants and associated networks at Osberstown WWTP increasing to 130,000 PE and Leixlip WWTP increasing to 150,000 PE.

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to authorise all local authority waste water discharges. The purpose is to reduce and prevent the pollution of waters and follows on from the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Kildare County Council has prepared licences applications for all 37 plants in the county using in-house staff for the preparation of the licences and employing external expertise to address ecology issues identified in the Habitats Directive. Cost of the application process to date is €694,000 and all plants are expected to be licensed in mid 2011. The list of plants applied for is:

Osberstown, Leixlip, Athy, Kildare, Timolin, Monasterevin, Rathangan, Ballymore Eustace, Castledermot, Coill Dubh, Derrinturn, Kilmeague, Robertstown, Allenwood, Ardclough, Athgarvan, Ballitore, Ballyroe 1, Ballyroe 2, Brannockstown, Calverstown, Castlemitchell, Castleroe West, Clogharinkoe, Clonuff, Donore, Kilberry, Kildangan 1, Kildangan 2, Kilkea, Kilmead 1, Milltown 1, Milltown 2, Newtown, Nurney, Rathcoffey, Ticknevin

Capital Investment Programme

Capital Project Team

Water Services Capital Team is responsible for the delivery of major Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment schemes. The Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government has approved under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 the following schemes: -

Water Supply Capital Schemes in Planning

- River Barrow Abstraction Srowland Main Contract
- North East Kildare Regional Supply Water Scheme (Castlewarden-Ballygoran)
- Johnstown/Robertstown Wellfields
- Ballyna Regional Water Supply Scheme

Waste Water Capital Schemes

- Kildare Town Waste Water Treatment Plant – the contract for this project was signed in October 2010 with construction scheduled for completion in 2012.

Waste Water Capital Schemes in Planning

- Kildare Town Waste Network – Dunmurry Sewer – advanced contract 2011.
- Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Waste Water Treatment Plant (Leixlip WWTP) Upgrade
- Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Network Improvements
- Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (Osberstown WWTP)
- Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme Network Improvement
- Ballymore Eustace Waste Water Treatment Plant (SLI)

Rural Water Programme

Group Water Schemes

A group water scheme provides a private water supply to 2 or more houses by means of a common or shared source of supply and distribution system.

The Council assists groups by working in partnership with them and by:

- Providing advice and guidance on the formation and operation of group schemes
- Providing technical advice on source and supply issues, distribution networks, water quality and treatment, scheme design etc
- Enabling groups to take a water supply from public water mains where this is feasible
- Providing advice and assistance on tender procurement and evaluation
- Grant aiding group scheme up to 85% of the approved cost, subject to a limit of €6,475 per house
- Supervision of construction standards
- Providing an annual subsidy towards the operation and maintenance costs incurred on the scheme by the group

There are currently 101 operational Group Water Schemes in Kildare.

Summary of Grants Paid in 2010

New Group Water Schemes	€ 19,043
Boherhole/Mainham group water scheme	
Subsidy Grants	€132,941
Various group water schemes in the county	
Advance Design Build Operate Works	€144,767
Usk/Gormanstown	

Upgrade of Existing

Group Water Schemes	€ 73,041
Lipstown/Narraghmore group water scheme	
ECJ Priority Interim Works	€ 40,569
Kilteel group water scheme	
Total	€410,361

Smaller Water and Sewerage Schemes

Funding is provided for capital projects for the provision of upgrading of small water and sewerage schemes that complement existing rural water measures.

In 2010, €648,918 was spent on the Small Schemes Programme, which incorporated the following schemes, amongst others:

- Ard Na Gappagh Water Scheme
- Clane/Staplestown Cross Roads Water Scheme
- Cloney Bridge to Bert Cross Water Scheme
- Castlemartin Sewer Advance Scheme

Individual Water Supply Grant Scheme (Well Grants)

A grant of 75% of cost subject to a maximum grant of €2,031.58 is payable for upgrading a private individual water supply when no alternative group or public supply is available. Grant aid of €54,744 was paid under this scheme in 2010.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The Rural Water Monitoring Committee was set up in 1998 the Committee meets quarterly to agree and monitor the Rural Water Programme. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the I.F.A., the I.C.M.S.A., the County Federation of Group Water Schemes, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and members and officials of Kildare County Council.

Public Conveniences

A total of €101,346 was spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the public toilets in Athy, Newbridge and Kildare.

Flood Alleviation

A dedicated flood alleviation unit operates within Water Services implementing the Major Flood Alleviation Capital Programme. Funding for such schemes is from the Department of Office and Public Works (OPW). In 2010 the following schemes were completed:

- Johnstown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Emergency Flood Relief Works (Ph. 1 and Ph. 2)
- Toni River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Confey Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Newtown Flood Alleviation Scheme

It is widely anticipated that changes in rainfall patterns and rises in sea levels as a result of climate change may make flooding more frequent and severe in the future. While climate change cannot be prevented we can take measures to prepare for it and in turn reduce the damage and hardship as a result.



Planning

Forward Planning

Overview - Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs)

The Regional Planning Guidelines provide the planning framework for the co-ordination of land use planning across the Mid East Region including the Greater Dublin area. The implementation of these guidelines by local authorities in this region is of crucial significance in advancing strategic planning. These guidelines form a very important addition to the National Spatial Strategy. Considerable levels of investment, both public and private, are necessary to ensure that development in the region covered by the Guidelines, can be accommodated in a proper manner.

The RPGs covered the period from 2004 to 2016. However a six year review is required by law and this review commenced in Spring 2009. Kildare County Council participated in this review and the new Guidelines were adopted on 15th June 2010. These will project to 2022.

Development Plans – General Position

The implementation of the policies and objectives of the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011, following its adoption in 2005, continued throughout 2010. The work programme is divided into three categories – Statutory Plans/Processes, Non-Statutory Plans/Processes and Commitments arising from the Development Plans

The implementation of the relevant development plans will continue to be informed by the Economic Strategy for the County to 2016, which was published in 2008.

Planning does not exist in isolation and facilities such as water/sewerage, transportation and community facilities (including schools /shopping/ recreation) must be provided in association with ongoing developments. These aspects are now becoming increasingly important to the quality of life for citizens and their provision was very carefully monitored over 2010.

The review of the Kildare County Development Plan commenced in May 2009. The first phase of the review involved consulting with the public as to what they wanted to see included in their new plan. This was followed by the preparation of a Manager's Report on the submissions received during the public consultation and discussions with the members of the Council. A draft Development Plan was then prepared by the Manager and submitted to the members in February 2010 for their approval. The next stage was the publication of the Draft Plan in April 2010, further consultation with the public, the preparation of a Manager's Report on submissions received during that public consultation, consideration of that report by the Councillors and subsequently, proposed amendments to the Draft Plan. The Councillors will consider the public's reaction to these amendments in March 2011 and the new Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 will be made in April 2011. Naas Town Council commenced the review of the Naas Town Development Plan in May 2009 and it is following the same timeline as the County Plan. Athy Town Council commenced the review of its Development Plan in April 2010. There is a considerable amount of work associated with these reviews involving extensive consultation with the public and the Councillors. The County and Naas Plans will be finalised in April 2011 with a completion date of February 2012 for Athy.

Local Area Plans

Progress continued to be made during 2010 on the preparation and adoption of the Local Area Plans. All the Plans are prepared within the context of the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines, the County Development Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations and other local and national policies. In addition Kildare County Council set up a system of periodic meetings with officials of the Department of Education & Science to monitor the on-going need for school provision in the county in the context of the local area plans. It is intended to continue these useful meetings in 2011.



Work continued on the preparation and adoption of local area plans (LAPs) for towns and villages in the county in 2010. LAPs were completed for Leixlip, Celbridge and Collinstown. All LAPs are set within the context of national, regional and local planning policies, including the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area, the National Spatial Strategy and the County Development Plan. We also strive to ensure that all plans accord with the principle of sustainability, facilitate economic and social progress, promote efficient use of land and safeguard the natural and built environment.

The statutory requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 are also adhered to and a specialist interdepartmental SEA team has been established to aid this process. It is intended to complete the review of the remaining LAP's in 2011 – Kildare Town, Rathangan, Newbridge, Maynooth and Kill.

Retail Strategy

A Retail Strategy for the county and for Naas, was incorporated into the Draft Development Plans in 2010.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Kildare County Council received a total of 1,305 planning applications during 2010 and of these, 207 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 796 decisions to grant and 273 decisions to refuse permission. 28 appeals were confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

Naas Town Council received a total of 81 applications during 2010 and of these, 16 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 54 decisions to grant permission and 9 decisions to refuse permission, 13 appeals were confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

Athy Town Council received a total of 36 applications in 2010 and of these, 5 were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants. The Planning Authority issued 20 decisions to grant permission and 6 decisions to refuse permission, 1 appeal was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala.

In order to improve accessibility and the management of historical planning files, the planning department continued a number of projects in 2010 in order to improve the availability of on-line planning information to members of the public.

The Planning department also ran an agents meeting in April 2010 at which planning issues were discussed and addressed, this meeting was attended by over 50 agents. The agents also had an opportunity to raise their concerns with the Planning Authority who took note of same and undertook to deal with these going forward.

It is intended that this agents meeting will be an annual event.

Pre-Planning Meetings

Pre-planning meetings are designed to deal with prospective applicants for large-scale residential or commercial developments. In 2010 a total of 100 formal pre-planning meetings were held in-house. Pre-planning clinics are designed to deal specifically with prospective applicants for a one-off house or small-scale commercial development. A total of 5 pre-planning clinics were held in Aras Chill Dara in 2010, these clinics were attended by 68 prospective applicants. In addition to the clinics held in Aras Chill Dara, outreach clinics were held in the Athy, Clane and Leixlip Area Offices. A total of 12 outreach clinics took place in 2010 which were attended by 48 applicants.

Development Control

Controlling Development

The Council continued to make progress in the taking in charge of residential estates. Four estates were taken in charge in 2010 and a further seven estates were advertised for taking in charge. It is anticipated that these estates will be taken in charge in 2011. The management of unfinished estates and estates where developers have found themselves in financial difficulties, in receivership or in liquidation is becoming an increasing element in the workload of the Development Control Department.

Building Control

435 valid Commencement Notices and 154 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation in 2010. The Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009 introduced new procedures for Part B and Part M certification in relation to the building regulations. A new seven day notice was also introduced which is similar to the existing commencement notice process. The commencement dates for the new legislation were 1st October 2009 and 1st January 2010. In 2010, 31 applications for regularisation certificates were received, 98 applications for Disability Access Certificates were received and 11 applications for seven day notices were received.

Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions

A total of 317 complaints of unauthorised development were investigated in 2010. 235 warning letters were issued to developers and 84 enforcement notices were served on unauthorised developments. The Planning Authority initiated legal proceedings in 28 cases.

Heritage

Kildare County Council, through the Heritage Office, continued to develop its role in the protection and promotion of the built and natural heritage resources of the county throughout 2010. This was achieved by providing advice on all aspects of Kildare's heritage and matters relating to heritage issues in the county and by developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the county's heritage. The heritage work programme seeks to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of the county, and in so doing, increasing awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the County's heritage for all.

The Heritage Officer contributed to the development of policy in the context of the review of the County Development Plan, through the assessment of planning applications and by continuing to actively engage with individuals and community groups across the county to provide advice, support and guidance in relation to the various aspects of heritage.

The development of a co-ordinated heritage strategy at county level is a key recommendation of government policy as outlined in the National Heritage Plan (2002) and the National Biodiversity Plan (2002).

This is being achieved through the establishment of the County Kildare Heritage Forum and the co-ordination and implementation of the County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2006 which focuses on the following:

Collection of heritage data

- Historic Landscape Characterisation of Kildare Town
- Urban Tree Survey: Kildare and Naas Towns

Raising heritage awareness

- Kildare Finds in National Museum of Ireland- database uploaded.
- Launch of Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2010 (10 projects funded)
- Newbridge Heritage Trail- addition of more plaques.
- Birds in the School Yard Project (Kildare Education Centre co-funded)
- Heritage Week 2010 - collation and promotion of events

Promoting best practice

- Traditional Building skills workshop in conjunction with Irish Georgian Society at Castletown House, Celbridge

Inform and advise on Local Authority heritage management

- Commenced evaluation of the County Kildare Heritage Plan with a view to providing recommendation on the next Heritage Plan, which will be prepared in 2011.
- Appropriate Assessment training for Local Authority staff (planners).
- Input into County Development Plan, Athy Town Plan, Naas Town Plan.
- Work of Historic Monuments advisory Committee

Architectural Conservation



Protected structure Newberry Hall Carbury c.1760 set in a 444 acre demesne

The work of the Architectural Conservation Officer was ongoing in 2010, providing technical advice and recommendations to the Local Authority and the public on the built heritage. This is carried out on a statutory basis through Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act. Historic buildings and their setting are protected through their addition to the Record of Protected Structures. Associated historic urban, rural and designed landscape spaces can be further protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas.



Addition to the Record of Protected Structures Straffan Lodge former childhood home of painter Francis Bacon

As part of the Development Plan Reviews, historic building surveys were carried out for the County, Naas and Athy in 2010 .Buildings were recommended to be added to the Record of Protected Structures for the County, Naas and Athy.



OS 1837 extract of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Areas

Architectural Conservation Areas were also proposed as part of the various Development Plan Reviews.



2010 Conservation Grant Curleys cottage Prosperous its long sweeping roof incorporates a dairy and a barn

The Conservation Grants Scheme is operated annually and in 2010, 31 applications for conservation grants were received with 14 approved to a total value of €140,000.



The Wonderful Barn Barnhall Leixlip Conservation repair works were funded by the annual Civic Structures grant scheme and the Heritage Council.
The works were visited by Martin Manseragh and Aine Doyle.

The Conservation and Heritage sections were successful in securing funding from the Civic Structures grant scheme and the Heritage Council in 2010. It allowed urgent conservation and repair works to take place, on this internationally important former grain store and dove cote folly.



Castletown demesne and the 'Traditional Building Skills' tent

In partnership with the Irish Georgian Society, the Heritage Council and the Office of Public Works, Kildare County Council also promoted a weekend of 'Traditional Building Skills' for historic buildings at Castletown , Celbridge in 2010.

Housing

The Council's housing stock now stands at 2,909 with an average rent of €42 per unit.

Among the services provided by the Housing Department are:

- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Social Housing
- Improvement Grant Scheme For Disabled And Elderly Persons
- Homeless Services
- Traveller Accommodation
- Tenant Liaison Officers
- Community Development
- Housing Maintenance
- House Purchase Loan
- Tenant Purchase
- Voluntary Housing.



The emphasis in the delivery of social housing support has changed from capital expenditure to current expenditure. The traditional housing construction programme has been replaced by Rental Accommodation Scheme, Social Housing Leasing and housing through the Voluntary Sector.

In delivering these services, the Housing Department attempts to provide a quality customer service to clients, elected members and council staff. The downturn in the economy means that there is a greater need for support in the provision of housing for families and this has meant an increase in the number of housing applications, an increase in the number of people on the housing list and an increase in the workload for the department.

There are up to 4,000 people on rent supplement in County Kildare and, while they are on the housing list, they do not have an immediate housing need as they are adequately housed with state support.

Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence has at present 70 volunteers. Each volunteer is trained in First Aid, Search and Rescue, Welfare, Auxiliary Fire Fighting, Communications, Warden and Radiation Monitoring.

Training is very much a part of their life, with training ongoing on a weekly basis. Training classes are held in Naas and Athy. A number of volunteers trained and qualified as instructors throughout the year.

2010 was a very busy year for Kildare Civil Defence.

- It started with flooding in different areas of Kildare where we assisted with sandbags.



- We hosted the Voluntary Emergency Services Forum in Punchestown in February.
- Kildare Civil Defence participated and assisted at various parades in the county.
- We hosted the Civil Defence Regional Competition in Punchestown and also took part with a team in the Regional Competition held in Kilkenny.



- Kildare Civil Defence assisted at a number of Racing Festivals and Music Festivals throughout the year. We also assisted at the National Ploughing Championships which were held in Athy.
- At the end of the year Kildare Civil Defence were very busy with “Severe Weather” and assisted local communities with transportation of nurses and patients to and from hospitals and assisted with meals on wheels.
- As well as the above, Kildare Civil Defence attended a number of community events, helping out with ambulance cover, traffic and crowd control.



ICT Activities

Infrastructure

- Build and supply all county councillors with laptops and wireless internet access from the Council Chamber.
- Migrate the majority of all databases to the council SQL cluster (2005/2008) thus reducing the cost of maintaining expensive SQL server instances/licenses per application.
- Migrate all council GIS data to native SQL 2008.
- Implement a wireless connection to a new DR site in Naas to store backed-up council data.
- Implement a new Data Backup and Replication software to protect Council data.
- Conduct a Microsoft license buy-out process in line with Department of Finance instruction.
- Continue to support 600 plus IT users in 35+ remote offices.
- Upgrade the council network connection to Government Networks
- Facilitate library upgrades in Maynooth, Kildare and Kilcock and Ballytore, Open Office on all public access PCs, locate two new accessible kiosks in the libraries (for payment of motor tax online) and upgrade Library management software to latest version.
- Facilitate move to centralised Higher Education Grants system to replace local system.
- Implement technology to route mobile calls made from council landline phones (in the Áras) directly to Vodafone to significantly reduce call costs.

Development

- Develop and implement a new Councillor Extranet to facilitate electronic meetings and act as a central portal for all councillor related material.
- Implement a new document management system for managing all scanned council documents primarily in Planning, HR and Environment.
- Implement and upgrade the Property Interest Register (PIR) to record land assets.
- Reduce the incidents of small independent databases in the council and move to more centralised data storage and browser based applications.
- Implement a new incident tracking and workflow tool to track and manage council correspondence, including councillor/TD representations and customer complaints.
- Continue to support the migration to the Core HR, Payroll and Superannuation centrally hosted application.
- Implement a new automated invoicing solution to replace 20% of paper invoices coming into the council with electronic files.
- Work with Planning on implementation of new Development Contributions system that interfaces with Agresso.
- Extend the use of online payments solutions for council services to the public.



- Continue to promote Kildare.ie as the portal of choice to promote the county in tourism, community and business areas.
- Continue to roll out the online digitiser as a means of capturing, storing and displaying spatial data via the browser.
- Maintain up to date mapping from the OSi on all council GIS applications.
- Upgrade of Roads section MapRoad system to latest version.
- Continue to support the range of systems in the sections; (Planning, Finance, Housing, Corporate etc).
- Assist in the implementation of a water meter reading solution for the council.

Higher Education Grant

This is the second year that Kildare County Council has used the new eHegs database for processing higher education grant applications. This database has proven to be very effective.

The Higher Education Grant consists of two parts; a maintenance grant, where applicable, and a fees grant that covers the College Registration Fee at undergraduate level. Tuition fees at post graduate level are covered, subject to a maximum fee limit, set annually by the Department of Education.

This year has seen a significant increase in the amount of applications received for the Higher Education Grant (as outlined below). There has been in particular an increase in the amount of mature students returning to full time education.

Academic Year	No. of new applications received	No. of renewals	No. of Grants issued	No. of Refusals Issued/Withdrawals/Incomplete
2009/2010	857	808	1392	273
2010/2011	1121	893	1458	556



Incomplete Applications

In 2010 it was decided to address the problem of applications been submitted incomplete by students. An information booklet giving a step by step guide on how to gather the documentation required to accompany an application was distributed to the career guidance counsellors in secondary schools throughout the county and placed on the Kildare County Council website. The booklet has proven to be very successful and it is proposed to build on this in 2011.

The value of grants paid in 2010 was €7 million.

Register of Electors

The Council publishes a Register or list of all those entitled to vote in the county each year. The Draft Register for 2011/12 was published on 1st November 2010 and put on public display in post offices, Garda Stations, libraries and county council offices throughout the county. The total number of electors on the Draft register for 2011/12 was 138,312.

The council conducts extensive research and publicity campaigns during the year to ensure that the register is as accurate as it can be. Our website now has the facility to view up-to-date information on the Register and all current forms are available for download. There is also the option on the website to check your details online.



Freedom of Information

The number of applications received in 2010 was 44 of which 10 were requests for personal information.

Requests were dealt with as follows:

21 requests granted

14 requests part-granted

12 requests refused

There were no applications for internal review and no appeals lodged with the Information Commissioner.

Human Resources

Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare Local Authorities at 31 December 2010 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial *	6.00	6.00
Clerical/Administrative	381.00	342.50
Professional/Technical	166.00	163.00
Outdoor	401.00	333.00
Incentive Career Break Scheme	13.00	11.90
Supernumeraries	25.00	25.00
Total Core Staff	992.00	881.40
Other Staff		
Contract Posts	33.00	33.00
Site Supervisory Contract Posts	5.00	5.00
Temporary/Seasonal *	6.00	6.00
Retained Firefighters	77.00	N/A
Non DoEH&LG	14.00	5.00
Total Other Posts	135.00	49.00

The Department processed applications for various positions in relation to 7 competitions that were held during the year. 757 applications were received, 677 male and 80 female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 47 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 44 male and 3 female. 5 posts were offered.

Training and Development

The continuing need for a modern, flexible, multi-skilled workforce is recognized, and training schemes are tailored accordingly, with the co-operation and participation of staff. Particular emphasis is placed on Health and Safety requirements, Accessibility and Diversity, Management Skills, Technical Skills, and skills for the job.

Employee Assistance Programme

The HR Department continues to recognise the importance of an Employee Assistance Programme, which is available to all staff and their families on a confidential basis and which provides an opportunity to access professional counselling to assist staff who may experience personal or work related difficulties to develop and fulfil their personal potential.

Industrial and Employee Relations

In 2010 the HR policy of fostering good industrial relations at corporate level, in an effort to resolve staff issues at the earliest possible time continued through the Partnership approach. Further savings were achieved in 2010 through the co-operation of staff and unions in recognising the difficult financial situation facing local authorities. HR continues to engage with all unions on a regular basis to deal with both local and national issues as they arise. The Kildare Local Authorities Action Plan under the Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 was presented to the relevant trade unions in Nov/Dec 2010. Consultation commenced on the implementation of the local action plan and this will form the bulk of the workload in IR terms for the duration of the agreement.

Workplace Partnership

Workplace Partnership is the way we do things, not something to do in Kildare Local Authorities. It is the agreed method for managing change within the local authority sector. Each directorate has its own respective workplace partnership committees. The Kildare Local Authority Workplace Partnership Committee is nominated by representative of unions, management and employees within Kildare Local Authorities.

Consensus is the method used for decision-making. The Workplace Partnership framework is recognized as the method for implementation of the Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Act 2006.

During 2010 the committee met on nine occasions and dealt with the following agenda items:

- Continuation of the Return to Learning Programme
- Production of Staff Newsletter
- Time Management System
- Internal communications policy
- Review of outdoor worker recruitment process
- Departmental Partnership Meetings
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Machinery Yard Review
- Civic Amenity Sites Review
- Memorial Garden
- Cycle to Work Scheme

Energy

General Overview of Consumption in 2010

Kildare Local Authorities consumed approximately 43gWh (Giga watt hours) of Energy in its activities during 2010 - broken down as follows:

Electricity	36gWh
Fossil Fuels (including gas and transportation fuels)	9gWh

The principal energy users were Water Services (c. 57%), Public Lighting (c.20%), Buildings and Facilities (c.10%) and Transportation (c.13%).

Efficiency Actions Undertaken during 2010

In 2010 Kildare County Council commenced the following energy saving initiatives:

- The installation of a LEC voltage regulation lighting controller on the new Caragh Road which resulted in a verified annual saving of 3.7mWh Electricity. This technology may be utilised elsewhere on the Council PL network subject to individual site conditions and ongoing cost-benefit and payback analysis of this initial trial location.
- The introduction of 'virtualisation' in the ITC server room, which, combined with adjustments to the Air Conditioning requirements will deliver on completion an estimated annual saving of c. 131mWh Electricity.

- The Transportation Section has decommissioned approximately 20 sets of school crossing warning lights which used traditional lamps and has replaced them with Solar Powered LED equivalents, this section also began a programme of replacing equipment on all signalled traffic junctions and pedestrian crossings with Extra Low Voltage and LED technology which will deliver an estimated annual saving of c.5 mWh Electricity on completion.
- The reconfiguration of the LMS (Lighting Management System) in Áras Chill Dara which combined with an energy efficient lamp replacement programme has yielded an annual saving of c. 4mWh Electricity.

Efficiency Actions Planned for 2011

During 2011 Kildare County Council will continue to focus on the area of Energy Efficiency by undertaking the following initiatives:

- The Transportation Section will continue on-going driver training including a CPC module on efficient driving techniques.
- Water Services, in conjunction with the Facilities Section, will continue a comprehensive survey of electrical installations in all outlying areas of the County which aims to identify sites suitable for upgrades or alterations in order to implement efficiency improvements. In addition, it is hoped that the CHP installation in Osberstown WWTP can be refurbished and brought back into service – which when functioning correctly can deliver savings of c.127mWh Electricity. p/a.
- The Council HQ building, Áras Chill Dara is heated by natural gas, following a survey a potential saving has been identified if the three boilers are fitted with a Gas Optimiser M2G system, it is hoped to install this equipment during the summer shut-down period and if successful this should deliver annual savings of 100 – 150 mWh Gas.

- The Council has taken part, in conjunction with SEAI, on two National working groups for both Water Services and Public Lighting. It is expected that these two important reports will be published in mid 2011. The Council will continue to work closely with SEAI and the Association of Irish Energy Agencies and contribute to, and implement energy efficiency strategies for 2011 and beyond. Kildare County Council will also sign up to the Public Sector Energy Partnership and commit to achieving our energy reduction obligations under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2020 NEEAP) and the EU (Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009, SI 542 of 2009 and SI 151 2011.
- The Council will also undertake feasibility studies in 2011 for the following:
 - The retrofitting of CHP plant into two pool/leisure centres
 - The possibility of installing wind turbines at a number of locations including Waste Water Treatment Plants and Landfill sites.
 - The long term possible replacement of gas boilers with biomass alternatives in public buildings.
 - The possibility of entering a third party ESCO agreement in one or more of the high consumption locations.

Retirements

The following persons retired during 2010, having completed 512 years combined service:

Name	Position
Anne Rooney	Clerical Officer
Anthony Bennett	Clerk of Works
Bernard Crummey	Water Overseer
Brian Casey	Senior Executive Planner
Carmel Kearney	Clerical Officer
Ciaran Leavy	General Operative
Con Kane	Sewerage Overseer
Desmond Mulvey	Clerk of Works
James Kinlon	Night Caretaker
John Cahill	Category 4 Ganger
John Larkin	Category 4 Ganger
Kathleen Cassidy	Senior Staff Officer
Mary Delaney	School Warden
May Crawford	Assistant Staff Officer
Michael Fitzsimons	Chief Fire Officer
Patrick Dowling	Clerk of Works
Patrick Farrell	Category 5 Foreman
Paul Gannon	Water Caretaker
Robert Ivers	Category 7B Driver
Thomas Kelly	General Operative
Thomas King	Category 7B Driver
Tina Bradley	Clerical Officer
Ursula McManus	Senior Library Assistant

A 25 years service and retirement awards ceremony was held on 25 March 2010 for all staff who had retired or attained 25 years service in the previous 2 years.



Memorial Garden

An ecumenical service and dedication of a garden in memory of deceased members and staff was held in June 2010 and attended by members, staff, former staff and families of those who had died in service.

Measuring Up

The following pages from our service indicators report give a picture of the county and the council's work in 2010.

Nationwide service indicators for local authorities were introduced in 2003 and applied formally in 2004. From 2008 there are 46 local authority service indicators, including a number of new indicators, some deletions and amendments. The tables below show the 2010 results for Kildare County Council.

The indicators give a picture of how the council performed 46 of its functions. While this information is useful for citizens, government departments and for the council itself, it must be borne in mind that the indicators are not balanced between one local authority and another to take account of disparities in resources, especially in funding.

Community Participation and Co-operation	
CP 1	% of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme
	52.00%

CP 2	Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum
	600

Corporate Issues			
Sick Leave			
C 1	% of working days lost to sickness absence through:	Certified leave	Uncertified leave
		5.33	0.76
Staff Training			
C 2	Expenditure on training and development as a % of total payroll costs		
	3.49%		

Environmental Services							
Unaccounted For Water							
E1	Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for			28.60%			
Drinking Water Analysis							
E2 -	A. Percentage of drinking water analyses results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:			Public schemes	Private schemes (where appropriate)		
				99.90	98.00		
Fire Service							
F1	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of Fire			Full-time stations	Part-time stations (retained fire services)		
				N/A	5.96		
	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of all other emergency incidents			N/A	5.97		
F2	Percentage of attendance at Scenes	A.First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	B.First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	C.First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	D. First attendance at scene within 10 minutes all other emergency incidents	E. First attendance at scene within 10 minutes after scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	F. First attendance at scene after 20 minutes
		25.64	57.70	16.61	24.73	59.64	14.91
Fire Safety Certificates – Fire Prevention							
F3	A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received		B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed		C. Total number of applications deemed invalid		
	154		185		14		
Household Segregated Waste							
E3	A.Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables			B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics			
	99.93			49.49			

Household Waste Sent for Recycling						
E4	A. Percentage of Household Waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling		C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)		
	25.61	17,091		5,387		
Household waste sent for Landfill:						
E5	Tonnage 49,643					
	Percentage : 74.38					
Recycling Facilities						
E6	Total number of facilities:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	43	39	56	58	2	2
E6	Total number of locations for recycling per 5000 or the population:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	1.15	1.04	1.50	1.55	0.053	0.053
	Number of bring sites:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	41	37	54	56	0	0
E6	Number of civic amenity sites:					
	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
	2	2	2	2	2	2
Litter Wardens						
E7	Total number of litter wardens:	Full-Time	Part-Time	Number of Litter Wardens (both Full-Time and Part-Time) per 5000 population		
		1	8	0.2419		

Litter Prosecutions							
E7	Number of on-the-spot fines issued	Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on the spot fines	Number of on the spot fines paid	Number of notices issued (under sections 9,15,16,17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	Total number of prosecutions taken(all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	Total Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)
	921	163	50	638	31	165	51
Litter Pollution							
E7	Percentage of areas within the local authority that are:	Unpolluted (litter-free)	Slightly polluted with litter	Moderately polluted (with litter)	Significantly polluted (with litter)	Grossly polluted (with litter)	
		54	31	7.50	7.50	0	
Environmental Complaints and Enforcement							
E8	Environmental Complaints and Enforcement:	Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air-pollution)	Number of complaints investigated	Number of enforcement procedures taken	Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary		
		1378	1360	1002	1279		
School Environmental Campaigns							
E9	Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns:	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools				
		85.70	69.2				

Housing					
Housing Vacancies					
H1	Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	Total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	Overall % of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment schemes)	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	% of empty dwellings available for letting
	3,539	3,529	2.10	68.00	32.00
H2	Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting (in weeks)				
	11.33				
H3	Number of repairs completed as a % of the number of valid repair requests received				
	95.32				
H4	Total number of Traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local Traveller Accommodation Programme.				
	215.38				
H5	Enforcement of standards in private rented sector				
	A. Total number of registered tenancies			8,866	
	B. Number of dwelling units inspected			546	
	C. Number of inspections carried out			938	
	D. Number of dwelling units inspected as a percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as a percentage of A)			6.16	

H6	Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability	
	A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) , from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision of the application.	3.3
	B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application, to the date of decision on the application.	8.10
H7	.Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses	
	A. Total number of new local authority tenants	233
	B. Percentage of new local authority tenants, who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

Library Services

Public Opening Hours

L 1	Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries	Percentage of full-time libraries that have lunchtime openings	Percentage of full-time libraries that have evening openings	Percentage of full-time libraries that have Saturday openings
	35.62	13.45	66.66	100	66.66

Library Visits

L 2	Number of visits to full-time libraries per 1000 of the population
	3,097

Library Stock

L 3	A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population	Number of items issued per head of population (county/citywide) for books	Number of items issued per head of population (county/citywide) for other items
	2.15	2.88	0.70

Internet access	
L 4	Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population
	237.90

Motor Tax					
M1	Number and % of motor tax transactions which are dealt with:	Over the counter	Are dealt with by post	Number that are dealt with in other ways (e.g. on-line or phone)	
		98,327 %40.90	22,252 %9.26	119,803 49.84%	
M2	Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:	On the same day	On the third day or less	On the fifth day or less	Over five days
		4,451	9,460	2,041	5,700
M2	% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:	On the same day	On the third day or less	On the fifth day or less	Over five days
		20	42.51	11.87	25.62

M3	Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications			
	A. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the applications	B. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of application	C. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of application	D. Number of Driving Licence Applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of application
	600	2,673	2,146	600
	E. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of application	F. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of application	G. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of application	H. Percentage of overall Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application
	2.38	10.60	8.51	78.52
M4 Public Opening Hours	Average Number of Opening Hours Per Week		30	

Planning and Building Control					
Planning Applications					
P1 A	Number of applications decided:	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		452	37	645	25
P1 B	Number of decisions decided within 8 weeks	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		205	17	311	13

P1 C	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		247	20	333	12
P1 D	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		0	1	0	0
P1 E	Average length of time (in days) taken to determine an application where further information is sought (days):	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		80.73	80.40	82.08	82.75
P1 F	% of Grants	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		62	68	85	72
P1 G	% of Refusals	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		38	35	15	28
P1 H	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		80	70	75	83
P1 I	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	Individual House	Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
		12	48	24	17

Planning Enforcement						
P2	A.Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	B.Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	C.Number of enforcement procedures taken through negotiations	D.Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	E.Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement	F. Number of prosecutions
	335	65	6	230	87	0
Planning Public Opening Hours						
P3	Public opening hours - Average number of opening hours per week					
	34					
Pre-Planning Consultation						
P4	A.Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held					
	238					
P4B	Average length of time (in days) from the request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation.			17		
Planning – New Buildings Inspected						
P5	Building inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority			59		
Taking Estates in Charge						
P6	A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers) were on hands at the beginning:			33		
	B. The number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question:			13		
	C. Number of dwellings in respect of column B			1,071		
	D. Percentage of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission			12		

	E.Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	0
	F. Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	1

Recreational Services

Children's Playgrounds			
Rec 1	Number of children's playgrounds:	directly provided by the local authority	facilitated by the local authority
		12	2
Swimming Pools			
Rec 1	Number of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities		
	930,200		

Revenue

Housing Rent				
Rev 1	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	% of arrears 4-6 weeks old	% of arrears 6-12 weeks old	% of arrears more than 12 weeks old
	82.24	3.02	5.13	89.00
Housing Loans				
Rev 2	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due	Percentage of arrears 4-6 months old	Percentage of arrears 6-12 weeks old	Percentage of arrears more than 12 weeks old
	54.16	.59	.71	97.56
Commercial Rates				
Rev 3	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due from Commercial Rates			
	80.38			

Refuse Charges	
Rev 4	% of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end
	80.75
Non-domestic water charges	
Rev 5	Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due for Non- Domestic Water Charges
	57.32

Roads		
Road Restoration Programme		
R 1	A. The number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	B. The number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvements grants scheme per annum
	115.05	0

Conferences 2010

Conference/Seminar Details:	Venue	Date	Total	No Of Delegates
AMAI Spring Seminar Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	12-13 February	€550.82	1
ACCC Annual Conference Limerick Junction Tipperary	Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction Tipperary	4-5 March	€1,007.86	2
Local Government Housing Service Killarney	Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney	18-20 March	€2,957.83	4
LAMA Annual Conference Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	9-10 April	€541.61	1
Tarbert Community Care	Tarbert, Co Kerry	5 June	€488.15	1
Bioenergy 2010	Carlton Hotel, Tralee	17 June	€1,453.13	3
Douglas Hyde Summer School	Ballaghadereen, Co Roscommon	3-10 July	€802.16	1
MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co Donegal	18-24 July	€3,071.52	3
Humbert Summer School	Harlequin Hotel, Castlebar, Co Mayo	19-22 August	€2,442.14	3
AMAI Annual Conference	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co Donegal	9-11 September	€735.45	1
Annual National Conference on Substance and Alcohol Abuse	Europe Hotel and Resort Killarney	7-8 October	€2,835.88	4

Conference/Seminar Details	Venue	Date	Total	No Of Delegates
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel Co Kerry	8-9 October	€1,129.06	2
Radon a Hidden Killer	Manor West Hotel, Tralee Co Kerry	12-14 November	€665.67	1
Exploring Options for the Unemployed Westport	Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo	19-21 November	€1,368.26	2
Achieving World Class Tourism	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co Clare	25-27 November	€2,328.31	3

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year ended 31 December 2010

(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)

REVENUE ACCOUNT

Expenditure	2010	2009	2008	2007
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	19,168,637	17,477,789	24,034,092	18,626,859
Road Transportation and Safety	28,980,073	28,025,312	33,689,241	34,031,373
Water Supply and Sewerage	25,789,418	27,409,154	26,649,792	24,618,052
Development Incentives and Controls	9,025,113	10,902,049	12,280,863	10,045,829
Environmental Protection	26,067,527	24,388,617	26,109,452	23,719,905
Recreation and Amenity	8,201,211	8,374,092	9,157,433	7,255,724
Agriculture and Education	13,313,628	11,732,699	10,179,094	9,202,631
Miscellaneous Services	8,425,173	8,604,449	6,178,969	4,459,821
Total	138,970,780	136,914,161	148,278,936	131,960,194

Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)

Housing and Building	17,091,974	15,430,394	17,733,553	12,079,263
Road Transportation and Safety	14,197,721	12,460,058	16,812,689	15,523,719
Water Supply and Sewerage	14,735,412	16,828,457	15,196,356	14,154,284
Development Incentives and Controls	1,776,645	2,701,802	4,249,035	4,657,487
Environmental Protection	16,193,242	12,672,530	15,436,947	14,633,705
Recreation and Amenity	1,325,077	757,151	1,311,827	1,228,726
Agriculture and Education	12,026,516	10,946,502	8,755,946	7,529,489
Miscellaneous Services	3,868,292	4,610,198	2,051,860	2,645,825
Sub-Total	81,214,879	76,407,092	81,548,213	72,452,498
Urban Authority Accounts	2,647,313	2,802,175	3,177,038	3,074,542
Pension Related Deductions	2,319,302			
Local Government Fund	22,458,849	23,866,930	28,176,862	26,476,801
County Rates	38,359,818	38,904,510	38,784,510	37,237,974
Total	147,000,161	141,980,707	151,686,623	139,241,815

Transfers to/from Reserves	-7,056,892	-6,186,166	-2,523,003	-6,049,695
Surplus/Deficit for year	972,489	767,801	809,897	1,231,927
Opening Balance	-4,885,743	-5,653,544	-6,463,441	-7,695,368
Closing Balance	-3,913,254	-4,885,743	-5,653,544	-6,463,441

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2010	2009	2008	2007
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	21,752,117	40,496,309	69,966,084	72,807,590
Road Transportation and Safety	58,673,742	112,681,176	142,124,445	136,183,684
Water Supply and Sewerage	14,927,863	26,068,719	16,954,391	23,575,179
Development Incentives and Controls	7,943,162	1,037,884	4,287,189	1,192,101
Environmental Protection	618,163	1,494,164	4,283,469	4,023,769
Recreation and Amenity	1,883,062	4,746,281	2,973,075	4,202,416
Agriculture and Education	13,098	321,662	149,334	217,933
Miscellaneous Services	394,284	561,182	8,288,851	739,614
Total	106,205,491	187,407,377	249,026,838	242,942,286

Town Local Government Annual Report 2010

Local government structure in the county includes the county council and the town council's of Athy, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge.



While the five local authorities co-operate in many areas of activity and provide a uniform service, the town councils have each separate legal identities from that of the county council and concomitant independence. Although there are, in some cases, instances of common membership of the governing bodies all of the authorities operate under the managership of the County Manager.

Naas Town Council

INTRODUCTION

The current Council of nine elected Members were elected in June 2009 and are currently serving a term of five years.

Councillor Pat Clear served as Mayor until June 2010. Councillor Seamie Moore was elected Mayor at the Annual Meeting in June 2010 and Councillor Darren Scully was elected Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will undertake the positions until the next Annual Meeting in June 2011.

Councillors Callaghan, Scully and Moore are also Members of Kildare County Council. The Members are also represented on a number of local community groups as well as the County Council Strategic Policy Committees.

The Naas Town Council Members meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Naas Town Hall to decide policy and conduct the business of the Council. The meetings are open to the public and press.

Details of the Agendas and Minutes of the Council meetings can be accessed on the Naas Town Council website;

16H www.naastowncouncil.ie

The Town Manager is Eamonn O'Sullivan, The Town Clerk is Ken Kavanagh and the Town Engineer is David Reel.



Cllr Seamie Moore



Cllr Willie Callaghan



Cllr Darren Scully



Cllr Rioghnagh
Bracken



Cllr Emer Mc Daid



Cllr Anne Breen



Cllr Alan O Kelly



Cllr Pat Clear



Cllr Ger Dunne

The Town Council elected Members have the following main policy functions;

- Adopting the Annual Budget - Determining the annual level of commercial rate to be charged
- Borrowing money or lending of money
- Disposal of property / land held by the Council
- Building programme
- Adopting a scheme of letting priorities for council housing
- Making or varying a development plan
- Making, amending or revoking bye-laws

The Elected Members are also members of a number of Council sub-committees whereby greater emphasis is placed on progressing various council initiatives. Naas Town Council has currently four sub-committees, Protocol, Finance, Amenities & Festivals and Environment.

All nine Naas Town Councillors also sit on the Naas Joint Policing Committee which provides a forum where the Local Authority and senior Gardai together with community and voluntary representatives can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in the area. Further details can be obtained from the joint policing website www.kildarejointpolicing.ie

2010 was a particularly challenging year for the Council. Not only did the national economic downturn add pressure on the Council's own income sources, the Council also had to deal with the reduction in the Local Government Fund. The Members adopted the Budget for 2010 in December 2009 with anticipated expenditure of €10,583,799 and income of €3,184,825. The Council adopted a rate of 68.79 for 2010 which represented a reduction of 0.5% on the 2009 figure. The Council has remained supportive of the business community and continued to work with businesses who found themselves in difficulty in 2010. The Council also undertook to develop business networks with the Local Employment Network and the Kildare County and to build on the successful series of seminars held jointly with the County Enterprise Board.

The Capital Programme report for the three year period 2010-2012 was noted by the Members at the April monthly meeting. Proposed expenditure was down to €9.3m. This reduction reflected the reduction in proposed development in the Town which had a direct impact on the level of development contributions available to the Council for capital works. The Council carry out the majority of its functions under the following service departments, Housing, Roads & Transportation, Water Services, Development Management, Environmental Services and Recreation & Amenity and the following report will highlight the activity under these service centres.



Naas Town Council currently has a housing stock of 327 units following the acquisition of five units in 2010. The average rent was €44 in 2010.

We have 468 applicants on our housing list, to the end of December 2010, broken down as follows;

Financial:	394
Overcrowding:	26
Elderly:	17
Homeless:	11
Medical:	16
Compassionate:	4

There are also 90 applicants on our Affordable Housing list.

Local Authority Housing Maintenance

The Naas Town Council housing maintenance team carry out the majority of the Council's activities in relation to maintenance of the Council's stock of houses. A panel of contractors is also used to address significant projects and where particular expertise is required. In 2010 the housing maintenance team addressed 271 repairs.

Housing Construction

Funding for the Council's construction programme comes from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and it is unlikely in the current economic climate that the Council will be in a position to construct any further houses in the near future given the lack of lack of central funding. Changes in recent Government policy has seen less emphasis placed on Council construction programmes in favour of RAS housing and leasing initiatives. There is also scope of maximise Part V housing once the development of private housing improves.

Community Development and Estate Management

Naas Town Council is committed to ensuring that all of its tenants enjoy living in their dwellings in a peaceful manner and without undue interference or difficulties emanating from anti-social behaviour. Naas Town Council recognise that anti-social behaviour can create major problems in a community for everyone living there and that it can seriously impact on the quality of life of all residents. There is an obligation on all tenants to ensure that neither they, nor any member of, or visitor to their household engage in anti-social behaviour of any kind. As part of its approach in the development of our local authority communities the Council adopted a new Anti Social Behaviour Strategy in November 2010 which aims to ensure that anti-social behaviour is dealt with effectively up to and including the eviction of tenants who are found to be involved in such behaviour.

Voluntary Housing

Nás na Ríogh Housing Association (NNRHA) is a voluntary, not-for-profit group with charitable status, affiliated to the Irish Council for Social Housing. The project will provide for the redevelopment of the convent building and gardens on the Sallins Road to provide 53 apartments for older persons and a community coffee shop and the redevelopment of the parish centre to a modern community centre on three floors, with wheelchair access. The new community centre provides large meeting / activity rooms, counselling rooms, a soundproof rehearsal space, a fully-fitted kitchen and wheelchair accessible toilets.

The project received funding from Naas Town Council and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government together with locally raised funds. The organisation made considerable progress in 2010 and has been working with the Naas Town Council Housing Officer in progressing the initiative. It is expected that the project will be up and running in the second quarter of 2011

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Kildare County Council operate the RAS scheme for the county as a whole. At present there are thirteen RAS properties in Naas.





The principal activities of the Transportation & Safety Department of the Town Council are covered under the following areas;

- Public lighting
- Traffic management improvement
- Road safety engineering improvements
- Road safety Promotion/Education
- Local Roads maintenance and improvement
- Parking Control

Public Lighting

Public lighting is provided for the entire county by Energia. Maintenance to the public lighting installations are carried out by Airtricity. In 2010 Naas Town Council allocated €225,000 towards the supply and improvement of public lighting in Naas.

Traffic management improvement

Naas Town Council undertook traffic calming works on Monread Avenue, Cluainn Aobhinn Road and the Blessington Road in 2010. Further traffic safety works commenced on the Dublin Road at the end of 2010 and they will be completed early in 2011.

Roads Safety Promotion/Education

The Council provides the school warden service for the national schools in the town. Our four Community Wardens also provide assistance at the schools and last year took part in the "walking bus" project.

Local roads maintenance and improvement

A grant of €410,000 was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) which enabled the Town Council to carry out works to 16 roads/paths in 2010.

An additional €235,375 was allocated from the Council's own resources to reinstate and improve footpaths and cycleways in the town.



The beginning and end of 2010 will be remembered for the exceptional weather conditions endured by the country.

It was a challenge for the Council to maintain a reasonable level of service on the road network in the town and it was assisted in its endeavours by the Civil Defence and the Defence Forces.



Parking Control

Naas Town Council adopted the Parking Bye-laws on the 15th June 2010. The Bye-laws regulate on-street parking, and parking in public car parks, parking charges, and limitations and prohibitions on parking in the town of Naas. The Parking Bye-laws come into operation on 18th October 2010.



Naas is totally dependant on other local authorities for its water supply. Naas is part of the greater Dublin Region and demand in the region can routinely exceed sustainable supply. As a result of the harsh winter conditions at the end of 2010, the Council had to deal with damage caused to the water distribution network by the cold weather and implement serious water conservation measures.

At present the functions for the provision of water services for the administrative area of Naas are carried out by Naas Town Council under a section 85 agreement on behalf of Kildare County Council.

The cost of water services for Naas in 2010 was €2.3m.

Daily water usage in Naas for 2010 was 7.8 mega litres per day

Kildare County Council operate the Water Services Investment Programme for the entire county and there are a number of projects in the pipeline that will benefit the supply of water and treatment of waste water for Naas.

Waste water for Naas is processed through Osberstown Waster Water Treatment Plant and a major upgrade is planned for the plant which will increase the capacity to 130,000 PE (population equivalent) The Barrow Abstraction project will reduce the county's dependency on sourcing water from outside the county which should see savings in water costs in the long term.



There is a variety of activities carried out under the heading of Development Management such as

Forward Planning & Control

Community & Enterprise

Enforcement

Economic Development & Promotion

Tourism Development & Promotion

Review of the Naas Town Development Plan

Naas Town Council commenced the review of the Naas Town Development Plan in May 2009. The draft Naas Town Development Plan 2011-2017 went on public display on the 15th April 2010 and observations and submissions were invited until the 23rd June 2010. 109 submissions were received. The submissions were considered by the Members and amendments to the draft development were made. The plan will be finalised in April 2011.

Planning Applications

The following table outlines the activity in planning applications for the last six years.

Year	Applications received in NTC
2005	194
2006	253
2007	222
2008	169
2009	98
2010	81

Development Contribution Scheme

Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 requires the local Authority to make a development contribution scheme in order to fund the provision of public infrastructure and facilities that benefits and assists the town's development. The contributions help fund the capital costs of a wider range of public infrastructure and facilities in accordance with the capital works programme. The current scheme runs until September 2011.

Naas Town Council Civic Awards

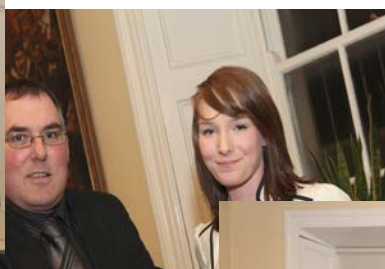
The Civic Awards night is the Council's big event of the year that brings a variety of organisations together and was held in February 2010. This night recognises the outstanding performance of the town's community groups and the wealth of effort put in by voluntary organisations in building better communities. The community groups efforts are recognised by way of a grant and Community & Resident Association Grants totalling €78,000 were awarded in 2010. Nine Individual Awards were made on the night as follows:

Community Awards: Frank Lawlor
Declan McGovern
Paddy Behan

Academic Awards: Rory Whyte

Cultural Awards: Pat Callaghan

Sporting Awards: Geordan Murphy
Jamie Heaslip
Pat O'Shea





Naas Town Council Family Fun Day

The annual Family Fun Day was held on Sunday 5th September 2010 with entertainment provided by Jenny Brady School of Dance, the Moat theatre and the Bui Bolg Puppets. Tricky Tricksters, the pet corner, face painting, balloon making and bouncy castles proved hugely popular with younger children while the vehicles from the Defence Forces, Gardai and Fire Brigade were popular with children of all ages. The Air Corps made a special appearance along with special guests from Star Wars. The event was organised by the Naas Town Council Festival's Committee with co-operation received from Kildare Civil Defence and Kildare County Council.





Easter Parade

One of Kildare's biggest annual events is the Naas Easter Parade which took place on Easter Sunday 4th April. Proving its widespread appeal once again, thousands of people turned out for a great afternoon's entertainment. The Parade is organised by Willie Callaghan with Naas Town Council supporting the event with operational and financial assistance. The Overall Winner of the Bill Callaghan Perpetual Shield was the 4th Kildare Scouts.





Naas Twinning Group

The twinning function in Naas is carried out by the Naas Twinning Group with support from Naas Town Council. Naas is twinned with five towns, Allaire in France, Dillingen in Germany, St. David's in Wales, Casalattico in Italy and Omaha in the United States.

In 2010 a small delegation from Naas went to St. David's for St. David's Day. On a regular basis Naas rugby club host groups from St. David's who have in turn host visitors from Naas. Naas Rugby Club has set an excellent example on how twinning can be a vibrant and enriching experience for young people.



A small group from Naas also went to Dillingen in March 2010 and were well received.

In September 2010, Naas hosted a visit from the Dillingen rock band Musch't Du habba'. The group took in some hurling games in Naas GAA and were also treated to a concert in the Town House Hotel.

The Naas twinning group are always looking for new volunteers and can be emailed at

19H twinning@naastowncouncil.ie





The Environment Department of the Town Council covers a wide range of services including litter control, environmental awareness, street cleaning, graffiti removal, environmental cleanups and the operation of St. Corban's cemetery.

Naas has an environmental sub committee which is committed to improving the appearance of Naas, creating greater awareness and tackling areas of the town prone to litter. The committee in co-operation with the Naas Tidy Towns Committee organise a number of cleanups during the course of the year. Naas Town Council also supports many estates clean ups throughout the year through the provision of refuse bags, litter pickers and gloves.



Naas Town Council received 317 environmental complaints in 2010, all of which were investigated and follow up action taken.

54 Litter fines were issued in 2010.

€800,598 was allocated from the Council's budget for environmental services in 2010.



Naas Community Wardens

Naas has four community wardens who help champion the Council's fight against litter. The Wardens operate a litter education and awareness programme in the schools. To date five Naas schools have achieved green flag status.

The Wardens also play a key role in the enforcement of pay parking in the town as well as the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Acts. They also liaise with Residents Associations, An Garda Síochána and local businesses.

Naas was awarded a silver medal in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2010. Naas Town Council has dedicated but limited resources in tackling environmental issues including litter, removing graffiti and dealing with vandalism in our parks and works with Naas Tidy Towns and local community groups on litter prevention measures.

In 2010 the Town Council undertook a significant clean up at the Lakes area at Craddockstown. This involved the removal of litter, scrub, the construction of a bridge, tree planting and landscaping. The works have enhanced the visual amenity of the area.





The recreation and amenity area of the Council covers tree management, open space operations, grass cutting, parks maintenance and upgrades.

Last year Naas Town Council allocated over €320,000 towards recreation & amenity activities.



Parks, playing facilities & playgrounds

Naas has currently two playgrounds, one located at Monread Park and the other located in Ballycane. Naas Town Council is currently working on the provision of a third playground for the town.

Lakes Dredging Project

Naas Town Council has undertaken initial assessments for the Lakes Dredging Project. The man made lakes at the hospital, while providing housing for the local wildlife, also performs an important attenuation function for the town's drainage system. Owing to the sensitivity of the area the Council will have to proceed with caution. It is anticipated that the first phase of the project will be undertaken in the summer of 2011

Athy Town Council

Athy has enjoyed significant growth over the past number of years and now has a population of 9,000 within the town and environs. The economic development of the town is critical to ensure that this growth is sustainable. Many exciting changes have taken place and have been proposed over the past year and the Town Council is playing a pivotal role in its growth and development.

Elected Members and the Executive

Athy Town Council members are:

Cathaoirleach: James Mahon

Leas-Cathaoirleach: Mary O'Sullivan

Councillors: Mark Dalton, Richard Daly, Michael Dunne*, John Lawler, Aoife Breslin, Thomas Redmond and Mark Wall.

Councillors Daly and Wall are also elected members of Kildare County Council.

*(Co-opted to the Council in February 2011).

Town Manager/ Director of Services: Joe Boland

Town Clerk: Brian O'Gorman

Town Engineer: Diarmuid Donohue

The statutory monthly meeting of the Council takes place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Municipal Offices, Monasterevin Road, Athy.

Finance

Notwithstanding budget constraints, the combined revenue and capital expenditure of c. €7.6 million (including revenue expenditure of c. €4.8 million) in 2010 gives an indication of the scale of the contribution the Town Council is making to the economic, social, cultural and infrastructural development of the town, through its programmes and policies. The growing population of the town continues to give rise to increased demands on services we provide.

Housing

The Town Council currently has a housing stock of 317 housing units. Twenty two applicants were housed in new and existing accommodation during the year.

The country's first social housing leasing arrangement was completed in Athy during the year at the Clonmullion retirement village and now includes 30 units, managed by the Helm Housing Association, which serve needs of tenants with specific needs (including the elderly).

The following projects were either completed or commenced in the course of 2010:

- Purchase of 9 units in the Dunbrinn estate and 1 unit in Townspark
- Refurbishment of 5 units at Nelson Street
- Commencement of the Woodstock Lodge (10 units) capital scheme
- Completion of Carbury Park Remedial Works Scheme
- Management lease with the Respond! voluntary housing association in respect of 21 unsold affordable units at Ardrew.

The programme of capital type improvements continued during the year, with the Council taking a proactive approach to refurbishing and upgrading existing and vacant units.

Roads

The completion of the M9 motorway and the associated new link road to Athy in early 2010 further emphasises the strategic location of the town in relation to the region and greater Dublin area.

The town's Traffic Management Plan was adopted in the course of the year, having progressed through a public consultation process. A submission was made, via the Road Design team of Kildare County Council, to the newly formed National Transport Authority with a view to obtaining funding in order to progress a number of prioritised elements.

The advancement of the Southern Distributor Road is now being actively progressed. A formal application in respect of this capital project was lodged with the National Roads Authority in the course of the year, including a formal cost benefit analysis. All preliminary design aspects have now been completed, while collateral agreements are in place with Iarnród Éireann. A revised proposal, which provides for an option of delivering the scheme on a phased basis, was also submitted. Approval to progress the project to the planning stage was given by the Department of Transport in Q1 2011 and it is expected that the project will proceed on a phased basis between 2013/2015.

A number of road and footpath improvements were carried out in the town during the year. A block grant of €195,000 was approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

A review of the existing town Parking Bye-laws (2005) commenced in September and new bye-laws were adopted in December (to commence from 1 March 2011).

Water Services

The Town Council maintains and operates the water services (water and sewerage) infrastructure in its administrative area under agreement, on behalf of Kildare County Council (Section 85 of Local Government Act, 2001).

Since 2009 water supply in the town has been augmented to include supply from the region (Ballymore Eustace). In addition, a small scheme was completed by Kildare County Council (Athy to Bert watermain) during the year. This main is being linked to the well-field in Monasterevin (completed Q1 2011). The contract for the Barrow Abstraction Scheme (KCC project) is likely to be signed in early 2011 and this project is expected to be delivered in early 2013. Accordingly, the Town Council will have full security of supply as it will be capable of being served from four separate sources.

A proposed small scheme to enhance water supply to the Carlow Road will be considered in Q1 2011 with a view to progressing the project during the year.

A sewer remediation scheme (east of River Barrow, including Leinster Street) was considerably advanced in the course of 2010. This resolved a number of long standing problems, particularly with regard to infiltration of surface water into the sewer network. This project was fully grant funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and administered by the County Council.

Planning

The statutory review of the Athy Development Plan commenced in April 2010 and an Issues Paper was published. Following the initial period of pre-draft public consultation, the Council progressed to preparing a draft plan for consideration and this is expected to be published in late March 2011.

Athy Town Council received 36 planning applications in 2010 for the following development types:

Commercial developments	13
Extensions	9
Individual houses	3
Other applications	9

20 grants of planning permission and 6 refusals were issued in 2010.

One material contravention was approved by the Council during the year and two decisions from An Bord Pleanála were received.

Environment

Athy continued to improve in the national Tidy Towns Competition and the town's 12th anniversary entry maintained our 2009 result. The Tidy Towns Committee (Town Council Sub-Committee) is progressively working through their 5 year plan launched in 2008, which is guiding the efforts of the Committee, as they seek to make further improvements in the town, with the co-operation of Council, local schools, residents, Athy Chamber and the Shop Athy project.

The Athy Civic Amenity Centre (operated by Kildare County Council) is located on the Dublin Road in the town. The centre continued to record increased usage by the public. Fourteen bottle banks are positioned on 2 sites within the town centre.

The Litter Warden Team continued to monitor illegal and unauthorised dumping and a significant number of fines were issued in 2010. In addition, the Town Council promote regular local clean-ups and assist residents groups through an annual grants scheme.

General Projects

- The Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum (AIDEF) completed a strategic review of its remit going forward and an action plan was agreed, following a 'think-in' in October (supported by the Brand Project). This will now be progressed by the development partners on the board. During the year, the AIDEF, in association with the Kildare County Enterprise Board, facilitated over 40 participants to undertake the 'Start your own business' and 'Introduction to web marketing' courses in Athy.
- Athy was selected as the pilot town for the Tourism Ireland/Fáilte Ireland 'Shine Athy' tourism initiative in 2009. The overall objective of the programme is to ensure that tourists visiting Athy experience the best possible service wherever they go in the town and the Town Council took a lead roll in delivery of the project, which was formally launched in January. As part of the roll-out in Athy, customer awareness training was organised and staff from all service providers positively engaged with the project during the year, which included independent market research on the resulting visitor experience. A successful 'Discover Athy' day was organised in October and showcased the town's cultural, sporting, heritage and natural amenities.

- A new Interreg IV 'Brand' project was secured for Athy in 2009 and the engagement of local stakeholders progressed during 2010. The project, which is part of the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013, is being carried out in partnership with other areas in Dun Laoghaire, Holyhead and Denbighshire.
- The Athy Town Promoters Group, (which is comprised of representatives of the Town Council, Athy Chamber, Shop Athy, Tidy Towns and Athy Heritage Centre-Museum), was formally ratified as a Council Sub-Committee in July. The Group is committed to positively promoting the town and has organised a number of joint projects including the town's St Patrick's Day parade, opening parade for National Ploughing Championships and the Athy Chocolate Festival.
- The RAPID (Regenerating Areas through Planning Investment and Development) is continuing in the town and has now developed 6 strategic themes: Physical Environment; Crime, Safety and Anti-social behaviour; Family support; Health; Education; and Training and Employment. The Town Council is working closely with the partner agencies to deliver the best outputs for the community.



- The Town Council hosted two civic receptions in 2010 to mark significant sporting and cultural achievements in the town. The first reception was to mark the success of members of the Shrewleen Special Olympics Basketball Club at the Special Olympics in Limerick and also acknowledge the work of the Club's committee. A second reception marked the selection of Athy's Ms Clare Kambamettu (representing London) as the Rose of Tralee 2010. This was also attended by the Indian Ambassador to Ireland, Mr P S Raghavan and representatives from the International Rose of Tralee organising committee.



- The Town Council was selected as the 'Town Council of the Year' at the Chambers Ireland 'Excellence in Local Government Awards'. The Council had submitted three projects for consideration as part of the national competition: 'Shine Athy' tourism project; Tri Athy triathlon; and the Athy Community Arts Centre (Methodist Church). In addition, Tri Athy received the 'Sports Development' award in its category.



- The Athy Heritage Centre Museum was accepted onto the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme and it is envisaged that the centre will progress to full museum status on successful achievement of the specific standards. The Town Council is actively working with the board of the company to commence a strategic review for the centre's future development. The centre hosts the world's only permanent theme exhibition celebrating the Polar expeditions of Athy's Sir Ernest Shackleton.

- The Athy Community Enterprise Centre continues to serve the needs of start up and growing businesses in Athy and is now developing facilities to host a range for training programmes for relevant agencies.

- The new Athy Community Arts Centre, located in the Methodist Church on Woodstock Street, which was officially opened in April, has hosted a wide range of cultural events and exhibitions during the year. The Town Council acknowledge the generous support of the Methodist community and Arts Office (Kildare County Council) in helping to make this project a reality.

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Joint Policing Committee

The Athy Joint Policing Committee was established in 2006, under the Garda Siochana Act 2005. The purpose of the JPC is to provide a forum whereby the local authority, senior Garda officers for the area, members of the Council and Oireachtas along with representatives of the community and voluntary sector can consult, discuss and make recommendations regarding the policing of their area.

The Athy JPC met on 3* occasions in 2010 and discussed issues relating to traffic management, anti-social behaviour, control of horses and the town market. *(Two further meetings, including the Annual Public Meeting, were rescheduled to January and February respectively).

Town Twinning

Athy is twinned with Grandvilliers (located in the Picardy region of France, north of Paris). The charters were formally signed in November 2004 in France and March 2005 in Athy. The Town Twinning Sub-Committee of the Council work closely with our partners in France and organise an annual twinning event. In addition, a number of cross cultural exchange projects are organised to allow citizens of both towns engage in educational, business and social activities in the respective towns.



In June 2010, a delegation of 30 people from Athy and environs (included representatives from the Women's Integrated Network (WIN) and Athy Travellers Project) visited Grandvilliers and participated in various cultural activities over the 3 days. Eighteen French students of equine and traditional agriculture undertook a 3 week work placement in Athy during August and September.

Death of Councillor Paddy Wright (RIP)

It was with great sadness that the Council learned of the passing of Councillor Paddy Wright (Sinn Féin) on Friday, 7 January, 2011. Councillor Wright was first elected to the Council in 1979 and had been elected on each subsequent occasion and served as a Councillor up to his death. In addition, the late Councillor Wright had also served as a Councillor on Kildare County Council from 1985 to 1999.

At a special meeting of the Council, members acknowledged their late colleague's unrelenting dedication to local politics and his commitment to the people of Athy whom he represented.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Leixlip Town Council

Leixlip Town Commissioners was established in 1988 and changed to Leixlip Town Council in 2002 under the Local Government Act 2001.

Councillor Teresa Byrne served as Cathaoirleach until June 2010. Councillor Sean Purcell was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meeting of the Council in June 2010 and Councillor Joe Neville was elected Leas Cathaoirleach until June 2011.

The sitting councillors in Leixlip Town Council are:

Councillors Teresa Byrne, Pat Burke-Walsh, Bernard Caldwell, Shane Fitzgerald, Anthony Larkin, Catherine Murphy, Joe Neville, Colm Purcell and Sean Purcell.

The Town Clerk, Siobhán Barry, has her offices in Newtown House, Captain's Hill and the Town Council pay an annual rent of €25,000 (plus expenses) to Leixlip Youth Project Group for use of the premises. The Council meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chamber and meetings are open to the public and press.

Mr. Peter Minnock, Director of Services, Kildare County Council, is Town Manager.

Budget

The Budget for 2010 was €393,400 and this funding is received from Kildare County Council and the Local Government Fund. The council do much of its work through the following sub-committees:

Industry, Commerce and Employment, Environment and Waste Management, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, Town Improvement, Policing, Traffic and Transport, and Public Lighting.

Industry, Commerce and Employment

The aims of this committee are to promote Leixlip as a prime area to locate new industries and start-up businesses, a special place to shop and conduct business and to help those unemployed.

The committee organised two employment and enterprise seminars during the year as a result of comments and suggestions given at previous events in 2009. The first seminar held in March sought to assist those seeking work or new skills. The main speaker, Career Advisor, Jill Barrett, covered topics of job searching, CV's and interview techniques. In addition, there were presentations from the County Kildare Local Employment Service Network, Citizens Information Centre and Leixlip Resource Centre for the Unemployed.

A Business and Development seminar was held in November for those interested in starting up a business or those who had already started a business. The speakers included Donal Dalton, Kildare County Enterprise Board, Orla Carroll, O'Carroll & Associates and Peter Sheridan, Enterprise Ireland. All seminars were free.

Environment and Waste Management

The purpose of this committee is to encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of household waste and monitor environmental issues. It also monitors the Tidy Estates Competition, Front Garden Competition, Open Spaces Improvement Grant Scheme and Adopt an Area competition.

The committee organised a green week in April which involved a clean-up and tour of the Wonderful Barn, green waste recycling, a visit to the water treatment plant and the collection of electrical waste by WEEE Ireland. As part of National Tree Week the committee, in conjunction with Simon Wallace, Parks Superintendent, took part in the planting of 2,500 sapling trees in St Catherine's Park.

To help keep the environment free from dog fouling the Town Council purchased 100% bio-degradable Dog Doo Bags and provided them free of charge to dog owners. The bags were available from Newtown House, Leixlip Library, Leixlip Amenity Centre and Leixlip Garda Station.

Tidy Estates

Yvonne O'Connor Horticulturist Designer/Consultant together with Simon Wallace, Kildare County Council, judged the estates in July accompanied by the Town Clerk. There were 13 entrants. The competition was divided into five categories:

Small estate (under 100 houses)

Medium estate (100 to 250 houses)

Large estate (over 250 houses)

Most Improved Estate

Best Overall Estate

The Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Joe Neville, presented the winners with their prizes at a function in the Springfield hotel on the 16 September 2010.

Results were as follows:

Best Small Estate: Winner – Loughnamona Park and Drive - €200,

Second – Ryemount Abbey - €150,

Joint Third - Ashbrook and Green Lane/Easton Road - €100



Best Medium Estate: Winner - Leixlip Park €250, Second - Avondale - €200



Best Large Estate: Winner - Ryevale Lawns - €400

The Leixlip Garden Centre Perpetual Trophy was presented to Castletown as the best overall estate and €200 sponsored by the Courtyard Hotel.



Best New Entry: Rinawade received a hamper from Carraig Flowers

There was no winner in the most improved estate category.

Open Spaces Improvement Grants Scheme

Grants totalling €4,800 were awarded to Leixlip residents associations as follows:

Forest Park	€250
Ashbrook	€200
Glen Easton	€450
Castletown	€450
Elton Court	€320
Green Lane/Easton Road	€250
Leixlip Park	€320
Dun Carraig	€320
Ryevale Lawns	€450
Oaklawn	€250
Slí an Chanail	€200
Glen Easton Square	€250
Rinawade	€450
Avondale	€320
Easton Mews/Meadows	€320

The Council run a Front Garden competition each year. Yvonne O'Connor Designer/Horticulturalist, together with Simon Wallace, Kildare County Council, judged the gardens in July.

The winners were as follows:

The winners of the Front Garden competition were:

Joint Winners: Eamonn and Catherine Farrell, 1027 Avondale, received €100 voucher from Supervalu, Riverforest. Mary McHugh, St Catherine's Bungalow, received €100 voucher from Supervalu, Riverforest.

Second: O'Connor Family, 56 Castletown, received a voucher for Leixlip House Hotel.

Third: Marian Lyons, 39 Riverforest, received a voucher from the Springfield Hotel.

Fourth: Mary Geraghty, 249 Castletown, received a €50 voucher from Joes Jewellers.

Fifth: Mary and Paddy Haughney, 59 Leixlip Park, received a €50 voucher from Leixlip Tool Hire.

Sixth: Kevin Carey, 52 Loughnamona Park, received a €50 voucher from Mullen Print.

Seventh: Raymond and Deirdre Colreavy, 200 Ryevale Lawns, received a photo frame from Leixlip Photo Centre

Certificates of merit were presented to 20 of the gardens judged to receive special commendation.

The “Breege Lynch Memorial Trophy”, in memory of the late Councillor Breege Lynch, for the overall best front garden was presented to John and Valerie Malone, Rose Cottage.

In conjunction with Hewlett Packard the council run an ‘Adopt an Area’ scheme each year. The aim of the competition is to encourage community groups to take responsibility for an area in the town that is outside estates over the summer period and to continue maintenance of the area. Scheme 1 was for areas that had not been adopted before. Scheme 2 was for areas that have been adopted previously and would continue to be maintained from March until October.

[Scheme 1 – New Areas](#)

Winner: Easton Road, after Spar shops - Rob and Gina Wilson received a printer donated by Hewlett Packard.

Second: Pound Street box planters on east side of river - Leixlip Tidy Town Association received €100 donated by Leixlip Garden Centre.

[Scheme 2 – Areas previously adopted](#)

Winner: Mark Foley and Green Lane/Easton Road Residents Association for their work on the Horse Shoe, Green Lane.

Second: Green Area Oaklawn Shops - Jim O'Brien received €100 sponsored by Leixlip Garden Centre.

Best Overall: Horse Shoe, Green Lane, Green Lane/Easton Road Residents Association, picked up the perpetual cup for best overall area in 2010.

Arts, Heritage and Tourism

The purpose of this committee is to promote the arts and tourism and to protect our heritage.

The committee organised a St. Patrick's Day celebration, provided free in the main street car park. The day included face painting, bouncing castles, and balloon making. There was also traditional Irish music and Irish dancing. It was a memorable and enjoyable event for all.



In April, the committee organised for the Town Councillors and guests, including the Hon. Desmond Guinness to visit the Guinness Storehouse. The group was welcomed by Eibhlin Roche, Guinness Archivist and Paul Carty, General Manager of the Storehouse and given a reception and tour of the facility. The committee and the Town Council continue to strengthen the links between Leixlip and Guinness.



The committee organised an Art Competition in May, its purpose being to promote art among the youth of Leixlip. The entrants were divided into age categories with different themes for each category. The themes were “My Town”, “Leixlip Environment and Nature”, “Sport and Leisure in Leixlip” and “Historical Leixlip”. There were 215 entrants. The Judges were Ed Finn, Janet Colgan and Liam Keely. All prizes were sponsored by the Town Council.

The Guinness celebration was held on 23rd September to mark Arthur’s Day. The event included the Kildare Guinness trail encompassing a tour of Leixlip, visiting the steam museum in Straffan, laying of a wreath at the cemetery in Oughterard, a talk in The Mucky Duck in Celbridge. The group returned to Leixlip for the official toast to Arthur at 5.59.

Town Improvements

The committee continued to oversee the provision and maintenance of the window boxes, hanging baskets and ground planting in the town centre. Window boxes were provided free of charge to most premises along the main street, hanging baskets and large tubs were located around the town. These were all planted and maintained by Carraig Flowers.

The committee did a walk of the town and identified areas of concern that needed to be addressed. The tree planting in the Mall continues to be progressed.

Policing

The purpose of this committee is to liaise with the Gardaí on issues of law and order in the town.

A public policing meeting was held in October in St Mary's GAA club, the speakers included Chair of the Joint Policing Committee [JPC], Councillor Joe Neville, Superintendent Gerry Giblin and Sergeant Stephen Goode. The meeting was attended by approximately 70 people and involved a question and answer session. Sergeant Goode gave a presentation on crime prevention. Councillor Joe Neville gave an overview of the operation of the JPC and Superintendent Giblin presented the policing arrangements in Leixlip.

Traffic and Transport

The purpose of the committee is to lobby for improvements for pedestrians and public transport users.

The committee carried out an origin and destination survey in the Easton Road area to measure the need for increased public transport in the area. The committee also had a meeting with representatives from residents associations in the Easton Road area to explain the purpose and importance of the survey.

Public Lighting

The purpose of this committee is to monitor the public lighting situation in the town and to recommend areas for additional lighting. The committee recommended the addition of 4 lights in Castletown and 1 light on Captain's Hill.

Other Matters

Joint Policing Committee

The committee continue to meet on a quarterly basis in 2010. The members of the committee include the nine Town Council members, Minister Áine Brady, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Deputy Emmet Stagg, Superintendent Gerry Giblin, Pat Cooney, Community representative and Peter Minnock. Councillor Joe Neville was elected chairperson in 2009 for two years. The role of the committee is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and Senior Garda Officers, with the participation of the Oireachtas Members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. The committee developed a workplan for 2010. The workplan involved a submission to the Private Security Authority (PSA) on alarm standards, investigation of the setting up of a text alert system, a review of the neighbourhood watch scheme, a review of estate signage and a review of CCTV. All of the meetings are open to the public and documents are available on the website www.kildarejointpolicing.ie.

Community Grants

The Town Council ran its community grants scheme again this year with a total budget of €10,000 available to be allocated. The grants were allocated as follows;

Craobh Bheartla Ui Fhlatharta

Comhlata Ceoltóirí Éireann	-	€1,250
The Salmon Leap Canoe Club	-	€1,000
The Junior Arch Club	-	€743
Carers Support Group	-	€1,200
The Golden Years Club	-	€500
Leixlip Youth Premises Group	-	€1,000
Leixlip Women's Studies Group	-	€2,450
1 st /10 th Scouts Group, Leixlip	-	€1,250

Town Twinning

The Twinning Committee for 2010/2011 is Councillors Sean Purcell Teresa Byrne. The Town Council continued to support the work of the Town Twinning Association with a grant of €2,000 towards their activities. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Sean Purcell, represented the Town Council on a twinning trip to Bressuire in July.

Christmas Lights

The Town Council continued to support the work of the Christmas Lights Committee in the provision of the very festive lighting in the town. A grant of €13,900 was allocated to the committee.

Leixlip Festival

The Leixlip Festival, held annually on the June Bank Holiday weekend, continues to attract many visitors to the town. In support of the work involved in the Festival the Town Council awarded a grant of €10,000.

Leixlip Tidy Town Association

The Town Council appreciates the hard work and dedication of the Tidy Town Association and the volunteers. A grant of €7,500 was given to the Tidy Town Association.

Pedestrian Crossing at the Church of the Nativity

The Town Council allocated funding of €30,000 towards the pedestrian crossing at the Church of the Nativity, the remaining cost of the project was funded by Kildare County Council.

History Club

The Leixlip History Club had their inaugural meeting in 2010 and a special grant of €500 was allocated from the Town Council to facility with the start up.

Leixlip Spa Well

The Town Council representatives on the SPA Committee are Councillors Shane Fitzgerald, Anthony Larkin and Pat-Burke Walsh. Kildare County Council is represented by Simon Wallace, Parks Superintendent. The following bodies are also represented on the committee:

Historic Monuments Advisory Committee, Dublin Naturalist Field Club, Conservation Architect, Former Secretary of An Taisce, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Leixlip Angling Development Society and Irish Wildlife Services.



In 2010 two studies were undertaken in the Spa. These were both part funded by The Heritage Council. The studies were a structural appraisal of the Spa Toll House and a Bird and Mammal Survey. The Structural Appraisal of the Toll House identified a number defects in the structure of the building and suggested a methodology to stabilize it and prevent any further degradation. In addition to this study a bird and mammal survey was undertaken on the site. A total of 8 mammal species and 30 bird species were found on the site.

In addition to this restoration work on the Roman Bath on the site was also completed. This was undertaken with joint funding from Intel and The Heritage Council. This work involved the repair of the brickwork to the bath, repair of the steps and repair to the capping of the bath. A viewing point from the towpath to the Bath is also in the process of being installed as part of this work.

Towards the end of 2010 scrub removal was continued on the site and a clean up of the spa well was undertaken.

Community and Environmental Projects

The council provide a budget each year for community and environmental type projects and have a person contracted to the council to carry out these works. Works include hedge cutting, mowing grass, spraying weeds, leaf/debris cleaning from pathways etc, painting, replacing/repairing bins, removing graffiti from around the town. The budget provided for this work was €30,000.

Civic Awards

For the 18th successive year the Town Council invited members of the public to nominate persons for an award. The award scheme is to promote and foster a community spirit in Leixlip and create a sense of identity. To date the Council has honoured 138 people. The purpose of the awards is to recognise and honour a contribution to the community in Leixlip and/or exceptional achievement in any of the categories. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Teresa Byrne, presented the awards at a function in The Leixlip House Hotel on 20th May.

Awards were presented to the following:

Social: Leixlip Youth Premises Group

Cultural: Bell X1

Sport: Tommy Moolick

Joint Business: The Courtyard Hotel

Noeleen Brennan

Young Person: Aisling Brangan

Non Resident: Joe Giltrap



Members of the community can nominate someone for an award by filling in the form obtained on our website www.leixliptowncouncil.ie or by collecting a form at Newtown House and forwarding to the Town Clerk. This can be done at any time during the year, but must be before the closing date for inclusion in that year. The closing dates are announced in the local paper, newsletters and the website. The photographs of all the civic awards presentations since 1989 can be viewed on the Town Council website www.Leixliptowncouncil.ie.

Tree Pruning

The Town Council continued its tree-pruning programme and in 2010 it was decided that tree pruning and removal were to be done at the same time of year. Trees in the following estates were pruned: Castletown, Captain's Hill, Riverforest, Riverdale and St. Mary's Park.

Presentation

In October the Cathaoirleach welcomed Kevin Loftus, President of NUIM Barnhall RFC and Eamon Deane, President of Leixlip AFC. A presentation of the Leixlip Crest was made to commemorate the 40th anniversary of each club. The Cathaoirleach and members wished them well and thanked them for their contribution to Leixlip.

Conferences

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Councillor Teresa Byrne attended the AMAI spring conference in Sligo in February and the autumn conference in Donegal in September.

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Councillor Pat Burke-Walsh attended the AGM of IPBMI in the Burlington Hotel on 27th May.

Droichead Nua Town Council

Housing

The Town Council continued to administer its housing function in 2010. Revenue collection and housing maintenance services were provided for the Council's 26 houses in Newbridge.



Environment

The Town Council continues to make funding available to the Tidy Towns Committee and this year a piece of public art was purchased by the Town Council for the Liffey Linear Park/ Liffey Side Amenity area. Newbridge won an award from IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) for achieving litter free status in the town for the third consecutive year. The Christmas lighting continued to be a feature of the Town Council activities in 2010.



Roads

A programme of footpath repairs took place during the year, financed by grants from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Kildare County Council effected further improvements to footpaths and the approach roads from the proceeds of its pay parking funds.

Joint Policing Committee

This year saw the establishment of the Joint Policing Committee. The members of the committee include the nine Town Council members, Deputy Jack Wall, Deputy Sean Power, and Deputy Sean O'Fearnail, representatives from An Garda Síochána and Community representatives. The inaugural meeting of the committee was held in February 2010 and the Mayor was elected chairperson. The role of the committee is to provide a forum where the Local Authority and senior Garda officers, with the participation of the Oireachtas Members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. All of the meetings are open to the public to attend and documents are available on the website www.kildarejointpolicing.ie.

Community and Voluntary Awards

During 2010 Droichead Nua Town Council, for the first time, granted awards in respect of community and voluntary recognition in the following nine categories:

Culture (award for the best facilitator/organisation) - Mr Peter Hussey, Kildare Youth Theatre

Culture (award for most talented performer) - Ms Caroline Malone, Newbridge Players

Community/Voluntary Group - St Vincent de Paul

Community/Voluntary Individual - Martin and Anne Kelly

Academic/Educational Achievement - Scoil an Naoimh Uilig

Sporting (award for best club/organisation) - Newbridge Hockey Club

Sporting (award for best volunteer) - Mr Larry Donohoe, Community Games

Sporting (award for athlete) - Mr Anthony Rainbow, GAA

Hall of Fame - Mr Willam Doyle, Newbridge Silverware

Representational Functions

Twinning with Bad Lippspringe

Newbridge and Bad Lippspringe have been organising meetings for the past twelve years. There is co-operation between various sporting, cultural, community, and historical groups in the town. Communication between these groups leads to well organised events throughout the visit. Activities were arranged over the weekend to mark the occasion. Newbridge hosted a delegation of over 25 German visitors in May 2010.



Twinning with Ocala

In March 2010 a delegation from Ocala visited Newbridge for the St Patrick's Day parade. The delegation of 16 people included fire fighters, police officers and equine representatives. The firefighters and police officers took part, in uniform, in the St Patrick's Day parade in Newbridge.



Civic Receptions

The Town Council held a very successful civic reception for Cuman Camógaíochta na nGael, who held their annual conference in Newbridge during 2010.

Other functions

The Town Council offered financial support and assistance to local organisations in 2010.

These included groups involved with the Newbridge Tidy Towns, Community Games, Community Grants, Newbridge Twinning and St Patrick's Day Festival. Financial assistance for these organisations will be a feature of the annual budget for the forthcoming year.