

Kildare Local Authorities



Annual Report 2012



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Foreword

Welcome to the 2012 annual report of Kildare Local Authorities which details the work of the council in delivering public services and infrastructural projects during the year. The council facilitates economic, social and cultural development through a wide range of initiatives.

The year was challenging for town and county council's finances. The focus for the most part, resulting from reduced budgets and diminishing resources, was on efficiency and value for money. The management and staff of the council have maintained a constructive, positive and flexible approach in meeting financial obligations by transforming services, pursuing value for money and continuing to improve standards while maintaining core services.

Kildare Local Authorities play a key role in the development and economic growth throughout the county of Kildare. The council's wide range of services contributes generally to the economic and social development of the county. Roads, water, planning and environmental services generally are critical to supporting economic development.

The elected members continue to represent the priorities and needs of the communities they serve by providing the required direction on the priorities adopted during 2012.

Some of the significant events and achievements of the year included:

- The Kildare Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed.
- The Barrow Abstraction Water Scheme progressed during the year.
- The Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme commenced construction.
- The Castlewarden to Ballygoran Pipeline and Reservoir Scheme commenced construction.
- The R402 Enfield to Edenderry Road Improvement project commenced construction.
- The County Age Friendly Strategy was launched.
- At the invitation of the Kildare Association, the Mayor officially attended the St Patrick's Day Parade in New York.

- The Arts Development Plan 2012 – 2016 was launched.
- The Fixyourstreet.ie initiative was launched.
- The Council continued its expansion of a state of the art wireless infrastructure to link outlying offices to HQ over secure high speed wireless links.
- Additional initiatives on the 24 Hour e-Services Time by the Library Service were launched.
- A Civic Reception was held for the County Kildare participants in the Olympics and the Paralympics.
- The Mayor attended the Kildare Person of the Year Awards 2012.
- A 'Play Day' was held in Áras Chill Dara to celebrate National Play Day.

The Action Programme for Effective Local Government, *Putting the People First*, launched in October 2012, outlines Government policy for reform and development across the local government system and affirms the need for the local authorities to embrace change, modernise and adapt new financial circumstances and deliver even better services with scarce resources.

Sincere thanks is due to the elected members, management and staff who continue to work together to achieve greater efficiencies in order to meet the needs of our citizens.



Micheál "Spike" Nolan
Mayor



Michael Malone
County Manager

Kildare County Council Members

There are 25 members representing 5 electoral areas ;

Athy	Kildare
Celbridge	Naas
Clane	

Athy Electoral Area



Cllr. Richard Daly
Fine Gael



Cllr. Ivan Keatley
Fine Gael



Cllr. Martin Miley Jnr
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Mark Wall
Labour

Celbridge Electoral Area



Cllr. Kevin Byrne
Labour



Cllr. Senan Griffin
Fine Gael



Cllr. Anthony Larkin
Independent



Cllr. John McGinley
Labour



Cllr. Frank O'Rourke
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Colm Purcell
Labour

Clane Electoral Area



Cllr. Liam Doyle
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Seamus Langan
Fine Gael



Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy
Independent



Cllr. Brendan Weld
Fine Gael

Kildare Electoral Area



Cllr. Francis Browne
Labour



Cllr. Suzanne Doyle
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Paddy Kennedy
Independent



Mayor Micheál Nolan
Fine Gael



Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Tony O'Donnell
Fine Gael

Naas Electoral Area



Cllr. Fintan Brett
Fine Gael



Cllr. Willie Callaghan
Fianna Fáil



Cllr. Paddy MacNamara
Labour



Cllr. Seamie Moore
Independent



Cllr. Darren Scully
Fine Gael



Council Chamber

Strategic Policy Committees

Kildare County Council has 5 Strategic Policy Committees:

Water and Environmental Services

Housing

Community and Culture

Transportation

Planning and Economic Development

The Strategic Policy Committees draw on the knowledge and expertise of people working with social, economic, cultural and environment bodies throughout Kildare.

The committees also allow people with relevant expertise to work alongside the elected representatives in contributing to and developing council policy in a spirit of partnership.

Transportation SPC

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2012</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Cllr. K. Byrne (Chairperson) Cllr. P. McEvoy Cllr. C. Purcell Cllr. R. Daly Cllr. W. Callaghan Cllr. M. Dalton Ms. Miriam O'Brien Mr. James Earle Mr. Sean Darcy	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roadside memorials/memorial garden• Regulation of private parking areas• Parking fines appeals policy• Local and Rural Integrated Transport System• Road safety issues• Bus shelters• Public lighting maintenance• Draft Policy on Declaration of Public Roads

Water and Environmental Services SPC

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2012</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Cllr. P. Kennedy (Chairperson) Cllr. M. Wall Cllr. F. O'Rourke Cllr. F. Brett Cllr. M. Nolan Cllr. S. Fitzgerald Mr. Allan Shine Ms. Fiona Tutty Mr. Tom Malone	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised dumping of waste • Renewal of Kildare Waste Management Plan • Drinking Water Incident Response Plan (DWIRP) • Derelict Sites and Dangerous Buildings Remedial Programmes • Climate change • Water supply in Kildare and nationally • Waste composting • Sustainable energy use and sustainable development • Leader Rural Development Programme • Work of tidy towns groups • Hedge –cutting • Fly-tipping • Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study

Housing SPC

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2012</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Cllr. S. Doyle (Chairperson) Cllr. A. Larkin Cllr. P. MacNamara Cllr. M. Miley Cllr. S. Griffin Cllr. A. Breen Mr. Liam O'Brien Mr. Joe Curran Mr. D. Maher	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental Accommodation Scheme • Leasing • Anti-Social behaviour • Grants • Allocations Mapping • Heating/Energy Efficiency • Charges for services

Community and Culture SPC

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2012</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Cllr. S. Langan (Chairperson) Cllr. I. Keatley Cllr. F. O'Loughlin Cllr. S. Moore Cllr. F. Browne Cllr. G. Dunne Ms. Sinead Heneghan Mr. John Hayden Ms. Triona Muldoon	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Facilities Policy • Teen and children library statement • Amenity Policy • Sports development within Kildare • The Gathering • Arts in Kildare

Planning and Economic Development SPC

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2012</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Cllr. D. Scully (Chairperson) Cllr. T. O'Donnell Cllr. L. Doyle Cllr. B. Weld Cllr. J. McGinley Cllr. Emma Kiernan Mr. Robert Mehigan Mr. David O'Reilly Mr. James Cotter	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage policy • Newbridge 200 Anniversary • Casual Trading Bye-Laws • Tourism Promotion • Location of National Children's Hospital • Commercial Rates • Delegation from Chambers of Commerce • Policy on unfinished housing estates • Interaction with Chambers of Commerce and Kildare Fáilte • Historic Monuments Committee • Shopfronts policy • Pop up shops • Regeneration of town centres • Parking • Interaction with voluntary bodies

Committees of the Council

Affixing of Seal

All Council Members

Audit Committee

Councillors. J. McGinley, S. Griffin, L. Doyle

Barrow Drainage Board

Councillors R. Daly, M. Wall

Burrin Joint Drainage Board

Councillor I. Keatley

Finance Committee

Councillors L. Doyle, J. McGinley, I. Keatley, P. Kennedy, S. Moore

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Councillors S. Langan, P. McEvoy, I. Keatley, M. Miley, F. Browne

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Councillors S. Griffin, S. Doyle, T. O'Donnell, I. Keatley, M. Wall, W. Callaghan, F. O'Loughlin, K. Byrne, J. McGinley, A. Larkin



Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillors M. Wall, S. Langan, J. McGinley, P. Kennedy, P. MacNamara

Twinning Committee

Councillors P. Kennedy, F. O'Rourke, F. Brett, L. Doyle



Membership of External Bodies

Association of County and City Councils

Councillors F. Brett, L. Doyle, C. Purcell

Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Councillor R. Daly

Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Councillors R. Daly, I. Keatley

AthyRhyll Regeneration Project

Councillors R. Daly, I. Keatley

Arthurstown Landfill Facility Community Liaison Committee

Councillors F. Brett, P. MacNamara

Ballymore Eustace Community Liaison Committee

Councillors W. Callaghan, M. Wall

Board of the Meath Foundation

Councillor B. Weld

Cill Dara ar Aghaidh Teo

Councillors S. Moore, T. O'Donnell, M. Wall

County Development Board

Councillors K. Byrne, S. Doyle, P. Kennedy, M. Nolan (Mayor), D. Scully

County Joint Policing Committee

Councillors F. Brett, S. Doyle, S. Griffin, I. Keatley, S. Langan, P. MacNamara, P. McEvoy, J. McGinley, M. Nolan (Mayor), T. O'Donnell, F. O'Rourke, D. Scully, M. Wall, B. Weld

County Kildare Failte

Councillors S. Griffin, P. MacNamara, P. McEvoy, M. Miley, M. Nolan (Mayor)



Drehid Landfill Site Community Liaison Group

Councillors F. O'Loughlin, B. Weld

Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

Councillors F. Browne, I. Keatley, S. Langan, A. Larkin, F. O'Loughlin

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillor S. Langan, P. McEvoy

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Councillor M. Nolan

Kildare Community Network Company

Councillors A. Larkin, M. Nolan, T. O'Donnell

Kildare County Enterprise Board

Councillors F. Brett, W. Callaghan, L. Doyle, B. Weld

Kildare Heritage Forum

Councillors F. Browne, S. Moore, M. Nolan

Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Councillors S. Doyle, T. O'Donnell

Leixlip Amenities Centre

Councillors A. Larkin, C. Purcell

Regional Drugs Taskforce

Cllr. P. Kennedy

Social and Environmental Panel for the Midlands District of Coillte Teoranta

Cllr. P. McEvoy

South Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllrs. S. Doyle, M. Nolan

Southern Eastern Regional Assembly

Cllrs. S. Griffin, J. McGinley

Vocational Educations Committee

Cllrs. F. Browne, W. Callaghan, R. Daly, I. Keatley, P. Kennedy, J. McGinley, M.

Miley, M. Nolan, B. Weld



List of Conferences/Training Attended During 2012

<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference Details</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Councillors Attended</i>
10 February 2012	Local Government Renewal and Development	Cavan	4
13 April 2012	The Role of Local Authorities in Enabling Economic Development	Waterford	5
10 May 2012	Local Government Reform	Kilkenny	3
11 May 2012	Community Tourism	Cork	1
17 May 2012	Housing Practitioners Conference	Limerick	1
8 June 2012	A Blueprint for Councillors to Access Funding for Upgrading Sports Facilities in Communities Across Ireland	Limerick	1
22 June 2012	Advancing Technology in Majority World Education	Cork	3
20 July 2012	Fluoridation of Irish Water	Limerick	1
22 July 2012	Reforming and Rebuilding Our State	Donegal	5
10 August 2012	Creating Employment Opportunities in Local Food Production	Cork	1
12 August 2012	Sovereignty and Society	Wicklow	1
13 September 2012	A Century of Service	Galway	1
19 September 2012	Kerry Environmental Culture and Heritage Conference	Kerry	4
28 September 2012	The Changing World of Carers	Tipperary	2
28 September 2012	The Challenge for Local Authorities <i>Doing More With Less</i>	Donegal	6

Management Structure

County Manager

Michael Malone

Corporate, Human Resources and ICT

Director of Service

Eamonn O'Sullivan

Senior Executive Officers

Annette Aspell (Acting) (Corporate Services)

Christine O'Grady (Acting) (Human Resources)

Head of ICT and Procurement

Bernard Higgins

Housing, Community and Cultural Services

Director of Service

Peter Minnock

Senior Executive Officer

George Perry (Housing)

Senior Architect

Anne Crofton (Acting)

Administrative Officer

Anne Marie Conneely (Community and Culture)

Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Simon Wallace

County Librarian

Marian Higgins (Acting)

Financial Services

Head of Finance

Eileen Hanlon

Financial and Management Accountant

Fiona Millane, Barbara Sweeney

Planning and Economic Development

Director of Service

John Lahart

Senior Executive Officer

Anne Rowan

Senior Planner

Michael Kenny

Roads, Transport and Public Safety

Director of Service

Michael O'Leary (Acting)

Senior Executive Officer

Sonya Kavanagh

Senior Engineer

John Coppinger

Chief Fire Officer

Celina Barrett

Health and Safety Officer

Michael Hurley

Water and Environmental Services

Director of Service

Joe Boland

Senior Executive Officer

Gerry Halton (Water Services)

Liam Dunne (Environmental Services)

Senior Engineers

John McGowan (Water Services Operations)

Gerry Conlan (Capital Projects)

Michael Holligan (Environmental Services)

Civic Reception

A Civic Reception was held for the County Kildare participants in the Olympics and the Paralympics to acknowledge their achievements at the London 2012 Olympics. The Olympian participants included Cian O'Connor (Equestrian – Show Jumping and winner of bronze medal), Anna Merveldt (Equestrian – Dressage), Aoife Clarke (Equestrian – Three Day Eventing), Camilla Spiers (Equestrian – Three Day Eventing), Eoin Rheinisch (Men's Kayak K1 Slalom), Mark Kennedy (Men's Marathon) and Paralympian Sean Baldwin (Shooting).

The Mayor of Kildare Councillor Micheál 'Spike' Nolan welcomed the county's Olympians to the Council Chamber and in his speech stated that their achievements would encourage other people to strive harder to follow in their footsteps and undoubtedly, inspire a generation.

The Mayors of Naas, Newbridge and Leixlip and the Cathaoirleach of Athy Town Council, were present for the reception and were joined by members of the county council and town councils.



Seirbhísí Corporáideacha, Achmhainní Daonna agus TFC



Corporate, Human Resources
and ICT

Corporate, Human Resources and ICT

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Department continues to make improvements and better use of resources to ensure the provision of quality information, improved customer services to residents of the county and support the members of the council in delivery of their obligations to the electorate.

Corporate Services interacts with and provides support to all council departments and has general responsibility for Mayor and members support, communications, customer care, register of electors and higher education grants.

Customer Care

The council aims to;

- provide the highest quality service in an economic, efficient, effective and equitable manner to all our customers.
- continue to operate a number of customer focused services and seek to improve the services offered on an ongoing basis.
- ensure the highest standards of sustainability are applied throughout the council.
- encourage and develop the full potential of a committed and talented workforce through training, delegation and partnership working arrangements.
- facilitate maximum community involvement through consultation and information provision
- provide information that is clear, timely, complete, accurate and available at defined points of contacts and meets the requirements of people with specific access/support needs.

Kildare Local Authorities Customer Action Plan 2011-2014 is available to view on our website.



Accessibility

During 2012, a number of access improvements were made in Áras Chill Dara which included revised car park markings, provision of handrails and installation of accessible signage.

The National Accessibility Week took place from 3 - 7 December 2012 and was run in conjunction with a transition year module entitled 'Enabling Access Across Generations'.

The core of this initiative was to promote disability awareness and, as such, this module has been developed as an assistive learning tool for transition year students.

This poster was used as part of all local authority information and awareness campaigns around disability and access.

Fix Your Street

Fix Your Street is a new initiative outlined by the government in the Programme of Government for National Recovery. It consists of a publicly accessible website with associated mobile technologies on which non emergency issues such as graffiti, road defects, street lighting, water leaks/drainage and litter/illegal dumping can be reported and issues raised are responded to within 2 working days. Kildare County Council launched fixyourstreet.ie on 19 September 2012 and 181 incidents were reported to year end.



Higher Education Grants

Higher Education Grants are awarded to students who are residents of County Kildare in accordance with the Local Authorities (Higher Education Grants) Acts, 1968 – 1992 and the relevant annual scheme which is developed under guideline from the Department of Education and Skills and then adopted by the council.

The Department of Education and Skills announced a new centralised authority, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) to deal with all new applications for student grants from May 2012.

1042 students renewed their application for the academic year 2012/2013.

920 review applications were received for the 2012/13 academic year.



Register of Electors

The number appearing on the draft 2013/14 Register of Electors, published on 1 November 2012, dropped to 139,262 from 140,598 on the previous Register. This was caused by a combination of emigration and the council writing to all those whose polling information cards were returned following the polls held during the year and deleting those who did not confirm that they were still living at the address given.

A paper copy of the current register is sent to Post Offices, Garda Stations and community libraries each year and interested parties can check that they are correctly registered by examining it there. Forms for addition, deletion and amendment are available at the same locations.

The register is also available to check on-line at www.checktheregister.ie, as are the various application forms.

Citizens of the county who are eligible to vote should check the Register of Electors annually to ensure that they continue to be registered to vote at the correct address.



Meetings

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the administration of the meetings of the council including the budget meeting, area meetings and corporate policy group.

The following is a breakdown of meetings held during 2012;

- 16 full council meetings
- 62 area meetings
- 11 Corporate Policy Group Meetings
- 45 Other Meetings

Communications

The Communications Unit of the Corporate Services Department plays a key role in ensuring accurate, timely and relevant information is made available to the public, elected members and council staff. A range of communication channels are used to ensure information is accessible and widely available.

Media

The Communications Unit aims to develop and maintain good relationships with the national and local media. In 2012 in excess of 250 media queries were received with more than 30 press releases

issued providing information on council initiatives and services.

Members Net and Staff Intranet

Corporate Services provides information for the MembersNet and Intranet; ensuring elected members and staff are kept up to date with important council news.

Corporate Publications

During 2012, the unit produced the Annual Report 2011.

Social Media

Social Media is changing the way we work.

This medium provides the council with opportunities to communicate information in a less traditional format. Thanks to all who 'like' us on Facebook and 'follow' us on Twitter. We are always happy to have more followers. Keep up to date with the council's alerts/press releases/latest items and upcoming events or public announcements by liking us on www.facebook.com/kildarecountycouncil or following us [@kildarecoco](https://twitter.com/kildarecoco) on Twitter. You will find us at www.kildarecountycouncil.ie.



Website

Kildare County Councils website (www.kildarecountycouncil.ie) provides up to date information and online services 24/7.

- It has been designed to be accessible to all visitors, regardless of disability;
- It can be accessed from any browser and all devices including mobiles;
- It is updated daily;
- Information is available for each department within the organisation including contact details, forms, frequently asked questions and individual services provided;
- Provides contact details for our councillors;
- Online services including online payments are available - you can pay your traffic fine, purchase a water butt, pay your dog licence as well as others;
- View online planning enquiries;
- If you subscribe to our RSS feeds, 'like' us on facebook or 'follow' us on Twitter you will receive automatic updates of our Press Releases/Alerts/Latest Items added to the website;
- Cúrsaí Gaeilge is included on the site;
- The website was visited by **301,937** visitors and **1,137,854** pages were viewed in 2012

Irish Language: Gaeilge

During 2012, Kildare Local Authorities' Irish Officer continued to assist staff throughout the organisation, as needed, in relation to:

- advice and assistance in complying with the obligations imposed by the Official Languages Act 2003, associated legislation and Kildare Local Authorities' Irish Language Scheme
- provision of translations for signage
- sourcing or providing translations for application forms
- assisting in relation to correspondence in Irish with members of the public who wished to transact business with the authorities through Irish
- corresponding, on behalf of the authorities, with An Coimisinéir Teanga, Government Departments, and other organisations and individuals as required.

A new section dealing with Irish language matters was added to the website. This includes, inter alia, information in Irish on the following matters:

- Councillors' details
- Contact details
- Customer Care
- Freedom of Information
- Online Comment Card

- A selection of application forms for various services provided by the authorities.

Content on this section of the website is amended and updated as required, in consultation with departments throughout the organisation.

Kildare Local Authorities' Irish Language Scheme, published in 2008, expired in 2011. As requested, a new draft scheme was prepared and submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for approval in 2011. Formal approval of the new scheme had not been received by the end of 2012.

Freedom of Information

32 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts were received in 2012 of which 5 were requests for personal information. 18 requests were granted, 8 requests were part-granted and 6 requests were refused.



Human Resources

Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare Local Authorities at 31 December 2012 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial *	6	6.00
Clerical/Administrative	371	326.22
Professional/Technical	153	150.40
Outdoor	366	298.00
Incentive Career Break Scheme	2	2.00
Supernumeraries	21	21.00
Total Core Staff	919	803.62
Other Staff		
Contract Posts	27	27.00
Site Supervisory Contract Posts	9	900
Temporary/Seasonal *	4	4.00
Retained Firefighters	75	N/A
Non DoEH&LG	11	5.00
Total Other Posts	126	45.00

The department processed 651 applications for various positions in relation to competitions that were held during the year. From the 651 applications received, 551 were male and 100 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 127 male and 106 female. 26 posts were offered (20 male and 6 female).



Training and Development

The continuing need for a modern, flexible, multi-skilled workforce is recognised, 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 Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) is in place in Kildare Local Authorities for a number of years now. All staff are aware that the EAP is available to them if the need arises. Staff continue to access a wide variety of information through the website which is available on the staff intranet.

In addition, Human Resources promote the EAP on a continuous basis throughout the

year. The free phone number is 1800 300 061 which is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All contact made by staff with the Employee Assistance Programme is confidential.

Industrial and Employee Relations

Human Resources manages the relationship with trade unions and staff representatives dealing with both local and national issues as they arise. The Kildare Local Authorities Action Plan under the Public Service (Croke Park) Agreement 2010-2014 was originally presented to the relevant trade unions in November/December 2010 and was revised in April, 2011. Emphasis in 2012 centered on continuing implementation of the local action plan and this formed the bulk of the workload in industrial relations terms.

Kildare Local Authorities has made significant progress in implementing its local action plan which includes measures required to deal with the reduction of staffing levels throughout the organisation over the past three years. Further actions have been successfully implemented involving review and restructuring of services, integration of town council services, inter-agency shared services,

establishing multi-disciplinary business units, modernizing and streamlining the procurement function, eGovernment initiatives and, in addition, the implementation of nationally agreed policies and procedures. Human Resources policy of fostering good industrial relations through the collaborative partnership approach at corporate level has facilitated the implementation of the change programme across the local authorities as this could not be achieved without the continued co-operation and effort of the county council and town council workforce. Significant savings were achieved in 2012 as a direct result of the co-operation between management, staff and the trade unions in view of the difficult financial situation facing local authorities.

Workplace Partnership

Workplace Partnership is the way we do things, not something to do in Kildare Local Authorities. 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 in Workplace Partnership. The Workplace Partnership framework is recognized as the method for implementation of the Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Act 2006.



Retirements

The following persons retired during 2012, having completed 855 years combined service:

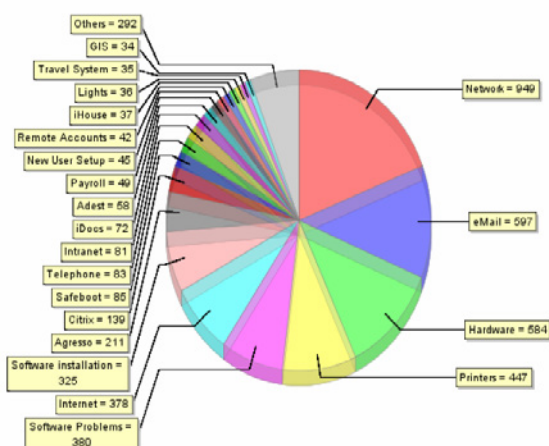
Name	Grade
Angela Gunning	Clerical Officer
Claire Flanagan	Assistant Staff Officer
Declan Loakaman	Chief Technician
Deirdre McMahon	Homeless Settlement Outreach Worker
Edward Lyons	Plant Operative
Frank Behan	Plant Superintendent
Frank Durney	Caretaker
Gary O'Toole	Exec Draughtsman/Technician
Henry Lynam	General Operative
James Bermingham	General Operative
James O'Mara	Caretaker
James Ginty	General Services Supervisor
James Kelly	Senior Executive Technician
Joe Donovan	General Operative
Joe O'Neill	Camping Warden
John Behan	Foreman
Kathryn Dargan Moore	Clerical Officer
Martin O'Rourke	General Operative
Mary Drewitt	School Warden
Mary O'Connor	Clerical Officer
Mary O'Toole	Exec Draughtsman/Technician
Michael Browne	Foreman
Monica Davis	Clerical Officer
Monica McGrath	School Warden
Nuala Hartnett	Staff Officer
Oliver Doyle	General Operative
Paddy Lambe	Technical Support Officer
Pat Kenny	Revenue Collector
Pat Sherry	Exec Draughtsman/Technician
Pat Whelan	Senior Executive Officer
Paul Killick	Water Caretaker
Ray Freeman	General Operative
Séamus Reilly	General Services Supervisor
Stephen Dunne	Senior Executive Officer
Thady Byrne	General Operative
Vincent O'Shaughnessy	Tenancy Liaison Officer

ICT

Infrastructure

2012 saw continued expansion of a state of the art wireless infrastructure to link outlying offices to HQ over secure high speed wireless links. Significant effort was put into ICT security particularly mobile security with the ever increasing threat of malicious cyber-threats against council infrastructure. A second connection to Government networks using wireless technology was implemented to provide resilience as dependency on the cloud and centralised systems increases.

Supporting staff and councillors is one of the cornerstones of ICT operations. The helpdesk processed just under 5,000 calls in 2012. The breakdown is illustrated below. The helpdesk section continues to provide a high level of support to all staff across circa 30 offices and to all councillors across the authorities.



A number of significant cost saving initiatives were also undertaken specifically in the deployment of power management software to reduce power consumption on PCs when not in use and a new deal on mobile and landline costs for the council.

Applications

2012 saw the arrival of Fixyourstreet, a central portal for the public to report problems relating to street conditions, graffiti etc. Considerable effort was expended in implementing interfaces with incident reporting software currently in use in the council.

A low value purchase (LVP) card system was implemented that facilitated the introduction of LVP cards into the council and in particular concentrated on the facilitation of financial coding for the Agresso system. A number of existing systems were upgraded through the year, for example, the main housing system (iHouse) and the Generic Intranet.

A number of new systems were also implemented, namely, a Labworks System used to track water quality related data and a Pavement Management System as supplied by the LGMA to manage road related data. This latter system saw the

introduction of the first android tablet business applications into the council. The use of social media continues to grow apace with significant increases in the numbers of transactions and followers on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Finally a project that is gaining particular attention is the eInvoicing project that was developed to facilitate electronic billing between vendors which produce large volumes of paper invoices and the council, e.g. Eircom, Vodafone, Booknest etc. This project introduced significant processing savings into the council in 2012.

Procurement

The procurement unit continued to deliver value for money projects for the authorities in 2012, complying with national and international legislation. A number of mechanisms were used across a range of areas. The National Procurement Service (NPS) has established a number of mandatory national contracts that represent significant value for money. These contracts were, where appropriate, rolled out yielding significant savings for the organisation. Another mechanism used was the national LA Quotes system which was used in an innovative way to establish framework agreements

particularly in the roads and water services sections.



A number of local frameworks were also established, for example, in landscaping and grass-cutting, small works and road resurfacing. A number of other individual tenders were managed by the group and the unit was heavily involved in advising and guiding all sections through the public procurement process across a range of goods, services and works.

The group also met with a number of suppliers to discuss public procurement procedures prior to going to tender and worked on improving access to information through the web. Significant work was also done in streamlining the purchase-to-pay cycle via the introduction of low value purchase (LVP) cards in the organisation.

Tithíocht, Pobal agus Seirbhísí Cultúrtha



Housing, Community and
Cultural Services

Housing Department

The Housing Section aims to provide social housing support to persons who are unable to meet their housing need through their own resources.

In the current economic climate demand for social housing supports have increased, however resources have decreased thereby increasing the numbers on the housing list.

Social Housing

Applications/Allocations

The council's housing stock currently stands at 2,909 properties with an average rent of €45 per unit per week.

The Social Housing Assessment Regulations came into force in April 2011 and revised procedures for assessment were introduced. 2,827 applications were received in 2012 – this includes new applications, updates of existing applications, transfers and RAS packages. The Department of Social Protection now requires all applicants for rent supplement to be assessed and deemed eligible and in need of social housing support by the local authority before they will consider such an application. At year end 2012 the total number of applicants on the housing list was 7,865 (including Town Councils).

In 2012 the following allocations were made; 111 local authority houses, 67 Rental Accommodation Scheme properties, 24 social leasing and 24 voluntary housing.

Social Housing Investment Programme

The Social Housing Investment Programme for 2012 covered all aspects of the construction, acquisition and improvement works programme for Kildare Local Authorities.

The Housing Supply Allocation (Capital) for 2012 was €7,470,500 and the Housing Supply Allocation (Current) was €4,012,860. Activity in this, included provision under the following headings;

- Main Construction/Acquisition Programme (including Part V)
- Rental Accommodation Scheme/Social Housing Leasing Initiative
- Capital Assistance Scheme
- Traveller Accommodation
- Retrofitting Voids/Energy Upgrades
- Remedial Works

In 2012 the Remedial Works Scheme in St Patrick's Park, Rathangan progressed well and it is anticipated that it will go to Part VIII in mid 2013.

A Part VIII for the development of 13 units at Athgarvan Road, Newbridge, a Towards Carbon Neutral Scheme, was launched in November 2012 and it is anticipated that this project will be substantially advanced in 2013.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Kildare. Under this scheme Kildare County Council provides private rented accommodation to persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or longer. The total number of properties provided for social housing under the RAS scheme was 590 at year end 2012.

Leasing

The Social Housing Leasing Initiative was introduced in 2010 which facilitated local authorities to enter into long term leases of private dwellings as a means of meeting social housing needs. In 2012 there were 109 units provided under this scheme.

Housing Grants

Housing Adaptation Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grants contribute to meeting housing needs by adapting existing homes to meet the need of the occupant. In 2012, the

Housing Aid for Older People Grant was not rolled out due to a lack of available funding. At present there are 300 people on a waiting list to be considered for this grant.

With regard to the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, the council provided €405,000 in its 2012 Revenue Budget, thus leveraging grant aid to allow expenditure of €2,025,000.



Homeless Services

A regional structure has been established incorporating the counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. A mid term review of the Mid East Regional Plan (2010 – 2013) is due by May 2013. Kildare County Council has been deemed the lead authority and the Director of Service is required to act as Chairman of the Management Group and the Forum. The statutory Management Group and the full regional Forum met regularly throughout

2012 to progress the Homeless Action Plan 2010-2013 and implement the terms of the Mid East Review document prepared in August 2011.

Community Development

The Community Team were busy in 2012 supporting the voluntary efforts of residents associations and community groups in local authority estates. Over 90 residents association grants were paid out to support groups to maintain and develop the open spaces. The Pride of Place competition for local authority estates was very successful in 2012 and the groups involved were invited into Áras Chill Dara for a community celebration evening where prizes were awarded to the winners of each category. The Youth Endeavour Award was also presented to young people from the estates who were nominated by the groups for their hard work and dedication to improve the quality of life for all residents in the community and also for being good role models to their peers. The team would also like to acknowledge the support and co-operation of other agencies in various projects.

Housing Maintenance

The council carries out the majority of its activities in relation to the maintenance of social housing stock by contract work and employs a small direct labour crew. The response maintenance aspects of the programme require a significant allocation of resources and in 2012 alone 2,683 repairs were carried out. In addition 95 vacant houses had upgrade repairs carried out before re-letting in 2012.



House Purchase Loan

Under this scheme up to 97% loans (maximum €220,000) are available for house purchases – the scheme is administered by the council under strict criteria as determined nationally. In 2012, 3 house purchase loans were approved in Kildare and 36 applications were evaluated.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

This scheme provides opportunities for local authority tenants to purchase the property they reside in at a discounted rate. In 2012, 2 houses were sold under the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme. This scheme was terminated in 2012, the last date for accepting applications was 31 December 2012, however, closing date for finalising purchases (legal requirements etc.) has been extended to June 2013. In 2011 a new scheme was introduced called the 2011 Fixed Term Tenant Purchase Scheme which provided for a maximum discount of 45%. Under this scheme 9 purchases were made in 2012. This scheme is now closed and an Incremental Purchase Scheme is scheduled to be introduced towards mid 2013.

Housing Department endeavors to provide a quality customer service to clients, elected members and council staff.



Summary

Nationally 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 the Social Housing Leasing Initiative, the Rental Accommodation Scheme and housing through the voluntary sector.

The downturn in the economy has resulted in a greater need for support in the provision of housing across all sectors of society. In delivering our services, the

Community and Culture

Kildare Age Friendly County Programme

Kildare Age Friendly County Alliance

Following the launch of the County Age Friendly Strategy, an independent Chair, Mr. Pat Mangan was appointed to replace Mr Michael Malone, County Manager. The Alliance met on four occasions throughout the year to support and monitor the programme. A Service Providers Forum has been established which aims to identify ways in which services and supports can be provided in the most cost-effective, collaborative way, to develop a county response to identifying the needs of the most vulnerable in the county. Since the first meeting in October, sub groups have been established to address isolation among older people in the county and the needs of older people with intellectual disability.

engAGE Kildare

engAGE Kildare, the forum representing older people in Co. Kildare was established in August 2010 and has an executive of 9 people. Currently engAGE Kildare has a membership of over 350 people. The forum was officially launched in February 2012 with 280 people in attendance. The forum provides an opportunity for members to have access to

information on relevant services and supports. At the launch of engAGE Kildare 29 exhibitors showcased their services.



European Year for Active Age and Solidarity between Generations (EYAA 2012)

As 2012 was designated as the European Year for Active Age and Solidarity between Generations, it was decided to involve young people in as much of our age friendly activities as possible. An intergenerational choir performed at the opening of the launch of engAGE Kildare at which Mr Ronan Toomey, Co-ordinator of the European Year, was guest speaker. This project was generously supported by the National Office of the European Year of Active Age and Solidarity between Generations 2012 and INTEL.



Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme

A Business of Ageing Recognition Scheme was developed and launched by the Ageing Well Network. The first Kildare seminar was held in October in Maynooth attended by a number of local businesses. The purpose of the seminar was to provide information on the demographic, create an awareness of the heterogeneity of the potential market, identify strategies for the older customer, and to explore myths and stereotypes of older people. The final aim was to learn how to complete the application to be recognised as an age friendly business. The first Kildare business has now been registered.



Promoting Physical Activity

Over 200 people attended a sports festival for over 55's organised by the Kildare Sports Partnership and Age Friendly Programme. The emphasis was on introducing people to a range of activities including nordic walking, tai-chi, dance, bowls, fishing, and table games.



Kildare Sports Partnership

After an extensive consultation process, Kildare Sports Partnership launched its Strategic Plan 2012-2016 on 4 April in Áras Chill Dara. The Strategic Plan allows us to visibly plot our own direction in our quest to achieve measurable sporting success for the next few years.



Community Sports Leaders Programme

Two Community Sports Leader Programmes were completed in 2012 with 23 people taking part in Athy and 21 completing a course held in Newbridge. The Community Sports Leader Programme (CSLP) is a training initiative provided by Kildare Sports Partnership in association with County Kildare Leader Partnership. The programme is designed to meet the needs of unemployed people who wish to become involved in health/fitness instruction, sports coaching and sports leadership at community level.

SPEAK Report Launch

The Irish Sports Council's SPEAK Report, which evaluates sport and recreation activity at local and national level was launched in Athy Community College on Wednesday 23 May with KSP Chairman Niall Quinn acting as MC. It was a great honour for KSP to be asked to host this event and it coincided with the final stages of our Community Sports Leaders Programme in Athy.



Late Night League

A Late Night League was run last April, between 9pm and 10pm over 4 Friday nights, in Naas Sport Centre. We achieved our highest total to date of 41 participants who were young adults aged between 16 and 21 years old.



Garda Nicola Tierney presenting the cup and medals

Again, anti-social behaviour and other various incidents were down on the nights that the Late Night League was running. Special word of thanks to Julie Duffin, Naas Town Community Warden and Garda Nicola Tierney and to all the volunteers for all their time and effort and to all the local business who sponsored prizes and medals.

Soccer Sisters Camp

The aim of Soccer Sisters is to introduce girls to football in a fun and safe environment through structured coaching and fun games.

With funding secured from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs as part of National Recreation Week and working closely with the Naas Child and Family Project and KYS Naas Youth Project we targeted 30 girls between the ages of 7 to

12 to attend the Soccer Sisters Camp in St. Mary's Sports Hall.



FAI Coaching Courses for the Unemployed

During 2012, a number of FAI coaching courses were delivered to different unemployment groups around Kildare. The Kickstart 1 is the first introductory course which focuses on coaches working with children aged 6-9 years old. The course is designed to assist beginner coaches in gaining experience in organising, planning and implementing a coaching session. They are given an understanding of the development of young players of this age and it gives them the ability to coach children, aged 6-9 years old in a fun, safe and stimulating environment. The course takes 8 hours to complete involving some theory and practical work.

The Curragh Family Pride Resource Centre targeted 8 early school leavers (3 female, 5 male), who were unemployed and they completed the Kickstart 1 over a number of weeks.

Overall in 2012, 71 unemployed people received FAI coaching qualifications through these courses with 21 of these also completing the Strength and Conditioning workshop.



Participants of the Athy 'Pathways to Employment through Sport' course with their awards

Twinning

County Kildare has two twinning links: Deauville, famous for its beautiful maritime settings, horses and its history, and Lexington in Kentucky, the blue grass county in the US.

The aim is to promote twinning in the community as a method of developing business, social, cultural and sporting links with other communities in other countries who are interested in developing those ties.

The aim of the Kildare County Twinning Committee is to foster strong links between these two sisters, to encourage other towns in the county to forge new links and to explore new ways in which we can make twinning work in a continuous flowing way so that the entire community gets the benefit of what twinning has to offer.

County Kildare Twinning operates a student exchange programme on an annual basis between Kildare and Lexington in the summer months.

Leisure Services

Parks Section

The Parks Section is involved in the provision of management and maintenance of parks and open spaces, amenity facilities and in particular playgrounds around the county. It also provides advice and assistance to internal council departments, town councils and community organisations in relation to landscaping and amenity projects. Among the projects and activities completed last year were as follows;

- a tree planting programme, tree pruning and tree removal programme and a spring bulb planting programme was carried out at various towns in the county.
- grass maintenance and landscaping was carried out in various towns and roundabouts in the county.
- sponsorship of roundabouts in the county continues to be implemented.
- the pilot allotment scheme continued.
- a report on the conservation of the Spa Well in Leixlip was completed and will inform future works to

conserve the well and the retaining walls as well as creating a viewing point from the tow path over the well.

- financial and technical support was given to residents associations and tidy town committees in the county.
- improvement works in William Rowantree Park in Leixlip were carried out in conjunction with Leixlip Town Council.
- plans to implement the masterplan for the Bawnogues continued with the preparation of a grading plan and drainage scheme for the site.
- work commenced on the development of the amenity lands in Lough na Mona, Leixlip.



Playgrounds

A new playground was opened in Nurney. Work commenced on the provision of a playground in Rathangan with the completion of a tender for the supply and design of the playground. Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued. There are now 12 playgrounds in the county.

Special Play Initiatives

A play day event was held in Áras Chill Dara to celebrate National Play Day. Work continued on the creation of a children's play space within Riverbank Arts Centre. A number of exhibitions and artists were engaged during the year to develop the space.



Newbridge Sports Centre

Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre provides the local community with an invaluable facility. In 2012, it received the Gold Standard White Flag Award as it has and for the past 11 years highlighting the excellent standards within the facility. The white flag award is the only comprehensive quality award in Ireland that measures the standards for leisure facilities. A wide range of fitness classes, fitness testing and personal programmes were provided for all levels of fitness.

Indoor and outdoor pitches, room hire, sauna and steam rooms and party areas are provided.

A number of charitable events were run during the course of the year to raise vital funds for charity. Numerous community groups were catered for and the facility was used as a venue for the VEC and Gaelscoil for sports and inter schools competitions.



Arts

An Arts Development Plan for Kildare Local Authorities was launched on the eve of Culture Night by Mayor Micheál ‘Spike’ Nolan in September. This innovative plan sets out the role of the service to ‘curate, mentor, broker, respond and inspire’ artists, arts organisations and community groups.



A geography student from NUI, Maynooth analysed ‘If I had an artist for a day ...’ programme. Over 7,700 children in 48 primary schools participated in the arts and education programme over a 3 year period.

The following events were held throughout the year;

- Barrettstown Artist Mentoring Programme which is a programme that supports artists to work with children experiencing illness

- Bealtaine Festival hosted 34 events across the county and over 600 people participated
- The Creative Well is an integrated arts and health programme supporting wellbeing and mental health through the arts
- If You Were In My Shoes Now is a year long intergenerational project with Nas Na Rough Housing Association.
- Animating Architecture is a pilot project based on buildings in Leixlip, highlighting awareness of architecture through a child friendly fun pack
- Culture Night is a nationwide initiative to showcase cultural and artistic offerings and is now in its third year. 55 events were held in Kildare with over 4,000 people attending



Kildare County Library Service

Kildare County Library Service now offer new opening hours and services at seven of our fifteen community libraries; Celbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Athy. Within the new hours, three distinct services are being provided which reflect the modern day needs of the community and provide countywide access to engage with library and community services.



Scheduled Time

Libraries are no longer just about books. An important component of our service in Kildare libraries is to provide for the changing needs of communities. Scheduled time allows for targeted interventions and programmed events and activities for all ages.

- Over 1,000 class visits providing library access to over 25,000 students.
- 5,350 programmed events delivered which included Engineers Week,

Science Week, Seachtain na nGaeilge and the annual Bealtaine Festival.

- Secondary School Support Programme piloted in three libraries - diverse workshops supporting the curriculum, early school leavers and fostering a learning environment, workshops ranged from video gaming to creative writing.
- Toys, Technology and Training - The collection and workshops are designed to offer support for children and adults with more significant needs. 550 plus individuals have benefited from this programmed service including parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.
- Intergenerational Choir Project - The concept was to bring adults and children together to explore their love of music and expression. Workshops and concerts were held in Athy and Leixlip. The highlight of the project was the live recording of the final performance.
- Unique educational partnership programme with NUI, Maynooth, County Kildare Leader Partnership and Kildare Library Service. The programme was delivered in Kildare Town Library and participants availed of four, third level taster courses ranging from sociology to local history.

Open-Door Time

Open Door time is allocated to the busiest periods of the day. Our primary services being library lending, free computer and Internet access, information and reference services.

- Over 700,000 library visits.
- Over 725,000 books and other items borrowed.
- Childrens' Book Festival - 7,000 children attended workshops, literary events and author visits during the month of October.
- Self - Issue Stations - Six fully automated self issue stations installed and operational.
- Another successful Kildare Readers Festival with 1,200 participants who enjoyed a full weekend of literary delights. Events ranged from readings with Joseph O'Connor to interviews with Dermot Bolger, Paul Durcan and Aidan Murphy.
- 1,800 children participated in the Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Lab'.
- Touch, type, read and spell classes provided in three libraries for young people with dyslexia.
- One Book One Town Project - Held in Newbridge/Curragh area, 600 participants read or attended

lectures/workshops on 'Spirit of the Titanic' by Nicola Pierce.

- Installation of multi media suites in seven branch libraries.



Colin Bateman at Kildare Readers Festival 2012

24 Hour e-Services Time

Today the library is more than a physical space and with the advances of technology the service can respond 24/7 and adapt to new technological trends in society. In 2012 the service invested in a suite of e-services which provide for the recreational, information, education and training needs of our community.

- eBooks - Digital library of 5,000 items available.
- eLanguage - Online language learning with access to over 90 languages.
- eLearning - 500+ online continuing education courses ranging from interview skills to setting up a business.

- eHistory - a wide range of material relating to the history, archaeology and heritage of County Kildare.
- eMagazines - 35 popular magazine titles
- Libanywhereapp - a free app providing members with full access to online

services and information on their local library.

- Redesign of Kildare library webpage www.kildare.ie/library

Remember there's a time for everyone at your local library.....



Summer Reading Challenge

Pleanáil agus Forbairt Gheilleagrach



Planning and Economic Development

Planning

Development Plans

The purpose of a development plan is to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area. This is done in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, the National Spatial Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and any other national, regional and local policies and EU requirements.

The Kildare County Development Plan for the period 2011 to 2017 was adopted by the council in May 2011 and work continues on the implementation of its policies and objectives. Work also continues on the implementation of the policies and objectives of the Naas Town Development Plan adopted in May 2011. Athy Town Council adopted a new development plan in February 2012 and is working to implement its policies and objectives.

In summary, the main objectives in the plans are:

- Zoning of land
- Provision of infrastructure
- Conservation and protection of the environment

- Management of features of the landscape
- Compliance with environmental standards
- Integration with social, community and cultural requirements
- Protection of structures
- Architectural conservation
- Regeneration
- Accommodation for Travellers
- Provision of recreational amenities
- Provision of community services
- Promotion of sustainable development
- Preservation of public rights of way



Local Area Plans

In order to ensure that the objectives of the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan are met, there was a requirement to vary the County Plan to incorporate the following Small Town Plans: Kill, Prosperous, Rathangan, Athgarvan, Derrinturn and Castledermot. Work commenced on the variation in 2011 and the formal statutory process was completed by June 2012.

Work also commenced on the review of the following Local Area Plans in 2012; Kildare Town, Maynooth and Newbridge. A Local Area Plan for Kildare Town was adopted in November 2012 and became effective on 24 December 2012.

Work commenced on the amendment of the following Local Area Plans to bring them in line with the new Core Strategy in the County Development Plan throughout 2012/2013:

Monasterevin, Kilcullen, Kilcock
Clane, Sallins, Leixlip/Collinstown,
Celbridge/Castletown

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.

The Forward Planning Section continued to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills throughout 2012 assisting the Minister and officers of the department in planning for the future provision of educational services in the county. Contact with the department was mainly via regular meetings held both at Kildare County Council offices and at the department's offices in Tullamore on a rotating basis.

The meetings discussed all relevant planning issues relating to the provision of education, from pre-planning discussions through to compliance related matters post permission. The Department of Education and Skills, together with the City and County Managers' Association, drafted a Memorandum of Understanding during 2011 on acquisition of sites for school planning purposes. In essence, the Memorandum of Understanding puts in place a process whereby the local authority assists in the site identification and acquisition process on behalf of the Minister.

Registration of Quarries

Under Section 261A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2012, which came into effect on 15 November 2011, each Planning Authority had a maximum of nine months to examine every quarry in its administrative area to determine whether development was carried out which would have (1) required Environmental Impact Assessment, or (2) a determination as to whether EIA would have been required and/or (3) an appropriate assessment.

Following publication of a notice outlining obligations under the act, seven submissions were received from the public. The Planning Department then commenced a desk-top survey of all 965 possible quarries in the county using aerial photography and planning histories. The number of quarries was reduced to 500, all of which were inspected.

The information from the site inspections was collated into survey reports which examined *inter alia* the location of the quarries, owners/operators, planning histories, operational histories, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment determinations. The number was further reduced to 185. Of these 40 required the respective quarry owners/operators to submit an application for substitute consent to An Bord Pleanala

and 37 informed quarry owners/operators of the intention of the Planning Authority to take enforcement action requiring the cessation of quarrying activities. The remainder required no further action.

Section 261A provided that the owner/operator of a quarry may apply to An Bord Pleanala, not later than 21 days after the date of the notice, for a review of the determination of the Planning Authority.

Of the 77 notices issued by the Planning Authority a total of 40 were the subject of an application for review lodged with An Bord Pleanala. The council were invited by the board to submit observations on these appeals. Work will continue in 2013 on the quarries project.

Development Management Planning Applications 2012

Kildare County Council received 1025 planning applications of which 183 were invalid, 596 were granted and 250 were refused.

Naas Town Council received 80 planning applications of which 10 were invalid, 71 were granted and 8 were refused.

Athy Town Council received 32 planning applications of which 3 were invalid, 22 were granted and 7 were refused.

The following number of licenses and applications were dealt with in 2012;

- 77 Section 254 licence applications
- 45 Section 5 Certificate of Exemption applications
- 25 Section 97 Exemption from Part V applications
- 18 Tree Felling Licences

Pre-Planning Meetings

Pre-planning meetings are designed to deal with prospective applicants for large-scale residential or commercial developments. They are generally very beneficial and will improve the quality of a subsequent planning application. In 2012 a total of 105 formal pre-planning meetings were held in-house dealing with commercial and large multi unit developments. Pre-planning clinics which are held during the year also, are designed to deal specifically with prospective applicants for a house at a rural location or other small-scale developments. A total of 5 pre-planning clinics were held in Áras Chill Dara in 2012, these clinics were attended by 69 prospective applicants. In addition to the clinics held in Áras Chill Dara, outreach clinics were held in the

Athy and Leixlip area offices. A total of 4 outreach clinics took place in 2012 (2 for Leixlip and 2 for Athy) which were attended by 14 applicants.

Building Control

261 valid commencement notices and 120 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation in 2012. In addition, 30 applications for Regularisation Certificates were received along with 87 applications for Disability Access Certificates and 24 applications for seven day notices.

Development Control

The council continues to make significant progress in the taking in charge of residential estates. Sixteen estates were taken in charge in 2012 and a further two estates were advertised for taking in charge. The management of unfinished estates and estates where developers have found themselves in financial difficulties, in receivership or in liquidation is now the priority for the Development Control Department and resources are being re-allocated into this area.

Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions

The objectives of the enforcement system are to ensure that objectionable development is discontinued and that planning permission is obtained before commencement of development. The planning authority is obliged to investigate written complaints that they consider are not frivolous or without substance. A total of 179 new complaints of unauthorised development were received in 2012. There were 137 warning letters issued to developers and 73 enforcement notices served. Legal proceedings were initiated in 14 cases and 282 unauthorised development files were closed.

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 2012. 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 Officer contributes to the development of policy in the context of the

review of Local Area Plans and any amendments to the County Development Plan 2011-2017.

The actions of the County Kildare Heritage Plan implemented in 2012 include the following;

Collection of heritage data

- Architectural Conservation Area Statement for Kildare Town
- Kildare Wetland Survey
- Survey work on the invertebrate populations of the Curragh
- Mapping of the Floral Protection Order Species
- Arthur's Way Heritage Trail - background information
- Preparation of a Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan for Castledermot Town Walls

Raising heritage awareness

- Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2012 (18 applications received funding totalling €24,995)
- Biodiversity Tour in Kildare Town during Heritage Week
- Support for Irish Peatland Conservation Council 30 year celebratory event
- Arthur's Way Heritage Trail
- Celbridge Walking Trail
- Heritage Week 2012 (47 events)

- National Tree Week
- Ongoing advice to tidy towns groups, community groups and individual regarding heritage management and conservation

Promoting best practice

- Commenced “Save our Stories” - oral recording training with LEADER
- Graveyard maintenance training for FAS workers and graveyard committees
- Supported Tir Na Mona in the management of Ballynafagh Lake

Inform and advise on local authority heritage management

- Advice to Historic Monuments Advisory Committee
- Leixlip Spa Committee
- Preparation of LEADER applications for local heritage projects

Architectural Conservation

Record of Protected Structures

The Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) provides technical advice and recommendations to Kildare Local Authorities and the public, on the built heritage of the county. This guidance 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. Buildings have been added to the Record of Protected Structures for the county, Naas and Athy as part of Development Plan reviews.



Moone Abbey House



Bishops court House

Designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material urban or rural enclosure, can be protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas.



Prospect Tower Carton Demesne



View of Kildare town



Obelisk Castletown Demesne



John Rocque's 1757 map (RIA atlas)

Architectural Conservation Areas

Architectural Conservation Areas were also proposed as part of the various Development Plan Reviews. An Historic Landscape Characterisation Study was carried out for Kildare. This is an important heritage survey framework, which informs Local Area Plan Reviews and the definition of Architectural Conservation Areas. This study was made possible through Heritage Council funding and as an action of the Heritage Officer's Heritage Forum.

Re-use

Architectural conservation advice guides sensitive repair and proposed interventions to protected structures, early consultation is critical at feasibility stage. The ACO advises on proposed repair works and suitable reuse of protected and vernacular structures. Early engagement of an Architectural Conservation Consultant is advised for proposed works to a protected structure. The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has published an 'Advice' series as a guide to best conservation practice. Building

conservation is a specialised discipline and the method of work needs to be specified by experts with a knowledge and experience of historic buildings.



Scratham View, Moone

to the 1750s Charter School outside Monasterevin and consolidation and repair work to Clane Friary.



Charter School, Monasterevin



Viewmount (Strawberry Lodge), Clane

Grants

The Conservation Grants Scheme has been paused due to government budgetary cut backs. As an interim measure the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltach has centrally administered a Structures At Risk Scheme (SARS).

Kildare Local Authorities was successful in obtaining funding for the repair of the roof



Emergency Conservation roof works to Charter School outside Monasterevin was part funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltach and Structures at Risk Scheme



Consolidation and repair works to Clane Friary



Farmyard and circular dovecote



Grey Abbey Kildare town



Fish pond dam repairs

Partnership

The ACO advises other directorates on the re-use of historic buildings and best conservation practice. The Historic Monuments Advisory Committee seeks advice from its technical officers on the ongoing maintenance and repair of medieval monuments and graveyards, in the care of Kildare Local Authorities. It prioritised the repair works for Clane Friary and Grey Abbey for 2012.

The ACO has liaised with the Office of Public Works on the repair and the reinstatement of the farmyard and the designed landscape character at Castletown Demesne, Celbridge. Close co-operation is made with the Heritage Officer through the Heritage Forum and its actions which are part funded by the Heritage Council. Through the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN), a conservation plan is being funded for Castledermot, Naas, Athy and Kildare town are other medieval walled towns in the county.

Bóithre, Iompar agus Sábháilteacht Poiblí



Roads, Transport and Public Safety

Roads, Transport and Public Safety

During 2012 the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate –

- delivered a programme of design and construction of local, regional and national roads, subject to available finance
- provided a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of 10 years, subject to financial and human resource constraints
- ensured the safety, health and welfare of all employees in the workplace by complying with health and safety legislation
- worked with the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána and other agencies to promote road safety
- improved travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient and appropriate traffic management measures
- provided car parking facilities and regulated parking in towns and villages in the county
- continued to migrate the council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels, as funding permitted
- maintained an area office structure to provide countywide access to the council's services and ensured that adequate and relevant information was available in each office
- engaged in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation for planned works
- ensured that county and town councillors were provided with timely information
- ensured value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with council, national and European procurement policies
- examined energy usage and worked to minimise energy costs
- promoted, developed and maintained Civil Defence as an effective volunteer-based organisation providing emergency response and community support services
- maintained six Fire Stations at Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip, providing an operational 24 hour fire and emergency response service

Road Infrastructure

County Kildare has approximately 2,528 km of public road infrastructure as set out by category below. (Note: This includes public roads within the town council administrative areas).

County Kildare Public Roads Schedule	
Motorway	128 km
National Primary	12 km
National Secondary	17 km
Regional	482 km
Local Roads (Total)	1889 km
Local Primary 355	
Local Secondary 1040	
Local Tertiary 494	
Total	2,528 km

This extensive and heavily-trafficked road network requires significant ongoing investment in maintenance and improvement by Kildare County Council in association with the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority and the National Transport Authority.

Funding

Funding for the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department comes from four main sources; the National Roads Authority (NRA) fund the design, construction and maintenance of national roads, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTS) co-fund the design, construction and maintenance of regional and local roads with Kildare

County Council (KCC), and the National Transport Authority (NTA) fund a programme of sustainable transport measures.

NRA	€32,836,753
DTTAS	€20,794,656
KCC	€11,406,515
NTA	€2,467,000
Total for 2012	€67,504,924

Works Completed / Underway

The largest project underway is the R402 Enfield/Edenderry Improvement Scheme. It is expected that this contract will be completed in February 2014.

Funding was received and the work undertaken for the improvement of the R455/M7 to Toughers Roundabout.

A total of 39 smaller schemes were completed around the county using the Restoration Improvement Grant.

The Low Cost Accidents Measures Grant provided much needed funding for lining and signing at locations with a history of road traffic accidents.

Pay Parking

Parking is regulated in six towns in County Kildare; Athy (Athy Town Council), Naas (Naas Town Council), Newbridge, Kildare, Celbridge and Leixlip.

Bye Laws Adopted in 2012

Leixlip Pay Parking Bye Laws were reviewed and adopted on 15 June 2012.

Kildare Town Pay Parking Bye Laws were reviewed and adopted on 26 March 2012.

Celbridge Taxi Stand Bye Laws were adopted on 30 January 2012.

Leixlip Taxi Stand Bye Laws were adopted on 27 February 2012.

Road Safety

Kildare is among the top five best performing counties in terms of the reduction in road deaths. There was a 95% reduction in road deaths in Kildare during the Government Road Safety Strategy (2007 – 2012) with one fatality in 2012. This is in comparison to a national average reduction of 57%.

Kildare County Council's Road Safety Officer continues to be engaged in a programme of education and awareness in the county.

Kildare Civil Defence

The international Civil Defence badge is worn by members of Civil Defence, to show they are part of a worldwide network of committed people, prepared to serve in their own country or overseas as part of practical disaster relief assistance. The international sign of Civil Defence is defined under the Geneva Conventions Act.



Civil Defence services (Search and Rescue, Welfare, Auxillary Fire Service and Casualty) are delivered by local authorities, for their own administrative area, through the Civil Defence Officer.

Fire Service

Kildare Fire Service is divided into three sections. **Operations Section** which deals with issues relating to the operational fire service including firefighting staff, vehicles and equipment, training and the control centre, **Fire Safety Section** which deals with Fire Safety Certification, Petroleum Licensing, District Court licensing and Fire Safety Inspections, and **Emergency Management and Special Risks Section** which deals with Major Emergency Management, the Risk Based Analysis of Fire and Emergency calls, Pre-Incident Planning, Outdoor Events, the Inspection and Enforcement of Residential Institutional Buildings, Explosive and Firearms Licensing, and Fireworks Applications



Operations Section

Incidents

In 2012 the Fire Service attended 1,342 fire and emergency calls. This represents a drop of 252 calls from the level in 2011 (1,594).

The top five incident types attended by Kildare County Fire Service during 2012 were;

- **Outdoor Fires (255)** - This represents a significant drop from the levels of outdoor fires attended in 2011 (446).
- **Chimney Fires (255)** - It remains the case that most chimney fires can be prevented by householders having chimneys cleaned regularly.
- **Dwelling Fires (169)** – Dwelling fires range in severity from small cooker fires to fully involved house fires. The number of dwelling fires has decreased slightly from levels in 2011.
- **Vehicle Fires (170)** - Most vehicle fires are attributable to stolen cars that are later abandoned and set alight.
- **Road Traffic Collisions (161)** - The numbers of attendances at road traffic collisions remains high.



Control Centre

Kildare and Offaly Fire Services are currently the last two fire services operating outside the regional control centre system. In early 2012, Kildare County Council made the decision to close the control centre at Newbridge Fire Station and to migrate the reception of 999/112 calls and the subsequent mobilisation of appropriate resources, to the Eastern Regional Control Centre (ERCC). This decision will also see Offaly Fire Service migrate to the ERCC.

Fire Safety Section

Fire Certification

120 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2012.

Regularisation Certificates

30 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2012.

Childcare Premises

In 2012 a total of 35 inspections were carried out on 34 full day care and seasonal premises, this represented 15% of all 232 day care premises. In the past two years 66% of all day care facilities have been inspected.

Hotel Inspections

8 hotels that had not received a full inspection in the previous three years were inspected.

Dangerous Substance Act

12 petrol filling stations applied for licenses under the Dangerous Substance Act during 2012. To date 62 out of 81 sites in the county have been inspected. 31 are licensed. All petrol filling stations are been actively encouraged to obtain a license to store petroleum.

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. 6 new facilities applied for Vapour Recovery Certificates and 6 existing premises applied for renewal of their licenses.

Circuit and District Courts Licensing

A total of 145 inspections were carried out on 80 licensed premises and 34 of these had applied for dance licenses.

Building Inspections

In addition to licensing, childcare facilities and Dangerous Substance Act inspections the Fire Safety Department carried out an additional 120 inspections on 108 other premises.

Emergency Management and Special Risks Section

Major Emergency Management

The Fire Service continues to co-ordinate and deliver the major emergency management function for Kildare County Council.

Pre-Incident Planning

20 Pre-Incident Plans were completed for high risk buildings.

30 Pre-Incident Planning compliance and fire safety management inspections were carried out.

High Risk Residential Premises

38 inspections of high risk residential premises were carried out in 2012. In an effort to better explain our inspection regime an 'Inspection and Enforcement Procedure' flyer was produced to be given to managers of premises inspected.

Community Fire Safety

Two fire station open days were held in 2012, in Athy and Maynooth Fire Stations. The crews in both stations received significant praise from their communities both for the open day's themselves and the service they provide throughout the year. These open days were also used as an opportunity to spread fire safety messages. Fire safety talks given to various community groups and fire safety awareness stands were manned in Tesco and the Whitewater Shopping Centre, Newbridge.

Monthly fire safety bulletins were issued to all local newspapers and recognising the importance of social media, Kildare Fire Service now has an active Facebook campaign (368 likes).



Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Section were involved in the following during 2012;

- Reviewing and updating of site specific safety statements in particular water and waste water treatment plants and associated pumping stations.
- The delivery and organising of power point presentations to Management Team and the Health and Safety Management Committee on the new national policies and procedures for local authorities and Kildare Local Authorities position
- The legal presentation to all staff on safety legislation liability from Barrister Mr Raymond Byrne, Tool Box Talks to site personnel , presentation to relevant staff on reviewed site safety manuals for water and waste water sites.
- The continued implementation of the Health and Safety Inspection Programme.
- The outlining of hierarchy of sites to be inspected, setting up the inspection schedule for senior line management and reporting on findings to Management Team.
- Ensuring the delivery of Health and Safety training courses
- Accident and incident investigations.
- Consultations with IPBMI request regarding both public liability and employers liability insurance claims.
- Attending court hearings where required.
- Involved in pre-start meetings where required, site safety meetings, bi monthly Health and Safety Senior Management Committee meetings , safety rep meetings, NRDO safety meetings and bi-monthly Local Authorities Safety Officers Group meetings .
- Towards the latter end of the year, commenced review of Kildare Local Authorities Safety Management System in particular the safety manual, risk assessments, method statements, construction related documentation , accident reporting forms, control of documentation and lone working policy and procedure .

Uisce agus Seirbhísí Comhshaoil



Water and Environmental Services

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 Operation section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of adequate water supplies in compliance with the EC Drinking Water (No.2) Regulations 2007.

At present, 90% of the drinking water in County Kildare is sourced from neighbouring authorities e.g Dublin City Council (at Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant) and Fingal County Council (at Leixlip Water Treatment Plant).

In order to reduce the dependency on such authorities to supply the county with water and to ensure the ability to meet the demand for water, now and in future, Kildare County Council must continue to develop its own sources of water within the county e.g. Srowland Water Treatment Plant in Athy and Rathangan/Monasterevin Wellfields.

The bulk of 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

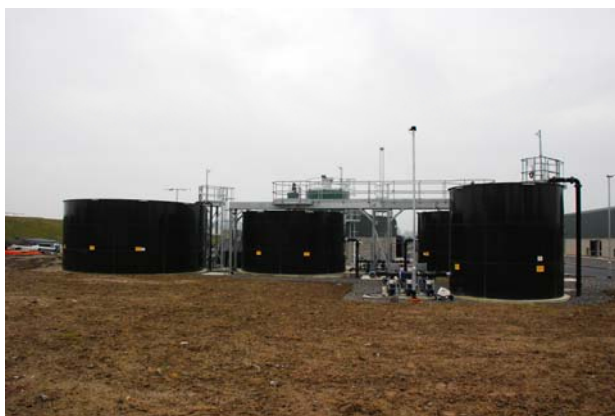
Continued water conservation activities, spearheaded by the Leak Detection Unit, have resulted in unaccounted water levels being reduced from a high of 32 % in January 2011 to 27 % average for December 2012. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted figure for water levels in the country is approximately 40%.

Wastewater

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, The Curragh, Brownstown, Suncroft, Johnstown and Kill). Both have design capacities 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.



Srowland Waste Water Treatment Plant

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 submitted licence 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.

The list applied for is:

Osberstown, Leixlip, Athy, Kildare, Coill Dubh, Monasterevin, Rathangan, Ballymore Eustace, Castledermot, Timolin, 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, Kilmeade, Milltown 1, Milltown 2, Newtown, Nurney, Rathcoffey, Ticknevin.

A total of 10 waste water treatment plants have been issued with licences to date.

There are 3 remaining plants namely Rathangan, Monasterevin and Kildare awaiting grant of licence.

All 24 small plants ie with population less than 500 PE have been issued with certificates of authorisation appropriate to this size of plant.

Capital Programme

The Water Services Capital Works Section is responsible for the delivery of the major water supply and wastewater schemes in the county.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has included the following contracts under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013;

Contract completed during 2012

Kildare Wastewater Treatment Plant – Design Build Operate Contract



Kildare Town Waste Water Treatment Plant

Contracts nearing completion during 2012

Barrow Abstraction Scheme

- Contract 1 - Water Treatment Plant – Design Build Operate Contract
- Contract 2 - Network
- Contract 3A - Network

Contracts which began construction in 2012

Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme

- Contract A – Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Contract B – Pumping station and pipelines

Castlewarden to Ballygoran pipeline and reservoir scheme

Rural Water Programme Group Water Schemes

A group water scheme provides a private water supply to two 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 97 operational group water schemes in Kildare.

Grants paid in 2012

Subsidy Grants €149,920.33

To the various Group Water Schemes in the county.

Take Over of GWS €42,704.38

Other Treatment Solutions €10,096.53
Kilteel Group Water Scheme

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 2012, €341,167.20 was spent on the Small Schemes Programme, which incorporated the following schemes, amongst others:

- Kilcock Ringmain Water Supply Scheme Phase1
- Parsonstown Water Supply Scheme
- Ballyroe Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Donore Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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 €37,306.85 was paid under this scheme in 2012.



Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The Rural Water Monitoring Committee was set up in 1998 and 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

The expenditure on Newbridge and Kildare for 2012 was **€65,773.57.**

Flood Alleviation

A dedicated flood alleviation unit operates within Water Services implementing the

Major Flood Alleviation Capital Programme. Funding for such schemes is sourced from the Development Levy Contribution Scheme and the Office of Public Works (OPW). Over the past number of years the following schemes were completed;

- Toni River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2
- Confey Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Newtown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1
- Kilbelin Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 3
- Ballymore Eustace (River Walk) Flood Alleviation Scheme



Environmental Services

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 3,556 tonnes of glass and 7 tonnes of cans were recovered as well as over 500 tonnes of textiles.

A number of collections of Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) were organised for members of the public. This resulted in over 103 tonnes of electrical waste being recycled.

In addition to the standard bring-banks for glass, aluminum cans and textiles, the range of materials accepted at the recycling centres is expanding as new outlets for materials are developed.

Public bring banks were maintained by the council at 43 sites around the county. Battery collection facilities in schools, retail outlets and the two civic amenity sites continued to be a success. The battery collection scheme in particular helps to prevent environmental harm and helps to educate people in the need for careful waste disposal.



Education and Awareness

During the year our Environmental Awareness Officer made approximately 120 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.

88 of the county's schools had been awarded green flags under the Greed Flag Campaign and a total of 116 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 council provides materials and/or financial aid for appropriate projects for participating Green-Schools. As part of Kildare County 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 also supports environmental initiatives by community groups and Kildare Local Authorities through two schemes co-funded with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, namely the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund and the Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme. The Environmental Partnership Fund Scheme provided €27,000 to 14 projects ranging from providing workshops on sustainable transport to producing leaflets on protecting biodiversity. The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant provided €24,000 to 7 separate projects ranging from bus and cinema awareness campaigns to training for community groups on graffiti removal.

Tidy Towns

The council worked closely to support the tidy towns committees in Kildare in 2012. This support consisted of amenity grants, assistance with cleanups, the provision of bags and litter pickers. In addition, training was offered to groups protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. A talk was organised with Aughrim Tidy Towns to promote best practice. All groups were offered branded high visibility vests both to make the work that is carried out safer and also to raise the profile of this valuable work.



The Environment Section formally assumed the role of working with the tidy towns groups from 2012 as there are already many contacts in this area. This has proven to be successful in assisting the groups in improving the physical appearance of the towns and villages. A number of projects in co-operation with Kildare Leader were progressed in 2012. Special mention should be made of Straffan who received the first gold medal for any Kildare entrant in the national Tidy Towns competition.



Litter

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 and 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-up 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.



National Spring Clean

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.

Various programmes aimed at community groups and residents associations, including Amenity Grant Schemes, Pride of Place Initiatives, 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.

Unfortunately, education alone has not been sufficient to eradicate litter and the council has found it necessary to penalise offenders with 600 fines issued for litter offences in 2012.



National Tree Week

The council also provided 350 saplings to community groups during National Tree Week in March. On a cumulative basis, almost 4,500 trees have been planted in the county as a result of this scheme.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Year ended 31 December 2012
(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)
REVENUE ACCOUNT

Expenditure	2012	2011	2010	2009
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	20,263,507	22,375,627	19,168,637	17,477,789
Road Transportation and Safety	24,683,802	27,914,562	28,980,073	28,025,312
Water Supply and Sewerage	23,051,625	23,673,594	25,789,418	27,409,154
Development Incentives and Controls	8,151,139	8,680,129	9,025,113	10,902,049
Environmental Protection	28,394,126	32,750,134	26,067,527	24,388,617
Recreation and Amenity	7,863,202	8,246,631	8,201,211	8,374,092
Agriculture and Education	7,687,392	13,642,277	13,313,628	11,732,699
Miscellaneous Services	17,542,126	6,960,813	8,425,173	8,604,449
Total	137,636,919	144,243,767	138,970,780	136,914,161
Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)				
Housing and Building	18,553,726	20,419,668	17,091,974	15,430,394
Road Transportation and Safety	12,384,971	13,880,457	14,197,721	12,460,058
Water Supply and Sewerage	12,069,423	12,353,255	14,735,412	16,828,457
Development Incentives and Controls	1,334,899	1,306,399	1,776,645	2,701,802
Environmental Protection	17,475,323	21,252,249	16,193,242	12,672,530
Recreation and Amenity	1,194,113	1,387,880	1,325,077	757,152
Agriculture and Education	6,684,822	12,679,258	12,026,516	10,946,502
Miscellaneous Services	4,303,184	4,239,618	3,868,292	4,610,198
<i>Sub-Total</i>	74,000,461	87,518,784	81,214,879	76,407,093
Urban Authority Accounts	2,807,836	2,852,094	2,647,313	2,802,175
Pension Related Deductions	2,126,952	2,268,787	2,319,302	1,887,497
Local Government Fund	19,628,180	21,604,877	22,458,849	23,866,930
County Rates	46,928,784	36,235,752	38,359,818	38,904,433
Total	145,492,213	150,480,294	147,000,161	143,868,128
Transfers to/from Reserves	-7,603,996	-5,321,720	-7,056,892	-6,186,166
Surplus/Deficit for year	251,298	914,810	972,489	767,801
Opening Balance	-2,998,444	-3,913,254	-4,885,743	-5,653,544
Closing Balance	-2,747,146	-2,998,444	-3,913,254	-4,885,743

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2011	2011	2010	2009
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	14,641,512	14,641,512	21,752,117	40,496,309
Road Transportation and Safety	26,371,931	26,371,931	58,673,742	112,681,176
Water Supply and Sewerage	20,339,215	20,339,215	14,927,863	26,068,719
Development Incentives and Controls	15,293,521	15,293,521	7,943,162	1,037,884
Environmental Protection	831,287	831,287	618,163	1,494,164
Recreation and Amenity	921,476	921,476	1,883,062	4,746,281
Agriculture and Education	0	0	13,098	321,662
Miscellaneous Services	6,794,682	6,794,682	394,284	561,182
Total	85,193,624	85,193,624	106,205,491	187,407,377

Service Indicators

FIRE SERVICE

Fire Service Mobilisation

- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations in respect of fire
No full time fire services in the county of Kildare
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire..... 6.17
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other emergency incidents
No full time fire service in county of Kildare
- Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents6.42

Percentage of attendances at scenes

- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes23.64
- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes60
- Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes16.36
- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes20.77
- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes66.20
- Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes13.03

- Total number of incidents in respect of fire 770
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes182
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes462
- Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes126
- Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)284
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes59
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes188
- Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes37

Fire Prevention

- Total number of fire safety certificate applications received150
- Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)151
- Total number of applications deemed Invalid 6

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og Scheme

- Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og Scheme98.08
- Total number of local schools and youth groups 52
- Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og Scheme51

Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

- Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum610

CORPORATE ISSUES

Working days lost to sickness

- Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave4.79
- Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave0.49
- Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave9,163.46
- Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave937.36
- Total number of staff (whole time equivalent) at the end of December 2012 (as per DECLG staffing return for the end of 2012)842.62

Staff Training and Development

- Expenditure on training and development as a percentage of total payroll costs4.92

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

WATER

Unaccounted For Water

- Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for27.89
- Total volume of water supplied (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for75,500
- Volume of unaccounted for water (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for21,060

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Segregation

- Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables 99.96
- Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics46.27
- Total number of households provided with a waste collection service60,254
- Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for recyclables60,230
- Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for organics27,879

Housing waste sent for recycling

- Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling40.44
- Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling24,815
- Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)6,403.14
- Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside61,368
- Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling24,815
- Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is landfilled36,548

Household waste sent for landfill

- The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill59.56

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Household waste sent for landfill

- The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill36,548
- Total tonnage of household waste collected61,368
- Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill36,548

Recycling facilities

- The total number of bring sites in the local authority area43
- The total number of civic amenity centres in the local authority area2

	Glass	Cans	Textiles	Batteries	Oils	Other
Total number of facilities for recycling	43	39	72	3	2	10
Total number of locations for recycling per 5000 of the population	1.02	0.93	1.71	0.07	0.05	0.24
Number of bring sites for recycling	41	37	70	1	0	8
Number of civic amenity sites	2	2	2	2	2	2

Litter

Litter Prevention and Enforcement

- Number of full-time litter wardens1
- Number of part-time litter wardens 6
- Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5,000 population0.17
- Number of on-the-spot fines issued 655
- Number of on-the-spot fines paid 234
- Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines81
- Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines17
- Number of notices issued (under Sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)51
- Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)81
- Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)17
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted26
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter42
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter26
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter7
- Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter0

Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

- Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)1,299
- Number of complaints investigated1,276

- Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary1,153
- Number of enforcement procedures taken (including litter fines) 855

Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

- Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns88.79
- Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns84
- Total number of primary schools107
- Number of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns95
- Total number of secondary schools 25
- Number of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns21

HOUSING

Housing Vacancies

- The total number of dwellings in local authority stock3,589
- The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects ...3,584
- The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)1.06
- The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting78.95
- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting21.05
- The average number of dwellings in local authority stock3,589
- The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects3,584
- The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)38

- The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting 30
- The average number of empty dwellings available for letting 8

Average time taken to re-let available dwellings

- The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling7.24
- The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit0.34

Housing Repairs

- Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received85.48
- The number of repairs completed3,491
- The number of valid repair requests received4,084

Traveller Accommodation

- Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme33.33
- Number of traveller families accommodated 4
- Target number of traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the Local Traveller Accommodation Programme12

Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

- Total number of registered tenancies9,652
- Number of dwelling units inspected532
- Number of inspections carried out616

- Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)5.51

Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

- 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 on the application3.94
- 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, to the date of decision on the application5.15

Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

- Total number of new local authority tenants143
- Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses100
- Number of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses143

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Public Opening Hours

- Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries38.84
- Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)12.94
- Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings100
- Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings100
- Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings86

- Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries39.62
- Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)12.94
- Number of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings7
- Number of full time libraries that have evening openings 7
- Number of full time libraries that have Saturday openings6

Library visits

- Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population 2,989.13
- Total number of visits to full-time libraries.....628,650

Library Stock

- Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)€1.75
- Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books2.79
- Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items0.65
- Annual expenditure on stock €369,000
- Total number of books issued587,685
- Total number of other items issued 136,779

Internet access through libraries

- Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population 212.02
- Total number of internet sessions provided 44,590

MOTOR TAXATION

Number of motor tax transactions

- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter89,384
- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post16,841
- Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)138,209
- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter36.57
- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post6.89
- Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)56.54

Time taken to process motor tax postal applications

- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application8,177
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application4,307
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application1,134
- Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application3,223
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application48.55
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application25.57

- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application6.73
- Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application19.14

Time taken to process driving licence applications

- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application702
- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application2,703
- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application2,129
- Number of driving licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application21,003
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application2.65
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application10.19
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application8.02
- Percentage of overall driving licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application79.15

Public opening hours

- Average number of opening hours per week28.4

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Children's Playgrounds

- Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority0.07
- Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority0
- Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority15
- Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority1

Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

- Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population5,209.07
- Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities1,095,530

ROADS

Road Restoration Programme

- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum94.49
- Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum3.255

PLANNING

Planning applications – decision making

	Individual House	New Housing Development	Other not requiring an EIA	Other requiring an EIA
Number of applications decided	230	7	549	8
Number of decisions decided within 8 weeks	129	6	286	4
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	101	1	263	4
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	0	0	1	0
Average length of time (in days) taken to determine an application where further information is sought	77	82	100	89
No. of applications granted	143	7	427	7
% of grants	62.17	100	77.78	87.50
% of refusals	37.83	0	22.22	12.50
No. of applications refused	87	0	122	1
% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	77.78	0	72.92	100
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	22.22	0	27.08	0

Planning Enforcement

- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated253
- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed163
- Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations101
- Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters138
- Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices68
- Number of prosecutions14

Planning public opening hours

- Average number of opening hours per week36.2

Pre-Planning Consultation

- Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held184
- Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation12

New buildings inspected

- Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority17.27
- Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority 278
- Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected48

Taking Estates in Charge

- 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 of the year (Column A)28

- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question (Column B)17
- Number of dwellings in respect of column B (Column C)1,146
- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission (Column D)10
- 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 in1
- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard0
- Number of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission2.8

REVENUE COLLECTION

House Rent

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from house rent83.26
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are up to 4 weeks old3.10
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are 4-6 weeks old3.34
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are 6-12 weeks old5.82
- Percentage of arrears on house rent that are more than 12 weeks old87.74
- Amount due at year end from house rent €10,233,902
- Amount collected at year end from house rent €8,520,515
- Amount of arrears at year end from house rent €1,713,387

- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are up to 4 weeks old€53,113
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are 4-6 weeks old€57,206
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are 6-12 weeks old€99,802
- Amount of arrears on housing rent that are more than 12 weeks old€1,503,269

Housing Loans

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from housing loans49.17
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are up to 1 month old0.55
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are 1-2 months old0.97
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are 2-3 months old0.54
- Percentage of arrears on housing loans that are more than 3 months old97.94
- Amount due at year end from housing loans€6,374,503
- Amount collected at year end from housing loans€3,134,362
- Amount of arrears at year end from housing loans€3,240,141
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are up to 1 month old€17,804
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are 1-2 months old€31,360
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are 2-3 months old€17,632
- Amount of arrears on housing loans that are more than 3 months old€3,173,345

Commercial Rates

- Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from commercial rates72.94

Refuse Charges

- Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end70.77

Non-Domestic Water Charges

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for non-domestic water charges51.96

Corporate Plan 2009-2014

Progress Report 2012

Objective 1: Support and enhance local democracy			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	1.2 To work to enhance community participation and active citizenship through capacity building and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over €300,000 was awarded in 2012 to groups to support their involvement in building strong and inclusive communities.
	1.8 To continue to focus on social inclusion as a means of tackling poverty and disadvantage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create equal opportunities for the marginalised sections of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Partners is an initiative of Kildare County Council which has been developed to facilitate joint working across County Development Board Projects. K Partners responds to and creates a proactive and effective approach to community requirements.
	1.9 To develop the community leadership role of the council through the County Development Board and with the community and voluntary forum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and co-ordinate the implementation of the County Development Board Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Integrated Service Programme (ISP) in Kildare and Kilcock is now in transition phase. The ISP works by identifying gaps in local needs, commissioning projects that are achievable, scoping the requirements and responding through interagency working to deliver project goals.

Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents' associations and support the development of new residents associations in urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide communities with support in relation to amenity and landscaping works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and financial assistance to various Tidy Towns Committees including Leixlip, Kildare, Kill Newbridge Naas Narraghmore, Nurney Monasterevin, Castledermot completed for 2012. Annual programme of grass maintenance, tree pruning, tree removals, tree planting and bulb planting completed for 2012.
Corporate Services	1.4 To work to improve the accuracy of the electoral register and to explore the use of focused public information programmes and new technologies to improve participation in the electoral process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the electoral register by refined targeting of publicity and information on the registration process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of all returned polling cards from the Fiscal Treaty and the Children's Rights Referendums 2012 and any follow up queries from both election days completed. Publicity and information campaigns completed and door to door awareness campaign carried out by Corporate Services staff during summer 2012.
	1.6 To ensure that the county and town councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure timely issue of agendas and supporting documents for council and committee meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop MembersNet to assist members in accessing information in a timely manner. Continue to endeavour to replace paper with electronic documentation for council and committee meetings.

Environment	1.5 To review and enhance the role of Strategic Policy Committees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress in assessing issues in relation to waste management through high level discussion and decision making
	1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents associations and support the development of new residents associations in urban areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued provision of resident association grants and cemetery grants. Further interaction with residents groups through Environment Awareness Officer and Litter Wardens and continued assistance through environmental clean up crews.
Housing	1.6 To ensure that the county and town councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with elected members formally through Housing Strategic Policy Committee, the area committees, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and through the Regional Homelessness Forum. Members consult regularly with staff in the Housing Department in an informal manner on issues concerning their constituents.
Information Technology	1.6 To ensure that the county and town councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an ongoing service provided by members of the IT team, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed, piloted and rolled out an extranet facility for the councillors to assist in the electronic operation of council meetings and provided the necessary hardware, software and support to councillors to facilitate the move to 'e' type operations.

Library and Arts Services	<p>1.11 To provide countywide access to library facilities and opportunities for all to engage with the Arts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote facilitate and support access for citizens to information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service. • Maximise library management information systems to enhance real time and virtual services to users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of e Services - available 24/7: e Magazines, e learning on-line (500+ courses) and Libanywhere app for smartphones. • Extension of library self service at Monasterevin and Kilcock • Unique educational partnership programme with NU, Maynooth and Co Kildare Leader Partnership. • Over 1,000 class visits in 2012 • Over 700,000 people used our library services • Over 725,000 issues of books and other materials • County Programme team set up to co-ordinate national and countywide programme over 5,350 events in 2012. • Another successful Kildare Readers Festival with 1,200 participants [moved to October bank holiday weekend]. • Significant development of interagency arts collaboration particularly in Arts and Health/ Wellbeing. New partnership programme with Barretstown Gang Camp • New collaboration with the Music Department in NUIM • Extensive programme in Youth Arts, Arts in Education and Social Inclusion. • 4,000 people attended 55 events on Culture Night Kildare in 2012. • €47,350 was provided to 39 artists/groups through the annual Arts Act Grants and
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			<p>Awards Schemes in 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Geography student from NUIM analysed 'If I had an artist for a day ...' programme. Over 7,700 children in 48 primary schools participated in the arts and education programme over a 3 year period.
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Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	1.3 To promote consultation and communication through partnership with employees and citizens.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has maintained the area office structure to provide countywide access to the Council's services and to ensure that adequate and relevant information is available in each office. • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has engaged in statutory and non-statutory Public Consultation at the planning stage of all relevant Projects.
	1.6 To ensure that the county and town councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate has ensured that county and town councillors are provided with timely information.
	1.13 To continue to engage in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation for planned works.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate has engaged in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation for planned works.
Water Services	1.6 To ensure that the county and town councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicing meetings and members queries. • Financial monitoring and reporting. • Cross department liaison. • Customer service co-ordination. • Risk management. • Staff training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serviced all Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committee and Council meetings with technical reports, policy proposals and responses to members' queries. • Collaborated and liaised with other departments as necessary. • Prepared reports and budget proposals for Council meetings

Objective 2: Facilitate and encourage sustainable economic growth and employment			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community & Enterprise	2.1 To strive to minimise the impact on the environment from all our activities through energy conservation and reduced carbon emissions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued policy of reducing and creating efficiencies in the volume of paper used in administration of our services by increased use of our websites – e.g. Joint Policing Website.
	2.3 Work to create opportunities for sustainable employment and high quality residential areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and co-ordinate the economic development sub-committees of the County Development Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of an Equine Strategy for 2012 is ongoing.
	2.5 To ensure Kildare's natural and architectural heritage is protected, conserved and maintained to the highest standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over €34,000 was paid out to groups to develop community heritage projects in Kildare.
Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	2.5 To ensure Kildare's natural and architectural heritage is protected, conserved and maintained to the highest standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in the maintenance and enhance the existing biodiversity and heritage within the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed on conservation of Leixlip Spa Well.

Environment	2.2 Implement the Waste Management Plan and develop policies to increase recycling levels.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of Waste Management policies. Kildare County Council's Waste Management Plan evaluated. Further success in relation to increasing numbers of green schools and Bring banks in context of the waste management plan. Refuse collection contract successfully transferred to private contractor. Continued financial assistance given regarding provision of existing sponsored bins. Management of recycling facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy outsourced on 5 year contract. Provision of recycling facilities at Celbridge being examined.
	2.13 To continue to seek improvement of water quality in rivers and streams and to implement River Basin management plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of River Basin Management Plans and programme of measures. Continued operation of water sampling, testing and monitoring programme. Arrangements regarding septic tank registrations now in place.
Housing	2.3 Work to create opportunities for sustainable employment and high quality residential areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support small businesses through Housing grants, void repairs/energy efficiency works in the region of €2m. Facilitated loans for private dwellings under approved schemes.

Information Technology	2.1 To strive to minimise the impact on the environment from all our activities through energy conservation and reduced carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software to manage power consumption in the desktop environment i.e. powering down machines and monitors when not in use, especially at night has been rolled out across the organisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By using the latest virtualisation software the ICT Department has significantly reduced its carbon footprint through a reduction in servers and the powering off of some air conditioning units in the server room.
Planning	2.3 Work to create opportunities for sustainable employment and high quality residential areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support sustainable economic development and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives provided in Development Contribution Scheme to (a) assist in restoration/refurbishment of Protected Structures (b) promote the use of existing/proposed space over shop/retail space for use as residential development (c) provide exemptions for enterprises being grant aided by CEB, Leader etc. (d) to support agricultural developments. • Continued linkage with third level colleges as a means of promoting Kildare as a premier place for investment. In particular, NUI Maynooth is now proactively engaged with a number of sub-committees of the County Development Board in exploring opportunities. • 4 scholarships awarded to science students in 2012 under STEM project and continuing support of 2 scholars from 2011 round. • The section is also working with Failte Ireland and industry stakeholders to develop a Kildare/Wicklow tourism destination project, which was launched by Bord Failte in

			<p>conjunction with Kildare Failte and Wicklow Failte.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Section acts as a single point of contact for all planning applications with employment potential and assists in facilitating preplanning meeting with all service sections within the council. Work is also done to assist planning section to assess zoning requirements for Town and County Development plans based on RPG population projections etc.
	<p>2.5 To ensure Kildare's natural and architectural heritage is protected, conserved and maintained to the highest standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and protect the natural, built and cultural heritage 	<p>Implementation of the actions of the County Heritage Plan through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of the Heritage Plan actions were completed. • Commenced preparation of the new Heritage Plan. • A survey of wetland sites in Co Kildare was conducted. • A Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan for the town walls of Castledermot was prepared. • The draft Architectural Conservation Area Statement was prepared for Kildare Town. • Implemented "Save our Stories" – oral recording project with Kildare Leader Partnership. • Over 50 events were held in Kildare during Heritage Week 2012. • Over €34,000 (23 projects) was paid out to groups to develop community heritage projects in Kildare.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Directive) training was organized for staff. • Ongoing maintenance programme of the walks in Ballynafagh with support of Tir na Mona.
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	2.9 To continue to migrate the Council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels as funding permits.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate has continued to migrate the Council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels.

Water Services	<p>2.6 To continue to install and improve water and wastewater services in accordance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To operate and maintain water supply network to meet demand and provide water of highest quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to develop the water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure/network through the Water Services Investment Capital Programme and Small Schemes Programme. • The following contracts were at construction in 2012: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kildare Town Wastewater Treatment Plant - Srowland Water Treatment Plant • Continued involvement with Greater Dublin Regional Water Supply Steering Group to co-ordinate the supply and distribution of water in the region. • Input into Development Plan process.
	<p>2.14 To ensure adequate supplies of potable water to meet demand and to ensure that sufficient waste water treatment capacity is available to meet the needs of Kildare.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To operate and maintain wastewater network and treatment systems to facilitate development and protect the environment in accordance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and Water Framework Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated and maintained the water supply network to ensure full compliance with water quality standards.

Objective 3: Develop and grow Kildare's social and physical infrastructure			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community & Enterprise	3.8 To support the development of sustainable communities by the provision of appropriate community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work and planning for the ISP in Kildare. Administration of the Community, Festival, Amenity and community Heritage Grant scheme Further joint projects developed with the Kildare Community and Voluntary Forum. Continued development of Kildare Age Friendly initiative. A number of integrated projects delivered through K Partners e.g. Rathangan.
Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	3.12 To support the development and enhancement of local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, provide and improve recreational and amenity facilities within the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance of 11 existing playgrounds in the county Playground installed in Nurney and work commenced on provision of a playground in Rathangan. Provision of allotments in The Wonderful Barn. Commenced work on development of playing pitches in Lough na Mona Leixlip Improvement Works in William Rowantree Park , Leixlip Landscaping in Nurney Village Landscaped roundabout in Athy Play Day event in Aras Chill Dara to celebrate and promote National Play Day Support to Riverbank Theatre for events in Childrens Area in the complex.

Environment	3.6 To ensure that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and manage existing cemeteries and identify/develop new lands for future requirements. • Progress made in securing lands and constructing new cemeteries at Celbridge, Moone and Staplestown. Extra lands being examined at Newbridge, Derrinturn and Kildangan.
Housing	3.9 To assess and provide appropriate housing measures to meet housing needs in the county.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of social housing stock through measures such as energy efficiency works, private rented standards.
Information Technology	3.5 Provide improved access to information on services provided by the Council via Kildare.ie website and through local print and broadcast media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work done in 2012 with social media i.e. the use of RSS feeds, Twitter, Facebook and online alerts. Website undergoing constant updating and refresh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to support and develop the ICT systems that improve service provision to the public e.g. online systems for payments, GIS based systems for locating points of interest in the council, support systems and infrastructure for the council libraries and arts programmes and the delivery of social media presences to interact with the public.

Library and Arts Services	<p>3.11 To support the development and enhancement of local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress addressing physical access issues in all venues. • Strengthen reader development programmes and collection management across the library network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Kildare County Council's Access Implementation Plan, works on Naas Library's multipurpose area. • Conservation works on Local Studies and Archives complex. • Over 60 library book clubs which cater for adult, children and young adults reader development. • Successful Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Lab' engaged young readers. • (Continue to) Make Inroads : An Arts Development Plan for Kildare Local Authorities 2012-2016 approved by Council and launched in September 2012 • Maintained funding levels provided to arts resource organisations in the county
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<p>Planning</p>	<p>3.3 Strive to achieve high quality sustainable development in both urban and rural areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure timely preparation of County Development Plan and Naas Town Development Plan which commenced in May 2009, and Local Area Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two year review of County and Naas Development Plans to be carried out in 2013. • Athy Town Development Plan– adopted by Athy Town Council in February 2012. • In the preparation of Plans, ensuring availability of appropriately zoned lands for economic development • Public consultation ongoing at appropriate stages of plan processes. • Local Area Plan for Kildare Town adopted December 2012. • Review of Local Area Plans for Newbridge, Kilcullen, Monasterevin, Sallins, Kilcock, Clane and Maynooth ongoing. • Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment ongoing for all plans as required. • Strategic Flood Risk Assessment ongoing for draft all plans as appropriate.
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Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	3.1 To provide a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of ten years subject to financial and human resource constraints.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety directorate has provided, and will endeavour to continue to provide, a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of 10 years subject to financial and human resources constraints.
	3.6 To ensure that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate has ensured that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new developments. • Key infrastructure projects have been developed in accordance with the Council's capital programme and the County Development Plan. • The Directorate maintains and manages 6 fire stations (Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip) working to the highest possible standards.
	3.7 To improve travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient traffic management measures and build on the capabilities and scale of the Council's traffic management centre, subject to appropriate funding.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has improved travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient traffic management measures.

Water Services	3.4 To continue to facilitate Group Water Schemes subject to available budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement and expand Rural Water Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development of the Rural Water Programme, however, there was no scheme funding allocated in 2012. • Projects Completed in 2012 Zero funding was allocated from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2012 for new schemes. • GWS Taking in Charge works carried out in 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clongorey GWS
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	<p>3.6 To ensure that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop flood alleviation strategy and implementation programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sallins Flood Alleviation Scheme – substantial complete (reinstatement outstanding) • Johnstown Flood alleviation Scheme – substantial complete (reinstatement and snagging outstanding) • Ardclough Flood Alleviation Scheme – substantially complete (reinstatement and snagging outstanding) • Mooneys Streat incl railway culverts – design and tender documents stage • Morrell River flood Alleviation Scheme – tenders to be sought for consultants to complete: Design of flood defence options Cost Benefit Analysis Environmental Impact Statement • Ballymore Eustace Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1 – complete • Ballymore Eustace Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 – preliminary report complete. Cost benefit analysis and funding application to follow. • Donaghcumper Flood Alleviation Scheme – preliminary report has commenced (tenders for surveyor have been issued)
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Objective 4: Improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services by Kildare Local Authorities

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community & Enterprise	4.6 Focus on teamwork and the importance of cooperation across disciplines, sections and geographic areas. 4.7 Support staff to reach their full potential through learning, experiences sharing and skills transfer.	To support and co-ordinate the work of K Partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K Partners, which is a coalition of Kildare County Council staff and related workers in Community and Culture Services, rolled out a number of co-ordinated programmes in the county. The overall aim of the group is to maximise collective, knowledge, contacts and expertise.
Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	4.10 Increase co-operation between the Kildare Local Authorities to minimise duplication and inefficiency in the delivery of services.	To provide support to the town council's within the county in relation to amenity and landscaping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme completed with Leixlip Town Council in relation to grass maintenance, tree planting, tree pruning and removals and improvement works in William Rowantree Park • Work programme completed with Naas Town Council in relation and Athy Town Council in relation to bulb and tree planting programme, • Assistance to Newbridge Town Council in relation to landscaping in Liffey Park Newbridge

Corporate Services	4.1 Optimise use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	To improve service delivery to members and customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing use of I.T. and social media networks to optimise service delivery to members and customers.
	4.2 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies	To introduce a procurement system for stationery items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of centralised procurement and storage arrangement for stationery items i.e. paper, envelopes and toner cartridges in conjunction with Procurement Team.
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	Stimulate improvements in quality service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Care Steering Group prepared Work Programme for 2012 • Revised draft Telephone Policy prepared • Revised draft Customer Code of Conduct prepared • Revised draft Customer Charter prepared • Draft Internal Complaints Procedure prepared • Revised contact information details printed and published on website • Assistance provided to departments on telephone management to improve service. • Initiated procedures to deal with introduction of fixyourstreet.ie • Further staff training delivered on Adest

	4.16 To establish a comprehensive database register of assets, comprising a mapping record of all lands and property in the Council's ownership.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Property Interest Register Team continues to work towards completing a comprehensive register of all land-based assets. 820 records are now live on the Property Interest Register system, a specialised database incorporating digital maps. Land Registry maps have been integrated and a number of Property Registration Authority initiatives are being pursued to maximise efficiency e.g. deconstruction of Omnibus Folios.
Finance	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	Ensure effective collection of income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early issuing of bills. Automation of payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to maximise collection the Finance Department must ensure that all bills (Rates/ Water/Refuse/Housing Loans/ Rents) are issued in a timely manner. New systems were put in place for the issuing of Water bills. Continuing efforts were made for all customers to pay by way of standing orders and direct debits. A significant number of suppliers were also added to the automated payments.

	<p>4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.</p>	<p>Financial Planning and Treasury Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the annual budget and financial statements in a professional, clear and timely manner. • Promotion of value for money as an essential part of performance management. • Assisting Councils adherence to the Corporate Plan through projected revenue and capital programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget for 2013 was prepared in December 2012 and adopted by Council on 17 December 2012. • There is a statutory responsibility to have the Annual Financial Statement published by 1st July of the following year. In 2012 the 2011 AFS was brought to Council on 26 March 2012. • Value for money initiatives were consolidated in 2012 and a number of new initiatives identified. • The annual budget and three year rolling capital programme were prepared with reference to the Corporate Plan goals.
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	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	Budgetary Strategy and Financial Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgetary Control Assessment of future needs with a view to ensuring provision of adequate resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly monitoring of income and expenditure against budget was continued to ensure targets were met and overspending was avoided. The capital programme 2012-2014 anticipates Kildare County Council spending in the order of €281 million on infrastructure. The plan was updated in 2012 taking into account the funding available and identifying the resources required to implement the Plan.
	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	Ensure collection of income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of aged debtors and debtors reconciliations to reduce bad debts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new debt management system was introduced to assist with the review of outstanding balances which will assist to ensure early intervention with debtors to discharge outstanding debts.
	4.15 To continue with the programme of improved internal processes in moving to a modern integrated Human Resources, Organisational Structure and Payroll Systems, incorporating modules for superannuation, recruitment and training,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New payroll system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of a new HR, Superannuation and Payroll system within Kildare County Council has reduced the risk of error and giving supervisory/management staff greater control over the chargeability of staff.

Housing	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for housing, and housing stock management and maintenance maintained on ihouse database. • Social Housing Leasing Initiative / Rental Accommodation Scheme operational.
	4.2 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured that full allocation of funding to Kildare Local Authorities was drawn down and expenditure incurred under the various headings in an effective and efficient manner.
	4.6 Focus on teamwork and the importance of cooperation across disciplines, sections and geographic areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with external agencies improved – Regional Drugs Task Force, Joint Policing Committee.

Information Technology	<p>4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wireless wide area network (WAN) has been delivered to almost all sites in the county (waiting on a development at one location before switching on Maynooth, estimated in 2013). This has greatly improved speeds to and from Áras Chill Dara. • Support continues to be provided to all users and the rollout of applications and technologies particularly in the mobile sphere continues apace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council piloted a wireless network connection to a location in Naas for disaster recovery and following its successful implementation has gone to the market for a new wireless high speed Wide Area Network for the entire council. • The ICT Section continues to provide quality support to the user population (650 users and 35+ offices) through the effective use and management of the IT helpdesk function. • Continued to develop the intranet facility as the de-facto standard for publishing and managing internal information. • Implemented a new workflow browser based system for tracking FOI requests and members representations. • Implemented a new document management system for managing 1.5 million scanned council documents across all of the sections.
	<p>4.15 To continue with the programme of improved internal processes in moving to a modern integrated Human Resources, Organisational Structure and Payroll Systems, incorporating modules for superannuation, recruitment and training,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required support provided towards the timely implementation of this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the deployment of the new integrated HR, payroll and superannuation system in Kildare Local Authorities.

<p>Internal Audit</p>	<p>4.2 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies.</p> <p>4.8 Create a culture throughout the local authorities of quality public service, transparency, accountability and value for money.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented a new workflow browser based system for tracking FOI requests and members representations. • Annual audit plans are prepared based on departmental risk registers which in turn are linked to business plans and ultimately the Corporate Plan. The Internal Audit plan for 2012 contained 16 audits spread across all Directorates. Work was carried out on 11 audits during the year, with 9 audits completed and 2 commenced before the year end. • Two investigations into fraud resulted in a further two reports not included in Audit Plan. • All of the audits directly or indirectly contribute towards the Council's strategic objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan. • Recommendations from audits are subsequently monitored to ensure implementation as agreed.
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<p>Library and Arts Services</p>	<p>4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.</p> <p>4.12 Continue to promote ease of access for all to council services and premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and align opening hours countywide, reacting to service needs and staffing shortfalls in each community. • Promote, facilitate and support access for citizens to information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of new library service delivery model, which highlighted the fact that 86.3% of surveyed community groups felt that 'the Library Service should provide a dedicated space and time for community and voluntary development'. • Library Senior Management team engaged in interagency collaboration to maximise resources and align deliverables, e.g. ISP, HSE and NUI Maynooth • System of electronic notifications of library events in place. • Libanywhere app developed to provide 24/7 access to library services. • Extension of popular 'Toys, Technology and Training' series of lectures, linking with parents, teachers and occupational therapists. • TTRS - Touch Type Read and Spell - tutoring provided for young people with dyslexia in library setting. • Extensive library programming providing members with access to educational lectures and workshops, eg 'How to use Social Media'. • Launch of Libraries Secondary School Educational programme in Leixlip, Kildare and Naas. • The Arts Service has provided a range of professional
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			development opportunities for artists engaged with the community, to support capacity building.
Planning	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	Planning Application and Licence Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a high quality service to citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-Doc document management system implemented, providing access to planning files documentation. I-doc system expanded to include records for 1998-2011. PDC Planning Development Contribution system implemented, generating invoices for levies, recording levies outstanding and payments received. Planning register database extended to incorporate records from 1964 to 1987 including index cards and register books. Planning register maps (735) converted into appropriate file formats. Scanning of historical County Development Plan and Local Area Plans into the digital environment was commenced in 2012. In partnership with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and other technology providers; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Uploading of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans to the new national platform "Myplan"; Utilisation of other GIS technologies to make

			information available to other external agencies i.e. data on unfinished housing estates and land availability surveys.
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<p>Information and Public Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a comprehensive service to the public. <p>Enforcement and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue the development of enforcement and compliance functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the counter validation for all one off houses and extensions process implemented. Outreach services – Pre-Planning clinics held in Aras Chill Dara, Athy and Leixlip in 2012. Individual pre planning clinics for commercial and/or employment potential developments facilitated at Aras Chill Dara as required. Continued enforcement action by issuing Warning Letters, Enforcement Letters and taking legal action against unauthorised developments.

		<p>Building and Development Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and enforcement of the Building Control and Building Regulations throughout the county. To ensure that all new residential developments (other than developments where management companies are required) in the county are completed to an acceptable standard and that these estates are taken in charge within an acceptable timeframe once they have been completed to the satisfaction of the County Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued processing of fire safety certificates, disabled access certificates and commencement notices in accordance with statutory requirements. • All active residential developments are being monitored on an ongoing basis and enforcement procedures have been initiated where necessary. • Continued liaison with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Local Government Management Association on unfinished housing estates. 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. • There is a continued programme of work regarding taking in charge of residential housing developments.
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Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	4.2 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has achieved value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with National and European procurement policies.
Water Services	4.4 To minimise loss and waste in the public water system through ongoing water conservation and leak detection programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued metering of non-domestic supplies. • Reduction in unaccounted for water (volume and percentage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operated and maintained the water supply network to ensure full compliance with water quality standards.

Objective 5: Promote and develop Kildare as a place to live and do business.			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community & Enterprise	5.2 To work to enhance the links with NUI Maynooth to develop employment opportunities through the competencies of the college in research and development and its experiences of joint venture with world class industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and co-ordinate the implementation of the CDB Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic work groups developed under the CDB following an Economic Seminar in 2010 have met in 2011. A number of key actions were identified with subgroups consisting of elected representatives and key business people created.
Community & Enterprise (Leisure Services)	5.5 To enhance and develop the appearance and environment of Kildare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, provide and improve recreational and amenity facilities within the county, through the provision of parks, open spaces, playgrounds and landscaping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping of roundabouts at Athy and Kill. Annual spring bulb planting carried out throughout the county completed. Annual tree planting programme carried out throughout the county completed. Grass Maintenance programme carried out in 2012.

Environment	5.7 To continue to implement robust measures to enforce waste management regulations and reduce litter.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue review of old legacy landfill sites in the county. • Continued progress in elimination of derelict sites • Continue to operate air quality monitoring • Continue to review licences for discharge to foul sewers and waters. • Continued programme to address dangerous buildings. • Working closely with tidy towns groups to improve the appearance of Kildare's towns and villages.
Housing	5.5 To enhance and develop the appearance and environment of Kildare.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Team, attached to the Housing Department, work towards maintaining sustainable communities with local authority estates. • Community cabins/facilities are available in a number of estates and the team work through properly constituted residents associations to provide support to tenants. • The Tenant Liaison Officers manage issues around anti-social behaviour and, where possible, seek to address these issues through mediation and conflict resolution, rather than eviction.

Library and Arts Services	5.12 To promote and enhance the cultural and artistic life of Kildare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library and Arts Service tams will continue a collaborative approach to deliver joint appropriate programming. • Align PR, marketing, acquisitions, programmes and ICT resources and budgets to underpin/support all relevant Arts and Cultural Programmes, including Genealogy/Archives and Local Studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network 2012, new events include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Book, One Town - Bealtaine Festival - Historical Film Series - Classic Director Series Film Club - Library Family Week • Marketing campaign targeting, in particular, young people • Extension to e Service provision in response to feedback from online survey. • Enhancement of a dedicated children and family programme in Riverbank Arts Centre • An 'Animating Architecture' funpack for children devised for Leixlip and to developed in towns countywide
Water Services	5.6 To continue to meet and/or exceed EPA standards for the quality of water supply and waste water treatment systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all planning or licence applicants are processed in an efficient and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Water Data uploaded to new computer system which will be further developed in 2013. • Each WWTP monitored on a monthly basis so as to ensure adherence with EPA discharge license requirements.



Athy Town Council

Comhairle Baile Bhaile Átha

Athy Town Council

Athy has enjoyed significant growth over the past number of years and now has a population exceeding 9,500 within the town area. The economic development of the town is critical to ensure that this growth is sustainable and the Town Council continues to play a pivotal role in the town's growth and development. Many exciting changes have taken place and have been proposed over the past year.

Elected Members and the Executive

Athy Town Council members are Cathaoirleach Mark Wall (Labour), Leas-Cathaoirleach Thomas Redmond (Labour), Councillors Aoife Breslin (Labour), Mark Dalton (Fianna Fáil), Richard Daly (Fine Gael), Michael Dunne (Sinn Féin), James Mahon (Labour), John Lawler (Fianna Fáil) and Mary O'Sullivan (Fine Gael).

Councillors Daly and Wall are also elected members of Kildare County Council (Athy Area).

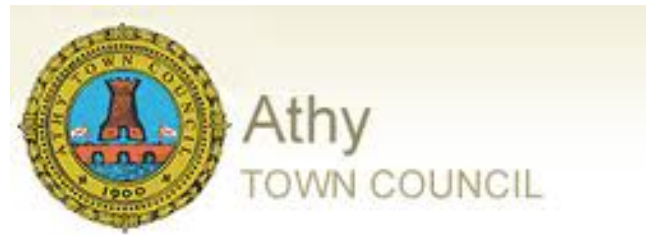
Town Manager/ Director of Services

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 circa. €6.2 million (including revenue expenditure of circa. €4.9 million) in 2012 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 327 housing units. Forty-nine housing applicants were housed in new and existing accommodation during the year under the council's social housing programmes, which includes vacancies occurring in units managed by voluntary housing associations, rental accommodation scheme and long-term leasing.

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, which has resulted in vacant units being re-let within the shortest possible timeframe. In addition, the Woodstock Lodge Capital Scheme (10 units) was completed during the year and is a particularly attractive scheme, having restored the protected structure on site.

Roads

The completion of the M9 motorway and the associated new link road to Athy in early 2010 further emphasised the strategic location of the town in relation to the region and greater Dublin area. Works to a 'canal lock' theme roundabout at the entrance to the town were completed in 2012.

Southern Distributor Road

In early 2011, the proposed Southern Distributor Road (SDR) capital project was formally accepted onto the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's list of priority schemes (Special Non-National Road Programme). The revised project cost is circa. €34 million and an application for funding has been lodged with the Department. An initial allocation of €150,000 was received for the purposes of finalising site investigation works, as well as outstanding elements of the design process. The council have been requested to hold further work for the moment, including traffic surveys and updating the EIS, etc. Realistically, at this stage, the council requires a very substantial allocation in order to proceed to the next stage of the project which will involve confirmation of CPO/EIS and land acquisition. A formal decision from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is currently awaited as to when the scheme can commence.

Traffic Management Plan

Considerable progress is being made in implementing the Traffic Management Plan, which was adopted in 2010 following an extensive period of public consultation.

The following projects were completed to date;

- Junction improvements at Fortbarrington Junction.
- Pedestrian lights at entrance to GAA Club.
- Improvement to signalling network at Emily Square.

All such works were funded by the National Transport Authority.

In 2012, much of the hard infrastructure (CCTV, loops, etc.) was installed to facilitate the proposed new traffic management system.

It is envisaged that the following schemes will be prioritised for 2013;

- Upgrading of Stradbally Road Junction
- Full implementation of the SCOOT/MOVA system.

In addition to the foregoing, it is proposed that the preliminary design for the footbridge will be available in early 2013 and a public consultation process can then be commenced regarding the various location options. It is envisaged that all design costs can be recouped from the National Transport Authority, although no commitment has been given to date regarding construction costs.

Block Road Grant Works

A number of further 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, Community and Local Government.

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 (under Section 85 of Local Government Act, 2001).

Water Supply

Measures undertaken over recent years to reinforce water supply in the town are now completed, pending the completion of the Barrow Abstraction Scheme, which is scheduled to be delivered by Q3 2013.

Accordingly, the Town Council will have full security of supply, as it will be capable of being serviced from four separate sources. However, some additional work is needed in terms of improving the distribution systems within the town boundary. Initial works were undertaken through the provision of the Carlow Road link (under the Department's Small Schemes Programme).

A programme of works to reduce leakage within the town is currently being considered. Some initial leakage repair works relating to both Coneyboro and Corran Ard were previously undertaken.

Waste Water

It is pleasing to note that the sewer remediation scheme was completed in the course of 2011. This resolved a number of long standing problems particularly with regard to infiltration of surface water into the sewer network. The project was grant funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and administered by the county council. The council is currently examining the feasibility of progressing a supplementary contract, in order to address a number of outstanding issues relating to the network in the town centre area.

The town's Waste Water Treatment Plan continues to operate with available capacity, which is particularly important for the future growth of local business.

Flood Management

As part of the review of the Town Development Plan, a flood risk assessment was carried out through the Water Services Department (Kildare County Council). In addition, in accordance with the Flood Directive, the OPW is

leading a Catchment Flood Risk Assessment which commenced in 2011 and is continuing.

Planning

The review of the Town Development Plan was completed during the year, with the new plan (2012-2018) being formally adopted on 28 February 2012. The administration of the planning function is now centralised within Kildare County Council, with the Town Council remaining as the statutory planning authority.

The Town Council received 32 planning applications during the year of which 22 were granted and 7 refused. 4 appeals were sent to An Bord Pleanala.

Environment

Athy continues to focus on improvements that will help achieve further success in the national tidy towns competition. The town's 14th anniversary entry maintained its grade in the Large Town Category (E) achieving 264 marks. The Tidy Towns Committee (Town Council Sub-Committee) is progressing initiatives identified in their five year plan launched in 2008, as they seek to make further improvements in the town, with the co-operation of both the town and area councils, local schools, residents and Athy Chamber.

The Athy Civic Amenity Centre, now operated by Oxigen Environmental, is located on the Dublin Road in the town and continued to record increased usage by the public. Fourteen bottle banks are positioned on two sites within the town centre.

The Litter Warden Team continued to monitor illegal and unauthorised dumping and a significant number of littering reports were investigated during the year, with fines being issued where offenders were identified. In addition, the Town Council promote regular local clean-ups and assist residents groups through an annual grants scheme.

General Projects

Following the strategic review of the work of the Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum (AIDEF), the group has now focused on the implementation of actions identified in the BRAND Project Action Plan, as well as other development initiatives. In addition, the various development partners on the board provide updates on their work at the quarterly meeting of the group. During the year, the AIDEF, in association with the Kildare County Enterprise Board, facilitated participants to undertake business training. The WINSSENT Project, which was based in Athy, was completed in 2012 and

promoted social entrepreneurship within the county, in conjunction with partners in other counties.

The Athy Town Promoters Group, (which comprises representatives of the Town Council, Athy Chamber, Shop Athy, Tidy Towns, Athy Young at Heart, Outdoor Tourism Project and the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum) continues to actively promote the 'Celebrate Athy' theme through festival and events including the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, Tri Athy Family Fun Day and new Christmas Streets and Treats Festival. The group is committed to further developing the town's calendar of festivals and events, with support to both existing and new promoters.



Christmas Streets and Treats Festival

The Brand Project (town re-branding) launched its Athy.ie town portal website in October 2012. The project itself will be completed in Q1 2013 and it is envisaged that a follow-on marketing initiative for the town will be developed with partner organisations to build on the success of recent previous initiatives, including the SHINE tourism project and Shop Athy.



Formula 1 Racing Driver Jenson Button participated in Tri Athy

The RAPID (Regenerating Areas through Planning Investment and Development) is continuing in the town and has now developed six strategic themes;

- Physical environment
- Crime, safety and anti-social behaviour
- Family support
- Health
- Education
- 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 a Civic Reception on 1 June 2012 in the Athy Community Arts Centre to mark the significant 125th anniversary of the founding of Athy Gaelic Football Club. The club achieved notable success in 2011, when its teams won both the County Senior and Under 21 Championships. 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 worlds only permanent theme exhibition celebrating the polar expeditions of Athy's Sir Ernest Shackleton. The President Michael D. Higgins performed the official opening of the 12th Annual Shackleton Autumn School in October.



President Michael D. Higgins

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. A new Outdoor Tourism Interreg Project was launched for County Kildare in Q4 2012 and is based at the centre.

The Athy Community Arts Centre, located in the Methodist Church celebrated its 2nd anniversary of operation during 2012 and now hosts a wide range of cultural events and exhibitions. The Town Council acknowledges the generous support of the Methodist community and Arts Office (Kildare County Council) in helping to make this project a reality.



Dragon Boat Regatta – May Bank Holiday
Weekend

Joint Policing Committee

The Athy Joint Policing Committee was established in 2006, under the Garda Síochána 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 four occasions during the year and discussed issues relating to traffic management, estate management, control of horses and substance abuse. The JPC's third annual meeting in October focused on '*Financial Worries- Know Where To Turn*' and was particularly well attended by local residents and community groups. In addition, the JPC continues to support the work of the RAPID AIT with the Woodstock Community Forum, which is assisting local residents with environmental improvements in their areas. It is envisaged that a similar forum will be established in the Clonmullion area in Q2 2013.

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 Council's Town Twinning Sub-Committee 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 2012, a delegation from Athy visited Grandvilliers for the annual town twinning visit, which celebrated the 'European Year for Active Ageing' over the three days. A number of other events were held during the year, with representatives from both towns travelling to and from France.



Newbridge Town Council

Droichead Nua



Droichead Nua Town Council

Housing

The Town Council continued to administer its housing function in 2012. Revenue collection and housing maintenance services were provided for the council's 26 houses.

Environment

The Town Council continues to make funding available to the tidy towns and the committee continues to enhance the town with minor clean up and visual improvements.

Christmas lighting continued to be a feature of the Town Council activities in 2012.

Joint Policing Committee

2012 saw the continuation of the Joint Policing Committee. 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.

All of the meetings are open to the public to attend and documents are available on the website www.kildarejointpolicing.ie.

Items discussed during 2012 include the following;

- Drinking of alcohol in public
- Number of attacks on people in the town
- Level of crime in Newbridge
- Illegal parking in Newbridge on match days
- Garda numbers in Newbridge
- Volunteering in An Garda Síochána (Garda Reserve)
- Illegal parking at and in the vicinity of schools

Town Hall

During 2012 progress was made on plans to refurbish the Town Hall. Architects were appointed to progress the project and an asbestos survey and opening works were carried out during 2012.



Community and Voluntary Awards

During 2012 Droichead Nua Town Council, granted awards in respect of community and voluntary recognition in the following nine categories:

- Culture-award for the best facilitator/organisation – Mr Des Egan and the Manley Hopkins Organisation
- Culture-award for most talented performer – Mr Paul Cooke, Newbridge History Group
- Community/voluntary group – Patrician Primary School Band
- Community/voluntary individual – Ms Mary Doyle
- Academic/educational achievement – Holy Family School for National Bar Trials competition
- Sporting-award for best club/organisation – Sarsfields GAA Club
- Sporting-award for best volunteer – Mrs Theresa Harrison, Community Games
- Sporting-award for athlete – Mr Sean Baldwin, Paralympian
- Hall of Fame – Mr Barry Moore, AKA Luka Bloom

Representational Functions

Twinning with Bad Lippspringe

Newbridge and Bad Lippspringe have been organising twinning meetings for the past thirteen 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 and activities were arranged over the weekend to mark the occasion. Newbridge hosted a delegation of over 25 German visitors in March 2012, during this visit, a pathway in the Liffey Linear Park was named Bad Lippspringe Way after the twinned town.

Twinning with Ocala

In March 2012 a delegation from Ocala visited Newbridge for the St. Patrick's Day parade. The delegation of 12 people included fire-fighters, police officers and equine representatives. The fire-fighters and police officers took part, in uniform, in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Newbridge. For the first time representatives from the business community in Newbridge visited Ocala. Apprentice jockeys from Newbridge continue to undergo work experience on farms in Ocala.

Other functions

The Town Council offered financial support and assistance to local organisations in 2012. These included groups involved with the Newbridge Tidy Towns, Community Games, Community Grants, Newbridge Twinning Groups, St. Patrick's Day Festival and County Kildare Fáilte.

Leixlip
TOWN COUNCIL

Leixlip Town Council

Introduction

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



Councillor Joe Neville served as Cathaoirleach until June 2012. Councillor Colm Purcell was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting of the council in June 2012 and Councillor Teresa Byrne was elected Leas Cathaoirleach until June 2013. The sitting councillors in Leixlip Town Council are: Councillors Teresa Byrne, Bernard Caldwell, Shane Fitzgerald, Anthony Larkin, Denis McCarthy, Joe Neville, Colm Purcell, Sean Purcell and Michael O'Brien. Councillor Michael O'Brien was co-opted in January.

The office of the Town Council is located in Newtown House, Captain's Hill. 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 2012 was €332,700 and this funding is received from Kildare County Council and the Local Government Fund. The council does much of its work through the following sub-committees; Environment and Waste Management, Arts and Heritage and Town Improvements.

Environment and Waste Management

Members: Councillors Denis McCarthy (convenor), Anthony Larkin, Joe Neville, Teresa Byrne

Non-Council Members: Declan Kenny, Matt Crehan, Michael Mousley, Albert Larkin and Pat Martyn

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

The committee continues to oversee the provision and maintenance of the window

boxes, hanging baskets and planting in the town centre. Window boxes are provided free of charge to most premises along the Main Street. Hanging baskets and large tubs are located around the town. The Town Council continues to fund the watering of planting carried out by Leixlip Tidy Town Association.

The committee organised a green waste recycling day in April at the Wonderful Barn. The event was a great success and the response was huge, it is intended to continue the initiative in 2013.

There was an electrical re-cycling day in Barnhall Rugby Club in July and there was also a demonstration of the fitting and working of a water butt. This was a great success.

The committee sought quotations for the cost of seeding the hillside at the steps of the Scouts Den and the work was completed in conjunction with Leixlip Tidy Town Association.

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. These bags were available from Newtown House, Leixlip Library, Leixlip Amenity Centre, Leixlip Youth Premises

and Leixlip Garda Station. The Town Council provides recycling facilities for printer cartridges, domestic batteries and mobile phones.

Tidy Estates Competition

Yvonne O'Connor, Horticultural Consultant and Simon Wallace, Parks Superintendent, Kildare County Council judged the estates in July. There were 15 entrants. The competition was divided into three categories, depending on the number of houses in the estate. This year there were awards for Best Small Estate, Best Medium Estate, Best Large Estate, Best New Entry, Highly Commended Estate, Most Improved Estate and Best Overall Estate.

The Cathaoirleach Colm Purcell presented the winners with their prizes at a function in the Springfield Hotel, on 13 September 2012. The prizes awarded in each category were sponsored by the Town Council.

Front Garden Competition

There were eighty three entries in the competition. This year new awards were introduced and the competition was divided into small and large gardens.

Adopt an Area Competition

Once again the Town Council ran the Adopt an Area Competition in collaboration with Hewlett Packard. Brian Woods from Hewlett Packard took part in the judging. The aim of the competition is to encourage community groups to take responsibility for an area in the town over the summer period and to continue maintenance of the area.

This year, areas in need of improvement and of specific importance were selected for the competition. Depending on the work involved for each of the areas, either €100 or €200 was allocated. There were eighteen areas entered.

Open Spaces Improvement Grants Scheme

Grants totalling €4,630 were awarded to Leixlip Residents Associations.

Town Improvements

Members: Councillors Anthony Larkin (convenor), Shane Fitzgerald, Joe Neville, Sean Purcell, Teresa Byrne
Non-Council Members: Declan Kenny, Matt Crehan, Michael Mousley, Albert Larkin, Pat Martyn, Enda Kinnane, Mary Foley

The replacement of the lamp heads on the Rye Bridge was done in the spring, along

with the cleaning of stone work on the bridge and cleaning of stonework at Louisa Bridge.

The committee organised a clean-up in February from the Rye Bridge to the weir and litter picked from Ralph Square to the Scouts Den.

The committee organised the upgrade of the Main Street car park including the re-surfacing, re-lining, removal of bollards, replacement of light poles, placement of information board and signage in preparation for the naming of the car park to Arthur Guinness Square.

Arts and Heritage

Members: Councillors Shane Fitzgerald (convenor), Joe Neville, Teresa Byrne, Denis McCarthy

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

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

funded by the Town Council with a grant allocation of €2,000.

Once again the committee organised the art competition in November, its purpose being to promote art among the youth of Leixlip.

Community Grants

The Town Council ran its Community Grants Scheme with a total budget of €10,000.

Presentation

The Town Council made a presentation to Eoin Rheinisch in May and wished him every success at London 2012.



Civic Awards

For the 20th 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 to create a sense of identity. To date the council has

honoured over 180 people as 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 Joe Neville presented the awards at a function in Leixlip House Hotel on 10 May.



Other Matters

Deputations

During the year Leixlip Town Council received deputations from Shared Access, Leixlip GAA, Leixlip Twinning and Dublin Bus.

Joint Policing Committee

The committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis in 2012. The members of the committee include the Town Council Members, Deputy Catherine Murphy, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Deputy Emmet Stagg, A/Superintendent Paul Dolan, Sergeant Aonghus Hussey, Pat Cooney, Community Representative and Peter

Minnock. Councillor Denis McCarthy was elected chairperson in 2012 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 meetings are open to the public and documents are available on the website www.kildarejointpolicing.ie.

Naming of Arthur Guinness Square

The Guinness celebration was held on 27 September to mark Arthur's Day. The event included the Kildare Guinness Trail encompassing a visit to St. Mary's Church, the resting place of Archbishop Arthur Price, visiting the Steam Museum in Straffan, visiting the graveyard in Oughterard and the grave of Arthur Guinness, a visit to the The Mucky Duck, and The Village Inn in Celbridge. The Leas-Cathaoirleach Colm Purcell laid a wreath at Arthur's grave in Oughterard and addressed the gathering. The Hon. Desmond Guinness attended the wreath laying ceremony. The guide for the day, local historian, Seamus Kelly added greatly to the experience.

The naming of Arthur Guinness Square on 27 September was the result of two years

work by the Town Council, Kildare County Council and the Town Improvements Sub-Committee. The project included the resurfacing of the car park, new public lights, information boards and signage. The celebrations began in St. Mary's Church, the burial place of Archbishop Price with a welcome from the Rev. Scott Peoples and church historian, Brendan Twomney. The guests then moved to Arthur Guinness Square for the unveiling of the Arthur Guinness information boards and the signage for Brewery Way and Arthur's Walk. The group was addressed by the Cathaoirleach and Patrick Guinness. The official toast to Arthur at 17.59 took place in the Middle Shop with a special visit from the Heineken Cup, thanks to Councillor Anthony Larkin.



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.

Leixlip SPA Well

The Town Council representatives on the SPA Committee are: Councillors Shane Fitzgerald, Anthony Larkin, Teresa Byrne and Denis McCarthy. Kildare County Council is represented by Simon Wallace. 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.

Work carried out at Leixlip Spa in 2012 involved the commissioning of a report on the condition of the retaining Spa Well walls and carrying out conservation works to them. This was completed in late 2012 and outlines a number of recommendations with regard to conserving the walls and developing a viewing point from the canal towpath. These recommendations will form the basis for carrying out these works in the future. Maintenance of the grassland areas around the site were also carried out. This involved the strimming of the grassland areas and removal of the cut grass. This work is carried out at the end of each year to conserve and improve the species diversity of the grassland areas.

Town Twinning

The Twinning Committee for 2011/2012 is Councillor Sean Purcell and Councillor Teresa Byrne.

The Town Council continued to support the work of the Town Twinning Association towards their activities. The Cathaoirleach Joe Neville represented the Town Council on a Twinning trip to Bressuire in June. A grant of €3,000 was awarded to the Twinning Association.

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 €14,000 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. The Town Council awarded a grant of €10,000 in support of the work involved in the festival.

Leixlip Tidy Town Association

The Town Council appreciates the hard work and dedication of the Tidy Town Association and their volunteers. A grant

of €7,500 was given to the Tidy Town Association.

On 20 September Leixlip Town Council organised an event in Leixlip House Hotel to mark the 50 anniversary of Leixlip Tidy Town Association. The event was held in Leixlip House Hotel with the entertainment from the Kildare Local Authorities choir.

In 2012, Leixlip Tidy Town Association won the bronze medal in the National Tidy Town Competition.

Conferences

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Councillor Teresa Byrne attended the AMAI spring seminar in Cavan in February and the autumn conference in Galway in September.





Naas Town Council

Comhairle Baile an Náis

Naas Town Council

Naas Town Council is the local authority for the urban area of Naas and has nine directly elected councillors.

- Councillor Seamie Moore
- Councillor Alan O’Kelly
- Councillor Darren Scully

Councillor Willie Callaghan served as Mayor during 2012. Councillor Emer McDaid was Deputy Mayor and was succeeded in that role by Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken. The councillors of Naas Town Council in 2012 were as follows;

- Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken
- Councillor Anne Breen
- Councillor Willie Callaghan
- Councillor Pat Clear
- Councillor Ger Dunne
- Councillor Emer McDaid

Naas Town Council is a key service provider in the town of Naas while also providing a democratic and representational forum for the people of Naas. Monthly council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except August). Councillors Callaghan, Moore and Scully 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.

Representatives to Various Bodies

Vocational Educational Committee	Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken Councillor Emer McDaid
A.M.A.I.	Councillor Willie Callaghan Councillor Seamie Moore
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.	Councillor Darren Scully
Kildare Strategic Policy Committees	Councillor Anne Breen Councillor Ger Dunne
Naas Joint Policing Committee	Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken (Chair)
Board of Moat Theatre	Councillor Pat Clear Councillor Alan O’Kelly
Naas Sports Group	Councillor Ger Dunne
Kildare Local Employment Services	Councillor Ger Dunne

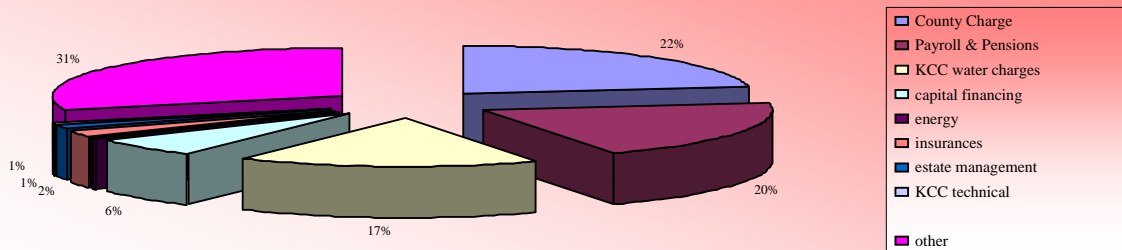
Finance

Total budgeted revenue expenditure for 2012 was €10.27 million compared with €10.37 million for 2011. This is a significant level of expenditure and it is clearly important to ensure best value for money while taking into consideration the

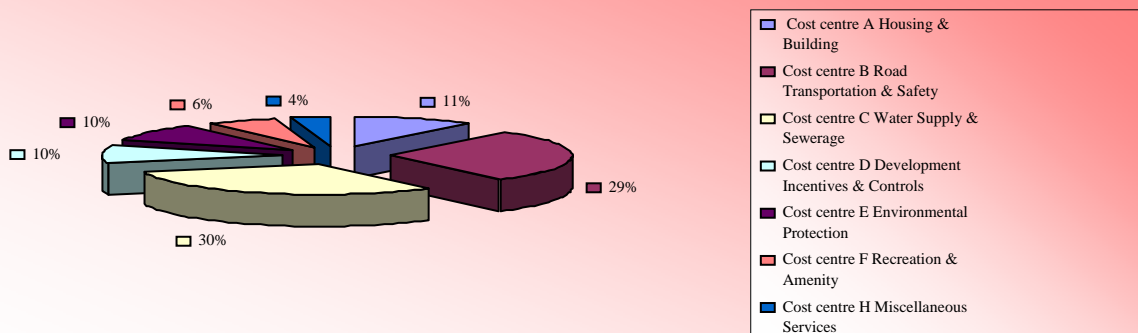
social and community development component of the council's work.

The annual rate of valuation adopted by Naas Town Council in respect of 2012 was €67.61.

Expenditure Categories



Expenditure by cost service centre



Roadworks Programme

There is an on-going programme of general maintenance and improvement of the local roads within the administrative area of Naas Town Council. This includes repairs to potholes, footpaths, gully cleaning, maintaining and replacing road signs and nameplates, grass cutting, verge trimming, etc. €295,000 was spent on general maintenance.

A number of improvement works were carried out on Naas roads and footpaths in 2012 at a cost of €610,000.

Housing

Naas Town Council has a housing stock of 324 houses that include a mix of single and family type accommodation. The council carries out maintenance of its social housing stock through a combination of direct labour and contractors where required. €450,000 was provided for this purpose in 2012. The needs of those requiring accommodation is achieved through the allocation of casual vacancies and the transfer of tenants to accommodations suited to their current needs.

Houses are allocated in accordance with the Allocation Scheme of Dwellings adopted by council members. 800

applicants were on the council's housing list as of 31 December 2012.

Recreation and Amenity

Naas Town Council provides two playgrounds in Naas located at Monread Park and Ballycane. The range of play equipment caters for children of different age groups. Naas Town Council has also made available playing pitches at Monread Park and Ballycane for local sporting groups.

The Historic Town Trails Project encourages locals and visitors to spend more time out and about around Naas and discover information on the town's historical significance. A total of five different trails are in place.

The council has proved a series of wildlife and habitat information boards located around the lakes area and along the canal.

Naas Tidy Towns supported by Naas Town Council achieved high standard and was awarded a silver medal in the National Tidy Towns Award ceremony for the third year in succession.

The Naas Easter Parade proved to be another successful event with a large attendance enjoying the wide array of

entries. Naas Town Council provides financial support to the parade organisers.

Community

The town council awarded grants in the sum of €75,000 to various residents associations, sporting groups, theatrical groups and organisations working with people with a disability, the youth and the elderly.

Civic awards were presented to a number of individuals and groups in cultural, academic, community and sporting fields in recognition of their achievements and contribution to the community.

In association with the North Kildare Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, Naas Town Council held a successful Christmas promotion centred on the Christmas Lights ceremony.

Naas Joint Policing Committee

Naas Joint Policing Committee was established to provide a forum where local authority and senior Garda Officers responsible for policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in that area. All nine Naas Town councillors are members of the Naas Joint Policing Committee

which is chaired by Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken.

Naas Twinning

The town of Naas continues to develop its links with its twinned towns of Allaire (France), Dillingen (Germany), St. David's (Wales), Casalattico (Italy) and Omaha (USA). Representatives from St. David's and Dillingen visited Naas during Easter 2012. The Mayor of Omaha and delegations from the city visited Naas in August.

Local Enterprise

Working in co-operation with Naas Town Council, North Kildare Chamber of Commerce commenced a process in 2012 to research and prepare a Marketing Action Plan for the town of Naas with the aim of raising the local, regional, national and international profile of the town so as to boost the local economy with increasing visitor foot-fall, helping to make local businesses more sustainable and enhancing the internal social cohesion of the community in the process. This plan is expected to be finalised during 2013. Naas Town Council, supported by Kildare Fáilte, ran a promotion during the annual Punchestown racing festival aimed at promoting the town and its attractions to the many national and international visitors to the festival.



