

Kildare Local Authorities



Annual Report 2013



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Foreword

Welcome to the 2013 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 2013.

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

- The Mayor signed the Dublin Declaration of Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe on behalf of Kildare.
- The Kildare Age Friendly County Program was submitted to the World Health Organisation.
- A new playground was installed in Tannery Park, Rathangan.
- A 'Play Day' event was held in Áras Chill Dara to celebrate National Play Day.
- Kildare Sport Partnership launched their 'Get Kildare Walking' initiative and organised a 4 km walk in conjunction with Operations Transformation.
- Kildare Road Safety Expo took place at Punchestown.
- Culture Night, which is now in its fourth year, attracted over 6,350 people.
- Kildare Library Service launched 'Shelf Help' and held the fourth Kildare Reader's Festival which attracted over 1,500 people.

- A review of the County Development Plan for 2011 – 2017 was adopted in October.
- Newbridge Pay Parking Bye-Laws and Maynooth Pay Parking Bye-Laws were reviewed and adopted in 2013.
- Kildare Fire Service migrated its control room from Newbridge to the East Region Control Centre.
- Works commenced on the Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and major upgrade works took place at two smaller wastewater treatment plants at Ardclough and Clonuff.
- The Ballygoran to Collinstown Watermain Scheme commenced construction.

Significant work has been undertaken in preparation for the implementation of the Action Programme for Effective Local Government which outlines Government policy for reform and development across the local government system.

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.



Mark Wall
Mayor



Michael Malone
County Manager

Kildare County Council Members

There are 25 members representing 5 electoral areas;

Athy Celbridge
 Clane Kildare
 Naas

Athy Electoral Area

			
Councillor Richard Daly Fine Gael Paudeenourstown Athy Co Kildare 087-6248886	Councillor Ivan Keatley Fine Gael Old Kilcullen Kilcullen Co Kildare 087 2731335	Councillor Martin Miley Jnr Fianna Fáil Fontstown Athy Co Kildare 087-3998478	Mayor Mark Wall Labour Castlerheban Athy Co Kildare 083-3341488

Celbridge Electoral Area

					
Councillor Kevin Byrne Labour 19 The Bungalow St Patricks Park Celbridge Co Kildare 086-6009449	Councillor Senan Griffin Fine Gael Ballygoran Maynooth Co Kildare 087-2331267	Councillor Anthony Larkin Independent 1 Rinawade Green Rinawade Leixlip Co Kildare 087 2128837	Councillor John McGinley Labour 50 Greenfield Drive Maynooth Co Kildare 087-9890645	Councillor Frank O'Rourke Fianna Fáil 76 Ballygoran View Celbridge Co Kildare 087-352060	Councillor Colm Purcell Labour 609 St. Mary's Park Leixlip Co Kildare 087-2539493

Clane Electoral Area

			
<p>Councillor Liam Doyle Fianna Fáil Ballybrack Kilcock Co Kildare 086-3849424</p>	<p>Councillor Seamus Langan Fine Gael Clonkeeran Carbury Co Kildare 087-2871347</p>	<p>Councillor Pádraig McEvoy Independent Coiseanna Hill College Road Clane Co Kildare 086-8658262</p>	<p>Councillor Brendan Weld Fine Gael Painstown, Donadea Clane Co Kildare 087-7828649</p>

Kildare Electoral Area

					
<p>Councillor Francis Browne Labour Mylerstown Nurney Co Kildare 087-2717208</p>	<p>Councillor Suzanne Doyle Fianna Fáil Drumcrea Tully East Kildare Town 087-9521232</p>	<p>Councillor Paddy Kennedy Independent 1673 Pairc Mhuire Newbridge Co Kildare 086-1705199</p>	<p>Councillor Micheál Nolan Fine Gael 81 Ballymany Manor Newbridge Co Kildare 087-3296900</p>	<p>Councillor Tony O'Donnell Fine Gael Laurel Lodge Rathbride Kildare Town 087-9081649</p>	<p>Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin Fianna Fáil Cappanargid 63 Great Southern Newbridge Co Kildare 087-2345160</p>

Naas Electoral Area

				
Councillor Fintan Brett Fine Gael 5 Johnstown Gardens Johnstown Co Kildare 087 6257842	Councillor Willie Callaghan Fianna Fáil 26 Esmondale, Naas Co Kildare 086-2341009	Councillor Paddy MacNamara Labour 499 Clane Road Sallins Co Kildare 045-896590	Councillor Seamie Moore Independent 1 Ashfield Park Naas Co Kildare 087-2497813	Councillor Darren Scully Fine Gael 3 Kerdiff Park Naas Co Kildare 086-3860955



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.

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2013</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Transportation SPC	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"> • Memorial garden for road crash victims • Code of Conduct for Shared Pedestrian and Cycling Greenways • Parking fines appeals policy • Keeping Communities Safe - Kildare Fire Service • Rural transport • Second Noise Action Plan • Policy on Declaration of Public Roads

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2013</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Water and Environmental Services SPC	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 • Renew 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

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2013</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Housing SPC	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"> • National Rents Scheme • RAS/Leasing • Anti-Social behaviour • Grants • Housing Needs Assessment • Traveller Accommodation Programme • Housing Strategy

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2013</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Community and Culture SPC	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"> • Integration Strategy • Library Plan • Arts Strategy • Resettlement Programme • Toys and Technology

<i>SPC Name</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Meetings held in 2013</i>	<i>Issues Addressed</i>
Planning and Economic Development SPC	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	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage Policy • Tourism Promotion • Shop Front Design Guidelines • Retail Business Incentive Scheme Proposal • Interaction with Chamber of Commerce • Historic Monuments Advisory Committee Annual Work Programme • Regeneration of town centres • Heritage Plan Preparation

Committees of the Council

Affixing of Seal

All Council Members

Audit Committee

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

Barrow Drainage Board

Cllrs. R. Daly, M. Wall

Burrin Joint Drainage Board

Cllr. I. Keatley

Finance Committee

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

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

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

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Cllrs. 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

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

Membership of External Bodies

Association of County and City Councils

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

Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Cllr. R. Daly

Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Cllrs. R. Daly, I. Keatley

AthyRhyll Regeneration Project

Cllrs. R. Daly, M. Miley

Arthurstown Landfill Facility Community Liaison Committee

Cllrs. F. Brett, P. MacNamara

Ballymore Eustace Community Projects Liaison Committee

Cllrs. W. Callaghan, M. Wall

Board of the Meath Foundation

Cllr. B. Weld

Cill Dara ar Aghaidh Teo

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

County Development Board

Cllrs. K. Byrne, S. Doyle, P. Kennedy, M. Wall (Mayor), D. Scully

County Joint Policing Committee

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

County Kildare Failte

Cllrs. S. Griffin, P. MacNamara, P. McEvoy, M. Miley, M. Nolan

Drehid Community Liaison Committee

Cllrs. F. O'Loughlin, B. Weld

Regional Drugs Taskforce



Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

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

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Cllr. S. Langan, P. McEvoy

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Cllr. M. Nolan

Kildare Community Network Company

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

Kildare County Enterprise Board

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

Kildare Heritage Forum

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

Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Cllrs. S. Doyle, T. O'Donnell

Leixlip Amenities Centre

Cllrs. A. Larkin, C. Purcell, J. McGinley

Local Authorities Members Association

Cllr. S. Griffin

Mid-East Regional Authority

Cllrs. F. Browne, S. Griffin, P. McEvoy, J. McGinley, M. Miley, M. Nolan, B. Weld

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

Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board

Cllrs. F. Browne, W. Callaghan, R. Daly, I. Keatley, P. Kennedy, J. McGinley, M. Miley, S. Griffin, B. Weld



Management Team

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 IT

Bernard Higgins

Housing, Community and Cultural Services

Director of Service

Peter Minnock

Senior Executive Officer

George Perry (Housing)

Senior Architect

Anne Crofton (Acting)

Senior Executive Parks Superintendent

Simon Wallace

County Librarian

Marian Higgins (Acting)

Financial Services

Head of Finance

Eileen Hanlon

Financial/Management Accountants

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 Engineers

John McGowan (Water Services Operations)

Gerry Conlan (Capital Projects)

Michael Holligan (Environmental Services)

Senior Executive Officers

Gerry Halton (Water Services)

Liam Dunne (Environmental Services)

List of Conferences/Training Attended During 2013

<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference Details</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Councillors Attended</i>
25 January 2013	Disputes between Neighbours	Limerick	3
1 February 2013	Domestic Water Meters	Clare	2
15 February 2013	AMAI Spring Conference	Wexford	2
7 March 2013	Association of County and City Councils	Waterford	3
8 March 2013	Local Authorities as Drivers of Local Development	Louth	1
5 April 2013	LAMA Spring Conference	Wexford	5
11 April 2013	The Economy and Entrepreneurship	Kerry	2
31 May 2013	Sport Aiding Mental Health	Donegal	2
7 June 2013	The Elected Member and The Local Development Plan	Donegal	2
14 June 2013	Biomimcry	Clare	3
30 June 2013	The Byrne Perry Summer School	Wexford	1
5 July 2013	Mental Health and Wellbeing	Kerry	1
12 July 2013	Drug and Alcohol Abuse for Local Authorities	Louth	1
28 July 2013	MacGill Summer School	Donegal	3
16 August 2013	European Convention on Human Rights	Kerry	1
17 September 2013	AMAI Autumn Conference	Cork	1
19 September 2013	Good Energies Alliance	Leitrim	1
15 October 2013	LAMA Autumn Conference	Clare	3
25 October 2013	Planning and Design in Rural Areas	Cork	1
1 November 2013	Council Budgets Preparation	Kerry	3
6 December 2013	New Trends in Treating Alcohol and Drug Treatment	Tipperary	2
13 December 2013	Putting People First	Clare	2

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.

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.

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



Community Text Alert

A community text alert initiative was established in 2013 which allows the council to relay information via text message to community groups when a disruption occurs to any of our essential services.

Accessibility

Kildare Local Authorities continue to work with people with disabilities and their representatives' to improve accessibility to local authority services.

During 2013, eighteen access issues were raised by members of the public directly with the Access Officer. The issues were varied including queries on traffic lights, footpaths, sign language interpreting and parking permits amongst others.

National Accessibility Week took place from 2 - 6 December 2013. Every year, various events take place to highlight issues around disability and access. The council is working with other local authorities to deliver an e-learning module to transition year students.

The '**Enabling Access Across Generations**' learning module was devised by the National Network of Access Officers from local authorities in

conjunction with the National Disability Authority. Students undertake the online module at their own pace. It aims to create opportunities for raising awareness around accessibility and disability-related issues among young people.

Fix Your Street

Fix Your Street is 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 received 422 reports via Fix Your Street in 2013.



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.

Due to incomes changes in the Department of Education and Skills Higher Education Grant Scheme 2013/2014, the council reviewed all higher education grants received for the academic year 2013/2014.

476 review applications were received for the 2013/14 academic year.



Register of Electors

Following an increase in numbers registered following the 2011 General Election, when a large number of people applied for entry on the supplement to the register, the number appearing on the Draft 2014/15 Register, published on 1 November 2013, dropped to 139,074 from 139,262 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 full council including the budget meeting, area meetings and corporate policy group.

The following is a breakdown of meetings held during 2013;

- 16 full council meetings
- 57 area meetings
- 26 Corporate Policy Group Meetings and SPC's
- 26 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 2013 in

excess of 230 media queries were received with more than 30 press releases issued providing information on council initiatives and services.

Membersnet 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 2013, the unit produced the Annual Report 2012.

Freedom of Information

37 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts were received in 2013 of which 4 were requests for personal information. 18 requests were granted, 10 requests were part-granted and 8 requests were refused.



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. Keeping 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 of our councillors;
- Online services including online payments are available - you can pay 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 **337,954** visitors and **1,189,142** pages were viewed in 2013.

Irish Language: Gaeilge

During 2013, 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 and public notices
- sourcing or providing translations for application forms
- providing assistance in relation to correspondence with members of the public who wished to transact business with Kildare Local Authorities through Irish
- corresponding on behalf of Kildare Local Authorities with An Coimisinéir Teanga, government departments and other organisations and individuals as required.

A new section dealing with Irish language matters has been added to the website. This includes information in Irish on the following matters:

- Councillors' details
- Contact details
- Customer Care;

- Freedom of Information
- Kildare Local Authorities' Irish Language Scheme
- Online Comment Card
- A selection of application forms for various services provided by Kildare Local Authorities.

The content of this section of the website is amended and updated as necessary, in consultation with departments throughout the organisation.

The council responded to a report issued by An Coimisinéir Teanga in December 2012, which found that the council had failed in its statutory duty under Section 9 (3) of the Official Languages Act 2003, by issuing notices in respect of the household charge in English only. The council has complied with the recommendations of An Coimisinéir Teanga in this matter. 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 2013.

Human Resources

Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare Local Authorities at 31 December 2013 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial *	6	5.80
Clerical/Administrative	367	322.70
Professional/Technical	148	145.30
Outdoor	349	280.60
Incentive Career Break Scheme	0	0
Supernumeraries	21	21.00
Total Core Staff	891	775.40
Other Staff		
Contract Posts	21	21.00
Site Supervisory Contract Posts	13	13.00
Temporary/Seasonal *	6	6.00
Retained Firefighters	69	N/A
Non DoEH&LG	11	5.00
Total Other Posts	120	45.00

The department processed applications in relation to 7 competitions that were held during the year. From the 575 applications received, 233 were male and 342 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 127 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 45 male and 82 female. 4 posts were offered (2 male and 2 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. 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 provisions of the Haddington Road Agreement were implemented in full in 2013.

Kildare Local Authorities has continued to make progress in implementing its local action plan under the Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 which includes measures required to deal with the reduction of staffing levels throughout the organisation over the past number of 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, modernising 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. This could not and town council workforce.
be achieved without the continued co-
operation and effort of the county council

Retirements

The following persons retired during 2013, having completed 574 years combined service:

Name	Grade
Anne Carr	Clerical Officer
Anne Cully	Clerical Officer
Anthony Doyle	Station Officer
Ben Scully	Project Liaison Officer
Breda Gleeson	County Librarian
Brenda Gannon	Clerical Officer
Des Farrell	School Warden
Des O'Leary	Clerk Of Works
Elizabeth Murray	Senior Executive Engineer
Frank Byrne	Ganger
James Percival	Driver
Janet Carr	School Warden
Joan O'Gorman	Assistant Staff Officer
Joseph Conlan	Waterservices Caretaker
Liam O'Dowd	Executive Engineer
Lily Sex	Clerical Officer
Mary Malone	Branch Librarian
Michael Kealy	General Operative
Michael Murphy	General Services Supervisor
Ollie Hennessy	Executive Technician
Patrick Dooley	Driver
Plunkett McStravick	Instrumentation Technician
Rachel Cahill	School Warden
Rita Mahon	Clerical Officer
Sally Redmond	Branch Librarian
Seamus Clynch	Senior Executive Technician

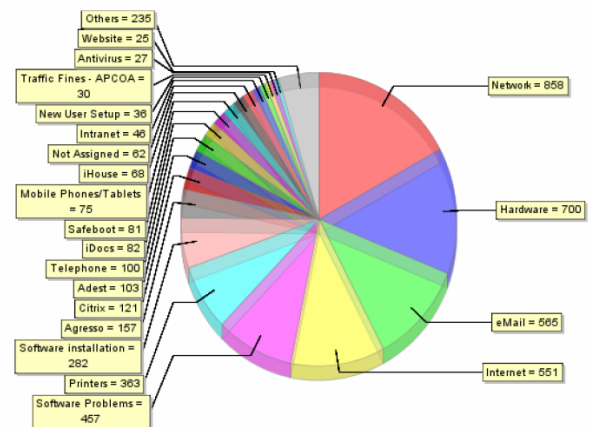
ICT

Infrastructure

A significant change in 2013 was the widespread introduction of smartphone and other mobile devices into council operations. The adoption of mobile technology required significant investment in anti-virus and encryption technologies for mobiles and the deployment of Mobile Device Management (MDM) software.

Data security remains a high priority and a key project in 2013 was the deployment, as required, of encrypted USB data devices for council staff. 2013 also saw the public tender and award of contract for replacement hardware in the server room. A new Storage Area Network (SAN) and associated virtualisation and SQL management servers were procured and commissioned. This project was over a year in the making from specification/ tender to award and commissioning of new infrastructure.

Supporting staff and councillors is one of the cornerstones of ICT operations. The helpdesk processed just over 5,000 calls in 2013. The breakdown is illustrated in the above chart. 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.



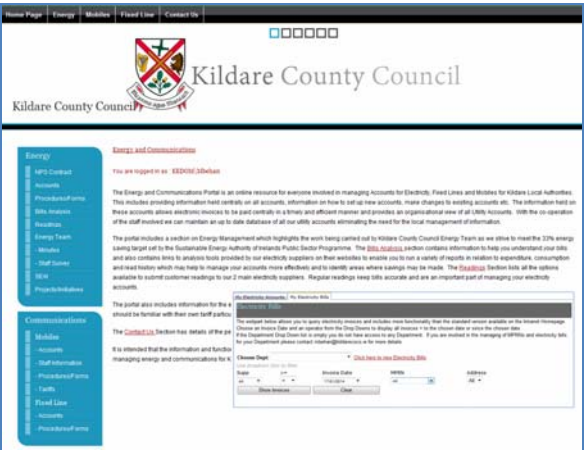
2013 also saw a new development for IT which was the rollout of tablet based applications which requires significant management in terms of application deployment, encryption etc.

Applications

In 2013 our LVPC System and Generic Intranet were updated to the latest versions. A number of new systems were introduced including a system developed by Kilkenny County Council for tracking Declaration of Interest submissions.

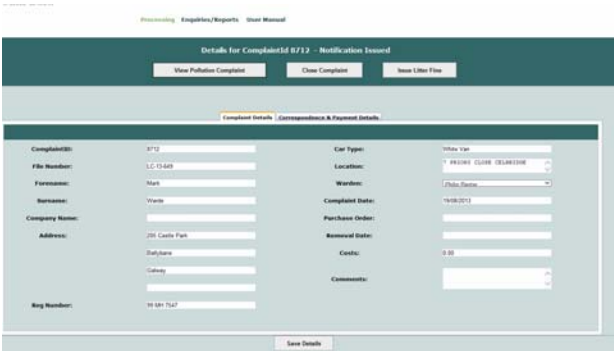
A new online payments service for fire charges was also introduced using the LGMA ePayments solution. Efficiencies in the planning process were facilitated through the delivery of web-parts to deliver personalised management information in relation to planning applications due for

decision across the three iPlan databases. The elnvoicing project was also completed in 2013 with invoices from our two main electricity suppliers and our two main suppliers of library books now being processed this way. Over 12,000 invoices were processed electronically in 2013 representing a significant reduction in processing costs. Considerable resources were put into gathering account information on all utility accounts (in particular electricity and phone) managed by the council as part of the elnvoicing project. To fully utilise this information an Energy and Communications Portal was developed which delivers personalised account and billing information to all budget-holders in relation to electricity, fixed line and mobile communications.

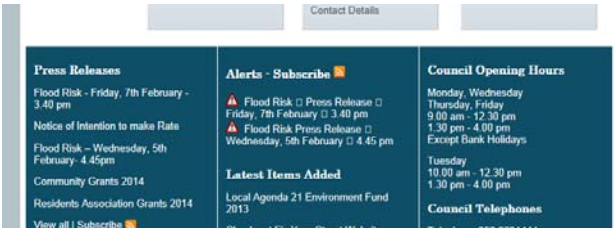


It also contains general information in relation to managing utility accounts including procedures, forms, tariffs etc.

Work continued on taking legacy MS Access database systems and integrating them with the council's 'Environment Portal' to improve and enhance their functionality. Abandoned cars, sponsored bins, plastic bag levy and Section 55 and Section 18 Notices went online during 2013. All systems facilitate the automatic generation of letters, notices, Managers Orders etc.



2013 also saw the implementation of a new Emergency Alert System which updates the front page of Kildare Local Authorities websites and feeds automatically into the council's RSS feeds and Twitter/Facebook accounts. The system is used by the Corporate Services, Fire Services, Water Services and Roads sections.



The council also adopted the use of QR codes in hard copy newspaper adverts/press releases and 'pull up' banners. Once scanned into a mobile device, the QR code brings the user immediately to the council's website without them having to manually type in the URL.



Procurement

Two motivating forces continue to drive the procurement initiative in Kildare Local Authorities; complying with national and international legislation and achieving value for money. Value for money reflects the degree to which the authority has obtained maximum benefit from the goods and services it acquires/provides with the resources at its disposal, i.e. people and finances. With these in mind the procurement unit continued to deliver value for money projects for the authorities in 2013.

Key frameworks were developed for the procurement of legal services, land valuation and agronomy services, demolition and dangerous structures works

and planned housing maintenance. The unit continues to serve as a point of expertise in the development of local tenders for example in the provision of horse impound services, the procurement of library books and services, various individual construction related projects utilising the Construction Works Management Framework and various facility and corporate contracts.



The procurement unit also continues to handle a multitude of internal technical procurement queries relating to EU and national procurement legislation and continues to develop a best practice approach to what is a complex and continuously evolving area of operations.

Tithíocht, Pobal agus Seirbhísí Cultúrtha



Housing, Community and
Cultural Services

Housing Department

The Housing Department 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 the 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 3,727 properties with an average rent of €42 per unit per week. The Social Housing Assessment Regulations came into force in April 2011 and revised procedures for assessment were introduced. 2,683 applications were received in 2013. This includes new applications, updates of existing applications, transfers and Rental Accommodation Scheme packages. The Department of Social Protection requires all applicants and renewals 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 2013 the total number of applicants on the housing list was 5,783 (including town councils).

In 2013 the following allocations were made;

- 86 local authority houses
- 64 Rental Accommodation Scheme properties
- 74 social leasing
- 4 voluntary housing.

Social Housing Investment Programme

The Social Housing Investment Programme for 2013 covered all aspects of the construction, acquisition and improvement works programme for Kildare Local Authorities. The Housing Supply Allocation (Capital) for 2013 was €3.6 million and the Housing Supply Allocation (current) was €5 million. 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 2013 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 2014.

A Part VIII for the development of 13 units at Athgarvan Road, Newbridge, a Towards Carbon Neutral Scheme, was launched in November 2012. Demolition works were carried out in 2013 and it is anticipated that this project will be substantially advanced in 2014.

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 the 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 609 at year end 2013.

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 2013 there were 198 units operational 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 2013, 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 2013 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) was carried out in 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 met regularly throughout 2013 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 2013 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 2013 and the groups involved were invited into NUI Maynooth 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 2013 alone 2,814 repairs were carried out. In addition 96

vacant houses had upgrade repairs carried out before re-letting in 2013.

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 2013, five house purchase loans were approved in Kildare and 46 applications were evaluated.

Traveller Accommodation

The council manage four halting sites in County Kildare and significant progress was made in 2013 in preparing Tankardsgarden for redevelopment in 2014. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on four occasions in 2013 and the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was prepared and put on public display.



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

A challenge that the council is facing going into 2014 is the buoyant private rented sector, particularly in the north of the county. The effect of this is the lack of private rented accommodation, resulting in an increasing demand on our homeless services.



Community and Culture

Kildare Age Friendly County Programme

EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing

On 13 June, as part of the EU Irish Presidency, an EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing took place in Dublin. At the summit, Mayor Nolan signed the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe on behalf of County Kildare. In doing so it reaffirmed the county's commitment to undertake a continuous cycle of improvement through a planning process in partnership with the National Age Friendly Cities and Counties Program.

Progress Report submitted to WHO

In June, the first progress report on the Kildare Age Friendly County Program was submitted to the World Health Organisation. The report detailed the consultation undertaken to develop the Age Friendly Strategy and the involvement of almost 1,000 of the county's older citizens in this process. It also outlined the establishment of the Kildare Age Friendly Alliance, the Older Persons Forum, the Business of Ageing Program and the Service Providers Forum.

Naas Age Friendly Town Project

The Naas Age Friendly Town Project was launched in March 2013. A committee co-ordinated by the Ageing Well Network comprised members of Naas Town Council, Kildare County Council and public representatives. The project involved a public consultation, walkability audit and surveys. The findings are being addressed through an action plan developed by the committee.



Participants in the Naas Town Walkability Audit

National Age Friendly Libraries Protocol

Kildare Libraries played a major role in the development of a National Age Friendly Libraries Protocol. Three libraries facilitated consultation with members, the outcome of which influenced the final document. Ms Marian Higgins sat on the National Steering Committee for the project.

Age Friendly Businesses

The development of Age Friendly Businesses continued with the focus on businesses in Naas through 2013.

Older Persons Forum

A newsletter from engAGE Kildare (Older Persons Forum) was launched in November.

Kildare Alzheimer's Café

The Kildare Alzheimer's café was launched in September. Monthly meetings are held in McCauley Place, Naas on the last Wednesday of each month to support people with dementia, their families and carers. Each month a speaker on a topic related to dementia attends.

INTERREG 4A Project

An aspect of the Kildare Age Friendly Program, the INTERREG 4A Age Friendly Communities Project came to a completion in November. The launch of the **Men's Shed Calendar** for 2014 took place in November. This was a joint project involving the Mens Shed Athy and the Mens Shed Kilkenny. INTERREG was a sponsor of the '**If you were in my shoes**' intergenerational project which was led by Nas na Riogh Housing Association over a

12 month period. The **Go for Life** Program which was run in conjunction with the Kildare Sports Partnership was the third project undertaken.



Launch of Mens Shed Calendar

Leisure Services

Parks

The Parks Section is involved in the provision, management and maintenance of parks and open spaces in the county. It's also involved in the provision of amenity facilities particularly 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 in 2013 were:

- A tree planting programme was carried out at various towns in the county.
- A tree pruning and tree removal programme was carried out based on requests received from around the county.
- A spring bulb planting programme was carried out at towns including M9 Athy Junction, M7 Kildare Town Junction, Monasterevin, Leixlip and Nurney.
- Grass maintenance was carried out in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin.

- Landscaping commenced on the Clane Road Roundabout, Kilcock and landscaping of the Nurney Roundabout at Kildare Town was completed.
- The pilot allotment scheme in The Wonderful Barn continued this year.



Allotment scheme at The Wonderful Barn

- Assistance was also given throughout the year to internal departments on landscaping issues.

- Financial and technical support to residents associations and tidy town committees in the county.
- Work continued on the development of the amenity lands in Lough na Mona.
- Landscaping works were carried out in Nurney Village to develop an amenity area in the village.

Playgrounds

A new playground was installed in Tannery Park, Rathangan.

Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued. There are now 13 playgrounds in the county.

Special Play Initiatives

Play Day event was held in Áras Chill Dara in September to celebrate National Play Day. It included a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the World Special Olympics in Ireland as part of the event.



Play Day in September



Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Special Olympics held in Ireland

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.

An adult gym was installed in St Catherine's Park, Leixlip and an introductory class in the use of the equipment was held.

Newbridge Sports Centre

Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre has been in operation now for almost 29 years providing the local community with an invaluable facility.

Over the past number of years the sports centre has gone through a number of developments to improve the facilities offered to customers. The biggest

improvement was in 2008/2009 when the facility underwent a €2.3 million re-development to modernise and introduce even greater diversity of function, to ensure that we continue to serve the greatest possible percentage of the Newbridge population and surrounding areas.

In 2012 - 2013 the following were achieved:

- Awarded the Gold Standard White Flag Award this year and for the past 13 years highlighting our excellent standards within our facility. The White Flag award is the only comprehensive quality award in Ireland that measures the standards for Leisure facilities.
- The centre is now linked to K- Leisure in Naas and Athy offering customers multi-membership to all three sites.
- A wide range of fitness classes were provided for all levels of fitness. Fitness testing and personal programs provided by fully qualified instructors.
- Other facilities provided were indoor and outdoor pitches, room hire, sauna and steam rooms, fitness testing

facilities, party area, reception and coffee dock.

- Community groups catered for were KARE, FAS, KSP, Special Olympics and Jumping Jelly Beans.
- A number of charitable events were run during the course of the year to raise vital funds for charity.
- A venue for the VEC and Gaelscoil for sports and inter schools competitions.

FAI

Show Racism the Red Card

The FAI's Intercultural Football Programme in conjunction with the education project Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) www.theredcard.ie co-ordinated school based actions as part of the UEFA supported Football against Racism in Europe campaign week. Four primary schools from Naas and Newbridge participated in this week of action with the FAI from 15 - 29 October.

The 2 development officers delivered:

- A classroom based interactive session using the Show Racism the Red Card DVD to educate about racism
- Deliver a football coaching session

Over 373 children took part in this programme with their teachers and during the classroom session the FAI worked with young people from fifth and sixth class to clarify what racism is, how it can affect people and how to respond to it. The coaching activities serve to reinforce the education themes of the classroom activity and emphasise important values in sport, such as teamwork and communication.



Participants in Show Racism the Red Card Programme

Late Night League (LNL)

Two Late Night Leagues were completed in 2013 in Newbridge (Rosconnell) and Kilcock. These leagues help combat anti-social behaviour, provide an outlet for the young participants and help the community and the local Gardai to engage with each other.

The league in Newbridge was aimed at children aged between 10-15 years old, from the Rosconnell estate and was held in Newbridge Sports Centre supported by the councils housing department and the local Gardai, on Friday nights in October and November with 20 participants.

The league in Kilcock was held on Scoil Ui Riada's all-weather pitch from 8.30pm-10.00pm on Friday nights for 6 weeks. The local Gardai provided support and funding to buy prizes and food for a presentation evening on the final night. Kilcock Autos sponsored the trophy for the winner and Kilcock Celtic were very supportive throughout the programme, helping in the promotion of the programme and providing help with coaches/referees every week. Over 40 local youths aged 13-17 years old, took part in the programme over the 6 week period.



Participants from Kilcock who took part in the Late Night League with Gardai



Prizewinners at the Kilcock Late Night League

Integrated Services Programme Role

The Integrated Service Programme (ISP) was established in 2010 and is an innovative initiative of Kildare County Development Board (CDB). It involves state agencies, voluntary/community sector organisations, local businesses, local community representatives and elected representatives working together collaboratively. The priority towns for the programme are agreed by the CDB and the programme reports to the CDB.

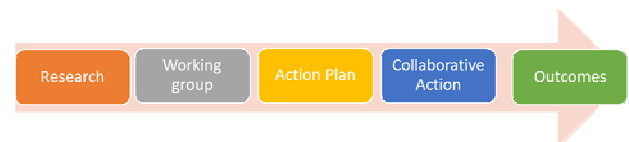
2013

- Kildare Town
- Kilcock

Expansion in 2013

• Celbridge

The ISP takes a “whole town” approach to responding to social, economic, tourism, cultural, recreation and educational needs. The priorities agreed are based on researched needs and an interagency team works to oversee and progress actions. Sub groups support the work and allow for increased participation.



Work and Progress

2013 was a very successful year for the ISP. The following presents a short summary of some of the key highlights:

Kildare Town

Kildare town was the initial pilot town for the ISP in 2010. Integrated working towards agreed priorities continued to become more established in 2013.

Some of the key achievements include:

- Kildare town was runner up in the National Pride of Place Awards. This was a significant achievement and was as the result of months of work by local

groups and organisations in Kildare town.

- Teach Dara is becoming more and more established as a central point for family and community services in Kildare town. Up to 300 people now use the facility every week to attend a range of groups, courses and services.
- 50 people attended a very successful Stress Control Programme held over six weeks in the Autumn. This programme was organised by the ISP family issues sub group and delivered by Tuas Nua. A number of the participants are currently engaging in other courses run through Teach Dara.
- 17 people participated in a very successful Sports Leadership Training Programme organised by Kildare Sports Partnership and County Kildare Leader Partnership Company.

County Kildare Youth Hub – The Hive

The levels of children and young people in Kildare are amongst the highest in the country. An integrated approach to increasing service levels and maximising the supports available to young people continued in 2013. Work took place to explore use of St Joseph's Academy School as a youth hub for the county. Unfortunately the funding required was prohibitive and in the last months of 2013,

the focus shifted to renovating the old post office in Kildare town as the first phase of developing the youth hub. In December 2013, youth café funding of €50,000 was approved through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to support the work. This will enable the work to continue to develop the work to increase youth services and supports in the county.

Kilcock

Kilcock ISP continued to make progress in 2013. An external evaluation carried out in July concluded that the range of activities initiated and supported through the ISP since inception was extremely impressive.

Some highlights are:

- The HSE continued to progress their plans to build a primary care centre on the Bawnogues. The proposed plans were presented to the community in Kilcock, which was jointly organised by the HSE and Kilcock Community Network. These plans were submitted for planning permission in late 2013. Work will continue throughout 2014 to progress this initiative



Plans for the proposed Primary Health Care Centre presented to the community in Kilcock



Delegation from Kilcock visit the Greenway in Newport

- Kilcock Community Network continued to progress work to develop a multipurpose community facility on the Bawnogues. This work is ongoing.
- A tourism sub group was established to consider how Kilcock can benefit from the proposed development of the east west cycle route joining the east coast to the western greenway which will run through Kilcock. A delegation of five took part in a study visit to the greenway in Newport. In addition, a detailed submission was made to the National Cycle Network Local Authority Funding Scheme to propose how this development can benefit Kilcock.

- Courses and programmes continued to be rolled out in Kilcock in 2013. These included the Creative Well, Stress Control and Drugs Education Prevention Training. The external evaluation highlights a range of services and supports currently available in Kilcock since the establishment of the ISP.

Celbridge

Work took place to commence the establishment of the ISP in Celbridge. The initial research commenced in late 2013 and will be completed in early 2014. This is the first phase in establishing the ISP in Celbridge by identifying the services, supports, plans and issues to agree priority work areas.

Partners

The ISP is based on the belief that people at local level benefit from agencies, services and supports working with them on agreed priorities. State agencies, local businesses, elected representatives, voluntary/community sector organisations and local people are central to the success of the ISP. The councils K-Partners were pivotal to the success of many ISP initiatives. In addition work with sections outside of K- Partners is proving important to progress major infrastructural projects. A sample of the partners that are engaged in progressing priorities identified through the ISP in 2013 include:

- Kildare Local Authorities
- County Kildare LEADER Partnership
- HSE (Primary Care, Family and Children)
- Kildare West Wicklow Education and Training Board
- Department of Social Protection
- An Garda Síochána
- South West Regional Drugs Task Force
- Kildare Youth Service
- Kildare Heritage Centre
- Teach Dara
- Youth Work Ireland
- Mental Health Ireland
- Foroige
- Catholic Youth Care

- NUI Maynooth
- Kildare Town Community Forum
- Kilcock Community Network
- Kildare Town Community School
- Scoil Dara Kilcock
- Youthreach
- Kildare Town Chamber of Commerce
- Kilcock Business Association
- Comhairle Na nOg
- Clane Area Committee
- Elected representatives Kildare Town
- Elected representatives Celbridge

The ISP anticipates that the work will continue to develop and grow and are looking forward to working with agencies, businesses, elected representatives and the local communities in Kildare, Kilcock and expanding into Celbridge in 2014. For further information please contact:

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Fergus Fenlon
ISP Transition Manager for Kilcock
Phone: 085 8586471
Email: fergusfenlon@kildare.ie

Kildare Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership were involved in many projects throughout 2013 and continue to promote sport and physical activity throughout the county with a particular emphasis on our target groups such as older people, teenage girls, women, youth, people with disabilities, disadvantaged communities and the unemployed.

Here are just a few examples of the projects KSP were involved with:

Community Sports Leaders Programme

Three Community Sports Leader Programmes were completed in 2013 with 47 people taking part at venues in Prosperous, Rathangan and Kildare Town. The Community Sports Leaders 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. An advanced CSLP is planned for 2014 with guaranteed work placement available from the main sporting organisations.



Community Sports Leaders Programme in Kildare Town

Get Kildare Walking Initiative

Kildare Sports Partnership launched their 'Get Kildare Walking' Initiative in September 2013 in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. The purpose of the initiative is to increase the number of people participating in this activity by facilitating a structured and co-ordinated approach. Already KSP have seen an increase in numbers taking part and they hope to launch their 'Get Kildare Walking' Strategy in early 2014.



Leinster Loop Cycling Event

This event, hosted by St. Laurence's GAA Club continues to grow on a yearly basis with 1,250 people taking part in 2013 and it has helped popularised cycling in the greater South Kildare area. The event is divided into different distances, a family 12k, 50k, 90k and 130k allowing all levels of ability to take part and giving an incentive for the participants to continue cycling and achieve higher targets in the following year Kildare Sports Partnership are delighted to support this professionally organised event whose ambassador is Tour De France legend Stephen Roche.



Stephen Roche leads out the Leinster Loop

Naas Resettlement Programme

On 16 January 2012 twenty four Sudanese and ten Eritrean refugees arrived in Naas from Libya as part of the Naas Resettlement Programme. The Resettlement Programme is run by the Department of Justice and Equality and is managed through an inter-agency resettlement steering group in Naas. Kildare Sports Partnership were given the responsibility of helping to integrate the refugees into the community through sport and physical activity. In 2013, following on from their work in 2012, the KSP continued to help the process of integration through sport with all of the refugees taking part in a Physical Activity and Personal Development Summer Camp. One of the groups also took part in the KSP Community Sports Leaders Programme in Kildare Town.



Naas Resettlement Project

Operation Transformation Walk

Following the success of the 2011 and 2012 events, Kildare Sports Partnership organised a 4km walk commencing at Áras Chill Dara in January 2013 and despite the inclement weather over 350 people took part. This was a great opportunity not just to promote physical activity but also to promote the work of Kildare County Council/Kildare Sports Partnership as host and organiser of the event.



Sarah Campbell, Charlie McCreevy and Dr. Eddie Murphy taking part in the Operation Transformation Walk

Run Kildare

Kildare Sports Partnership once again supported a very successful 'Run Kildare' event in 2013 where over 3,500 participants took part in the 10k, half marathon and full marathon distances.



Kildare Road Safety Expo and Kildare Sports Partnership

The Kildare Road Safety Expo took place at Punchestown Event Centre at the end of 2013 and Kildare Sports Partnership were invited by Road Safety Officer, Declan Keogh to promote their work at the event. This proved a great success for KSP as over 1,300 secondary school pupils attended allowing KSP to convey their message to one of our main target groups.



Johnny Doyle at KSP Information Stand at Kildare Road Safety Expo

Sports Fest for over 55's

Following on from the success of the inaugural 'Sportsfest for Over 55s' the 2013 event took place in the gymnasium at the Curragh Camp. The activities demonstrated included dance, indoor walking, meggars, bowls, cycling and yoga. Go For Life Games (adapted pitching, tossing, skittles) were also on show and very enthusiastic competitors

took part in a competition with the qualifiers representing Kildare in the national finals which took place in DCU in June. Presentations were also made by many contributors who have an emphasis on older people. There was also representation by the Kildare Branch of Arthritis Ireland and The Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists.



Kildare Sports Fest for over 55's

Arts Service

Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union made its mark on County Kildare, with Kildare County Council securing significant funding from the Arts Council Culture Connect national culture programme. A day long international seminar in May celebrated the 'If You Were In My Shoes' intergenerational visual arts programme in Nas Na Riogh Housing Association, with guest speakers from the Netherlands and UK. Meanwhile, a programme exploring youth identity 'This Is Who We Are' took place from March to June. Kildare Youth Theatre, with artists and youth from Norway, France, Scotland and Ireland used theatre to explore youth identity as a cultural and not an economic construct.

Another milestone event, The Gathering, was marked in Kildare with The Big House Festival, a cultural carnival of musical adventures theatrical treats and hidden gems, that took place in Castletown House, Celbridge on the August Bank Holiday weekend. The festival, supported by the council, was created by The Performance Corporation, a site-specific theatre, events and creative cultural management company, whose fresh, award-winning work blends thrilling visuals,

hi-tech innovation, edgy writing and strong physical intuition.

Throughout 2013, the Arts Service continued to work on strategic partnerships with artists, community groups and agencies to provide a diverse and challenging arts programme

Highlights in the Arts development programme 2013 included:

- Bealtaine - Over 200 participants participated in events across the county, including an intergenerational choir project involving older people and fifth class pupils from Naas and Maynooth, led by musician Eimear Crehan. A documentary of the process was premiered on Culture Night.
- The Creative Well - An integrated arts and health programme, was offered in Kilcock and Celbridge, in association with the HSE mental health services and supported by the ISP
- The launch of 'If You Were in My Shoes' publication, December 2013, acting as a permanent archival document of the year-long intergenerational project with Nas Na Rough Housing Association and EU Presidency seminar.

- 3,600 children in 40 primary schools countywide participated in the arts and education programme, 'If I had an artist for a day' with local visual artists, musicians, dancers, architects and circus practitioners.
- Culture Night - Now in its fourth year, 6,350 adults and children attended 59 events countywide. First time participants included Russell Library, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Schola Gregoriana, Maynooth Library's Cinema Book Club, Rye Rhythm Music School, Liffey Valley Orchestra, Acre Centre, Celbridge, Aerial Jam, Grow Happy Photography, Laura McGann Film Maker and Aideen Cross Dress. Culture Night also welcomed a Town Twinning delegation from Lexington to Áras Chill Dara. The thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Naas By Pass was marked by a lecture by artist Rachel Joynt, who, with RemcoDe Fouw, created Perpetual motion, one of Ireland's most iconic sculptures.
- Grant aid of €48,950 was provided to professional artists and community groups county wide for creation of new works, collaborative arts initiatives, professional development opportunities, amateur drama and Youth Theatre productions and artists in schools.
- Arts Resource Organisations - Grant aid and ongoing support was provided for County Kildare Orchestra, Leinster Printmaking Studio, Clane, Cake Contemporary Arts, Curragh Camp, Athy Community Arts Centre, The Performance Corporation, Celbridge, Moat Theatre, Naas and Riverbank Arts Centre - key organisations that enhance the cultural fabric of the county.

Library Service

Kildare Library Service continued to successfully deliver an innovative and modern library service during 2013. The three pillar approach of service delivery under the headings of **Scheduled Time**, **Open-Door Time** and our 24 hour **All The Time** service continue to offer a quality service meeting the changing needs of the people of Kildare whilst also encouraging new library users.



Culture Night at Kildare Library

Scheduled Time

Given that libraries are no longer just about books, an important part of our service in Kildare libraries has developed over the past number of years to meet the changing needs of communities by increasing the amount of programmed events and activities for all ages e.g. bookclubs, art classes, parent and toddler groups, IT classes, lectures, local history clubs, school holiday workshops for children.

Highlights of this programme of events include:

- Shelf Help - a shared services project between Kildare Library Service, Wicklow Library Service, Kildare Health Service Executive, South West Regional Drugs Task Force and Mental Health Ireland.



Launch of Shelf Help

- The fourth **Kildare Readers' Festival** attracted over 1,500 attendees in support of this free annual literary festival. Contributors at various events included historian Padraig Yeates, broadcaster Joe Duffy, Dermot Bolger, Theo Dorgan, Paula Meehan, Lily Higgins, Senator Mary O'Rourke, actors Angela Harding and Bryan Murray, Mary Shine Thompson and Peter Sheridan to name but a few. For further detail visit www.kildarereadersfestival.ie



Kildare Readers Festival

- A third level education initiative in partnership with NUIM/Leader Partnership to encourage participation in further education, continues to flourish in Kildare Town Library.
- 'Reading Together' and Rua the Library Squirrel – drive to promote pre-literacy skills to the parents of young children was launched in 2013



Rua the squirrel

- Play2Read Project – a targeted series of five workshops for preschoolers and their parents to help them learn pre literacy skills required before they start school

- Your Space, Your Place - Inspiring through Mentorship Linking Libraries and Community in Kilcock - liaising with Kildare Integrated Services
- NUIM and Maynooth Community Library shared programming - Culture Night events, Maynooth Film For All, Student Membership Drive attracting over 100 students and Christmas events.
- Mentoring Kildare writers - Creative writing workshops and groups, with writers mentored by established Kildare authors such as John MacKenna, Ann Egan, Mae Leonard and Niamh Boyce.
- Intergenerational choirs were hosted in Maynooth and Naas as part of the library service Bealtaine celebrations



Leixlip Library Intergenerational Choir

- Toys Technology and Training Project is a collection of specialised toys and assistive technology. A series of lectures and workshops to support parents, carers and teachers attracted audiences of over 1000 people
- A most successful Children's Book Festival with in excess of 6,500 children participating.
- 2013 Science Week – 26 events with 1,326 attending. Workshops from Science Ireland, Rediscovery and others. Highlights included a visit of NUIM football playing robots.
- Over 1,500 Kildare children participated in the Summer Reading Buzz a shared project with Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoighaire Rathdown Dublin South and Longford Libraries
- The Library and Arts County Programming Team continue to work together to produce a countywide calendar of annual events for all ages. Further details on programmes can be found at www.kildare.ie/library

Open-Door Time

Our well stocked libraries include collections of DVDs, CDs, magazines and console games as well as the latest bestsellers in both fiction and non-fiction for lending. Internet access is also available free of charge in all our branches, with WiFi piloting successfully in a number of locations.

An EU level multi-framework tender was undertaken for book fund expenditure in 2013. Savings of over €20,000 have translated directly into more value for money in building quality reader collections for the users of Kildare libraries.

2013 highlights include:

- Library collections of approximately 450,000 items include book club and bestseller titles, collections in support of class visits, literacy and pre-literacy supports and specialist assistive materials such as the TTT collection, to name but a few.
- Targeted collections such as "Shelf Help" have been invested in and strategically marketed through internal and partnership networks.
- Bradburys Bookstop – Continuation of bookstop service, re-stock and programme of events over the year. The Sunday morning adult book-club

was launched in 2013, and there are plans to include a sample TTT collection in 2014.

- Continuing improvements to our buildings infrastructure; accessibility and necessary refurbishment works have been completed at Newbridge, Maynooth, and Naas libraries and are ongoing at Castledermot and Athy libraries.

All The Time

During 2013 Kildare County Library Service had representation on the project team to select a new national Library Management System (LMS). Kildare County Library Service will be the first library authority outside of Dublin to implement the new LMS once it has been selected. This will ensure that Kildare is at the forefront of developments in the public library service in Ireland.

2013 saw continued expansion of eServices including:

- eCatalogue - via the web and via the LibAnywhere smartphone app
- eBooks - a new improved and more user friendly interface to our digital library
- eLearning - 500 plus tutor led online courses available free to members
- eLanguage - over 90 languages available via web and Byki app
- eHistory - our in-house local history and genealogy online periodical
- eMagazines - 35 titles now with back issues available
- eReference - Encyclopedia Britannica has seen an increase of 216% on usage since last year. Kildare Library Services has recently added online Oxford dictionary and Oxford references to our suite of eReference services.
- SMS and email services, alerting members of overdue books, requests and library events.
- WiFi successfully piloted in a number of libraries during 2013 and Kildare Library Service aim to install WiFi in remaining library locations in 2014.
- The 2013 eServices Roadshow in 7 locations where members of the public were invited to bring in their own devices such as smartphones, eReaders and tablets, and given one-to-one training on use of the various eServices was a huge success. A repeat performance is planned for April 2014.

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.

A new County Development Plan for Kildare for the period 2011 to 2017 was adopted by the council in May 2011 and work continued on the implementation of its policies and objectives. The statutory two-year review commenced in January 2013 and was presented to the councillors in March 2013. A second variation of the County Development Plan was also completed in 2013. This variation provided for the designation of the central area of Kildare town as an Architectural Conservation Area and was adopted in October.

Work also continued on the implementation of the policies and objectives of the Naas Town Development Plan adopted in May 2011 and the two-

year review of the Naas plan was presented to the Naas Town councillors in April 2013.

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

Athy Town Council adopted a new Development Plan in February 2012 and continues to work to implement its policies and objectives.

Local Area Plans

Work commenced on the review of the Maynooth and Newbridge Local Area Plans in 2013. The new Maynooth Local Area Plan was adopted in July 2013 and became effective on 26 August 2013. The Newbridge Local Area Plan was adopted in December 2013 and becomes effective on 29 January 2014.

The following local area plans will be amended to bring them in line with the new core strategy in the County Development Plan throughout 2014/2015;

- 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.

Department of Education and Skills

The Forward Planning Section continued to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills throughout 2013 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. It is intended to continue these useful meetings in 2014.

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 to examine every quarry in its administrative area to determine whether development was carried out which would have (1) required EIA, or (2) a determination as to whether EIA would have been required and/or (3) an appropriate assessment.

Work continued in 2013 on the quarries project.

Policy on Signage

A need was identified to provide a clear statement of policy for signage design, to establish a system for the provision of signage in order to eliminate a proliferation of unsightly and unnecessary signs and to provide a consistent standard for signage, where appropriate. The Policy on Signage was presented to the councillors and adopted by them on 29 April 2013.

Shopfront Guidelines

A shopfront design guide was drawn up to encourage and guide shop owners and designers to maintain the character and appearance of traditional shopfronts and to improve the quality of new shopfront designs so that they respect and enhance their surroundings. It was felt that our urban areas would benefit enormously from greater shopfront design guidance as part of a county wide initiative. This would help improve the public face of our towns and villages thereby maximising the potential of our commercial streets. This is especially relevant when supporting local trade has become so important. In addition, the Design Guide also explains how improved access can be satisfactorily incorporated into shopfront design. The new shopfront guidelines were adopted in July 2013.

Naas Age Friendly Town

Naas took part in the Age Friendly Town Initiative in 2013, an initiative of the Ageing Well Network. An Age Friendly Town is a town where the community understands and responds to the needs of older people. It was a collaborative venture between Naas Town Council, the Planning Department and local older people.

DMURS

A Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) was prepared for the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government by a multidisciplinary project team consisting of staff from Kildare County Council, South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council. It provides guidance on how to approach the design of urban streets in a more balanced way.

Wind Energy Strategy

In December 2013 a position paper was prepared to progress the debate on wind energy in the county. It recommended the preparation of a wind strategy for County Kildare. The preparation of the wind energy strategy will be progressed in 2014. The objective of the strategy will be to evaluate and analyze the potential wind

energy resources within County Kildare, to define environmental and planning considerations of wind energy development and to make recommendations on wind energy resource development policy. The strategy will be facilitated by mapping supports including geographical information systems supplied by the All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) at NUI Maynooth.

Development Management

Kildare County Council received 1054 planning applications of which 169 were invalid, 618 were granted and 181 were refused.

Naas Town Council received 86 planning applications of which 12 were invalid, 64 were granted and 9 were refused.

Athy Town Council received 36 planning applications of which 4 were invalid, 25 were granted and 2 were refused.

The Development Management Section dealt with the following number of licenses and applications in 2013;

- 43 Section 254 Licence applications
- 43 Section 5 Certificate of Exemption applications
- 16 Section 97 Exemption from Part V applications

- 14 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 found to be very beneficial to pending applicants and help improve the quality of a subsequent planning application. In 2013 a total of 154 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 9 pre-planning clinics were held in Áras Chill Dara in 2013, attended by 120 prospective applicants.

Drehid Community Grant Scheme

The Drehid Community Grant Scheme is operational since 2009 and is administered by the planning department. The scheme arose from development of a waste facility in the Drehid area by Bord na Mona which was subject to specific planning conditions to provide funding to mitigate the impact of the landfill facility on the local community. In 2013, a total of 68 groups were

approved for grant funding in the amount of €376,047.

Building Control

259 valid Commencement Notices and 126 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation in 2013. In addition, 20 applications for regularisation certificates were received along with 80 applications for Disability Access Certificates and 22 applications for seven day notices.

Development Control

The council continues to make significant progress in the taking in charge of residential estates. Twenty eight estates were taken in charge in 2013 and a further eleven 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.

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 268 new complaints of unauthorised development were received in 2013. There were 170 warning letters issued to developers and 64 enforcement notices served. Legal proceedings were initiated in 9 cases and 981 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 2013. 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.

In 2013 drafting of the new Heritage Plan began with the reconstitution of the County

Kildare Heritage Forum and working groups. Submissions were invited from the public on the content of the new Heritage Plan.

The actions of the County Kildare Heritage Plan implemented in 2013 include the following;

Collection of heritage data

- Kildare Wetland Survey Phase II
- Development of guidelines on the reuse and extension of local authority cottages
- “Kildare Save Our Stories” – oral recording project recorded over 70 oral history recordings which were lodged with the local studies section of the library service

Raising heritage awareness

- Heritage Week 2013 (50 events)
- National Tree Week
- Ongoing advice to tidy towns groups, community groups and individuals regarding heritage management and conservation
- Athy and Naas have joined the Walled Town Network. Both organised medieval festivals with the support of the council and the Heritage Council.
- Arthur’s Way Heritage Trail

- Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2013 - 25 applications received funding totaling €25,050.

Promoting best practice

- Completed “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

Kildare Local Authorities through the Architectural Conservation Office (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. Historic structures can also be added outside the development plan reviews also. The council also encourages the retention and reuse of vernacular structures.



Broomfield House, Moone
Proposed Protected Structure

Architectural Conservation Areas

Designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material urban or rural enclosure, can be protected by establishing 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 town. This is an important heritage survey framework, which informs local area plan reviews and the definition of Architectural Conservation Areas. Kildare town ACA was adopted into the County Development Plan. This study was made possible through part Heritage Council funding and as an action of the Heritage Officer's Heritage Forum.



View of Kildare town

Re-use

Architectural conservation advice, guides sensitive repair and proposed interventions to protected structures. Early consultation is critical at feasibility stage, to prevent insensitive proposals. The ACO advises on proposed repair works and suitable re-use 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 (DAHG) 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 training and experience of historic buildings.



Steam museum, Lodge Park, Straffan
Display areas extended



Exempted repair of roof and gutter works to
Brookmount House, Timolin



Former St Michaels Convent, Athy
Re-use as a nursing home

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 lime mortar repair of Grey Abbey outside Kildare Town.



Grey Abbey works was part funded by the DAHG Structures at Risk Scheme

The ACO liaised with various community groups on various LEADER funded initiatives throughout the county.



**McAuley Place, Naas
LEADER funding for a learning centre**

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 Grey Abbey for 2013 and other cemetery monuments.



Fish pond dam repairs with Castletown reflected in the sheet of water

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 exists with the Heritage Office through the Heritage Forum and its actions, which are part funded by the Heritage Council. These actions support the awareness and protection of the natural and built heritage of the county.

Bóithre, Iompar agus Sábháilteacht Poiblí



Roads, Transport and Public Safety

Roads, Transport and Public Safety

During 2013 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 6 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 the council in association with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, 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 finally the National Transport Authority (NTA) fund a programme of sustainable transport measures.

NRA	€6,113,571
DTTAS	€20,320,461
KCC	€12,995,974
NTA	€2,533,000
Total for 2013	€41,963,006

Works Completed/Underway

The largest project underway is the R402 Enfield Edenderry Improvement. In 2013 significant construction works were undertaken with funding attached of €12,500,000. The contract is expected to be completed in May 2014.

A total of 29 smaller schemes were completed around the county using the Restoration Improvement Grant at a total cost of €4 million.

The Low Cost Accidents Measures Grant provided much needed funding for lining and signing at 13 locations with a history of road traffic accidents.

Pay Parking

Parking is regulated in 6 towns in County Kildare; Athy (Athy Town Council), Naas (Naas Town Council), Newbridge, Kildare, Celbridge and Leixlip. Following the adoption of pay parking bye laws in 2013 parking regulation will also be introduced in Maynooth.

Bye Laws Adopted in 2013

Newbridge Pay Parking Bye Laws were reviewed and adopted on 29 July 2013.

Maynooth Pay Parking Bye Laws were adopted on 23 December 2013.

Road Safety

The council's Road Safety Officer continues to be engaged in a programme of education and awareness in the county.

Primary schools and youth groups remain the principal target audiences for the council's Road Safety Officer while An Garda Síochána focus on post primary schools, in particular transition year and Leaving Cert Applied. The Road Safety Officer also delivers road safety campaigns at events and festivals in the county in an effort to bring the message to a wider audience.



Fire Service

Kildare Fire Service operates a retained fire service from six fire stations located at Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Monasterevin and Athy. The Fire Service is not just about response and the other services we provide include;

- Licensing of petrol stations and bulk stores in accordance with the Dangerous Substances Acts 1972 and 1979 and the associated regulations
- Advising on safety in relation to the storage of explosives in accordance with the Explosive Acts 1875 and 2006
- Developing emergency plans in accordance with the SEVESO regulations
- Developing Major Emergency Plans in consultation with the other principal response agencies
- Processing Fire Safety Certificate applications
- Inspecting buildings for compliance with fire safety requirements
- Commenting on planning applications

Operations Section

In 2013 the Fire Service attended 1,757 fire and emergency calls, this represents an increase of 415 calls when compared to 2012. The breakdown of calls per station was as follows:

• Newbridge	473 calls
• Naas	405 calls
• Athy	214 calls
• Maynooth	267 calls
• Monasterevin	191 calls
• Leixlip	207 calls

The top five incident types attended by Kildare Fire Service continue to be outdoor fires, chimney fires, dwelling fires, vehicle fires and road traffic collisions.

The chimney fire rate in Kildare is currently close to twice the national average and Kildare Fire Service is currently exploring ways of working with partner agencies to try to reduce this rate.

Control Centre

In April 2013 Kildare Fire Service migrated its control room from Newbridge to the East Region Control Centre (ERCC). As part of this migration process the pre-determined attendance for every townland was reviewed and revisions were made to

ensure that the nearest fire station responds to each of the Kildare townlands irrespective of county or organisational boundary. This revision sees the Fire Services of Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow, Laois and Offaly respond into Kildare if their fire engines are closer than those of Kildare Fire Service. This decision was taken to improve the safety of the community and for the safety of firefighters as fires grow in size and intensity with time.

Fire Safety and Emergency Management Section

Fire Safety

125 Fire Safety Certificate applications were received in 2013 along with 20 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates.

A total of 306 fire safety inspections were undertaken across the county including 10 Dangerous Substance Act inspections and 79 inspections of licensed premises. Fire Service comments were also provided on 252 planning applications.

Community Fire Safety

The schools programme continues to be delivered every year in Kildare. This programme provides age appropriate education on fire safety to primary students

in third class. In 2013, 129 classes in Kildare received this programme delivered by the Fire Service. Ten safety talks were delivered to different community groups. Two fire station open days were held in 2013. The locations of these events were Leixlip and Newbridge Fire Stations. These events were very successful and local communities took the opportunity to meet their firefighters and learn more about the work they do. The firefighters also provided fire safety information as part of the day and held a free raffle for a smoke alarm.

Facebook

Kildare Fire Service continues to operate a Facebook page and we currently have 719 likes. The page provides fire safety information and updates on the activities of the service.

Emergency Management

Kildare Fire Service continues to co-ordinate the Emergency Management functions of Kildare County Council. The Fire Service also leads on the development of external emergency plans for Upper Tier SEVESO sites in the county in cooperation with the other Local Competent Authorities.

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. Civil defence volunteers are always welcome and further information is available on the council's website.

Volunteers

Kildare Civil Defence at present has 80 volunteers and responds to emergency relief and support to ensure the operation of vital services and the maintenance of public life as well as the many community based events during the year.



Volunteers are trained in the following disciplines: Cardiac First Response, Occupational First Aid, Emergency First Response, Emergency Medical Technician, Instructional Methods, Search and Rescue, Auxiliary Fire Service, Communications and Welfare. Training classes are held in Naas on a weekly basis.

Events

2013 was a busy year for Kildare Civil Defence in relation to duties and exercises. Throughout the year we attended a large number of events in Kildare and also assisted other counties with events. We provided assistance at the Punchestown Racing Festival, Irish Open Golf event in Maynooth, Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh, Dragon Boat Festival in Athy and Kilcock, Military Vehicle Show at the Curragh, Run Kildare Marathon, Big House Event in Castletown House, Celbridge, local cycle races, road races etc.

Kildare Civil Defence also assisted at the St. Patrick's Day parades in Clane, Newbridge and Athy and participated in the Naas Easter Parade.

Health, Safety and Risk Management

Kildare County Council are committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for our staff, our contractors and those impacted by our work.

The Health, Safety and Risk Management Section were involved in the following in 2013:

- Holding discussion groups with operational staff to identify health and safety blockers and agreeing on best possible solutions
- Holding a series of meetings, such as, pre starts meetings, Health and Safety Senior Management Committee meetings, safety rep meetings, thus ensuring the promotion of a positive safety culture and compliance with legislation.
- Introduction of 5 health and safety building blocks for all jobs carried out by Kildare Local Authorities
- Developing a health and safety section on our intranet ensuring easy accessibility for all staff to health and safety documentation
- Developing a control of documentation management system to ensure a consistent approach was followed across the organisation.
- Liaising closely with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) on health and safety investigations.
- Liaising closely with the Training Section to ensure delivery of key training courses
- Ensuring that all accidents and incidents were investigated to identify the root causes in order to prevent recurrence.
- Carrying out a number of site inspections including contractor inspections to ensure compliance with internal health and safety procedures and legislation.
- Consultations with IPBMI regarding both public and employers liability insurance claims



Uisce agus Seirbhísí Comhshaoil



Water and Environmental Services

Water Services

Irish Water was established in March 2013 as a semi-state company under the Water Services Act 2013, to bring the water and wastewater services of the 34 local authorities together under one national service provider.

It will take approximately five years for Irish Water to be fully established, at which point it will be responsible for the operation of public water services including management of national water assets, maintenance of the water system, investment and planning, managing capital projects and customer care and billing.

The day to day functions of Irish Water in Kildare are carried out by the Water Services Section of the council, acting as agents of Irish Water under the terms of a Service Level Agreement.

As well as being responsible for public water services, Irish Water will also be making capital and investment decisions regarding each county's water infrastructure on a national basis. Irish Water will be accountable to two regulatory bodies – the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) who is the economic regulator for the water industry,

and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who is the environmental regulator.

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

Operations 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 and carries out this function under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.

At present 80% 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 this dependency on such authorities to supply water and to ensure the council will continue to build business cases to Irish Water, we need to develop further sources of water within the

county e.g. Srowland WTP at Athy and Rathangan/Monasterevin wellfields.

The bulk of the work involved in maintaining the current supply includes:

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

Continued water conservation activities, spearheaded by the Leak Detection Unit, have resulted in the unaccounted for water levels in the Kildare Network being reduced from a high of 32% in January 2011 to 26% average for December 2013. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted figure for water levels in the country as a whole is reported at approximately 40%.

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater arising in Kildare is 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).

Work is in progress to upgrade both plants and associated networks at Osberstown WWTP increasing to 130,000 PE (in planning) and Leixlip WWTP increasing to 150,000 PE (at construction).

Works commenced on the Leixlip WWTP upgrade on 16 September 2013 with a 27 month works period followed by a further 12 months of process proving.

Major upgrade works took place at two of our smaller WWTP's at Ardclough and Clonuff in 2013 using grant allocations from small schemes budget. Both projects involved the replacement of old problematic infrastructure with new more energy efficient and environmentally friendly process systems.

Minor upgrade works also took place at Robertstown WWTP, with the installation of a new inlet treatment system. In addition to this, new flow meters were installed at six of the larger WWTP's so as to allow the council to adequately monitor flows into, out of and SWO's in each of these agglomerations.

Nicholas O'Dwyer, Consulting Engineers were procured in early 2013 to assess ten of the larger WWTP's for operational and infrastructural improvements. Their draft report was received at the end of 2013, and it is expected that their final report will be issued by mid-March 2014. It is envisaged that this report will allow the council to forward plan for infrastructural improvements in each of these agglomerations and will assist in operational savings.

The Waste Water Operations department has been working closely with the Development Control team in relation to the taking charge of WWTP's and pumping stations associated with private housing schemes. Significant advancement was made on some developments, but significant obstacles remain due to many developers going into receivership/bankruptcy.

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.

Irish Water will apply to EPA for Certificate of Authorisation for any privately built Waste Water Treatment Plants that are taken into charge in 2014.

Capital Programme

The Water Services Capital Works Section was responsible for the delivery of the major water supply and wastewater schemes in the county in 2013. Irish Water will become responsible for the delivery of all Water Services Capital Schemes from 1 January 2014.

Contract completed during 2013

Barrow Abstraction Scheme

- Contract 1 - Water Treatment Plant - Design, Build, Operate Contract
- Contract 2 - Network
- Contract 3A - Network
- Contract 4 - Baginbally Lock Upgrade

Contracts under construction in 2013

Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme

- Contract A – Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Contract B – Pumping Station and Pipelines

Castlewarden to Ballygoran Pipeline and Reservoir Scheme

Contracts which began construction in 2013

- Lower Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme - Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Barrow Abstraction Scheme Contract 1 - Water Treatment Plant - Water Conditioning Plant Variation
- Ballygoran to Collinstown Watermain 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.

Summary of grants paid in 2013

Subsidy Grants €128,159.67

To the various group water schemes in the county.

Advance DBO Works €11,951.69

Take Over of Group Water Schemes

€9,999.35

Pilot Group Sewerage Schemes

Boston Cottages Group Sewerage Scheme

€33,007.01

Total: €183,115.72

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 2013, €577,504.71 was spent on the Small Schemes Programme, which incorporated the following schemes, amongst others;

- Kilcock Ringmain Water Supply Scheme Phase1 (Retention)
- Parsonstown Water Supply Scheme (Retention)
- Ballyroe Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade (Retention)
- Donore Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade (Retention)
- Clonuff WWTP Upgrade
- Ardclough WWTP Upgrade
- Ballyroe WWTP Percolation Area
- Robertstown WWTP Inlet Screen
- Allenwood Sewer Network Modification Works
- Crookstown Foul Sewerage Rising Main

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 €34,767.39 was paid under this scheme in 2013.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee

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

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 Development Levy Contribution Scheme and the Office and 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 (Phase 1)
- Johnstown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Ardclough Flood Alleviation Scheme

The following schemes have been advanced through the preliminary report stage and these schemes will be advanced to construction in 2014 and 2015. It should be noted that the advancement of these schemes in 2014 will be dependent on funding;

- Ballymore Eustace Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2
- Donaghcumper (Hazelhatch) Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Kilcock (Royal Canal) Surface Water Diversion Scheme

In addition to the above works, consulting engineers have been appointed to the Morrell River Flood Alleviation Scheme. This scheme will include the provision of

engineered flood alleviation measures for the Morrell River catchment north of the N7 to its confluence with the River Liffey in Turnings, Straffan, including the Slane, Painstown, Kill and Hartwell rivers north of the N7. The appropriate funding for this preliminary work has been secured from the Office of Public Works and it should be noted that the advancement of any works will be dependent on;

- The proposed solutions being cost beneficial
- Planning being obtained for the proposed works
- Lands being available for the proposed works

The Cost Benefit Analysis Report and Environmental Impact Statement for this Scheme will be completed in 2014.



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 3,536 tonnes of glass and 37 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 100 tonnes of electrical waste being recycled.

Public bring banks were maintained by the council at 42 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 110 visits to schools, businesses and community groups (e.g. tidy towns) to create public awareness of waste issues and to promote good waste disposal practice in the community.

94 of the county's schools had been awarded green flags under the Green Flag Campaign and a total of 122 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 request 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 provided €31,000 to 20 projects ranging from providing workshops for schools to helping tidy towns groups to maintain and develop biodiversity. The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant provided €34,000 to 14 separate projects ranging from cinema awareness campaigns to training for community groups and schools.

Tidy Towns

The council worked closely to support the tidy towns committees in Kildare in 2013. This support consisted of assistance with cleanups, the provision of bags and litter pickers, provision of grants to all entrants as well as some local demonstration projects. In addition, a number of qualified ecologists volunteered their services to assist the groups in protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. This took the form of habitat surveying and bat monitoring.

Kildare fared extremely well in the Tidy Towns competition. There was one gold medal winner in Straffan (for the second

year running). There were two silver medal winners in Naas and Newbridge and five bronze medal winners in Rathangan, Kill, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge.



Litter

The litter wardens are the visible face of the councils 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 cleanup 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.
- An anti-dogfouling stencil is being piloted in a number of areas frequented by dogwalkers. The stencil is used to paint a symbol reminding people to remove dog waste. This has elicited a very positive response.



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 Resident Association Grants and

the Pride of Place initiative are available to assist local voluntary efforts. 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 621 fines issued for litter offences in 2013.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Year ended 31 December 2013
(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)
REVENUE ACCOUNT

Expenditure	2013	2012	2011	2010
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	23,336,991	20,263,507	22,375,627	19,168,637
Road Transportation and Safety	25,781,693	24,683,802	27,914,562	28,980,073
Water Supply and Sewerage	21,982,457	23,051,625	23,673,594	25,789,418
Development Incentives and Controls	7,927,111	8,151,139	8,680,129	9,025,113
Environmental Protection	29,573,757	28,394,126	32,750,134	26,067,527
Recreation and Amenity	8,275,033	7,863,202	8,246,631	8,201,211
Agriculture and Education	4,636,973	7,687,392	13,642,277	13,313,628
Miscellaneous Services	19,190,232	17,542,126	6,960,813	8,425,173
Total	140,704,247	137,636,919	144,243,767	138,970,780
Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)				
Housing and Building	21,109,465	18,553,726	20,419,668	17,091,974
Road Transportation and Safety	11,899,047	12,384,971	13,880,457	14,197,721
Water Supply and Sewerage	13,685,200	12,069,423	12,353,255	14,735,412
Development Incentives and Controls	1,282,369	1,334,899	1,306,399	1,776,645
Environmental Protection	19,639,564	17,475,323	21,252,249	16,193,242
Recreation and Amenity	1,313,456	1,194,113	1,387,880	1,325,077
Agriculture and Education	3,628,687	6,684,822	12,679,258	12,026,516
Miscellaneous Services	4,882,285	4,303,184	4,239,618	3,868,292
<i>Sub-Total</i>	77,440,073	74,000,461	87,518,784	81,214,879
Urban Authority Accounts	2,865,954	2,807,836	2,852,094	2,647,313
Pension Related Deductions	2,120,213	2,126,952	2,268,787	2,319,302
Local Government Fund	20,634,229	19,628,180	21,604,877	22,458,849
County Rates	47,194,791	46,928,784	36,235,752	38,359,818
Total	150,255,260	145,492,213	150,480,294	147,000,161
Transfers to/from Reserves	-9,297,151	-7,603,996	-5,321,720	-7,056,892
Surplus/Deficit for year	253,863	251,297	914,810	972,489
Opening Balance	-2,747,147	-2,998,444	-3,913,254	-4,885,743
Closing Balance	-2,493,284	-2,747,147	-2,998,444	-3,913,254

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2013	2012	2011	2010
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	3,463,268	6,299,888	14,641,512	21,752,117
Road Transportation and Safety	30,012,454	42,359,890	26,371,931	58,673,742
Water Supply and Sewerage	36,832,920	38,283,194	20,339,215	14,927,863
Development Incentives and Controls	1,984,954	2,757,447	15,293,521	7,943,162
Environmental Protection	663,829	1,257,504	831,287	618,163
Recreation and Amenity	1,357,612	496,575	921,476	1,883,062
Agriculture and Education	0	0	0	13,098
Miscellaneous Services	373,149	0	6,794,682	394,284
Total	74,688,186	91,454,498	85,193,624	106,205,491

Corporate Plan 2009-2014

Progress Report 2013

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 2013 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"> Completion of tree planting programme for County Completion of tree pruning & removal programme Completion of Bulb Planting Programme Grass Maintenance Programme Landscape Entrance to Newbridge Town Park
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"> Support and enhance local democracy 	<p>Continue to improve the accuracy of the electoral register by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refined targeting of publicity and information on registration process. Hold clinics/workshops targeting areas of particular concern. Promoting the use of e-requests for information and application forms, particularly prior to issue of supplementary register. Review current processes in preparation for 2014 local elections.
	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.	Support the policy making role of the elected council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure timely issue of agendas and supporting documents for council and committee meetings optimising the use of I.T. Continue the development of the MembersNet to meet the needs of the members. Stimulate development of policy committees by evaluating the

			<p>work of policy committees, on an annual basis, and reviewing this through the corporate policy group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assist the members in identifying training to meet their requirements, particularly with regard to facilitating the work of the strategic policy committees. • Review procedures in preparation for introduction of action programme for effective local government.
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, sponsored bins and cemetery grants. ▪ Further interaction with residents groups through Environment Awareness Officer and Litter Wardens
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 and the Community & Cultural strategic Policy Committee, the area committees, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and through the Regional Homelessness Forum.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members consult regularly with staff in the Housing Department in an informal manner on issues concerning their constituents.
	1.2 To work to enhance community participation and active citizenship through capacity building and training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support of over 90 residents associations. Community cabins/facilities are available in a number of estates and the team work with Community groups to sustain these projects Co-ordination of Comhairle na nOg, Kildare Age Friendly Initiative and County Kildare Joint Policing Committee
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"> Continue to provide the councillors with the appropriate tools and training to make the most of available technology to promote the paperless model of operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing through 2013. The Councillor extranet is now the primary source of information exchange for councillors.
Library and Arts Services	1.11 To provide countywide access to library facilities and opportunities for all to engage with the Arts.	<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"> New Kilcock Community Library completed and opened in 2011. Continued the implementation of Kildare Digital Library (eBooks), 5,000 items available on line for borrowing. Library self-service provision extended to Naas and Maynooth Libraries in 2011. Rolled out online language learning course BYKI via Library website in 2011. Continued to partner FÁS in delivering the elearning training course "Know IT" in 6 libraries countywide.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3,283 cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network in 2011. ▪ Further developments in interagency arts programming was provided in Arts and Health, Youth Arts, Arts in Education and Social Inclusion. Participation on national Arts and Education advisory steering groups. ▪ Over 6,000 people participated in 59 events for Culture Night 2013. ▪ €48,150 was provided to 46 artists/groups through the annual Arts Act Grants and Awards Schemes ▪ Continued relationships developed with NUI, Maynooth, Geography and Froebel Education Department ▪ Continued professional development opportunities provided in association with Laban Guild Community Dance course ▪ To mark Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU, Kildare hosted a Youth Arts exchange seminar and an intergenerational Arts seminar, with Nas na Riogh Housing Association ▪ Expansion of e Services - available 24/7: e Magazines, e learning on-line (500+
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			<p>courses) and Libanywhere app for smartphones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Extension of library self service at Monasterevin and Kilcock * Unique educational partnership programme with NUI, Maynooth and Co. Kildare Leader Partnership. <p>In 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Over 1,000 class visits in 2012 * Over 700,000 people used our library services * Over 725,000 issues of books and other materials <p>* County Programme team set up to co-ordinate national and countywide programme over 5,350 events in 2012.</p> <p>* Another successful Kildare Readers Festival, 2012, 1,200 participants moved to Oct weekend.</p> <p>In 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Over 1,100 class visits. * Over 1,500 attended the Readers Festival * Science week over 1,300 attended library events and workshops <p>* County Marketing Team set up with representation of branch network, IT, Reader Services and HQ support.</p>
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			<p>* Marketing Strategies included: New Year Resolution marketing campaign, annual programming wall planner and streamlining marketing in library network</p> <p>* Utilization of social media to promote services delivered by libraries</p> <p>* Development of Kildare Library Reading Champion, RUA</p> <p>* County Programme team co-ordinated over 4,800 events which supporting national culture and community events.</p> <p>IT Developments:</p> <p>* Wifi pilot projects in Leixlip, Naas and Kildare.</p> <p>* Extension of digital library services to include reference materials.</p> <p>* Key role on the national project team to procure a Library Management System</p> <p>* E-services Roadshow run in 7 locations, giving one to one training for members of the public on use of e-services.</p> <p>* Partnered with Sth Dublin Co.Co. and LGMA to develop an Age Friendly Library Service. - A number of actions implemented since research</p>
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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 in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. ▪ Cross department liaison. ▪ Customer service co-ordination in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. ▪ Risk management and staff training in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serviced all Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committee and Council meetings with technical reports, policy proposals and responses to Member's queries. ▪ All Customer issues addressed in timely manner in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. ▪ Reports prepared for all 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"> 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 bio-diversity and heritage within the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Maintenance of meadow areas in Leixlip Spa undertaken.
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. Further success in relation to increasing numbers of green schools and Bring banks in context of the waste management plan. Continued financial assistance given regarding provision of existing sponsored bins. Management of recycling facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy outsourced on 5 year contract.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 waste sampling, testing and monitoring programme
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"> Maximise server virtualisation implementation to reduce the number of physical servers in operation to a minimum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using VMWare as the server virtualisation platform the council has significantly reduced the number of physical servers on-site to a minimum (reduction of 60+ servers to <12) resulting in significant energy savings 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"> 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. 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 Officer 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"> ▪ Development of a Community Heritage Grant scheme. ▪ Developed and promoted Heritage week 2011. ▪ Completed review of last County Kildare Heritage Plan and recommendations for next Plan to commence in 2012. ▪ Kildare Town Architectural Conservation Area Statement (LAP). ▪ Habitat mapping and development of Green Infrastructure map for Celbridge and Maynooth (LAP). ▪ Tree Survey – Maynooth. ▪ Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2011 (26 projects funded)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Week 2011 (50 events). Ballynafagh Lake – maintenance programme/ signage. Graveyard maintenance training course (with FAS). Register of Protected Structures adopted as part of County Development Plan in May 2011.
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	2.6 To continue to install and improve water and wastewater services in accordance in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate and maintain water supply network to meet demand and provide water of highest quality in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to develop the water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure/network through the Water Services Investment Capital Programme of Irish Water and Small Schemes Programme. The following contracts were completed in 2013: Kildare Town Wastewater Treatment Plant Srowland Water Treatment Plant and Rising Mains Ballymore Eustace Wastewater Treatment Plant The following Construction Contracts commenced in 2013 Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Castlewarden to Ballygoran Rising Main Ballygoran to Collinstown Rising Main

			<p>Water Conditioning Upgrade Variation to the Barrow Abstraction Plant at Srowland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued involvement with Greater Dublin Regional Water Supply Steering Group to co-ordinate the supply and distribution of water in the region.
	<p>2.14 To work with Irish Water 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 SLA with Irish Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operated and maintained the water supply network to ensure full compliance with water quality standards. Worked with the Irish Water Programme to effect smooth transition to the new arrangements when Irish Water take the role of the Water Services Authority from Jan 1st 2014. Osberstown, Leixlip, Athy, Kildare, Coill Dubh, Monasterevin, Rathangan, Ballymore Eustace, Castledermot, Timolin, Derrinturn, Kilmeague, Robertstown, Allenwood, Ardcrough, Athgarvan, Ballitore, Ballyroe 1, Ballyroe 2, Brannockstown, Calverstown, Castlemitchell, Castleroe West, Clogherinkoe, Clonuff, Donore, Kilberry, Kildangan 1, Kildangan 2, Kilkea, Kilmead 1, Milltown 1, Milltown 2, Newtown, Nurney, Rathcoffey, Ticknevin.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 small plants i.e. with population less than 500PE (coloured blue) have been issued with Certificates of Authorisation appropriate to this size of plant.
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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 12 existing playgrounds in the county Playground installed in Rathangan. Provision of Allotments in The Wonderful Barn. Continued work on development of playing pitches in Lough na Mona Leixlip Landscaping in Nurney Village 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 cemetery extension at Staplestown. Works planned to extend cemeteries at Newbridge 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"> ▪ The Statutory Assessment of Housing Need was carried out in 2013. Approx. 7,500 applications were reviewed and the current list stands at circa 4,200. ▪ Statutory Guidelines for the Assessment of applications for Social Housing Support have been introduced and procedures put in place. The need/demand is now met by Rent Supplement paid by Department of Social Protection (due to change to Housing Assistance Payment managed by Local Authorities in 2015); ▪ Units secured on an ongoing basis via Leasing/CALF funding initiatives and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. ▪ Ongoing liaison with Voluntary Housing Associations who play a significant role in the provision of social housing units in the county. ▪ Continued provision and management of the Homeless

			<p>and Tenant Liaison Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regionally Kildare has been assigned responsibility as lead authority for the mid East Region with regard to homelessness. ▪ Administration of the Mobility Aid Grant, Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid for Older People. ▪ Continued implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan and assessment of need 2013. ▪ Update of circa 900 rent files in preparation for National Rent Scheme 2015.
Information Technology	3.5 Continue to provide improved access to information on services provided by the Council via Kildare.ie website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the kildarecoco.ie website presence to the highest standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing maintenance and management of the kildarecoco.ie website with ongoing development in the area of RSS feeds, alerts, Facebook and Twitter presence. Continuous development of new and better ways of doing business through for example the expanded use of online payments and Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) payments solutions and the increasing adoption of social media in the exchange of information with the public.
Library and Arts Services	3.11 To support the development and enhancement of local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress addressing physical access issues in all venues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Kilcock Community Library completed and opened in 2011. ▪ As per Kildare County Council's Access Implementation Plan,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen reader development programmes and collection management across the library network. 	<p>works on Naas Library's accessible Teenzone and Maynooth Library's accessible building upgrade were completed in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 children's library events delivered to 9,000 children around the county during the Children's Book Festival 2011. The Kildare Readers Festival delivered author readings, interviews and signings to an audience of nearly 800 people in May 2011. Continued financial support for Riverbank Arts Centre. Provided €51,000 to support key arts organisations including: The Moat Theatre, Athy Community Arts Centre, Kildare County Orchestra, Leinster Printmaking Studio, CAKE Contemporary Arts and The Performance Corporation. 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.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (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 <p>Progress 2013: Building Infrastructure * Mini library fit outs in Celbridge and Maynooth *Accessibility and Fire Safety works completed in Athy and Naas. *Upgrade of gallery area in Naas</p> <p>Reader Development Programmes: * Shelf Help, a shared services project with HSE, Mental Health Ireland, SWRDTF and Wicklow Library Service, collections and lectures delivered in 7 main branches, issues over 1,000. *Continued support of 'Bradbury's Bookstop' in Athy, which includes new Sunday morning book club.</p> <p>* Development of Kildare Library Reading Champion, RUA to promote literacy and numeracy amongst young people,</p> <p>* Development of Summer Reading Challenge in conjunction with the 4 Dublin authorities and Longford</p>
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			<p>Co.Co. c1,600 young people participated in County Kildare</p> <p>* Development of 'Reading Champion' website in conjunction with the 4 Dublin authorities and Longford Co.Co. To promote the love of reading.</p> <p>* Development of 'Play 2 Read' literacy and numeracy programme aimed at playschool children and their parents.</p> <p>* Development of Reader Services Webpages.</p> <p>* Delivery of EU level multi-framework tender for book fund in 2013/2016</p>
Planning	3.3 Strive to achieve high quality sustainable development in both urban and rural areas.	<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"> ▪ Conducted 2-Year Review of Kildare County and Naas Town Development Plans ▪ Completed a variation of the County Development Plan to designate the centre of Kildare Town as an Architectural Conservation Area ▪ Completed the review of Maynooth and Newbridge Local Area Plans ▪ Public consultation completed at appropriate stages of plan processes. ▪ Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment completed on all plans as required.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed for draft all plans as appropriate. ▪ Continued to liaise with Department of Education & Skills in planning for the future provision of educational facilities in the county ▪ Published a new Signage Policy and Shopfront Guidelines
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 resource 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 have 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 with the following schemes commenced/completed in 2013 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects Completed in 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballyroe Percolation Upgrade Donore WwTP Upgrade Clonuff WwTP Upgrade Ardclough WwTP Upgrade Robertstown WwTP Inlet Screen Allenwood Sewer Network Modification Scheme Crookstown Foul Sewerage Rising Main GWS Taking in Charge works carried out in 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilmeade & District GWS Baybush GWS Gilltown GWS Lipstown Narraghmore GWS (Partial TIC)
	3.6 To ensure that there is existing or planned infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop flood alleviation strategy and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Alleviation Strategy projects relevant to 2013:

	to service new development.	programme	<p>Substantially complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Butterstream - Sallins - Toni River - Newtown - Confey - Johnstown - Ardclough <p>Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morrel River - Hazelhatch, Celbridge - Ballymore Eustace - Kilcock Surface Water
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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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Work programme completed with Naas Town Council in relation to new playground, 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce a procurement system for stationery items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralised procurement and storage arrangement introduced

	services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies		for stationery items i.e. paper, envelopes and toner cartridges.
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate improvements in quality service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise the use of new I.T. and communications technologies to improve service delivery. Extend the use of the website to provide sufficient information to the public in an easily accessible format. To continue to support and develop the Fix Your Street website. Evaluate the use of the Adest Data Tracking System to record customer interactions in order to determine whether the organisation would benefit from the introduction of a CRM system, to improve accuracy and efficiency in responding to enquiries, requests and complaints from the public. To record complaints submitted to the organisation on the Adest system in order to have a comprehensive record of complaints and response times. Support the customer care unit to carry out duties at the switchboard and reception. Upgrade the telephone system in Áras Chill Dara Support departments to improve telephone management and provide further training as required.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stimulate a culture of quality public service, transparency, accountability and value for money. ▪ Continue focus on teamwork and co-operation across disciplines and departments. ▪ Promote and support efficiency within departments in the delivery of services. ▪ Continue to support departments by facilitating central advertising for the organisation and ensuring compliance with agreed procurement procedures. ▪ Encourage feedback from the public on the quality of service delivery and customer experience and monitor steps to make improvements as required. ▪ To ensure compliance with any requirements relating to improved customer service in accordance with the Action Programme for Effective Local Government. ▪ To update the Corporate Services Risk Register as required, having regard to the functions of the department. ▪ To ensure that all staff within the Corporate Services Department are aware of the requirements, and their responsibilities, as set out in the Health and Safety Statement for this section. Support the role of Access Officer to promote ease of access for all council services
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			<p>and premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and enhance the role of Equality Officer and the Equality Action Team.
	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"> A dedicated Property Interest Register Team is using specialised software to capture historic and current data from in-house files and land registry records. 1191 records are now live on the Property Interest Register system and work is ongoing to integrate this data into financial management and GIS systems.
Finance	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<p>Ensure effective collection of income</p> <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 rent and housing loan customers to pay by way of standing orders and direct debits. A significant number of suppliers were also added to the automated payments.
	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Budget for 2013 was prepared in November 2012 and adopted by Council on 17th December 2012 There is a statutory

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	<p>responsibility to have the Annual Financial Statement published by 1st July of the following year. In 2013 the 2012 AFS was brought to Council on 25th March 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The annual budget and three year rolling capital programme were prepared with reference to the Corporate Plan goals.
	4.13 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budgetary Strategy and Financial Management ▪ 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 2013 - 2015 anticipates Kildare County Council spending in the order of €90 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.	<p>Ensure collection of income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of aged debtors and debtors reconciliations to reduce bad debts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outstanding balances were reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure early intervention and where appropriate agreements were reached 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,	<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 provides for

	Organisational Structure and Payroll Systems, incorporating modules for superannuation, recruitment and training,		remote keying of time-sheets – thereby reducing 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. ▪ Community team work closely with KPartners on interdepartmental and County Development board projects
Information Technology	4.1 Optimise the use of new IT and communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replace existing main server and storage infrastructure as older equipment comes end of life. ▪ Support the increasing demand for mobile and tablet based applications for council staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Storage Area Network (SAN) tendered for and commissioned in 2013. ▪ Implement a full Mobile Device Management (MDM) solution for managing, encrypting, and protecting mobile and tablet based hardware.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide quality support to the user population through the effective use and management of the IT helpdesk function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage circa 5,000 internal calls for ICT services in 2013.
Internal Audit	<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"> 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 2013 contained 17 audits spread across all Directorates. Work was carried out on 14 audits during the year ,with 10 audits completed 1 at draft stage and 3 commenced before the year end. There were four Investigations carried out during the year along with some checking activity. All of the audits and miscellaneous work 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.
Library and Arts Services	<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</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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new "scheduled time" was introduced in libraries in 2011 to help maximise services for communities, allowing for an extension of the library's popular programming service.

	access for all to council services and premises.	information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-operation with K Partners and to deliver on successful projects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Revisiting Old Habits” – a family learning and reading programme in Sallins and Rathangan. - Information sessions on third level education. - Creative Well. - Culture Night. - Rathangan Sustainable Community Project. - Sports Taster Workshops – Arts Service and Sports Partnership. - FAI Sports and Dance Programme. ▪ Continued to support the delivery of a modern library facility in Clocha Rince in partnership with Clocha Rince national school.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-line ordering service via library catalogue, sms texting notices for overdue, book requests and events implemented in 2011. ▪ Accessible learning and information retrieval promoted through online learning databases and eHistory. ▪ Continue to update Kildare citizens of arts activities/opportunities through

			<p>the Kildare Arts Service e-mail update, Arts website and Facebook page.</p> <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
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			<p>School Educational programme in Leixlip, Kildare and Naas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Arts Service have provided a range of professional development opportunities for artists engaged with the community, to support capacity building <p>Progress 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Extension of Toys, Technology and Training collection now available in Naas Community Library. Comprehensive lecture series delivered, over 600 participants on TTT database * Extension of TTRS due to high demand. * Facilitating Garda Siochana clinics * Facilitating new Citizen Information Clinics in Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip and Kilcock. * Children's Book Festival extended in 2013 to run over 12 months of year. * Your Space Your Place - Inspiring through Mentorship Linking Libraries and Community in Kilcock. * Engaged in ISP process in Celbridge, Kildare and Kilcock
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-Plan system fully implemented to provide access by public to planning system. ▪ I-Doc document management

			<p>system implemented, providing access to planning files documentation. I-doc system expanded to include records for 1998-2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Management of Naas & Athy Town Council files now integrated into administration of county files. Athy Town Council administration to be integrated in 2012.
	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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over the counter validation for all one off houses and extensions process implemented. ▪ Outreach services – Pre-Planning clinics continued to be held in Aras Chill Dara, Athy, Leixlip and Clane on a regular basis – advertised in papers in January each year. ▪ Individual pre planning clinics for commercial and/or employment potential developments facilitated at Aras

		Enforcement and Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To continue the development of enforcement and compliance functions. 	<p>Chill Dara as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued enforcement action by issuing Warning Letters, Enforcement Letters and taking legal action against unauthorised developments.
		Building and Development Control <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 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.

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 Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement 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"> ▪ Metering of non-domestic supply is up to date. ▪ Regional and non-regional leak detection.
	4.5 Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to extend water supply to as many locations as possible within the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to meet demands throughout the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrow Supply Abstraction Plant at Srowland commissioned in July 2013

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. 	
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"> 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 2013.
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 watercourses Continue programme to address dangerous buildings. Continue progress to eliminate end of life vehicle sites. A number of projects such as provision of fixed litter bins, removal of graffiti, treeplanting

			and development of local plans undertaken with Tidy Towns groups, to enhance communities.
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, supporting over 90 residents associations. ▪ Community cabins/facilities are available in a number of estates and the team work with Community groups to sustain these projects ▪ The Kildare County Council Pride of place competition was very successful with over 58 local Authority estates participating in it. The competition culminated in a very successful Community Awards night, held in NUI Maynooth in Oct 2013. ▪ 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.

Information Technology	5.4 To continue to work with state agencies, Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and other local stakeholders to promote Kildare as a unique tourist destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Kildare.ie brand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and promote www.kildare.ie as the premier portal of choice for business and tourism in the county.
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 teams 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. 	<p>Progress 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Programme team co-ordinated over 4,800 events which supporting national culture and community events. Participation in unique literacy project in conjunction with Kildare Library Service - mobile library, Riverbank Arts Centre and the Arts Council - Theatre Lovette Participation in National Play Day Library Family Day - to engage non library users. Extension of library outreach programming during scheduled time to schools, play schools and citizen services facilities., over 270 outreach events Extension of cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network 2013, new events include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One Book, One Town - Bealtaine Festival - Secondary School Programme - Creative Writing workshops - National Programming events ie, Seachtaine na Gaeilge, Heritage Week and Maths

			<p>Week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intergenerational Choirs - TTT new series of lectures - Personal Dev and Wellbeing events
Water Services	<p>5.6 Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to continue to meet and/or exceed EPA standards for the quality of water supply and waste water treatment systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to ensure that all planning or licence applicants are processed in an efficient and effective manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with Irish Water under the Service Level Agreement to continue to meet EPA licence standards.



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 advanced over the past year.

Elected Members and the Executive

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

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

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 budgetary constraints, the combined revenue and capital expenditure of circa. €5.5 million (including revenue expenditure of circa. €4.8 million) in 2013 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.



Athy Gathering – Programme of Events
Launch

Housing

The Town Council currently has a housing stock of 331 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, the rental accommodation scheme (RAS) 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. The developer of the Coneyboro estate, in conjunction with the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) and Kildare County Council, finalised works to the public infrastructure within the estate and the transfer of 43 units to the council and the Clúid Voluntary Housing Association was completed in December.

Roads

The M9 motorway and the associated new link road to Athy emphasises the strategic location of the town in relation to the region and greater Dublin area. Works to a sponsored 'canal lock' theme roundabout at the entrance to the town were completed in 2013.

Southern Distributor Road

In early 2011, the proposed Southern Distributor Road (SDR) capital project was formally accepted onto the Department of Transport'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 the N78/Fortbarrington Road
- Pedestrian lights at entrance to the G.A.A. Club
- Improvements to signalling network at Emily Square
- The provision of hard infrastructure (CCTV, loops etc) to facilitate the new MOVA system.

It is envisaged that the following schemes will be prioritised for 2014;

- Up-grading of the N78/Stradbally Road junction
- Full implementation of the MOVA system
- Pedestrian crossing at Leinster Street
- Further improvements to footpaths, particularly in the vicinity of the railway station

- Introduction of the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative, possibly including a programme of measures for cyclists.

All of the foregoing projects are likely to be funded by grants from the National Transport Authority. It should also be noted that the council's Traffic Management Plan has been pivotal in terms of supporting applications for grant funding.

In addition to the foregoing, the footbridge remains a priority and is being further progressed over the course of 2014. The National Transport Authority have agreed to fund design costs, although no commitment to date has been secured regarding construction costs which are likely to be in the region of €1/1.5 million.

Road Block Grant Works

A number of further road and footpath improvements were carried out in the town during the year. A block grant of €161,000 was approved by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Parking Bye-Laws

Following an extensive public consultation and deliberative process, a review of parking bye-laws took place during the course of 2013 resulting in a number of significant changes. These included the introduction of free parking on Saturdays, as well as a 15 minute grace period.

Water Services

The Town Council maintains and operates the water services (water supply and waste water) infrastructure in its administrative area under agreement, on behalf of Kildare County Council (Section 85 of Local Government Act, 2001). Pursuant to legislative changes with effect from 1 January, 2014 Irish Water has assumed statutory responsibility for water services and a service level agreement with the county council has been effected for relevant services.



Athy Waterways Seminar

Water Supply

It should be noted that 2013 was a very significant year in terms of water supply. The Barrow Abstraction Scheme was formally commissioned in July. Sustainable production is set at 31 megalitres (million litres) per day and the allocation to Athy being 7 megalitres. In addition, the Town Council continues to receive approximately a ½ megalitre per day from the Monasterevin wellfields supply. Accordingly, the council is no longer in receipt of water from the Ballymore Eustace (regional) supply, although this can be available in emergency situations.

The council has also carried out additional work, as part of the Small Schemes Programme, to enhance flexibility in the distribution systems within the town boundary. In particular, this has benefited the Carlow Road/Coneyboro area. It is also proposed that there will be a renewed focus on leak detection and water conservation in the coming year and the council will work closely with Irish Water and Kildare County Council in this regard. It is now pleasing to note that South Kildare, including the Athy area, is now very well served in terms of water

supply and is, therefore, strategically placed to attract significant new industry.

Waste Water

The town's waste water treatment plant 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 Office of Public Works (OPW) is leading a Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and associated flood risk maps and flood hazard maps will be drawn up by mid 2014.

Development Management

Following review, the new Town Development Plan 2012-2018 was formally adopted on 28 February, 2012. The two year progress report is being finalised for consideration by the council in early 2014. 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 30 planning applications during the year for the following development types:

Commercial developments	6
Extensions	8
Other applications	16*

(*Extension of duration - 9).

25 grants of planning permission and 2 refusals were issued in 2013. Two appeals were received by An Bord Pleanala and both decisions to grant were upheld.

Environment

Athy continues to focus on improvements that will help achieve further success in the national tidy towns competition. The town's 15th anniversary entry increased its grade in the Large Town Category (E) achieving 270 marks. The Tidy Towns Committee (Town Council Sub-Committee) has commenced a review of 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 promotes regular local clean-ups and assists residents groups through an annual grants scheme.

Recreation and Amenity

The council has prioritised the upgrade of the playground in the People's Park and a design will be advanced in early 2014. In addition, Kildare Youth Services, with financial assistance from both the council and the Kildare Leader Partnership Company, is expected to finalise tendering requirements to advance works for a youth skate park at Meeting Lane.

General Projects

Following the strategic review of the work of the Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum (AIDEF), the group progressed a business and marketing initiative for the

town during 2013. In addition, a key action related to lobbying Beet Ireland in respect of the proposed redevelopment of the sugar beet industry, with a view to attracting a major related industry.

During the year, the AIDEF, in association with the Kildare County Enterprise Board, facilitated participants to undertake business training.

A new Interreg Outdoor Tourism Project (OTP), based in Athy, commenced in late 2012 and is promoting the development of tourism opportunities in the county, in conjunction with partners in other counties. In conjunction with the council, the OTP hosted a seminar '*Athy Waterways- Enhancing the potential together*' in August and a local stakeholder group with representatives from statutory and community agencies has been established to promote development projects on both the River Barrow and Grand Canal in town.

The Athy Town Promoters Group, (which comprises representatives of the Town Council, Athy Chamber, Kildare County Show Committee, 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, with a particular focus during 2013 on 'The Gathering' homecoming year.

The Town Council hosted two Civic Receptions during the year. The first on the 2 October celebrated the success of William Donoghue, who achieved Light Flyweight Gold at the AIBA World Junior Championships in Ukraine. On 13 December, the council hosted a joint reception for both the Athy Camogie Club and Bridge United Ladies to mark recent successes.



Civic Reception to Champion Boxer William Donoghue



Civic Reception to Athy Camogie Club and Bridge United Ladies

The Athy Heritage Centre Museum received Interim Accreditation on the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme in July and it is envisaged that the centre will progress to full museum status on successful achievement of the specific standards. The Town Council is actively working with the board of the company to commence a strategic review for the centre's future development. The centre hosts the world's only permanent theme exhibition celebrating the polar expeditions of Athy's Sir Ernest Shackleton. The Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Dr. Ruth Adler performed the official opening of the 13th Annual Shackleton Autumn School in October, while the Town Council hosted its now annual welcome reception for visitors to the school.

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 of training programmes for relevant agencies.

The Athy Community Arts Centre, located in the Methodist Church celebrated its third anniversary of operation during 2013 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.

Joint Policing Committee

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

The Athy JPC met on four occasions during the year and discussed issues

relating to traffic management, estate management, control of horses and substance abuse.

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. Advance plans to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning are being progressed.

Newbridge Town Council

Droichead Nua



Droichead Nua Town Council

▪ Housing

The Town Council continued to administer its housing function in 2013.

Revenue collection and housing maintenance services were provided for the council's 26 houses in Newbridge.

▪ Environment

The Town Council continues to make funding available to the tidy towns 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 2013.

Joint Policing Committee

2013 saw the continuation of the Joint Policing Committee. The role of the committee is to provide a forum where the local authority and senior Garda officers, community members, with the participation of the Oireachtas Members and community interests can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area.

All of the meetings are open to the public to attend and documents are

available on the website

www.kildarejointpolicing.ie

Items discussed during 2013 include the following:

- Drinking of alcohol in public
- Problem of traffic at the Chapel land school crossing
- Prevention of anti-social behaviour
- Number of attacks on people in the town
- Level of crime in Newbridge
- Illegal parking in Newbridge on match days
- Public safety as a result of illegal signage and overhanging trees
- Garda speed vans
- Drug usage in the town
- Halloween bonfires

Town Hall

During 2013 progress was made on plans to refurbish the Town Hall. De Blacam and Meagher Architects were appointed, tenders have been sought and this project is hoped to progress further in 2014.



Community and Voluntary Awards

During 2013 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 – St Conleth's Community Games Variety Group including Kate and Niamh Conlon
- Culture-award for most talented performer – Ms Tammy Browne
- Community/voluntary group – Kildare West Wicklow Community Addiction Services
- Community/voluntary individual – Mr Ken Brannigan
- Academic/educational achievement – Gael Scoil Cill Dara
- Sporting-award for best club/organisation – Moorefield GAA Club
- Sporting-award for best volunteer – Mr Noel Brett
- Sporting-award for athlete – St Conleth's Community Games under 15 relay team
- Hall of Fame – Mr Dermot Earley

Representational Functions

Twinning with Bad Lippspringe

Newbridge and Bad Lippspringe have been twinned for the past fourteen years. Co-operation exists between

various sporting, cultural, community, and historical groups in the town.

Activities were arranged over St Patrick's weekend in 2013 to mark the occasion.

Twinning with Ocala

In March 2013 a delegation of 12 from Ocala visited Newbridge which 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. During 2013 representatives from the business community in Newbridge visited Ocala and apprentice jockeys continue to undergo work experience on farms in Ocala.

-
- Other functions

The Town Council offered financial support and assistance to local organisations in 2013. These groups include Newbridge Tidy Towns, community games, grants awarded under the Gathering banner, Newbridge Twinning Groups, St. Patrick's Day Festival, June fest, Manley Hopkins Festival and County Kildare Fáilte.

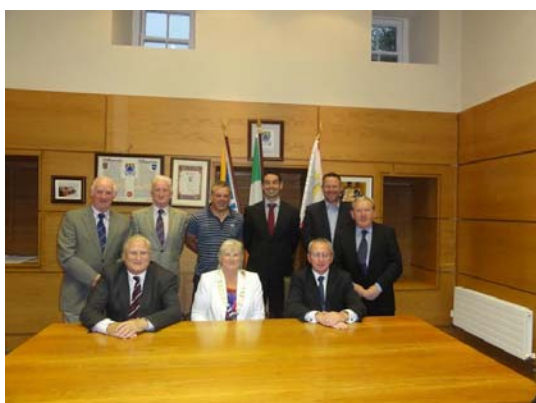
Leixlip
TOWN COUNCIL

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 Colm Purcell served as Cathaoirleach until June 2013. Councillor Teresa Byrne was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting of the council in June 2013 and Councillor Michael O'Brien was elected Leas Cathaoirleach until June 2014. 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.



Leixlip Town Council AGM

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 2013 was €310,700 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, Town Improvements and Arts and Heritage.

Environment and Waste Management

Members: Councillors Denis McCarthy (convenor), Anthony Larkin, Joe Neville, Teresa Byrne, Shane Fitzgerald and Michael O'Brien

Non-council members: Declan Kenny, Matt Crehan, Albert Larkin, Tony O'Sullivan, Michael 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 green waste recycling days at the Wonderful Barn in April and November. The event was a great success and it is intended to continue the initiative in 2014.

There was an electrical re-cycling day at Confey GAA in February and at NUIM Barnhall in October.

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 13 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, Highly Commended Estate and Best Overall Estate.

The Cathaoirleach Teresa Byrne presented the winners with their prizes at a function in the Springfield Hotel, on 12 September 2013. The prizes awarded in each category were sponsored by the Town Council.

Front Garden Competition

There were eighty two 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. Victor Murphy 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 €4,820 were awarded to Leixlip Residents Associations.

Town Improvements

Members: Councillors Anthony Larkin (convenor) Shane Fitzgerald, Joe Neville, Sean Purcell, Teresa Byrne and Michael O'Brien

Non-council members: Declan Kenny, Matt Crehan, Albert Larkin, Pat Martyn, Enda Kinnane, Mary Foley

The committee was involved in organising the first St. Patrick's Day parade in the town, planting of Arthur Guinness Square, preparing the town for the Irish Open and the visit of golfer Ross Fisher.

The Kildare County Council initiative to promote the three towns around Carton House during the Irish Open was greeted

with great enthusiasm in Leixlip. The committee and the Tidy Town Association completed over 5km of edging on the approach roads to the town, painted the street furniture and painted and planted the Salmon Leap Bridge. A two-hole golf course was created along the banks of the Liffey at the rear of the Courtyard Hotel for the visit of golfer Ross Fisher.

The committee continued with monthly clean-ups in various locations in the town and fitted the village pump back in its original location on the Main Street.

Cluichí Speisialta was held in August and the committee organised the parade and decorated the Main Street. In conjunction with Leixlip Community Centre the entrance to Newtown House was cleaned and painted for the reception for the games.

The committee members gave over eight hundred hours of volunteering to various projects in 2013.

Arts and Heritage

Members: Councillors Shane Fitzgerald (convenor), Teresa Byrne, Denis McCarthy, Anthony Larkin, Michael O'Brien and Sean Purcell

Non-council members: Michael Larkin, Albert Larkin, Rivaaj Ramjan and Seamus Kelly

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

This year saw the first St. Patrick's day parade in Leixlip with the parade from the Mill Lane to Arthur Guinness Square.

Despite the bad weather the event was a great success with over 1,500 people in attendance.

Once again the committee organised the art competition, 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.

Civic Awards

For the 21st 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 190 people. The purpose of the awards is to recognise and honour a contribution to the community in Leixlip and/or exceptional achievement in any of the categories. The Cathaoirleach Colm Purcell presented the awards at a function in Leixlip House Hotel on 16 May.

Other Matters

Special Thanks

The Cathaoirleach and the members of the Town Council wish to thank the members of the sub-committees for their support and help throughout the years of the Town Council.

Deputations

During the year Leixlip Town Council received deputations from Muintir na Tíre, Big House Festival and Fingal County Council on the development of St. Catherine's Park.

Riverdale

The Town Council funded the construction of a new entrance at Riverdale, Captain's Hill.

Joint Policing Committee

The committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis in 2013. The members of the committee include the Town Council

Members, Deputy Catherine Murphy, Deputy Bernard Durkan, Deputy Emmet Stagg, Inspector Paul Dolan, Sergeant Aonghus Hussey, Peter Minnock and Pat Cooney, community representative.

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.

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 continued on the conservation of Leixlip Spa. Some preliminary work was carried out in relation to repairing the spa well and retaining walls. The annual maintenance of strimming the meadow areas and maintaining the site was also carried out.

Town Twinning

The Twinning Committee for 2012/2013 is Councillor Sean Purcell, Teresa Byrne, Joe Neville and Denis McCarthy.

The Town Council continued to support the work of the Town Twinning Association towards their activities and a grant of €8,000 was allocated to the Cluichí Speisialta working under the remit of the Twinning Association. Leixlip Twinning Cluichí Speisialta took place in Leixlip from 23 to 26 of August 2013. One hundred athletes and visitors from our twin town Bressuire along with guests from Fraserburgh and Aberdeen in Scotland and Stavanger in Norway joined athletes from Leixlip in a weekend of sporting social and cultural events for the disabled.

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.

Conferences

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland

Councillor Teresa Byrne attended the AMAI spring seminar in New Ross in February and the autumn conference in Clonakilty in September.



Civic Awards 2013



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 Emer McDaid was elected Mayor during 2013. Councillor Ger Dunne is Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Jacinta O’Sullivan joined the council following the resignation of Councillor Alan O’Kelly.

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
- Councillor Seamie Moore
- Councillor Jacinta O’Sullivan
- Councillor Darren Scully

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

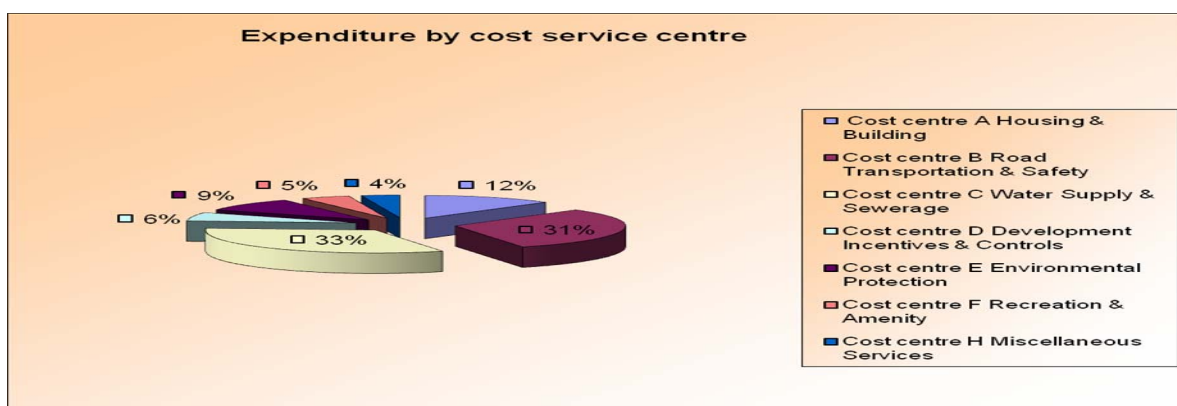
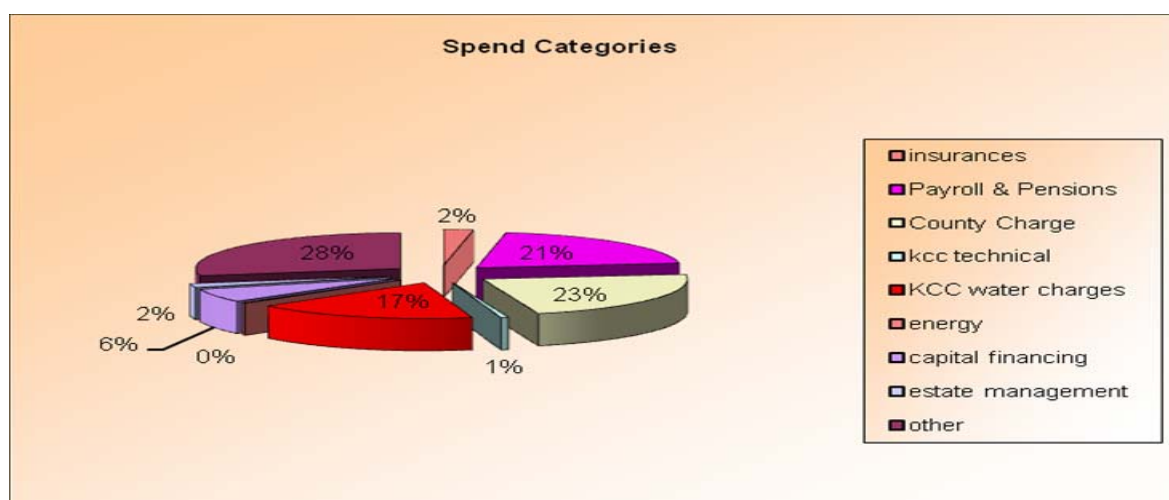
Vocational Educational Committee	Councillor Rioghnagh Bracken Councillor Emer McDaid
A.M.A.I.	Councillor Willie Callaghan Councillor Seamie Moore
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.	Councillor Darren Scully
Kildare Strategic Policy Committees	Councillor Anne Breen Councillor Ger Dunne
Naas Joint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

Finance

Total budgeted revenue expenditure for 2013 was €10.09 million compared with €10.27 million for 2012. 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 2013 was €67.61 which maintained the 2012 rates figure.



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.

€320,000 was spent of general maintenance.

A number of improvement works were carried out on Naas roads and footpaths in 2013 at a cost of €640,000. New road surfacing was put on the town's Main Street and on parts of the Dublin Road and Sallins Road.

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.

€530,000 was provided for this purpose in 2013.

Naas Town Council continued to work throughout 2013 to meet the needs of those requiring accommodation. This is currently being achieved through the allocation of casual vacancies and the transfer of tenants to accommodations suited to their current needs.

Naas Town Council allocates houses in accordance with the Allocation Scheme of Dwellings adopted by council members. Any person in need of housing and who is unable to obtain it from their own resources may apply for inclusion on the council's housing waiting list, following assessment of need in accordance with the Social Housing Assessment Regulations.

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. A further playground and skatepark is planned to open in the Caragh Road area during 2014. Naas Town Council has also made available playing pitches for local

sporting groups at Monread Park and Ballycane.

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 provided a series of wildlife and habitat information boards located around the lakes area and along the canal. Additional pathways and public lighting were added to the lakes area during the year.

Community

The town council awarded grants in the sum of €80,000 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.

Ireland's Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is a national initiative aimed at developing an Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme in all local authority areas in the country. During 2013, Naas received an award recognising its success at achieving the status of Age Friendly Town.

Also in 2013, Naas received a silver medal in the annual national Tidy Town Competition and it is hoped, that with the continued co-operation between the town council, the tidy town committee, volunteers and the local community to build on this achievement.

Naas Joint Policing Committee

The 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 2013.

Local Enterprise

Working in co-operation, Naas Town Council and North Kildare Chamber of Commerce developed a Marketing Action Plan for the

town of Naas with the aim boosting the local economy through increasing visitor foot-fall, helping to make local businesses more sustainable and enhancing the internal social cohesion of the community in the process.

The Town Council, supported by Kildare Fáilte, ran a promotion during the annual Punchestown festival aimed at promoting the town and its attractions to the many national and international visitors to the festival.

